

The Maryland Department
of Health and Mental Hygiene

2012
SELECTED HIGHLIGHTS



Martin O'Malley
Governor

Anthony G. Brown
Lt. Governor

Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D.
Secretary, DHMH



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D., Secretary

January 2013

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to present the following 2012 Maryland health highlights.

These highlights are representative of many achievements in health across the state this year.

Each reflects the hard work of many people. I particularly thank the more than 8,000 employees and volunteers of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene for their dedication, compassion, and fortitude in keeping Maryland at the forefront of health and health care.

2013 is a year of great promise for further healthy transformation.

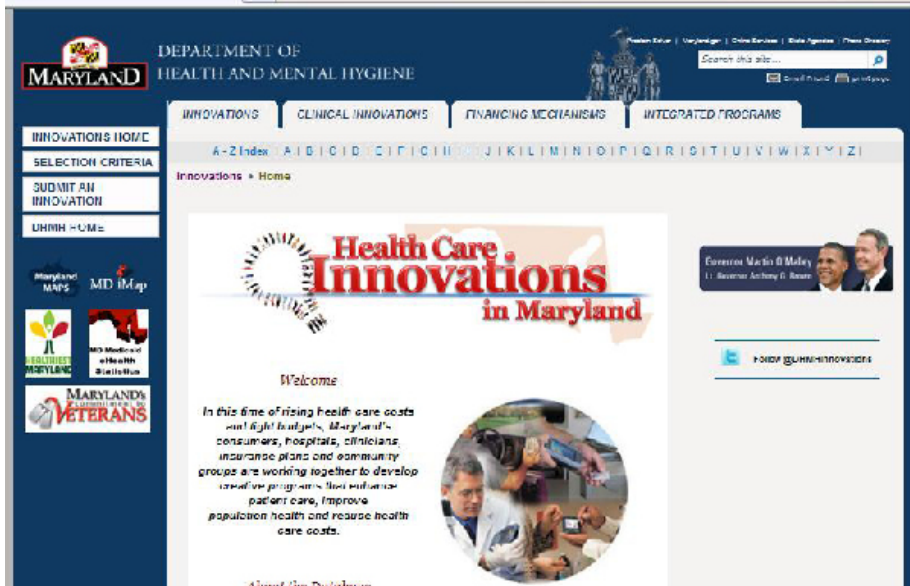
Thank you for your efforts in advancing Maryland's health.

Sincerely,

Joshua M. Sharfstein, M.D.
Secretary

JANUARY

Launch of the Innovations Website



The Department launches a new **Health Care Innovations website** to highlight efforts across Maryland to enhance patient care, improve health and control costs. The Innovations website, <http://dhmh.maryland.gov/innovations>, also serves as a “matchmaking” service between organizations facing new financial incentives and ideas for making the most of them for health. Health Department leaders publish an article on the effort in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

FEBRUARY

A Connected Health Information Exchange

All of Maryland’s acute care hospitals connect to the **Maryland Health Information Exchange**, a statewide system that enables instant and secure sharing of health information among approved doctors’ offices, hospitals, and other health organizations.

Maryland is the first state in the nation to reach this high level of connectivity.



A Commitment to the Million Hearts Initiative

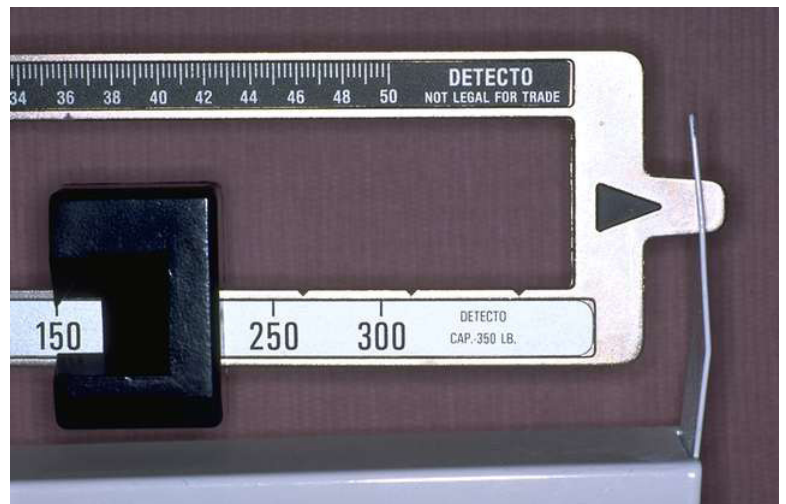


Maryland commits to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services effort to prevent one million heart attacks and strokes in the U.S. by 2017. The first state to announce a coordinated commitment, Maryland's initiative has five core components: clinical care; tobacco control; a healthy diet; workplace wellness; and local public health action. To date, over 450 public and private sector partners are supporting **Maryland Million Hearts**.

MARCH

Grants to Support the State Health Improvement Process

The Department launched the **State Health Improvement Process** in 2011 to support local public health action to achieve measurable improvements in health. In March, the Community Health Resources Commission makes \$600,000 in grants to 17 coalitions across the state. Local projects aim to reduce obesity, improve behavioral health, increase access to healthcare, and reduce smoking rates.



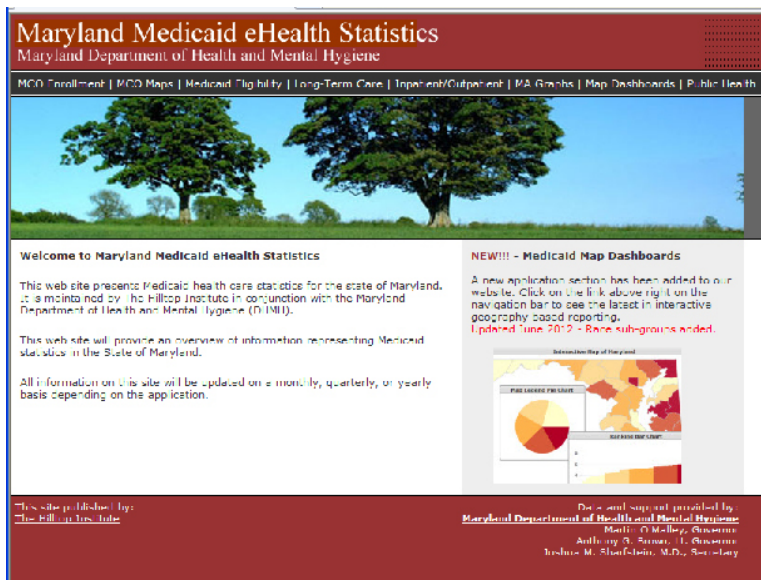
Progress for Long-Term Care in the Community

Maryland is awarded more than \$106 million in federal grant funding to further efforts to provide long-term care in community based settings rather than in institutions. The competitive grant award increases the amount of federal matching funds received for each state dollar invested toward non-institutional long-term supports and services. Maryland is the second state to win a grant award under the program.

APRIL

The Birth of Health Enterprise Zones

Governor Martin O’Malley signs the **Maryland Health Improvement and Disparities Reduction Act of 2012**, which creates the Health Enterprise Zone program. This initiative, championed by Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown, provides pilot funding to support community coalitions that design innovative approaches to addressing unacceptable health disparities.



Sharing of Health Care Data

The Department partners with the Hilltop Institute at the University of Maryland at Baltimore County to create an interactive website that provides county-level data on a variety of health conditions and indicators among Medicaid recipients. Later in the year, the site is upgraded to include data on all hospital discharges in the state. The website can be found at <http://www.md-medicare.org/ia-maps/>.

MAY

A Contest of Ideas for Health Data

In partnership with Intel, the Department holds Maryland’s first **Health Data Innovation Contest** for creative use of data to improve the health status of Maryland residents. Forty-one ideas were submitted and more than 750 votes were cast. Winning ideas aimed to prevent transfusion reactions, improve overdose reporting, support enterprise zones, and improve mental health care in schools.



JUNE

A Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling

The Department announces support for a **Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling** at the University of Maryland. Services include a 24-hour hotline, website, training, resource development and dissemination, and support for a public health strategy to address gambling addiction. The Problem Gambling Helpline phone number for individuals in crisis is 1-800-522-4700.



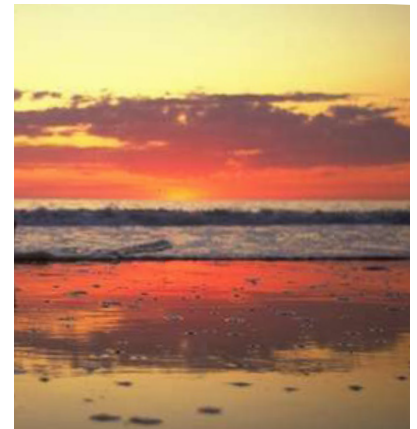
Expanding Help for Veterans

The Department and the University of Maryland launch a new partnership to meet the behavioral and mental health needs of Maryland veterans and their families. The partnership will identify gaps in veterans' services and train mental health professionals, primary care doctors, and clergy to better understand and address the unique needs of our veterans. The initiative will also develop peer support networks for veterans reintegrating to civilian life.

JULY

Assistance for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities

As FY 2012 closes, the Department announces that it successfully completed two special initiatives to help thousands of people with developmental disabilities and to support the infrastructure of provider organizations. More Marylanders with disabilities receive assistance to help them gain and maintain independence.





Health and Safety Management Teams

The Department and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees develop and launch the State's first Health and Safety Management Team guidelines to be implemented at each facility. Through each facility's Health and Safety Management Team, both management and staff congregate to analyze data related to employee injuries and assaults, to generate ideas on how to prevent further injuries at each facility. Individuals also draw upon their own personal experiences to make suggestions to improve safety.

Progress is tracked throughout the year to assess the effectiveness of the implementation of these ideas. This is a collaborative exercise recognized by national facility experts as being an effective tool that incorporates a wide range of perspectives.

AUGUST

Infant Mortality at Record Low

Governor O'Malley announces that outreach, resources and educational programs helped the state's infant mortality rate remain at a record low of 6.7 deaths per 1000 live births in 2011 — the lowest rate ever recorded in Maryland for two years in a row.



SEPTEMBER



The Launch of the Institute for a Healthiest Maryland

In partnership with the University of Maryland at Baltimore, the Department launches the **Institute for a Healthiest Maryland**. A key goal of the new institute is to connect academic resources and expertise with local public health activity across the state. Dr. Renee Fox is appointed as the first executive director.

OCTOBER

A Top Score for Emergency Preparedness



The Department earns a top score in public health emergency preparedness from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in its annual review and evaluation process. This is the fourth straight year that the Department has improved its rating.

Later in the year, Maryland places in the top tier of states in the Trust for America's Health Preparedness ranking.

A Successful Health Disparities Conference

The Department hosts the ninth annual **Maryland Health Disparities Conference**, celebrating advances in Maryland legislation that help improve health among all Marylanders and reduce health disparities as the state strives to be a national model for health equality and reform. The conference, sponsored by the Department's Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities and co-sponsored by the University of Maryland's School of Public Health and Maryland Center for Health Equity, has as this year's theme *Advancing Healthy Public Policy: The Maryland Health Improvement and Disparities Reduction Initiative*. Almost 500 Marylanders attend.



NOVEMBER

A Ban on the Sale of Baby Bumper Pads



Following an 18-month investigation into the safety of baby crib bumper pads, the Department publishes final regulations to ban their sale in Maryland effective June 21, 2013. The action follows the Department's conclusion that baby crib bumper pads, intended for infants up to the age of five or six months, offer no meaningful benefit and pose a potentially serious risk to infant health. The Maryland chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Med Chi, and numerous safety experts support the Department's action.

Expansion of Recovery Support

Following historic expansions in access to substance abuse treatment, the Department has invested in support for recovery from substance abuse. There have been increases in the number and services of Recovery Community Centers, access to halfway and recovery housing, expanded supported employment programs, and the Peer Recovery Support Specialist workforce. In addition, jurisdictions around the state are receiving funding and technical assistance for the establishment of new adolescent recovery services.



DECEMBER

Maryland Health Connection Receives Conditional Certification

Maryland and five other states receive conditional federal approval to operate a state exchange or marketplace where individuals can buy insurance under health care reform. The approval by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services means that Maryland is on track under federal guidelines to operate an exchange, with open enrollment starting October 2013.



A Bonus for Efforts to Enroll Children

Maryland receives a \$36 million bonus from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for successful efforts to identify and enroll eligible children in Medicaid and the Maryland Children’s Health Insurance Program. The bonus reflects enrollment activities which include simplification of the application and collaboration with the Comptroller’s Office to identify uninsured children on the state income tax return.

“Since 2007, we have expanded coverage to more than 365,000 Marylanders, almost half of them children, and this bonus is a great recognition of those efforts.”

-- Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown