



The Behavioral Health Administration

End of Year Report for Fiscal Year 2025

Welcome

On behalf of the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) Behavioral Health Administration (BHA), we are excited to share our end of year report for FY25. This report reflects our vision that every Marylander has access to a full continuum of behavioral health services that are trauma-informed and address disparities across the state.

Achieving this vision is a shared responsibility and reflective of care being local. Our impact at the state level is realized through intentional partnerships with Maryland's 23 counties and Baltimore City. Local behavioral health entities are the front lines of our system. By building on this foundation of collaboration, we ensure that behavioral health services are tailored to the specific needs of each unique community.

We are investing in our Public Behavioral Health System priorities to increase access, reduce disparities, and improve community wellness as outlined in [BHA's state plan](#). While our work encompasses the full continuum of care, this report highlights the tremendous programs and services across the Public Behavioral Health System, that are meant to uphold:

- **Expanding and improving statewide crisis services** to ensure help is available when and where it is needed;
- **Reducing overdoses** through evidence-based prevention services;
- **Strengthening youth-focused behavioral health** planning to better address the needs of Maryland's children, youth and families;
- **Supporting community-based care** by providing housing, clinical, and social support.

Thank you for your ongoing support and your partnership in building a healthier Maryland.

Sincerely,

Alyssa Lord, MA, MSc, Deputy Secretary for Behavioral Health

Key Statewide Achievements

In 2025, Maryland's Public Behavioral Health System achieved significant milestones through targeted investments and evidence-based strategies. The following data highlights the measurable impact of these statewide efforts in expanding statewide crisis services, reducing overdose deaths through evidence-based prevention, strengthening adolescent behavioral health, and supporting community-based care.

Expanding Statewide Crisis Services

BHA continued to make investments in the state's crisis care infrastructure. Mobile crisis response and stabilization services are now available in all jurisdictions, with 24/7 coverage available in 19 of the state's 24 jurisdictions. Additionally, the [988 Lifeline](#) handled 157,712 contacts — a 27% increase from 2024 to 2025.

Reducing Overdose Deaths

Maryland achieved a 38% decrease in fatal overdoses in 2024 compared to 2023.¹ Several key drivers of this decline include the widespread distribution and availability of the overdose-reversing drug naloxone, expansion of medications for opioid use disorder, and overall improved data tracking with the [Maryland Overdose Data Dashboard](#). BHA overdose response programs collectively distributed 400,349 doses of naloxone.

Strengthening Youth-Focused Behavioral Health

In June 2025, BHA released the first ever [Roadmap to Strengthen Maryland's Public Behavioral Health System for Children, Youth and Families](#). Developed in partnership with the Maryland Coalition of Families and Manatt Health, this roadmap provides a strategic framework to close service gaps and improve system navigation for families. A key advancement in 2025 was the amendment to Maryland's 1915(i) state plan, which expanded access to home and community-based services and included coverage for youth peer support. Furthermore, the administration successfully reduced administrative barriers by decreasing the required frequency for Plan of Care reviews and Child and Family Team meetings, an efficiency that increases cost savings and allows clinical staff to focus on direct care rather than documentation.²

Community-Based Care

BHA is advancing a "whole-person" model that integrates clinical services with essential social support. In 2025, these efforts included supporting vulnerable populations, including older adults, who received expanded tele-mental health and in-home services to support their ability to age safely in place. A key achievement was the administration of the SAMHSA's Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) program. Under

¹ [Governor Moore Announces Dramatic Decrease in Fatal Overdoses in Maryland in 2024.](#)

² [Press release](#)



BHA's oversight, the PATH program served 1,327 individuals and provided critical linkages to stable community housing for those experiencing or at imminent risk of homelessness.

The statewide progress detailed above is driven by these strategic, state-level investments. The following section highlights how these resources deliver high-impact, person-centered care to Marylanders that address the local behavioral health needs of our communities.

Public Behavioral Health System by the Numbers

- Maryland's Public Behavioral Health System (PBHS) **serves 330,000+ people for both mental health and substance use treatment** services annually.
- The PBHS serves both Medicaid enrollees and the uninsured population, with more than **90% of claims paid through Medicaid funds**.
- BHA managed **300+ grant awards**, each supporting a diverse array of nearly **800 initiatives** across the full continuum of care — from prevention and early intervention to acute care to long-term treatment and recovery.
- BHA **awarded \$273,152,827 to local authorities**, with combined expenditures of grant funds and PBHS fee-for-service dollars exceeding **\$3 billion**.
- During this time, local authorities served **100,000+ adults and 17,000+ children**, and distributed 6,500+ different materials on essential education on behavioral health services and resources.

Local Spotlights:

Allegany County

- **Delivered comprehensive overdose prevention and response services** including the distribution of more than 8,000 doses of naloxone and more than 3,500 wound care kits. These efforts focused on high-need areas through naloxone vending machines and targeted peer support.
- These efforts have contributed to a decrease in **overdose deaths by about 50%** since 2020 — a significant success for [the county](#), which saw the highest increase of overdose deaths of all jurisdictions in the state for that year. Emergency department visits for overdose events also decreased by about half since FY21.



Anne Arundel County

- Integrated the [crisis response system](#) which included collaboration with the county's Homeless Street Outreach program and the Wellmobile, that provides vital, low-barrier services including wound care and low-threshold buprenorphine. This has allowed the county to ensure accessible and connected care.

Baltimore City

- Helped young people avoid or reduce substance use through Kids Off Drugs, a high-energy, school-based initiative. By incorporating aspects of Hip-Hop and Baltimore culture the program helps young people learn about the history of drugs and the cultural norms that lead to substance use.
- Available to students in Baltimore City middle and high schools, colleges and the community.
- Six events and served 650 students, up from three events and 350 students in FY24.
- Partners: Behavioral Health System Baltimore, Baltimore City Health Department, and Catalyst of Change. And based on Grammy award winning rapper J-Cole and his K.O.D. album, Kids On Drugs.

Baltimore County

- Developed a [robust crisis system](#) whose 24/7 hotline fielded 27,034 calls, resulting in:
 - 2,426 crisis interventions in the community;
 - 125 post-crisis visits; and
 - 474 completed assessments and prescriber appointments provided through the Urgent Care Clinic program.
- Partners: The [Santé Group](#), Baltimore County Police Department

Calvert County

- [Coordinated, trauma-informed support](#) helps pregnant and postpartum women with substance use disorder access prenatal care, behavioral health services and essential resources, promoting healthier pregnancies and stronger starts for infants.
- In FY25, they served a total of 126 adults, up from 87 adults in FY24.
- Intensive nurse case management also contributed to Calvert being one of the few Maryland counties with **zero maternal deaths** in the most recent reporting year.
- Partners: Healthy Beginnings

Caroline County

- **Provided mental health assessment, treatment, crisis intervention and case management for students** who are referred by the staff in the schools, parents and allied agencies.
- Assigned seven full-time therapists to five different schools along with a peer who serves four middle and high schools within the county.
- The county added a Mobile Treatment Unit and substance use disorder counselor to those schools, and all students have access to a telehealth child psychologist.
- School-based mental health services served an average of 200 families, the youth substance use van served 43 students since inception, and 20 people received direct peer services.
- Partners: Caroline County Public Schools

Carroll County

- **Reduced the risks associated with substance use** through the Overdose Prevention and Response Initiative: Owning Your Choices Curriculum.
- 112 training sessions were delivered, serving 1,348 individuals across shelters, Peer Wellness and Recovery Centers, and inpatient and outpatient treatment facilities.
- 725 individuals received direct services through the Overdose Prevention and Response Program via peer support and navigator services.
- Among those served, 121 individuals were provided referrals or links to essential resources, including housing, substance use treatment, wound care, HIV and Hepatitis C treatment and mental health services.

Cecil County

- **Provided [treatment](#) at the Cecil County Detention Center for opioid use disorder and provided support** to address unemployment, housing, and continuing out of care needs. 278 incarcerated individuals received services.
- Established a new Justice-Involved Subcommittee of their local Behavioral Health Advisory Council to coordinate across various community partners to improve re-entry outcomes and bridge the gap between the justice system and the community.
- Facilitated Re-Entry Simulation events that successfully improved understanding of re-entry barriers and strengthened coordination among local service providers.



Partners: Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy, Cecil Mediation, the Elkton Police Department, the Cecil County Sheriff's Office and Detention Center and more.

Charles County

- **Provided essential housing stability through the Rental Assistance Program**, which resulted in housing assistance for 12 individuals who would have been homeless or unstably housed.
 - The Consumer Support Program provided security deposits, rental assistance and utility assistance to 27 individuals.
 - The [Continuum of Care Program](#) provided housing assistance for 307 households, including 402 adults and 136 children.
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Dorchester County

- **Expanded access to a comprehensive array of [community-based recovery support services](#)** for Maryland residents in varying stages of recovery.
 - Maryland State Care Coordinators support individuals transitioning back into their communities by promoting independence, self-sufficiency, and stability. They promote continuity of care as individuals move between levels of service and introduce individuals to available ongoing community recovery support resources and services.
 - They helped 186 people, far exceeding the initial target of reaching 20 people.
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Frederick County

- **Integrated firearm safety into their broader [suicide prevention strategy](#)** and reduced barriers to essential services. The local authority:
 - Distributed 312 safe storage devices to enhance firearm safety.
 - Initiated an innovative program to provide free firearm cable locks in five vending machines across the county, accompanied by safety information and suicide prevention resources.
 - Launched a suicide prevention PSA for the county that generated nearly half a million impressions.

Garrett County

- **Deployed a [Senior Mental Health Outreach program](#)**, providing telemental health services, to reduce the risk of psychiatric hospitalization or unnecessary institutionalization, as well as in-home mental health support.
- A total of 94 telehealth and behavioral health mental health services were provided to adults and older adults.

Harford County

- **Expanded the [Permanent Supportive Housing program](#) to assist adults transitioning out of residential rehabilitation programs.**
- Participants of this statewide initiative are supported as they navigate the challenges associated with independent living.
- By June 2025, the program was full at 75 participants; 73 participants were successfully housed in a community of their choosing, with 24 individuals achieving gainful employment, and others are pursuing higher education.
- The program's life-changing impact is showcased on MDH's social media platforms and [website](#).

Howard County

- **Assigned [Certified Peer Recovery Specialists](#) to six library branches** across the county, currently staffing front-facing tables twice each week. These peer specialists provide one-on-one recovery support and community resource navigation.
- A total of 1,831 individuals were served
- Partners: Howard County Library System

Kent County

- **Offered a variety of support services, education and events with the intention of meeting individuals where they are on their journey.**

- [Recovery in Motion](#) is a recovery and wellness center that engages in community outreach, providing naloxone training/distribution, safe sex kits, wound care, and HIV/HCV testing. They partnered with local churches to provide peer support services.
- Kent County Prevention Services works closely with local schools, colleges, parks and other community partners to provide prevention education.
- They reached 1,268 people, including presentations and outreach.

Mid Shore Behavioral Health

- Hosted [Going Purple Together](#), an event that is rapidly becoming a cherished tradition on the mid-shore, where those in recovery are honored, and critical resources and peer support are provided to individuals seeking their own path to recovery.
- Held in September 2024, in collaboration with the health departments of **Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot Counties** and hosted by Caroline County, this event brought together 150+ community members, local officials and partners.

Montgomery County

- **Supported young people experiencing a mental health crisis or transitioning back into the community** following a successful discharge from a residential treatment center.
- [Sheppard Pratt's Care and Connections for Families](#) is a short-term, in-home crisis stabilization program designed for children and youth ages 5 to 18.
- Participants receive comprehensive support from a dedicated in-home stabilization worker and a licensed therapist. Together, they collaborate with the family to develop individualized treatment and safety plans aimed at promoting stability and well-being.
- This program served a total of 403 individuals, including clients and family members carried over from FY24.
- In FY25 alone, the program enrolled 82 young people. Staff served an additional 321 family members and received 79 referrals.

Prince George's County

- **Assisted in creating person-centered, recovery-oriented plans and connecting people in recovery to funded benefits and supportive services**, including employment, education and housing.
- [Peer Recovery Specialists](#) with lived experience served over 900 recovering individuals across the county.

Queen Anne's County

- **Connected people with medication for opioid use disorder treatment**
- [The county's](#) buprenorphine initiative enabled 13 people to start medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD) treatment, care coordination and peer recovery support.
 - For many years, the county had one MOUD prescriber who did not accept Medicaid, Medicare, or private insurance. By Spring of (20015), a second MOUD provider was available and accepted Medicaid.
 - The initiative ensured a smooth transfer of 10 Medicaid clients to the new provider while the original provider continued treating the remaining three Medicare clients for reimbursement. Without this program, none of these clients would have accessed the medication.

Somerset County

- **Provided essential naloxone education, awareness, training and distribution** through an [overdose response program](#) that teaches how to recognize the signs of opioid overdose, administer naloxone, and care for the person until emergency services arrive.
- The program distributed 1,686 naloxone kits and, to ensure 24/7 access, agreements were established with three local pharmacies to provide naloxone to individuals who need it outside of standard business hours.
- Partners: Karemore Pharmacy in Princess Anne, Marion Pharmacy and Crisfield Pharmacy in Crisfield

St. Mary's County

- **Engaged communities and programs to become [Recovery Friendly Workplaces](#) to offer businesses guidance for supporting employees with addiction.**
- Employing peers as the liaison to businesses is unique to Maryland's model and remains a strong tenet of the pilot program's success.

- Many participating staff experienced their first encounter with someone openly sharing their recovery journey — effectively challenging stigma about addiction and recovery.
 - 11 employers designated as Recovery Friendly Workplaces
 - 728 employees impacted by Recovery Friendly Workplace designation
 - Three individuals in recovery connected with work at Recovery Friendly employers.

Talbot County

- **Delivered jail-based and community-based services focused on re-entry support for individuals with substance use disorders**, including counseling, peer support, and case management during incarceration and after release.
- This [program](#) served 72 individuals in FY24, achieving 85% of its engagement target. In FY25, the program expanded its reach, serving 223 individuals.

Washington County

- **Expanded mobile crisis response and stabilization services in preparation for local providers to become a licensed and billable [Mobile Crisis Team program](#).**
 - Clinician and peer support positions were added in order to provide a community-based response 24/7/365. The provider purchased a reliable vehicle and optimized its electronic health record system to improve the quality of data and reporting.
 - A total of 1,848 response and stabilization services were provided during the year.

Wicomico County

- **Provided a series of critical support and education trainings for parents** on the Lower Eastern Shore of Maryland through the [Minority Youth Outreach program](#).
- This program provides outreach and education to schools, childcare, community and faith-based organizations to increase the understanding and reduce stigma of receiving mental health services within the minority and rural communities on the Lower Eastern Shore.
- Served 713 people throughout three Lower Shore Counties.
- Partners: Children's Choice



Worcester County

- **Provided crisis training for law enforcement** through the [Worcester County Crisis Intervention Team \(CIT\) program](#), a community partnership of local law enforcement, mental health and addictions professionals, individuals who live with mental illness and/or addiction disorders, their families and other advocates.
 - 26 law enforcement officers received 40 hours of CIT training.
 - 11 Public Communication Officers received 3 days of Dispatcher CIT training.
 - The Worcester CIT program hosted a Role Play Train the Trainer class and successfully trained eight officers and community members.