



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

**Maryland's Results for Child Well-Being 2023
Annual Report**

Executive Order 01.01.2020.01 VI E; MSAR #12652

Wes Moore
Governor

Aruna Miller
Lt. Governor

Dorothy J. Lennig, Esq.
Executive Director
Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services

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

Contact: Tracey Webb
410-697-9313 | Tracey.Webb@Maryland.gov

December 15, 2023

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Table of Contents | 1 |
| Maryland’s Children’s Cabinet | 2 |
| Introduction | 3 |
| History of Results and Indicators | 3 |
| Results-Based Accountability™ | 4 |
| Status of Maryland’s Children in Fiscal Year 2023 | 6 |
| Conclusion | 11 |

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*).

Dorothy J. Lennig, Esq., Chair

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

Vincent Schiraldi

Secretary, Department of Juvenile Services

Carol A. Beatty

Secretary, Department of Disabilities

Helene Grady

Secretary, Department of Budget and Management

Dr. Carey Wright

Interim State Superintendent of Schools, Department of Education

Rafael López

Secretary, Department of Human Services

Dr. Laura Herrera Scott

Secretary, Department of Health

Thanks to the contributions from all child serving agencies, this *Maryland's Results for Child Well-Being 2023 Annual Report* allows the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services and the Children's Cabinet to evaluate efforts to improve the well-being of Maryland's children.

Introduction

[Executive Order 01.01.2020.01 VI E](#) requires the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services (GOCPYVS) to report to the Governor by December 15 of 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 its charge, this *Maryland's Results for Child Well-Being 2023 Annual Report* provides an update on the longest continuously reported set of statewide results and indicators for children and families in the nation. It also includes information on these measures of well-being which 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.

History of Results and Indicators

Following the creation of the [Governor's Task Force on Children, Youth, and Families Systems Reform](#) in 1996, and subsequent formation of the Results and Indicator Workgroup, Maryland adopted a Results-Based Accountability™ framework to measure the well-being of Maryland’s children. The Results-Based Accountability™ framework established the basis for the Maryland’s Results for Child Well-Being report to capture the quality of life for children and families in Maryland (results), and to measure its progress (indicators). It also allowed State and local jurisdictions to monitor indicators to evaluate the effectiveness of service delivery to children and families. Given the importance of data, all child well-being measures were moved online in 2015, to connect users directly to source material from the Children’s Cabinet and other sources. Shortly thereafter, and beginning in 2016, all data to measure progress were collected in [Child Well-Being Scorecards](#). For more information, please visit:

<https://goccp.maryland.gov/child-well-being-scorecards-by-county/> for county-specific data, and <https://embed.clearimpact.com/Scorecard/Embed/77003> for disaggregated data. A complete list of the results and indicators, to include a definition for each, is accessible at: https://goccp.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/Results-and-Indicators-v5_Sep-2023.pdf.

Maryland's Results for Child Well-Being

Pursuant to Executive Order 01.01.2020.01 VI E, this *Maryland's Results for Child Well-Being 2023 Annual Report* includes information on the status of children in Maryland, and the efforts to meet the policy goals of the State for services to children and families. Specifically, and through the [Results-Based Accountability™](#) framework, this report provides information on eight results pertaining to child well-being, and 37 corresponding indicators to measure the progress towards each result. It also provides the [status of Maryland's children in fiscal year 2023](#), and the overall progress towards achieving the results.

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.¹ 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.

Using the Results-Based Accountability™ framework, Maryland identified a set of results and indicators that capture and measure the quality of life for children and families. Each year, GOCPYVS routinely collects data for each indicator to measure the progress towards achieving each result.

What is a Result?

The Children's Cabinet 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 adopted 37 indicators that correspond to the eight results. Indicators are information and data that demonstrate Maryland's progress toward achieving 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**;

¹ Epps, D. (2011). [Achieving "Collective Impact" with Results-Based Accountability™](#). Results Leadership Group, LLC. (RLG).

- 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](#).

| Result | Indicators | Result | Indicators |
|---|--|--|---|
| Babies Born Healthy | Infant Mortality Low Birth Weight Births to Adolescents Women with Prenatal Care in the First Trimester Rate of Substance Exposed Newborns | 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) |
| Children Enter School Ready to Learn | Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA): Students Demonstrating Readiness Children Enrolled in Publicly-Funded Pre-K the Year Prior to Kindergarten | Children are Successful in School | Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP): Public School Students in Grades 3 and 8 Performing at or Above Performance Level 4: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Math Grade 3 • Math Grade 8 • English Language Arts Grade 3 (formerly Reading) • English Language Arts Grade 8 (formerly Reading) MCAP Alternative (formerly Multi-State Alternative Assessment (MSAA) Students in Grades 8 and 11 Scoring at or Above Proficient: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English Language Arts Grade 8 • English Language Arts Grade 11 • Alternative Math Grade 8 • Alternative Math Grade 11 Chronic Absenteeism |

| Result | Indicators | Result | Indicators |
|---|--|--|--|
| Youth Will Complete School | Four-Year Cohort Graduation Rate Program Completion of Students with Disabilities: Students with Disabilities Who Graduated with Diploma Educational Attainment: High School Graduate (Includes Equivalence) | Youth Have Opportunities for Employment or Career Readiness | Youth Employment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16-24 Year Olds in Labor Force Who are Unemployed 16-24 Year Olds in Labor Force Who are Employed Youth Disconnection: Youth Ages 16-24 Not Working and Not in School High School Graduates Who Complete a Career and Technology Education (CTE) Program |
| Communities are Safe for Children, Youth, and Families | Juvenile Felony Offenses Child Maltreatment Crime Hospitalizations: Nonfatal Injury Hospitalization Rate for Assault Injuries Lead Levels Out-of-Home Placements | Families are Economically Stable | Homelessness Child Poverty Family Spending > 30% Income on Rent Family Spending > 30% Income on Mortgage |

Status of Maryland’s Children in Fiscal Year 2023

As noted [above](#), all data to measure progress are collected in Child Well-Being Scorecards, including data for previous years, which are accessible online. Data is updated in the Scorecard as it becomes available throughout the year to capture current information on the well-being of Maryland’s children and families. Included below is a chart with each result and corresponding indicator with data that is currently available. Many indicators include several years of data, allowing comparison across decades.

In fiscal year 2023, Clear Impact, a consultant for the Children’s Cabinet, initiated an effort to obtain disaggregated data for all indicators. This process revealed that some existing data sources did not include disaggregated data as required, which resulted in indicator wording changes.² Below is a summary of the indicators affected.

- Child Maltreatment
 - The Department of Human Services, which provides the data, chose to use the 2019 population estimates for 2021 through 2022, because the Census data previously used had not been updated since 2019. The Department also updated

² It is important to note that some disaggregated indicator data, *Educational Attainment* and *Youth Disconnection*, are still in data development.

data that was previously provided for 2018 through 2020. It is not clear what contributed to the changes, however, an explanation was requested and will be provided once available.

- Nonfatal Injury Hospitalization Rate for Self-Inflicted Injuries to Children Ages 0-21 per 100,000 of the Population **and** Nonfatal Injury Hospitalization Rate for Assault Injuries to Children Ages 0-21 per 100,000 of the Population
 - The Census data source used for the disaggregated population data was discontinued. The alternative data source is [CDC Wonder single race data](#). These data are only available for ages 0-19 and from 2010 onward. A new request will be submitted to receive all new datasets for 2010 through 2022, and replace what was previously used.
- Lead Levels: Rate of New Cases of Elevated Blood Levels per 1,000 of the population of children aged 0-6 (formerly Percent of Children < 72 Months of Age with Confirmed Blood Lead Levels (BLL) > 5 µg/dL)
 - The indicator definition was revised due to the new data source.
- Percent of Youth 16-24 in Labor Force who are Unemployed **and** Percent of Youth 16-24 in Labor Force who are Employed
 - The previously reported data changed due to the inclusion of the armed forces.
- Percent of Families Spending >30% of Income on Rent **and** Mortgage
 - The previously reported data changed due to the disaggregation of data.
- Percent of Students with Disabilities Who Exited High School with a Diploma (formerly Students with Disabilities Who Graduated with Diploma)
 - Data is currently not available in the Scorecard due to a change in how the data is calculated from the new online data source versus the previous data source. Although statewide data is not available, disaggregated data is currently available by race/ethnicity.

| Result: Babies Born Healthy | | | |
|--|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Indicator | Current Data | Previous Data | General Trend |
| Prenatal Care : Percent of Women Receiving Prenatal Care in the First Trimester | 70.2% (2020) | 69.9% (2019) | Up slightly |
| Infant Mortality : Number of Deaths Occurring to Infants (<1 year) per 1,000 Live Births | 5.7 (2020) | 5.9 (2019) | Down slightly |
| Low Birth Weight : Percent of Low Birth Weight (<2500 g) Infants | 8.5% (2020) | 8.9% (2019) | Down slightly |
| Births to Adolescents : Adolescent Birth Rate per 1,000 Women (ages 15-19 years) | 13.0 (2020) | 13.9 (2019) | Down slightly |
| Rate of Substance Exposed Newborns (including Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome) per 1,000 Newborns | 32.0 (2021) | 31.0 (2020) | Up slightly |

| Result: Health Children | | | |
|---|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Indicator | Current Data | Previous Data | General Trend |
| Health Insurance Coverage : Percent of Children Who Have Health Insurance Coverage | 95.7% (2021) | 96.7% (2019) | Down slightly |
| Immunizations : Percent of Children Ages 0-2 with Immunization Records Who Had a Completed 7 Vaccine Series | 40% (2022) | 75.2% (2017) | Trending down |
| Hospitalizations : Nonfatal Injury Hospitalization Rate for Self-Inflicted Injuries to Children Ages 0-21 per 100,000 of the Population | 12.7 (2020) | 13.2 (2019) | Down slightly |
| Percent of Public School Students [in Grades 6-8] Reporting Depressive Episode | 36.8% (2021) | 25.5% (2018) | Trending up |
| Percent of Public School Students [in Grades 9-12] Reporting Depressive Episode | 39.2% (2021) | 32.0% (2018) | Trending up |
| Percent of Public School Students [in Grades 6-8] Reporting Electronic Vapor Product Use | 15.6% (2021) | 18.9% (2018) | Trending down |
| Percent of Public School Students [in Grades 9-12] Reporting Electronic Vapor Product Use | 32.3% (2021) | 39.7% (2018) | Trending down |
| Percent of Public School Students [in Grades 6-8] Reporting Physical Activity for 60 Minutes in Last 7 Days | 83.8% (2021) | 85.5% (2018) | Trending down |
| Percent of Public School Students [in Grades 9-12] Reporting Physical Activity for 60 Minutes in Last 7 Days | 81.2% (2021) | 78.2% (2018) | Trending up |
| Obesity : Percent of Public School Students in Grades 9-12 Who are Obese | 15.9% (2021) | 12.8% (2018) | Trending up |
| Obesity : Percent of Public School Students in Grades 9-12 Who are Overweight | 15.3% (2021) | 15.7% (2018) | Down slightly |

| Result: Children Enter School Ready to Learn | | | |
|--|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Indicator | Current Data | Previous Data | General Trend |
| Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) : Percent Demonstrating Readiness | 42% (2023) | 40% (2022) | Trending up |
| Percent of Children Enrolled in Publicly-Funded Pre-K the Year Prior to Kindergarten | 31.3% (2022) | 44.5% (2021) | Trending down |

| Result: Children are Successful in School | | | |
|--|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Indicator | Current Data | Previous Data | General Trend |
| MCAP: Math : Percent of Public School Students in Grade 3 Performing at or Above Performance Level 3 on the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program | 40.3% (2023) | 36.7% (2022) | Trending up |
| MCAP: Math : Percent of Public School Students in Grade 8 Performing at or Above Performance Level 3 on the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program | 7.5% (2023) | 6.9 (2022) | Trending up |

| Result: Children are Successful in School | | | |
|---|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Indicator | Current Data | Previous Data | General Trend |
| MCAP: English Language Arts : Percent of Public School Students in Grade 3 Performing at or Above Performance Level 4 on the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (formerly MCAP Reading) | 48.0% (2023) | 45.8% (2022) | Up slightly |
| MCAP: English Language Arts : Percent of Public School Students in Grade 8 Performing at or Above Performance Level 4 on the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (formerly MCAP Reading) | 46.8% (2023) | 42.6% (2022) | Up slightly |
| MCAP: Alternate English Language Arts : Percent of Public School Students (Grade 8) Scoring At or Above Performance Level 3 on the Alternate English MCAP Assessment (formerly MSAA) | 14.9% (2022) | 33.5% (2019) | Trending down |
| MCAP: Alternate English Language Arts : Percent of Public School Students (Grade 11) Scoring At or Above Performance Level 3 on the Alternate English MCAP Assessment (formerly MSAA) | 23.1% (2022) | 50.9% (2019) | Trending down |
| MCAP: Alternate Math : Percent of Public School Students (Grade 8) Scoring At or Above Performance Level 3 on the MCAP Alternate Math Assessment (formerly MSAA) | 10.4% (2022) | 49.8% (2019) | Trending down |
| MCAP: Alternate Math : Percent of Public School Students (Grade 11) Scoring At or Above Performance Level 3 on the MCAP Alternate Math Assessment (formerly MSAA) | 20.9% (2022) | 53.5% (2019) | Trending down |
| Chronic Absenteeism : Students Enrolled in School at Least 10 Days Who are Absent for 10% or more days | 30.9% (2022) | 22.4% (2021) | Trending up |

| Result: Youth Will Complete School | | | |
|--|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Indicator | Current Data | Previous Data | General Trend |
| Educational Attainment : Percent of Youth Ages 18-24 with a High School Diploma (including equivalence) or Higher | 88.6% (2020) | 88.9% (2019) | Down slightly |
| Four-Year Cohort Graduation Rate | 86.3 (2022) | 87.2 (2021) | Down slightly |
| Program Completion of Students with Disabilities : Percent of Students with Disabilities Who Exited High School with Diploma | See explanation above | | |

| Result: Youth Have Opportunities for Employment or Career Readiness | | | |
|---|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Indicator | Current Data | Previous Data | General Trend |
| Youth Disconnection : Percent of Youth Ages 16-24 Not in School and Not Working | 10.5% (2019) | 11.1% (2018) | Trending down |
| Youth Unemployment : Percent of 16-24 Years Olds in Labor Force Who are Unemployed | 12.8% (2021) | 12.5% (2020) | Up slightly |
| Youth Employment : Percent of 16-24 Years Olds in Labor Force | 87.2% (2021) | 87.5% (2020) | Down slightly |

| | | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Who are Employed | | | |
| Percent of High School Graduates Who Complete a Career and Technology Education (CTE) Program | 8.0% (2022) | 7.8% (2021) | Up slightly |

| Result: Families are Economically Stable | | | |
|---|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Indicator | Current Data | Previous Data | General Trend |
| Child Poverty : Percent of Children Under 18 Living in Poverty | 14% (2021) | 11.2% (2020) | Trending up |
| Homelessness : Percent of Students in Grades 6-8 who were unstably housed in the last 30 days | 2.2% (2021) | 1.8% (2018) | Up slightly |
| Homelessness : Percent of Students in Grades 9-12 who were unstably housed in the last 30 days | 2.4% (2021) | 2.2% (2018) | Up slightly |
| Housing: Percent of Families Spending >30% Income on Housing (Rent) | 50% (2021) | 49.2% (2020) | Up slightly |
| Housing: Percent of Families Spending >30% Income on Housing (Mortgage) | 26.3% (2021) | 26.7% (2020) | Down slightly |

| Result: Communities are Safe for Children, Youth, and Families | | | |
|---|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Indicator | Current Data | Previous Data | General Trend |
| Crime : Rate of Violent Crimes Committed per 1,000 Persons | 4.1 (2020) | 4.5 (2019) | Down slightly |
| Juvenile Felony Offenses : 11-17: Rate of Referrals per 100,000 | 443.0 (2022) | 435.0 (2021) | Up slightly |
| Hospitalizations : Nonfatal Injury Hospitalization Rate for Assault Injuries to Children and Youth Ages 0-21 per 100,000 of the Population | 11.5 (2020) | 11.6 (2019) | Down slightly |
| Child Maltreatment : Rate of Unduplicated Children (Ages 0-17) with Indicated/Unsubstantiated Child Abuse/Neglect Findings (per 1,000) | 4.67 (2022) | 4.58 (2021) | Up slightly |
| Lead Levels : Rate of New Cases of Elevated Blood Levels per 1,000 of the population of children aged 0-6 (formerly Percent of Children < 72 Months of Age with Confirmed Blood Lead Levels (BLL) > 5 µg/dL) | 2.27 (2020) | 3.00 (2019) | Down slightly |
| Out-of-Home Placements : Rate of children (ages 0-21) per 1,000 (aged 0-21) in the population who are placed in out-of-home placements (data is housed in the Out of Home Placement dashboard) | 3.75% (2022) | 3.85% (2021) | Down slightly |

The indicators in the charts above are included in the [Child-Well Being Scorecard](#), along with graphs, trend information, and narrative descriptions where available to explain the data and provide insight on the State’s efforts to improve that outcome. The Results and Indicators

Workgroup oversees the narrative description updates in the Scorecard as it becomes available by agencies.

In addition, jurisdiction-level data and related information is available on this [webpage](#). A link for each jurisdiction is also included to show local data for the indicators, and to provide information on each program that is funded by the Children's Cabinet Interagency Fund through the Local Management Boards.

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.