



CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & PROTECTION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Children's Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council

Tuesday, June 9, 2026
9:00am – 10:30am

MINUTES

Members:

Subha Chandar (Chair)
Ben Gitterman
Frederick Banks (Vice Chair)
Nse Witherspoon
Megan Weil Latshaw
Alexander Lehmann
Laura Allen
John Hummel
Lisa Horne
Matthew McConaughy

Kylan Simpson (Staff)

Guests:

Michael Ichniowski
Kelly Love
Sean Lynch
Veronika Carella
Krisna Becker
Semaj Tucker
Ashley Prescott
Anaiah Coates
Mackenzie Smith
Nomsa Dlamini
Cliff Mitchell

Welcome

Chair Subha Chandar called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and welcomed Council members, agency representatives, Maryland Department of Health (MDH) staff, Environmental Health Apprentices, invited guests, and members of the public. Staff confirmed that a quorum was present. Chair Chandar expressed appreciation that the Council was able to bring three sets of meeting minutes forward for approval and noted that the meeting would also feature a presentation from the MDH Environmental Health Apprentices highlighting their review of the outdoor air quality section of the 2008 Children's Environmental Health Report. The presentation was intended to begin the Council's discussion on updating the report and identifying future priorities for children's environmental health.

Old Business

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The Council reviewed the draft meeting minutes from the following meetings:

- December 9, 2025
- January 13, 2026
- May 12, 2026

Chair Chandar requested a motion to approve all three sets of meeting minutes.

Matthew McConaughey (MACo Representative) moved to approve the December 9, 2025, January 13, 2026, and May 12, 2026 meeting minutes as presented. Frederick Banks (Vice Chair, Maryland Department of the Environment) seconded the motion.

The Chair asked Council members if there were any corrections, edits, or discussion regarding the minutes. Hearing none, Council members voted on the motion.

Motion: Approve the December 9, 2025, January 13, 2026, and May 12, 2026 meeting minutes.

Motion by: Matthew McConaughey

Second by: Frederick Banks

Vote: Eight members voted in favor. There were no votes in opposition and no abstentions. The motion carried.

Update on Motion #3 (2021) – Pesticide Use in Schools

Status of MSDE/MDA Coordination

Frederick Banks provided an update on ongoing coordination efforts between the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), and the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) regarding Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in schools.

Dr. Banks reported that he recently met with representatives from the MSDE Office of School Facilities to begin discussions on integrating pest management considerations into school planning and construction. He noted that the initial meeting served as an opportunity to better understand school construction processes and identify opportunities for collaboration between the participating agencies.

Dr. Banks explained that the agencies are working toward several short- and long-term objectives, including:

- Developing a statewide Integrated Pest Management framework aligned across participating agencies;

- Expanding training opportunities for school personnel;
- Increasing outreach and education for teachers and school administrators;
- Evaluating outdoor pesticide application practices; and
- Exploring requirements for mandatory pest management plans as part of future school construction and renovation projects.

He stated that additional meetings with MDA and MSDE representatives are planned to further develop these concepts and that he would prepare a written summary of the group's progress for distribution to Council members through CEHPAC staff.

Chair Chandar invited comments and questions from Council members.

Megan Latshaw (Epidemiologist) thanked Dr. Banks for initiating discussions with partner agencies and noted that members of the public, including Krisna Becker, have considerable experience working on school construction and children's environmental health issues in Montgomery County. Dr. Latshaw encouraged the working group to utilize existing resources and expertise as the project moves forward.

Dr. Banks welcomed additional historical materials and guidance from Council members and stakeholders, noting that as one of the newer Council members he appreciated receiving previous reports and recommendations that could inform development of the statewide framework.

Kelly Love (Maryland Department of Agriculture) shared Environmental Protection Agency resources related to creating healthy school environments, including guidance on Integrated Pest Management and indoor air quality. Dr. Banks thanked Kelly Love and stated that he would coordinate a meeting with representatives from MDA and MSDE to establish project goals and begin drafting a collaborative plan.

Veronika Carella asked whether the working group intended to utilize the Integrated Pest Management model previously developed for the Maryland Department of Agriculture to ensure compliance with Maryland law. She also inquired whether future planning meetings would be open to the public.

Dr. Banks responded that the existing model would be reviewed as part of the planning process and explained that agencies would first meet internally to establish logistics and develop a draft before presenting recommendations to the Council. Chair Chandar clarified that the initial meetings would serve as agency coordination meetings and that any future Council subgroup discussions would be considered separately.

Krisna Becker asked whether discussions regarding school construction also included indoor air quality.

Dr. Banks explained that although the initial discussions focused primarily on school construction and architectural planning, indoor air quality had also been discussed and

would remain an important consideration as the project advances. He noted that the recent conversations introduced a broader perspective on designing and maintaining school facilities to prevent pest problems before they occur, rather than focusing solely on pesticide applications.

Veronika Carella reminded the Council that CEHPAC previously adopted four motions addressing children's environmental health priorities, including recommendations related to indoor air quality. She offered to redistribute those documents to assist the working group.

Dr. Banks thanked Veronika Carella for the offer and stated that he hoped the group would strive to exceed minimum regulatory standards whenever possible, emphasizing Maryland's longstanding leadership in environmental health protection.

Update on IPM in Schools Discussion

Chair Chandar acknowledged that one of the outstanding action items from the previous meeting was to formally request the Integrated Pest Management template from the Maryland Department of Agriculture. She stated that the request had not yet been made and accepted responsibility for the delay.

The Chair explained that obtaining the official template, together with CEHPAC's previous recommendations and historical priorities, would help guide future education, training, and compliance efforts as the Council develops recommendations for schools.

No additional comments were offered by Council members.

Veronika Carella expressed concern regarding the continued delay in obtaining the Integrated Pest Management template. She noted that Council members had previously reviewed the document and identified numerous components that required revision or expansion. She stated that the lack of progress delays implementation of measures intended to fully protect children under Maryland's Integrated Pest Management in Schools law and emphasized that the Council should receive the official template and MDA's response to previously identified concerns as soon as possible.

Update on School Construction Safety (MCPS)

Chair Chandar provided an update on the Council's outreach to Montgomery County Public Schools regarding school construction and children's environmental health.

Megan Latshaw (Epidemiologist) reported that the Council had recently followed up with the Montgomery County Public Schools Superintendent regarding concerns previously raised by CEHPAC related to school construction and children's environmental exposures. She explained that the Council had initially contacted the Superintendent

approximately one year earlier and, after subsequent correspondence, received a response indicating a willingness to meet with Council representatives to discuss the issues further.

The Council has invited the Superintendent to participate in an upcoming CEHPAC meeting, with July identified as the preferred timeframe. Chair Chandar noted that scheduling would remain flexible based on the Superintendent's availability and the school system's summer schedule. She further observed that school construction, Integrated Pest Management, and indoor air quality continue to be closely connected topics and remain important priorities for the Council.

New Business

Children's Environmental Health Report (Outdoor Air Quality) (Appendix A)

Chair Subha Chandar introduced the agenda item by noting that one of the Council's longstanding priorities has been updating the *Children's Environmental Health Report*, originally published in 2008. She explained that the Maryland Department of Health Environmental Health Apprentices were asked to revisit one section of the report as part of their apprenticeship training to evaluate current environmental conditions, compare them with the 2008 findings, and identify opportunities to inform future CEHPAC priorities. Chair Chandar stated that the project was intended to serve as a model for future updates to the report while also providing the apprentices with experience conducting environmental health research and presenting findings to the Council.

Dr. Clifford Mitchell introduced Maryland's Environmental Health Apprenticeship Program, describing it as the nation's first registered apprenticeship program for environmental health specialists. He explained that the program combines academic instruction through Morgan State University with structured on-the-job training designed to prepare apprentices for careers in environmental health.

Dr. Mitchell recognized Dr. Kylan Simpson, who oversees the apprenticeship program, for his leadership and mentorship of the apprentices and acknowledged his recent recognition as the Maryland Apprenticeship Mentor of the Year by the Maryland Department of Labor. He noted that the apprentices are currently completing their first year of training and are preparing to transition into Apprentice II, where they will begin rotations through local health departments to gain practical experience in food protection, private wells, onsite sewage disposal, vector control, ventilation, and other environmental health programs.

Dr. Simpson provided additional background on the apprenticeship program, explaining that it combines classroom instruction, field experience, and mentorship to prepare the next generation of environmental health professionals. He stated that, for this assignment, the apprentices were asked to revisit one indicator from the 2008 *Children's Environmental Health Report* and evaluate how conditions have changed over time. The project was intended to highlight Maryland's progress in improving environmental health

while identifying areas where additional monitoring, research, and collaboration remain necessary. Dr. Simpson then introduced the four Environmental Health Apprentices:

- Mackenzie Smith
- Anaiah Coates
- Nomsa Dlamini
- Ashley Prescott

who presented their review of Outdoor Air Quality.

Mackenzie Smith opened the presentation by providing an overview of the outdoor air quality section from the 2008 *Children's Environmental Health Report*. She explained that outdoor air pollution is a mixture of naturally occurring and human-generated pollutants and focused on two primary pollutant categories discussed in the report: criteria air pollutants and hazardous air toxics.

The presentation described ozone and particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) as the principal criteria pollutants affecting children's health. Mackenzie explained that ozone forms when sunlight reacts with volatile organic compounds and nitrogen oxides emitted from motor vehicles, gasoline vapors, and other sources. She noted that children, older adults, and individuals with respiratory illnesses are particularly vulnerable to ozone exposure, which can contribute to chest pain, coughing, throat irritation, and aggravated asthma.

She also discussed particulate matter, explaining that fine particles are capable of penetrating deep into the lungs and are associated with respiratory irritation, decreased lung function, asthma exacerbations, and cardiovascular effects. Hazardous air toxics, including benzene, mercury compounds, chromium, and formaldehyde, were identified as pollutants associated with long-term health effects such as cancer and developmental disorders.

Mackenzie reviewed the five outdoor air quality indicators included in the 2008 report, highlighting improvements observed over time.

The apprentices explained that ozone pollution episodes have become shorter and less widespread due to pollution control measures affecting motor vehicles, power plants, and industrial emissions. They also reported that particulate matter concentrations have steadily declined while remaining below national air quality standards in many areas.

Despite these improvements, the 2008 report found that all Maryland children were exposed to outdoor air toxics exceeding cancer risk benchmarks, emphasizing the continued importance of monitoring air quality and children's environmental exposures. The apprentices concluded that although air quality has improved substantially since 2008, outdoor air pollution continues to present important public health concerns for Maryland children.

Ashley Prescott presented current statewide air quality findings using information from Maryland's 2026 Clean Air Progress Report and the American Lung Association.

Ashley reported that Maryland met all six federal ambient air quality standards during 2025 and has experienced substantial reductions in ozone and PM_{2.5} concentrations over the past two decades. She noted that approximately 570,457 Maryland children continue to live in areas experiencing unhealthy air pollution, with Baltimore, Harford, and Cecil counties representing areas of greatest concern.

Ashley presented trend data illustrating significant reductions in PM_{2.5}, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide between 2002 and 2024. She explained that annual PM_{2.5} concentrations, which once exceeded federal standards, are now below current regulatory limits because of air quality regulations, cleaner energy initiatives, and emission reduction programs.

While acknowledging Maryland's overall improvement, Ashley emphasized that environmental health disparities persist. She noted that children living in low-income communities, urban areas, and Black, Hispanic, and Asian communities continue to experience disproportionately higher exposures to air pollution. She concluded that reducing these disparities remains an important public health priority despite statewide improvements in air quality.

Anaiah Coates discussed several challenges encountered during the project.

The apprentices reported difficulty locating consistent environmental and health data spanning the period since publication of the 2008 report. They noted that gaps in environmental monitoring and health surveillance became particularly evident during the COVID-19 pandemic, making long-term comparisons more difficult.

Additional limitations included limited pediatric health data directly linked to environmental exposures, inconsistent demographic information across datasets, and challenges measuring children's cumulative exposure because children routinely move between home, school, childcare settings, and recreational environments throughout the day.

Anaiah explained that these limitations make it difficult to establish direct relationships between environmental exposures and health outcomes and highlighted the need for more comprehensive and standardized environmental health surveillance systems.

Nomsa Dlamini concluded the presentation by identifying opportunities to strengthen future environmental health reporting and surveillance.

Recommendations included:

- Expanding ambient air quality monitoring sites, particularly within high-risk communities;
- Prioritizing environmental justice communities disproportionately affected by air pollution;
- Implementing voluntary, non-invasive methods of collecting children's environmental exposure data through wearable digital sensor technologies;
- Developing integrated systems linking environmental monitoring data with health outcomes;
- Increasing public education regarding the Air Quality Index and daily air quality forecasts; and
- Strengthening ongoing monitoring and evaluation to better assess program effectiveness and public health outcomes.

Chair Chandar thanked the apprentices for their presentation and opened the floor for discussion.

Megan Latshaw (Epidemiologist) requested additional information regarding the recommendation to utilize non-invasive technologies for collecting environmental health data from children. Nomsa Dlamini explained that wearable digital sensor technologies could collect exposure information without requiring invasive procedures or disrupting children's daily activities, thereby protecting privacy while improving data quality. Mackenzie Smith added that non-invasive approaches reduce participant burden, increase family willingness to participate in research, and provide safer methods for monitoring environmental exposures. Dr. Latshaw asked whether the recommendation was intended primarily for researchers or public health agencies. Mackenzie responded that both researchers and health departments could benefit from incorporating these approaches into future environmental health studies. Dr. Latshaw commended the apprentices for their work.

Ben Gitterman (Health Care Provider) suggested that graduate students and universities could play an important role in developing research projects utilizing voluntary, non-invasive monitoring approaches. He observed that these methods may reduce concerns associated with Institutional Review Board approval while providing valuable opportunities for student-led research projects.

Nse Witherspoon (Toxicologist) congratulated the apprentices on their presentation and discussed broader environmental factors affecting air quality. She noted that transportation emissions, climate change, and the continued development of data centers present emerging environmental health concerns that should remain priorities for the Council. She observed that transportation remains one of Maryland's largest contributors to air pollution and asked the apprentices to identify strategies that could meaningfully reduce transportation-related emissions over the coming decade.

In response, Mackenzie Smith recommended expanding air quality monitoring within disproportionately affected communities, improving public education, investing in

cleaner transportation options, expanding green infrastructure, and improving connections between environmental monitoring and health data systems. Anaiah Coates added that improving community walkability and increasing access to essential services within neighborhoods could reduce dependence on motor vehicles while addressing issues such as food deserts and transportation inequities. Nse Witherspoon thanked the apprentices and encouraged the Council to continue advocating for stronger transportation and environmental policies to improve children's health outcomes.

Michael Ichniowski commented that weakening federal emissions standards and increased reliance on coal-fired energy generation could negatively affect air quality. He asked whether barriers exist to utilizing aggregated electronic medical record data to better monitor pediatric respiratory illnesses associated with air pollution.

Mackenzie Smith explained that barriers include patient privacy protections, inconsistent data quality, and the absence of environmental exposure information within most electronic health records. She noted that clinical records typically emphasize diagnosis and treatment rather than documenting environmental conditions that may contribute to illness. Chair Chandar added that Maryland currently maintains separate environmental monitoring and health surveillance systems, including asthma surveillance and air quality monitoring, but acknowledged that integrating these datasets remains a challenge. Dr. Mitchell further explained that limitations in exposure assessment, biomonitoring, and neighborhood-level environmental data continue to present obstacles to more comprehensive environmental health surveillance.

Krisna Becker encouraged the Maryland Department of Health to consider future legislation addressing indoor air quality. She offered to share biomonitoring data collected through previous research projects that may support future policy development and legislative efforts related to indoor air quality in schools.

Chair Chandar thanked Krisna Becker for the offer and noted that indoor air quality represents another major section of the *Children's Environmental Health Report*. She stated that the Council anticipates future work in this area and welcomed the opportunity to incorporate additional expertise and resources into subsequent report updates.

Chair Chandar concluded the agenda item by expressing appreciation to the Environmental Health Apprentices for their thoughtful research and presentation. She stated that the project provides an excellent model for future updates to the *Children's Environmental Health Report* and recognized the apprentices' work as an important contribution to the Council's ongoing efforts to protect children's environmental health in Maryland.

Legislative and Policy Monitoring

Chair Subha Chandar introduced the legislative and policy monitoring agenda item by noting that, although the 2026 legislative session had concluded, planning for the next

legislative session was already underway. She reminded Council members that a summary of legislation reviewed during the session had been prepared by CEHPAC staff and included with the May 2026 meeting materials. Chair Chandar encouraged members to review legislation that did not pass, as many of those bills are likely to be reintroduced during future sessions. She invited Council members to identify bills that may warrant additional research or future CEHPAC discussion and encouraged members to share recommendations with Council staff.

Frederick Banks (Vice Chair, Maryland Department of the Environment) provided an update on several legislative priorities currently being considered by the Maryland Department of the Environment.

Dr. Banks reported that MDE intends to pursue reintroduction of Senate Bill 873/House Bill 1545, legislation addressing environmental investigations following reports of elevated blood lead levels. He explained that prior to legislative changes enacted in 2019, property owners were required to begin remediation activities immediately after notification of an elevated blood lead level. Current law requires MDE to complete an environmental investigation before remediation can begin, which may delay hazard reduction and extend children's exposure to lead hazards. Dr. Banks stated that reintroducing the legislation would help accelerate remediation efforts and better protect children from ongoing lead exposure.

Dr. Banks also discussed several additional policy initiatives under consideration, including:

- Partnering with the Maryland State Department of Education to require biennial lead inspections for pre-1978 licensed daycare facilities, rather than limiting inspections to a one-time initial evaluation.
- Reviewing Maryland's Lead-Free Certificate program, which currently allows qualifying properties to maintain a lead-free designation indefinitely. Dr. Banks explained that lead hazards can develop over time and expressed concern that the existing program may create a false perception that a property remains permanently free of lead hazards. He noted that Maryland is unique in maintaining a lead-free certification program and suggested that transitioning toward a "lead-safe" approach would more accurately reflect environmental health principles and provide greater protection for children.

Chair Chandar thanked Dr. Banks for the update and encouraged Council members to continue identifying legislative priorities that may benefit from CEHPAC review during the upcoming legislative cycle.

Veronika Carella encouraged the Council to consider additional legislative protections for children attending private schools and daycare centers. She noted that Maryland's Green Cleaning in Schools Law and Integrated Pest Management in Schools Law currently

apply only to public schools, leaving children attending private educational facilities without equivalent statutory protections.

Dr. Banks responded that MDE's current discussions regarding lead exposure focus primarily on the age and condition of facilities rather than whether they are publicly or privately operated. He explained that many childcare facilities are licensed through the Maryland State Department of Education regardless of ownership and indicated that the department hopes future policy changes will strengthen protections across these settings. He further noted that approximately 30 percent of environmental lead investigations involve daycare centers, underscoring the importance of strengthening protections for these facilities.

Veronika Carella also recalled previous Council discussions regarding daycare centers located within commercial strip malls that housed dry-cleaning businesses. She noted that children attending these facilities had historically been exposed to hazardous dry-cleaning chemicals and encouraged the Council to continue considering these types of environmental exposures as future legislative priorities.

Chair Chandar thanked Veronika Carella for her comments and reiterated that Council members should notify CEHPAC staff of legislative issues they believe warrant additional research or future Council discussion.

Open Meetings Act

Chair Subha Chandar reminded Council members that compliance with Maryland's Open Meetings Act is an important responsibility for all advisory councils and public bodies. She explained that members, staff, and Council leadership are expected to complete periodic Open Meetings Act training to ensure that Council business continues to be conducted transparently and in accordance with State law. Chair Chandar also noted that she would work with MDH's policy staff to arrange a future presentation providing additional guidance regarding Open Meetings Act requirements, Council procedures, and best practices for conducting public meetings.

Dr. Kylan Simpson (CEHPAC Staff) provided additional information regarding the Open Meetings Act training requirements. He explained that the statute requires certain State public bodies to conduct meetings openly, provide adequate public notice, and maintain publicly accessible meeting minutes. Dr. Simpson encouraged Council members who had not yet completed the required Attorney General's Open Meetings Act training to do so and requested that members submit copies of their completion certificates for Council records. He noted that the official training link would be shared in the meeting chat and included in a follow-up email to Council members.

Dr. Simpson also informed the Council that updates had recently been made to the CEHPAC webpages to improve accessibility and navigation. He explained that:

- Meeting agendas, minutes, and supporting materials dated June 1, 2026, and later would remain available on the primary CEHPAC webpage.
- Historical meeting materials dated prior to June 1, 2026, would be listed on a newly created archive page.
- Archived documents would remain publicly listed but would be provided upon request as part of Maryland's accessibility requirements.

He noted that similar webpage changes were being implemented across other Maryland Department of Health webpages as part of broader accessibility initiatives.

Veronika Carella requested clarification regarding the availability of archived meeting materials. She expressed concern that requiring members of the public to request individual historical documents could make it more difficult to access CEHPAC records and suggested that archived documents should remain directly downloadable from the archive webpage.

Dr. Simpson explained that while the archive page would remain publicly accessible and continue listing historical meeting materials, individual archived documents would need to be requested through CEHPAC staff in accordance with the current accessibility guidance. He acknowledged the concern and agreed to consult with MDH's accessibility team regarding potential improvements to the archive process.

Krisna Becker requested that the Council consider holding a separate future meeting with representatives from the Maryland State Department of Education to discuss indoor air quality in schools, particularly if the Council does not receive additional information from Montgomery County Public Schools regarding school construction.

Chair Chandar thanked Krisna Becker for the suggestion and stated that the recommendation would be considered as future meeting agendas are developed. She also confirmed that the Open Meetings Act training link would be distributed to all Council members following the meeting and reiterated plans to invite an MDH policy representative to provide additional training on Council procedures and Open Meetings Act requirements.

Public Comment

Chair Subha Chandar opened the floor for public comment and invited members of the public to provide remarks on matters relevant to the Council's work.

Veronika Carella requested that her comments made throughout the meeting be reflected in the official meeting minutes as part of the public record rather than only comments made during the designated Public Comment period. She noted that she had provided public input on several agenda items, including Integrated Pest Management (IPM), indoor air quality, school construction, and legislative issues, and requested that those remarks be documented accordingly.

Veronika Carella also requested that the Integrated Pest Management in Schools discussion remain on future CEHPAC agendas until the Council receives a public update from the Maryland Department of Agriculture regarding the status of the IPM model requested by Secretary Atticks and the agency's response to previously identified recommendations. She emphasized the importance of maintaining transparency and ensuring that stakeholders receive regular updates regarding the development and implementation of the model.

Veronika Carella further expressed concern regarding scheduling conflicts between CEHPAC meetings and meetings of the Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities (CEJSC). She noted that the overlapping meeting times make it difficult for individuals who serve on both advisory bodies to participate fully in each meeting. She encouraged future scheduling efforts to avoid conflicts whenever possible and suggested that meetings be held on separate days or at different times.

Chair Chandar acknowledged the concern and stated that she had been communicating with the Maryland Department of the Environment regarding scheduling conflicts. She agreed that improved coordination would benefit members serving on both bodies and added that planning for the annual joint meeting between CEHPAC and the Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities would begin in the coming months.

Chair Chandar asked whether there were any additional public comments. Hearing none, the public comment period was closed.

Adjourn

Chair Chandar thanked members and guests for their continued engagement and adjourned the meeting.

Next Meeting: July 14, 2026 at 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

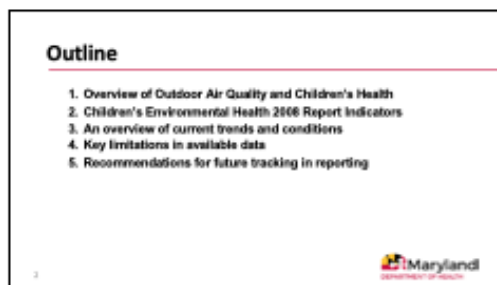
Appendix A

Children's Environmental Health Report (Outdoor Air Quality)

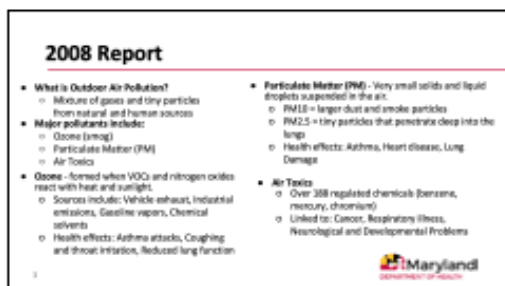
7/7/26



1



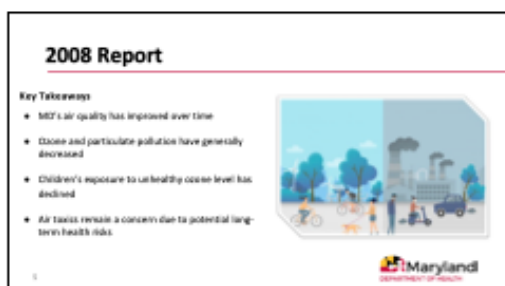
2



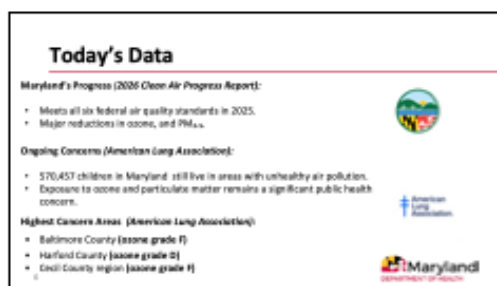
3



4



5



6

Today's Data: Air Quality 2002-2024



Source: MDE 2024 Clean Air Progress Report



7

Today's Data

Based on the report "Explore Air Pollution in Maryland":

- Maryland Rank: 14th best among U.S. states.
- The Clean Air Act has helped reduce air pollution.

Higher exposure is often experienced by:

- Low-income communities
- Urban populations
- Black, Asian, and Hispanic populations

Source: America's Health Rankings: United Health Foundation Website



8

Key Limitations

Data Gaps & Inconsistency

- Incomplete and inconsistent air quality and health data across sources
- Reduced data collection during the COVID-19 pandemic

Limited Health Information

- Insufficient data linking air quality to children's health outcomes
- Limited participation and consent for pediatric health data collection

Exposure Assessment Challenges

- Difficult to accurately track individual exposure to air pollutants

Lack of Representative Demographics

- Existing data often lack information on race, age, socioeconomic status, and other demographic factors



9

Recommendations

- Expand air quality monitoring across multiple sites in Maryland to identify high-risk areas and target further investigation.
- Prioritize air quality interventions in disproportionately affected communities to address environmental health disparities.
- Implement non-invasive, volunteer-based approaches for collecting children's health data.
- Develop integrated systems that connect environmental monitoring data with health outcomes to better assess impacts on children.
- Increase public awareness by educating vulnerable populations on using the Air Quality Index (AQI) and forecasts to adjust daily activities and reduce exposure to air pollution.



10

Discussion Questions

- What should Maryland's top priority be?
- How do we ensure equitable protection for all children?
- What partnerships are needed to make that happen?



11

Thank You



12