

Center for Maternal and Child Health



The mission of the Center for Maternal and Child Health is to protect, promote and improve the health and well-being of women, children, and adolescents in Maryland.

Who We Are

The **Center for Maternal and Child Health (CMCH)**'s programs and activities seek to strengthen and support the maternal and child health infrastructure and to assure the availability and accessibility of quality preventive and primary care services for women, children and their families. The Center's programs are integrated to assure a coordinated life-span approach to enhancing the health of Marylanders.

Why We're Here

- ✓ There are 1.2 million women of childbearing age and 1.5 million children and adolescents in Maryland.
- ✓ More than 33,000 unintended pregnancies occur annually in Maryland.
- ✓ Each year, approximately 75,000 babies are born and between 550 to 620 newborns do not live to see their first birthday. African American babies die at more than twice the rate for White babies.
- ✓ Almost one in ten Maryland births are to adolescents under the age of 20.
- ✓ In 2009, more than 553 Maryland children were diagnosed with elevated blood lead levels.
- ✓ Statewide, approximately 550,000 (12.9%) Maryland adults and 190,000 (13.6%) children have a history of asthma.
- ✓ Slightly more than three-quarters of Maryland kindergartners enter school ready to learn.
- ✓ Obesity is increasing among children; this contributes to type 2 diabetes.
- ✓ Many Maryland women lack access to preventive and primary care services.

What We're Doing

- The **Family Planning and Reproductive Health Program's** goal is to reduce unintended pregnancies, improve reproductive health and prevent adverse pregnancy outcomes. The Program assures that comprehensive family planning, preconception health, teen pregnancy prevention, and colposcopy services are available to the 79,000+ clients served annually in over 80 sites statewide. This Program funds and supports:
 - ✓ Family planning/reproductive health clinical services in each jurisdiction;
 - ✓ Healthy Teen and Young Adult Projects offering a holistic approach to teen pregnancy prevention;
 - ✓ Preventive services including preconception counseling; screening/treatment for sexually transmitted diseases; breast and cervical cancer screening; health referrals for mental health; domestic violence and substance abuse; and counseling teens on ways to avoid sexual coercion.
- The **Maternal and Perinatal Health Program's** goal is to prevent maternal and infant deaths and improve perinatal care for the 75,000 babies born each year in Maryland. Activities and strategies include funding and support for:
 - ✓ Development of statewide Perinatal Standards, and perinatal systems building activities in each jurisdiction including maternal, fetal and infant mortality review, and perinatal center review and designation;
 - ✓ Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) educational and family support activities;
 - ✓ A statewide postpartum survey to improve pregnancy outcomes (PRAMS); and
 - ✓ Promotion of preconception folic acid use and infant breastfeeding.
- The **Child and Adolescent Health Program's** goal is to promote and protect the health of Maryland's 1.5 million children and adolescents, ages 0-21, by assuring that comprehensive, quality preventive and primary services are accessible. Activities and strategies include funding and support for:
 - ✓ Early childhood initiatives including home visiting, mental health and promotion of access to a medical home;
 - ✓ Initiatives that increase blood lead testing, particularly in 'at risk' areas;
 - ✓ Adolescent health initiatives including teen pregnancy prevention programs;
 - ✓ The Maryland Asthma Control Program including planning and surveillance; and
 - ✓ School health programs, including medical consultation and development of guidelines.
- The **Women's Health Program's** goal is to address health issues that commonly, uniquely or disproportionately affect women throughout their life span. Activities and strategies include:
 - ✓ Women's health across the lifespan approach to improve pregnancy and other health outcomes;
 - ✓ Postpartum depression, depression during pregnancy and other mental health disorders among women;
 - ✓ Intimate partner violence and its impact on pregnancy, women and their families; and
 - ✓ Fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD) and other pregnancy or health outcomes affected by substance use.

The Difference We're Making

The Center's efforts have contributed to:

- Fewer infant deaths



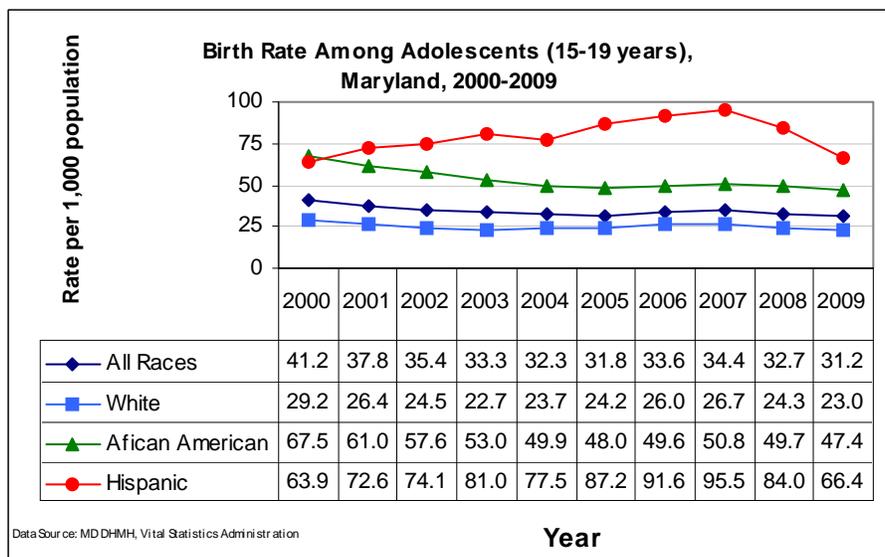
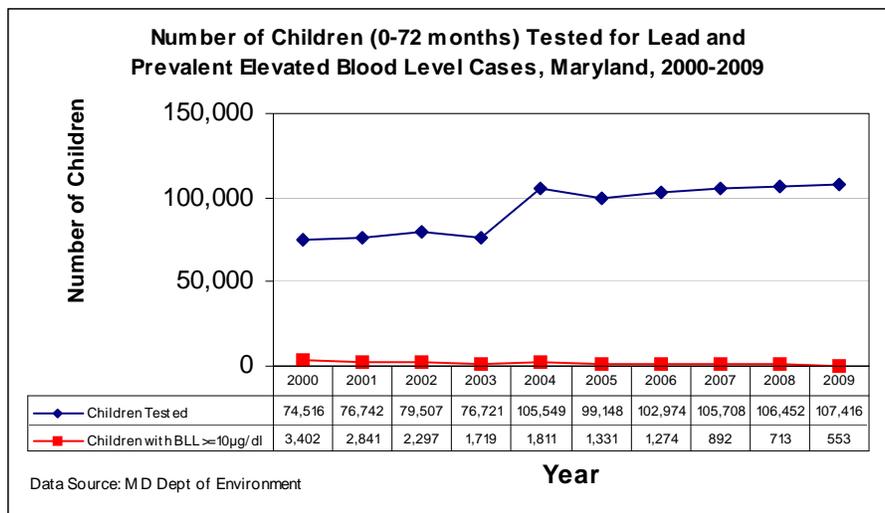
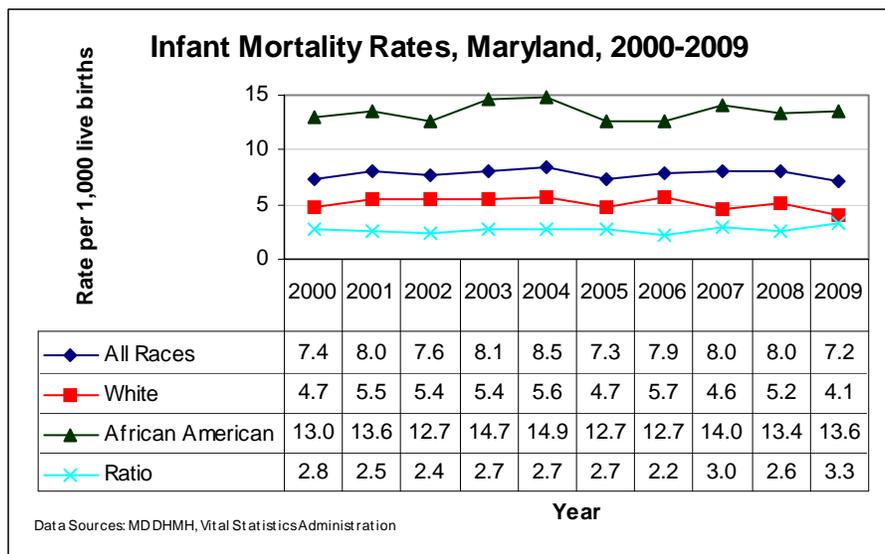
- Increased blood lead testing rates



- Fewer teen births



- Fewer unintended pregnancies - The Alan Guttmacher Institute estimates that Maryland's publicly funded family planning services help to avert more than 20,000 unintended pregnancies each year.



What Remains to Be Done

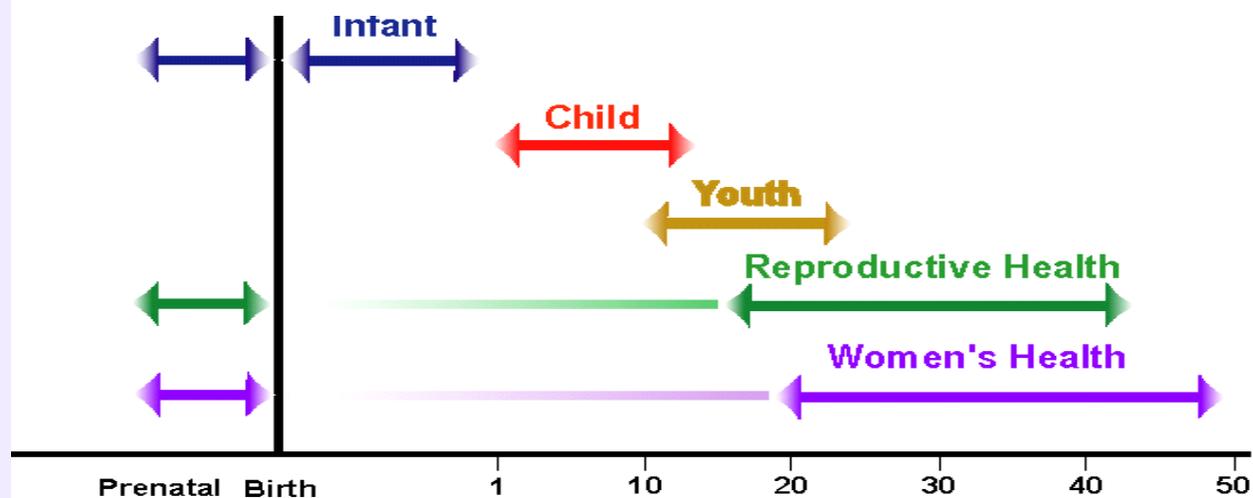
- Offer publicly subsidized family planning services to the 180,000 women currently not served;
- Further reduce infant mortality, particularly health inequities;
- Further reduce morbidity due to environmental health conditions such as asthma and lead; and
- Enhance the Center's data and epidemiological capacity.

Center for Maternal and Child Health: Our Vision

Through its various activities and programs, the Center strives to create a vision of a future in which:

- ✓ All pregnancies are planned,
- ✓ All women reach an optimal level of health and well-being prior to pregnancy,
- ✓ No woman dies or is harmed as a result of being pregnant,
- ✓ All babies are born healthy,
- ✓ All children and adolescents reach their optimum level of health and well-being,
- ✓ All women, infants, children and adolescents have access to affordable, quality health care services including family planning services, perinatal care, genetic services, preventive and primary care services, specialty care, oral health services and mental health care,
- ✓ Women, children and families are highly valued, and
- ✓ All health inequities are eliminated.

CMCH Across the Lifespan



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