



**GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF  
CRIME PREVENTION, YOUTH,  
AND VICTIM SERVICES**

**Maryland's Results for Child Well-Being 2014-2019**

*Executive Order 01.01.2006.03 (MSAR #6026)*

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## Maryland's Children's Cabinet

The Children's Cabinet coordinates the child and family-focused service delivery system by emphasizing prevention, early intervention, and community-based services for all children and families. The Children's Cabinet includes the Secretaries from the Department of Budget and Management, Disabilities, Health, Human Services, and Juvenile Services; and the State Superintendent of Schools for the Maryland State Department of Education and the Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services (*as illustrated below*).

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## Introduction

As required by [Executive Order 01.01.2006.03 B\(6\)](#) , this report fulfills the requirement that the “Governor’s Office for Children shall report to the Governor annually on the status of children in Maryland and the efforts to meet the policy goals of the State for services to children and families.”

This *Maryland Results for Child Well-Being 2014-2019* (Report), provides an update on the longest continuously reported set of Statewide results and indicators for children and families in the nation. Since 2001, these measures of well-being have guided the Children’s Cabinet’s efforts as we have charted progress, studied trends over time, evaluated data, set priorities, and developed and supported effective and evidence-based programs to meet the demonstrated needs of Maryland’s children, youth, and families.

Thanks to contributions from all of the State’s child-serving agencies, this report allows the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention, Youth and Victim Services, which now includes the former Governor’s Office for Children (Office) and the Children’s Cabinet, to evaluate our efforts to improve the well-being of Maryland’s children.

## History of Results and Indicators

In 1996, the [Governor's Task Force on Children, Youth, and Families Systems Reform](#) (Task Force) was created in response to a growing desire by Maryland’s jurisdictions to ensure a strong local role in setting policy that affects children and families. The Task Force considered the differing needs of Maryland’s population, with the desire to create a results-based system emerging as a strong theme throughout its work and in the public hearings held throughout the State.

The Task Force’s Program Subcommittee originally proposed nine results on which to focus. Each result and its proposed indicators underwent intensive review and discussion by the Subcommittee and its successor, the Results Workgroup. Both groups had representation from the State and local levels; public and private members; and included county public health officials, county social service employees, local school system staff, local management board members, advocates, and State agency staff.

In January 1999, eight results were adopted, forming the basis for the Maryland’s Results for Child Well-Being report. The chosen results capture the quality of life for children and families in Maryland, and progress towards achieving each result is determined through selected indicators which specifically measure segments of each result. By monitoring the indicators, the

State and local jurisdictions are able to evaluate the effectiveness of service delivery to children and families. Beginning in 2015, the Office began migrating the report online, allowing Maryland's Results for Child Well-Being to serve as a crucial resource by connecting users directly to source material from the Children's Cabinet and other sources. Since 2016, data to measure progress has been collected in Child Well-Being Scorecards that are accessible on the Office's [website](#).

The State has periodically revisited the existing indicators and added new ones, as necessary, to lend a fresh perspective to the assessment of child well-being and to take into consideration the changing landscape of well-being. Because 10 years had passed since the last review of the results and indicators, in June 2019, the Office convened a workgroup to consider if any changes should be made to the current set of results and indicators and to make recommendations to the Children's Cabinet. The workgroup, composed of representatives from Children's Cabinet agencies, Local Management Boards, and the Maryland Youth Advisory Council, held its final meeting on February 4, 2020. This meeting resulted in recommendations that will be presented to the Children's Cabinet in Spring 2020.

## **Results-Based Accountability™**

The Office and the Children's Cabinet adopted the Results-Based Accountability™ framework to focus planning, decision-making, and resources on desired results and outcomes. Results-Based Accountability™ identifies a result to achieve, identifies indicators that act as proxy measures for the result, tells the “story behind the data,” identifies necessary partners and effective strategies, and develops an action plan and budget.

Maryland has identified a set of results and indicators that capture and measure the quality of life for children and families. Each year, the Office routinely collects data for each indicator.

### What is a Result?

Maryland's Children's Cabinet has adopted eight results for child well-being. A result is a goal that has been established for children, families, and/or communities. Each result describes the general well-being of Maryland's children and families in an area known to affect a child's ability to grow up healthy and secure.

## What is an Indicator?

Maryland has adopted 30 indicators that correspond to the eight results. Indicators are information and data that demonstrate Maryland’s progress toward meeting a result. Indicators are most useful in helping stakeholders identify needs and evaluate trends when:

- The data comes from automated systems like health or service records that are **recorded consistently and updated constantly**;
- The indicator is measured nationally, so that Maryland’s **trends can be compared** to other states; and,
- The indicators have been **measured for many years**, which yields an analysis of trends over time that is less susceptible to outliers and fluctuations.

Below is a chart of the current results and the corresponding indicators for each.

<i>Result</i>	<i>Indicator(s)</i>	<i>Result</i>	<i>Indicator(s)</i>
<b>Babies Born Healthy</b>	<a href="#">Infant Mortality</a> <a href="#">Low Birth Weight</a> <a href="#">Births to Adolescents</a>	<b>Healthy Children</b>	<a href="#">Immunizations</a> <a href="#">Hospitalizations</a> <a href="#">Deaths</a> <a href="#">Health Insurance Coverage</a> <a href="#">Obesity</a> Substance Use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <a href="#">Alcohol</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Tobacco</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Marijuana</a></li> </ul>

<p><b>Children Enter School Ready to Learn</b></p>	<p>Kindergarten Assessment*</p>	<p><b>Children are Successful in School</b></p>	<p>Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career (PARCC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Math</li> <li>• Reading</li> </ul> <p>High School Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Algebra</li> <li>• English</li> <li>• Biology</li> </ul> <p>Truancy</p> <p>Alternative Maryland School Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Math</li> <li>• Reading</li> <li>• Science</li> </ul> <p>Bullying and Harassment</p>
<p><b>Youth Will Complete School</b></p>	<p>Dropout High School Program Completion</p> <p>Program Completion of Students with Disabilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diploma</li> <li>• Certificate</li> </ul> <p>Educational Attainment</p>	<p><b>Youth Have Opportunities for Employment or Career Readiness</b></p>	<p>Youth Employment</p> <p>Youth Unemployment</p> <p>Youth 16-24 not in School and not Working</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number</li> <li>• Percent</li> </ul>
<p><b>Communities are Safe for Children, Youth, and Families</b></p>	<p>Juvenile Felony Offenses</p> <p>Recidivism</p> <p>Child Maltreatment</p> <p>Crime</p>	<p><b>Families are Safe and Economically Stable</b></p>	<p>Hunger</p> <p>Out-of-Home Placement</p> <p>Homelessness</p> <p>Child Poverty</p>

## Status of Children in Maryland 2014-2019

Since 2016, data to measure progress has been collected in Child Well-Being Scorecards (with data for previous years added to the Scorecard as well) that are accessible on the Office’s website

where you can find current information to the well-being of Maryland’s children and families. Data is updated in the Scorecard as it is available throughout the year. For certain indicators, such as Low Birth Weight, data is available for many years, allowing comparison across decades.

The indicator links in the chart above will open new pages that include graphs, trend information, and narrative descriptions of the indicator that will provide an explanation of the numbers and a description of what the State is doing to improve that outcome. Indicators are also viewable in a printable PDF format. These can be accessed using the drop down menu at the top right-hand side of the graph and selecting the “PDF” link.

In addition, jurisdiction-level data and information can be found by following the jurisdiction links located on the left of this [webpage](#). Each jurisdiction has its own page that not only shows local data for the indicators but also provides information on each of the programs in that jurisdiction that are funded by the Children’s Cabinet Interagency Fund through the Local Management Board.

## **Conclusion**

While the process allows us to acknowledge the progress made in Maryland, it also illustrates improvement is possible. By evaluating child well-being across dozens of data points each year, the Children’s Cabinet can ensure it is providing Maryland’s children with a strong foundation for success across all facets of their lives.