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FROM: Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services

December 15, 2021

The Honorable Larry Hogan
Governor of Maryland
100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Report required by Executive Order 01.01.2020.01 VI E (MSAR #12652)

Dear Governor Hogan:

As required by Executive Order 01.01.2020.01 VI E, please find an enclosed copy of the Governor's Office for Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services report titled, *Maryland's Results for Child Well-Being 2021*. This report provides an update on the longest continuously reported set of statewide results and indicators for children and families in the nation. These measures of well-being continue to guide the Children's Cabinet's efforts to chart progress, study trends over time, evaluate data, set priorities, and develop and support effective and evidence-based programs to meet the demonstrated needs of Maryland's children, youth, and families.

Should you have any questions relating to the information provided in this report, please feel free to contact me at 410-697-9338.

Sincerely,

V. Glenn Fueston, Jr.
Executive Director

cc: Sarah Albert, Department of Legislative Services (5 copies)



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

**Maryland's Results for Child Well-Being 2021
Annual Report**

Executive Order 01.01.2020.01 VI E (MSAR #12652)

Larry Hogan
Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor

V. Glenn Fueston, Jr.
Executive Director

Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services

Submitted by:
Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services

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December 1, 2021
MSAR #12652

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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 Departments of Budget and Management, Disabilities, Health, Human Services, and Juvenile Services, 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*).

V. Glenn Fueston, Jr., Chair

Executive Director, Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services

Sam J. Abed

Secretary, Department of Juvenile Services

Carol A. Beatty

Secretary, Department of Disabilities

David R. Brinkley

Secretary, Department of Budget and Management

Mohammed Choudhury

State Superintendent of Schools, Department of Education

Lourdes R. Padilla

Secretary, Department of Human Services

Dennis R. Schrader

Secretary, Department of Health

Introduction

[Executive Order 01.01.2020.01 VI E](#) requires the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services' (Office) - previously known as the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention¹ to report to the Governor each year as it relates to the status of children in Maryland and the efforts to meet the policy goals of the State for services to children and families.

Pursuant to this charge, this *Maryland's Results for Child Well-Being 2021 Annual Report* (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 they 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 Office and the Children's Cabinet to evaluate 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 Program 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 adopted Results capture the quality of life for children and families

¹ Maryland General Assembly. (2020). [Chapter 11. Acts of 2020](#). In March 2020, the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention was renamed the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services.

in Maryland, and the progress towards achieving each Result which is determined through selected Indicators that 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 online [here](#) and by County [here](#).

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 were presented to, and adopted by, the Children's Cabinet in Spring 2020.

As recommended, the Results were not changed; however, the "Families are Safe and Economically Stable" Result was renamed "Families are Economically Stable" and the corresponding safety Indicators were included under the "Communities are Safe for Children, Youth, and Families" Result to group all safety Indicators together.

A list of the current Results and Indicators can be found [here](#).

Results-Based Accountability™

The Children's Cabinet adopted the Results-Based Accountability™ framework to focus planning, decision-making, and resources on desired results and outcomes.² 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.

² Epps, D. (2011). [*Achieving "Collective Impact" with Results-Based Accountability*](#)™. Results Leadership Group, LLC. (RLG).

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 42 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 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. For more information, please visit the following [webpage](#).

<i>Result</i>	<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Result</i>	<i>Indicators</i>
Babies Born Healthy	Infant Mortality Low Birth Weight Births to Adolescents Women with Prenatal Care in the First Trimester	Healthy Children	Immunizations Obesity Hospitalizations: Nonfatal Injury for Self-Inflicted Injuries to Children 0-21 Health Insurance Coverage Public School Students in Grades 6-8 and 9-12 Reporting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Depressive Episode (6-8) ● Depressive Episode (9-12) ● Electronic Vapor Product Use (6-8) ● Electronic Vapor Product Use (9-12) ● Physical Activity for 60 Minutes in Last 7 Days (6-8) ● Physical Activity for 60 Minutes in Last 7 Days (9-12)

<p>Children Enter School Ready to Learn</p>	<p>Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA): Students Demonstrating Readiness</p> <p>Children Enrolled in Publicly-Funded Pre-K the Year Prior to Kindergarten (This Indicator in development)</p>	<p>Children are Successful in School</p>	<p>Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP): Public School Students in Grades 3 and 8 Performing at or Above Performance Level 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Math Grade 3 ● Math Grade 8 ● Reading Grade 3 ● Reading Grade 8 <p>Multi-State Alternative Assessment (MSAA): Students in Grades 8 and 11 Scoring at or Above Proficient:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● English Grade 8 ● English Grade 11 ● Math Grade 8 ● Math Grade 11 <p>Chronic Absenteeism</p> <p>Career Readiness: Students are on Track for Success After High School (This Indicator in development)</p>
<p>Youth Will Complete School</p>	<p>Four-Year Cohort Graduation Rate</p> <p>Program Completion of Students with Disabilities: Students with Disabilities Who Graduated with Diploma</p> <p>Educational Attainment: High School Graduate (Includes Equivalence)</p>	<p>Youth Have Opportunities for Employment or Career Readiness</p>	<p>Youth Employment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 16-19 Year Olds in Labor Force Who are Unemployed ● 20-24 Year Olds in Labor Force Who are Unemployed <p>Youth Disconnection: Youth Ages 16-24 Not Working and Not in School</p> <p>High School Graduates Who Complete a Career and Technology Education (CTE) Program</p>
<p>Communities are Safe for Children, Youth, and Families</p>	<p>Juvenile Felony Offenses</p> <p>Child Maltreatment</p> <p>Crime</p> <p>Hospitalizations: Nonfatal Injury Hospitalization Rate for Assault Injuries</p> <p>Lead Levels</p> <p>Out-of-Home Placements</p>	<p>Families are Economically Stable</p>	<p>Homelessness</p> <p>Child Poverty</p> <p>Family Spending > 30% Income on Housing (This Indicator in development)</p>

Status of Children in Maryland 2021

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) which are accessible online with current information on 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 Indicators in the chart above are included in the Child-Well Being Scorecard, along with graphs, trend information, and narrative descriptions of each to explain the numbers and provide insight on the State's efforts to improve that outcome. Indicators are also viewable in a printable PDF format. These can be accessed by selecting the "PDF" link at the top right-hand side of the page.

In addition, jurisdiction-level data and information can be found by following the jurisdiction links located within the chart on 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

The Child-Well Being Scorecards are essential to acknowledge the progress made in Maryland, and to illustrate that 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.