

**MANAGING FOR RESULTS  
ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

Prepared for

**THE SENATE BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE**

And

**THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

In Accordance With  
State Finance and Procurement Article  
Section 3-1002

**DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT**

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**JANUARY 2021**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The State Finance & Procurement Article, §3-1002 (E) requires the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) to provide an annual report to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee and the House Appropriations Committee discussing the State's progress toward achieving the goals outlined in the Managing for Results (MFR) State Comprehensive Plan (the State Plan). The attached report is submitted in response to that requirement.

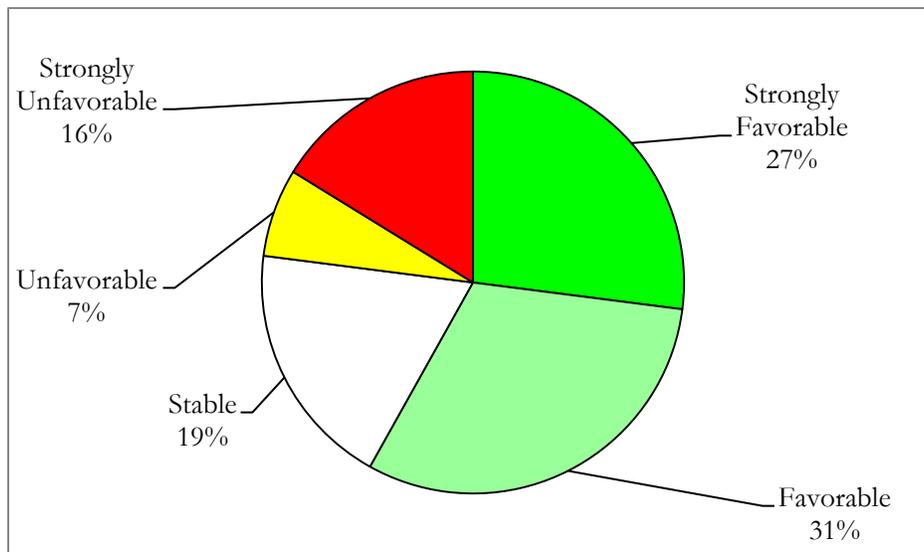
Data concerning each of the performance measures included in the State Plan are presented within the following Hogan Administration priority areas:

- Economic Development and Jobs (11 metrics)
- Reduced Taxes and Fees
- Fiscal Responsibility (6 metrics)
- Government Reform
- Improved Quality of Life (57 metrics)

As shown in the following table, performance for each measure has been categorized as favorable, stable, or unfavorable based on the most recent five years of data.<sup>1</sup> Five years of comparable data are not available for all measures. The percent change for measures with less than five years of data is calculated using available data (all percentages are rounded to establish categories).

Strongly Favorable Performance (Change >10%)
Favorable Performance (3% to 10%)
Stable Performance (-2% to 2%)
Unfavorable Performance (-3% to -10%)
Strongly Unfavorable Performance (< -10%)

The following chart summarizes overall performance for measures in the State Plan. From report year 2017 to 2021, more than half of the measures are moving in a favorable direction, 58%. Performance is stable for 19% of measures and, when combined, 77% of measures are either moving in a favorable direction or are stable. When comparing the data from 2020 to 2021, 76% of measures are either favorable or stable. As discussed throughout the report, certain measures in report year 2021 were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.



Both a summary table and a detailed presentation of performance trends are included in the following pages for each priority area. Note that the majority of exhibits and discussion refer to “report years” 2017 to 2021, as opposed to fiscal or calendar years, in order to normalize data for comparison.

<sup>1</sup> For determining trends when the beginning value is zero, the difference between zero and the ending value is calculated rather than a percent change.

# 1. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND JOBS

## Performance Overview

Performance Status (percentages are rounded)	Number of Indicators	Percent
Favorable (Change >10%)	4	36.4%
Favorable (3% to 10%)	3	27.3%
Stable (-2% to 2%)	1	9.1%
Unfavorable (-3% to -10%)	0	0.0%
Unfavorable (< -10%)	3	27.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100%</b>

In the area of Economic Development and Jobs, 73% of Maryland indicators either performed favorably or held stable between the 2017 and 2021 report years. The next section highlights and explains the factors behind significant trends, but particularly notable favorable trends were seen in the following areas:

- annual growth in total real gross domestic product increased by 7.1%, from \$349 billion to \$374 billion,
- the State Economic Momentum Index rating grew from -0.07 to 0.31,
- the ratio between Maryland’s unemployment rate and the United States’ dropped from 0.923 to 0.827, and
- the percent of State Highway Administration Network in overall preferred maintenance condition increased from 78.8% to 87.2%.

The following section discusses significant trends in performance.

## Significant Performance Trends

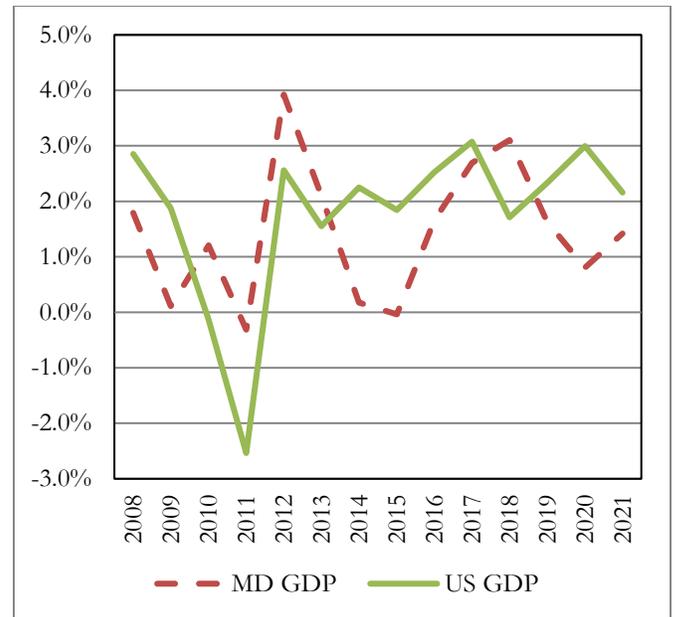
### Indicator 1.1: Maryland's growth in total real gross domestic product (GDP) (in millions of chained [2012] dollars)

Total real GDP by state is an inflation-adjusted measure of each state’s production, wherever sold, that is based on national prices for the goods and services produced within that state. The all industry total includes all private industries and government. Over the period of report year 2017 to 2021, Maryland’s total real gross domestic product grew by 7.1%.

**Exhibit 1.1** displays the Maryland and nationwide GDP growth over the past decade. It shows that Maryland’s economy generally performed more strongly than the U.S. as a whole from calendar years 2008 to 2011, but that trend reversed in 2012. With about 5% of jobs and 11% of wages

in Maryland directly tied to the federal government, and even more indirectly impacted by the federal government<sup>2</sup>, a large part of slow GDP growth in Maryland was related to the pullback in federal spending between calendar years 2011 and 2014<sup>3</sup>. However, in the following four years, Maryland’s growth has steadily rebounded, narrowing the gap between it and the national average. Maryland continues to have positive annual GDP growth.

*Exhibit 1.1 Annual Gross Domestic Product Growth, Maryland and the United States, Report Years 2008-2021*



### Indicator 1.2: State Economic Momentum Index

The Index of State Economic Momentum, developed by Federal Funds Information for States (FFIS), ranks states based on their most recent performance in three key measures of economic vitality: personal income growth, employment growth, and population growth. Measures of the three components are averaged, the national average is set at zero, and each state’s score is then expressed as a percentage above or below the national average.

In December 2020, Maryland was ranked 16<sup>th</sup> among states, with a value of 0.31. Despite the economic challenges of 2020, Maryland ranked above the national average. Comprising this overall value, Maryland ranked as follows:

- 20th on change in personal income with 7.0%, just below the national average of 7.1%,

<sup>2</sup> Maryland Department of Legislative Services. 2016. Spending Affordability Briefing, October 25, 2016.

<sup>3</sup> Maryland Board of Revenue Estimates. 2016. Estimated Maryland Revenues, December 8, 2016.

- b. 18th in employment growth rate with -4.4%, compared to the national average of -5.8%, and
- c. 19<sup>th</sup> in state population as a share of the national population, gaining 0.0% in population.

**Indicator 1.3: Maryland Port Administration (MPA) total general cargo tonnage (millions)**

The annual total tonnage moving across MPA’s terminals is a gross outcome measure of the attractiveness of MPA’s infrastructure and facilities. Key investments in MPA have landed it repeatedly at the top of rankings among all U.S. ports.

MPA’s general cargo (i.e. foreign and domestic waterborne cargo) tonnage set a new fiscal year record high in 2018 for the 8<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, at 11 million tons, and maintained this tonnage in 2019. In FY 2020, total tonnage declined slightly to 10.4 million tons due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite this slight decline, the Port continues to be an economic engine for Maryland, generating about 15,300 direct jobs, with nearly 140,000 jobs overall linked to Port activities.<sup>4</sup>

Thanks to Governor Hogan and Maryland's congressional delegation’s provision of matching federal funds, in 2019 the State secured \$125 million as part of the federal Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) Grant Program to use toward the reconstruction of the Howard Street Tunnel to add double-stacked container shipping capability to and from the Port of Baltimore. The completion of this project is expected to increase container volumes at the Port by 100,000 annually. This increase in container volume is estimated to create 7,290 jobs in Maryland and result in \$1 billion annually in personal income, local consumption, and business revenues as well as \$65 million annually in state and local taxes.

**Indicator 1.5: Total State sales tax revenue attributable to tourism (millions)**

This performance measurement reflects revenue collected by the Comptroller in tourism-related sales tax categories such as restaurants, hotels, air travel, and recreational activities. Total sales tax revenue attributable to tourism fell in FY 2020 to \$391.1 million from a five-year high of \$499.0 in FY 2019.

The health of this indicator is driven by the annual number of visitors. Tourism nationwide was negatively impacted by

the COVID-19 pandemic. In response, Governor Hogan has dedicated \$250 million Rainy Day funds in FY 2021 for small business relief. The resources were distributed both in the form of small business grants and in funding sent directly to counties for the aid of hotels and restaurants for rent, equipment purchases, sanitation services, PPE purchases, and infrastructure improvements in order to stay open and keep Marylanders working throughout the pandemic.

**Indicator 1.6. Percent of MD State Highway Administration (SHA) Network in overall preferred maintenance condition**

The overall condition of the State Highway Administration Network reflects how well asset management strategies, improved operations, and technology have sustained the quality and safety of existing roadways.<sup>5</sup> A Composite Level of Service is assessed using the Maryland Condition Assessment Reporting System (MCARS). Twenty-one maintenance elements in four categories are assessed. The categories are shoulder, drainage, traffic control/safety, and roadside. Actual maintenance conditions are compared against desired conditions.<sup>6</sup> Between report year 2017 and 2021, the State’s performance has improved from 78.8% to 87.2%.

**Indicator 1.7: Ratio between Maryland's unemployment rate and the U.S. rate**

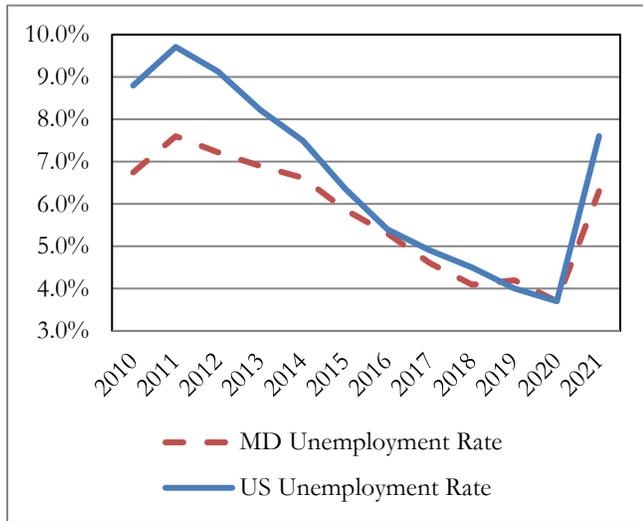
The ratio between Maryland’s unemployment rate and the national rate has narrowed in recent years as the State’s economy aligned closer to the nationwide experience in the economic expansion. **Exhibit 1.2** compares the Maryland and U.S. employment rate over the past decade. In December 2019, Maryland’s unemployment rate reached its lowest point in 11 years at 3.5%. Report year 2021 includes the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic resulting in an increase in unemployment nationally and statewide. Maryland’s unemployment rate in report year 2021 was 1.3 percentage points lower than the national unemployment rate.

<sup>4</sup> “Port of Baltimore Continues Climb From COVID-19 Lows With Strong October,” Maryland Port Administration Press Release November 30, 2020.

<sup>5</sup> 2012 Annual Attainment Report on Transportation System Performance, Maryland Department of Transportation.

<sup>6</sup> Managing for Results Performance Measure Profile Fiscal Year 2012, State Highway Administration, Maryland Department of Transportation.

*Exhibit 1.2 Maryland and United States Unemployment Rate, Report Years 2010-2021*



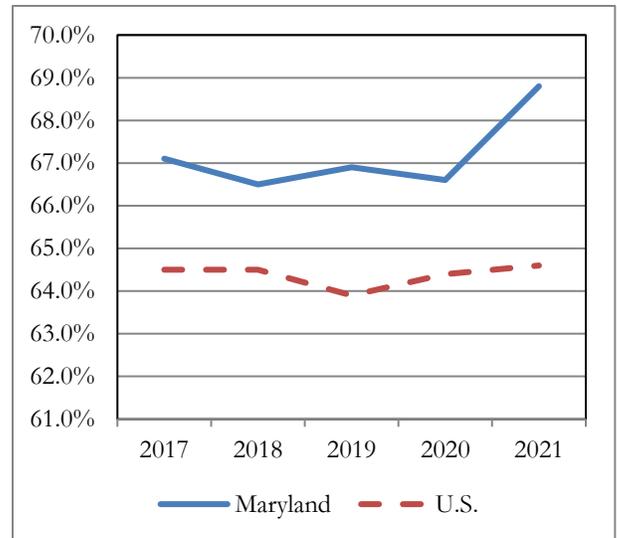
**Indicator 1.9: Annual percent change in Maryland per capita personal income (estimated)**

Annual estimates of per capita personal income are an indicator of economic well-being of the residents of a state. Maryland’s per capita personal income has significantly exceeded (by \$4,000 to \$10,000) the national per capita personal income for the past fifteen years. Maryland has a large Federal employment base, as well as an economic concentration in industries such as information and professional services that frequently require college and advanced degrees, and therefore pay higher salaries. Maryland averaged a 3.4% annual increase in per capita personal income from report year 2017 to report year 2021.

**Indicator 1.10: Homeownership**

Homeownership rates are another key economic measure, with higher rates indicating market stability. **Exhibit 1.3** displays that Maryland’s homeownership rates have historically exceeded the U.S. rate. Maryland’s homeownership rate increased by 2 percent in the last year and has exceeded the U.S. rate by an average of 2.8 percentage points since report year 2017.

*Exhibit 1.3 Maryland and United States Homeownership Rate, Report Years 2017-2021*



## Performance Detail – Economic Development and Jobs

### Key Performance Area 1 – Data by Report Year

Indicator	Agency/ Data Source	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	4 Year Change	Specific Target
1.1. Maryland's growth in total real gross domestic product (in millions of chained [2012] dollars) (CY 2015 - 2019)	U.S. Commerce BEA	349,147	359,988	365,857	368,810	374,039	7.1%	N/A
1.2. State Economic Momentum Index (CY 2016 - 2020)	FFIS	-0.07	0.17	-0.57	-0.50	0.31	542.9%	N/A
1.3. Maryland Port Administration total general cargo tonnage, (millions) (FY 2016 - 2020)	MDOT	9.8	10.3	11.0	11.0	10.4	6.1%	N/A
1.4. Annual BWI Marshall passenger growth rate - Number of passengers (millions) (CY 2015 - 2019)	MDOT	23.8	25.1	26.4	27.1*	27.0	13.3%	N/A
1.5. Total State sales tax revenue attributable to tourism (millions) (FY 2015 - 2019)	Commerce Comptroller	\$450.6	\$468.9	\$479.8	\$499.0*	\$391.1	-13.2%	N/A
1.6. Percent of MD State Highway Administration network in overall preferred maintenance condition (CY 2015 - 2019)	MDOT	78.8%	78.6%	85.7%	85.6%	87.2%	10.7%	Maintain at or above 84%
1.7. Ratio between Maryland's unemployment rate and the U.S. rate (FY 2016 - 2020)	U.S. DOL/BLS	0.9239	0.9195	1.0654	1.0067	0.8275	-10.4%	N/A
1.8. Employment Rate of WIOA adult program participants employed during the 2nd quarter after exit (FY 2016 - 2020)*	Labor	N/A	N/A	76.9%	75.9%	80.5%	4.7%	72%
1.9. Annual percent change in Maryland per capita personal income (CY 2015 - CY 2019)**	U.S. Commerce BEA	4.28%	3.46%	2.96%	3.21%	3.08%	-28.0%	N/A
1.10. Homeownership (CY 2015 - CY 2019)	U.S. Census	67.1%	66.5%	66.9%	66.6%	68.8%	2.5%	N/A

Indicator	Agency/ Data Source	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	4 Year Change	Specific Target
1.11. Number of jobs created/retained through Department of Commerce facility attraction and business technical assistance activities (FY 2016 - 2020)	Commerce	11,305	22,168	9,573	5,394	4,709	-58.3%	N/A

\* Numbers have been updated since last year's report.

\*\* Department of Labor no longer collects the prior metric. Maryland began collecting Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) data during FY 2017, but only began to report on these new measures in FY 2018. The Department of Workforce Development and Adult Learning (DWDAL) changed the measures to reflect the federal law in a previous submission.

## 2. REDUCED TAXES AND FEES

### Performance Discussion

As said by Governor Hogan, “Reducing and eliminating taxes, tolls, and fees not only helps to streamline state government, it has a direct impact on the livelihood of Maryland citizens. Our goal is to make it easier to live, work, and retire in our state, and continue to change Maryland for the better.”<sup>7</sup>

While tax and fee reductions do not easily lend themselves to performance metrics, this section of the Performance Report highlights the steps the Hogan Administration has taken to reduce taxes and fees.

### **Tax Reductions**

Taxes in Maryland are set in statute, and therefore the Administration requires cooperation from the General Assembly to enact tax relief legislation. The FY 2022 budget marks the seventh year in a row of no tax or fee increases proposed by the Governor.

From 2015 to 2017, the Governor introduced a number of tax relief bills, including legislation:

- Exempting all military retirement income from the income tax with a four-year phase-in
- Exempting any retired law enforcement, fire, rescue or emergency personnel from tax on retirement income specific to their service as a first responder
- Repealing the “rain tax”
- Eliminating the personal property income tax for businesses that have less than \$10,000 in personal property
- Repealing the automatic gas tax increases passed in 2013<sup>8</sup>
- Introducing tax incentives for manufacturers and the State’s cybersecurity industry.

The Governor signed the following measures into law:

- An increase in the military retirement income exemption (2015)
- Repeal of the “rain tax” (2015)
- Establishing a tax credit for aerospace, electronics, or defense contract businesses to encourage the development of these industries in Maryland (2016)
- Establishing a new tax credit of up to \$5,000 for individuals who have incurred \$20,000 or more in

undergraduate student loan debt and have at least \$5,000 in outstanding undergraduate debt (2016)

- Establishing the Maryland Small Business Retirement and Savings Program and exempting participating employers from paying annual filing fees (2016)
- Reducing the annual interest rate on tax deficiencies and refunds, from the current rate of 13% to 9% by 2020, lowering the interest rate burden on taxpayers (2016)
- Exempting retired law enforcement, fire, rescue or emergency personnel from tax on the first \$15,000 of retirement income specific to their service as a first responder (2017)
- Establishing the More Jobs for Marylanders program to provide new manufacturing companies located in specific counties a ten-year tax credit against their income, property, and sales taxes (2017)

For the 2018 Legislative Session, the Hogan Administration introduced legislation to protect Marylanders from an increased tax burden as a result of the federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 by decoupling the State income tax from specified amendments to the federal Internal Revenue Code that result in increased State revenues. The General Assembly did not pass this legislation, but Governor Hogan did sign legislation to increase the State standard deduction in tax year 2018 from \$2,000 to \$2,250 for single taxpayers and from \$4,000 to \$4,500 for taxpayers filing jointly.

The Hogan Administration also introduced and the General Assembly passed Small Business Relief Tax Credit legislation to help small businesses with implementation of new paid sick leave requirements. Additional tax relief legislation passed in 2018 included:

- The Hometown Heroes and Veterans Act of 2018, which increased from \$10,000 to \$15,000 the maximum amount of military retirement income that can be excluded from Maryland income tax liability,
- Repeal of the minimum age requirement for the Earned Income Tax Credit, and,
- An increase to \$7,000 in the value of the subtraction modification for volunteer fire, rescue or emergency medical services personnel.

During the 2019 Legislative Session, the Hogan Administration proposed additional tax relief legislation, including doubling the deduction for contributions to 529 trusts and investment plans; increasing to 100% the

<sup>7</sup> “Governor Larry Hogan Announces Additional \$60 Million in Fee Cuts,” Governor Hogan Press Release May 12, 2016.

<sup>8</sup> “Governor Hogan Unveils Tax Relief Measures,” Governor Hogan Press Release February 4, 2015.

deduction on student loan interest; expanding the types of retirement investments defined as retirement income excluded from taxation; expanding the More Jobs for Marylanders tax credit to include Opportunity Zones; and expanding the Hometown Heroes tax credit.

The Opportunity Zone Incentive legislation ultimately passed by the General Assembly and signed by Governor Hogan extended the “More Jobs for Marylanders” program for two more years and authorized up to \$200 million in additional tax credits and refunds.

Additional tax relief legislation enacted by the General Assembly and supported by the Hogan Administration in 2019 included an expansion of the child and dependent care tax credit, and the extension of the job creation tax credit to January 2022.

The Administration also announced in November 2019 that for the fifth straight year, Maryland employers would receive the lowest possible unemployment insurance (UI) tax rates allowed under state law.

During the 2020 Legislative Session, the Hogan Administration proposed the largest tax reduction in Maryland in more than two decades: an elimination of State income tax for retiree income up to \$50,000. The Retirement Tax Reduction Act of 2020 would have lowered taxes for more than 230,000 Marylanders and provided more than \$1 billion in tax relief.<sup>9</sup> The General Assembly did not pass this legislation.

In keeping his promise to prevent new or increased taxes, especially in light of the economic turmoil created by the pandemic, Governor Hogan vetoed two bills passed by the General Assembly during the 2020 Legislative Session that would increase taxes on the purchase of digital products, digital advertising, tobacco, and e-cigarette products.

The 2021 Legislative Session is unprecedented for the number and magnitude of challenges that need to be quickly addressed as Marylanders cope with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. In response, the Hogan Administration has proposed the Recovery for the Economy, Livelihoods, Industries, Entrepreneurs, and Families (RELIEF) Act, a \$1 billion tax relief and direct stimulus package that:

- Provides direct stimulus payments for low-to-moderate income Marylanders, with benefits of up to \$750 for families and \$450 for individuals. This relief begins with immediate payments of \$500 for

families and \$300 for individuals who filed for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), followed by a second-round stimulus for EITC filers that would provide an additional \$250 for eligible families and \$150 for individuals. This relief will directly help more than 400,000 Marylanders. Similar to federal stimulus payments, no application for relief is necessary. (\$270 million)

- Repeals all state and local income taxes on unemployment benefits, providing further support and assistance for Marylanders who have lost their jobs. (\$180 million)
- Supports small businesses with sales tax credits of up to \$3,000 per month for four months— for a total of up to \$12,000—freeing-up much needed resources to protect payrolls and sustain operations. This relief will directly help more than 55,000 Maryland small businesses. (\$300 million)
- Extends unemployment tax relief for small businesses, staving off sudden and substantial tax hikes in 2021. (\$218 million)
- Safeguards Maryland businesses against any tax increase triggered by the use of state loan or grant funds. (\$40 million)

## Fee Reductions

In May 2015, the Hogan Administration rolled back tolls statewide, saving Maryland citizens \$270 million over the next five years. In May 2018, the cost of an EZPass transponder for new customers was completely eliminated, saving Marylanders approximately \$46 million over 5 years. In a third round of historic toll relief, Governor Hogan announced in July 2019 that the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) Board would consider new tolling options to save Marylanders an additional \$28 million over the next five years. These three actions result in a total of up to \$344 million in toll relief savings for Marylanders.

On September 15, 2015, the Governor announced that eight agencies would reduce or completely eliminate hundreds of individual fees previously levied by Maryland’s government, saving Marylanders an estimated \$51 million over five years.<sup>10</sup> Major fees reduced include:

- Reduction to \$1 for homeless identification cards
- Elimination of \$1.50 monthly EZ-Pass fees
- \$4 reduction in vehicle emissions test fees for self-service kiosk customers

<sup>9</sup> “Governor Hogan Announces More Than \$1 Billion in Tax Relief for Maryland Retirees,” Governor Hogan Press Release January 16, 2020.

<sup>10</sup> “Governor Hogan Eliminates or Cuts Fees Statewide,” Governor Hogan Press Release September 15, 2015.

- 10% reduction in numerous business license fees associated with the sale and registration of new and used motor vehicles
- Reduction or elimination of outdoor advertising fees
- \$10 reduction in MVA's vehicle title correction fee
- A range of business license fees in the Prevention & Health Promotion Administration
- Food manufacturing and processing license fees
- Reduction in the three-year controlled dangerous substance (CDS) registration fee
- \$2,000 reduction in ambulatory surgery center fees
- Multiple reductions in real estate broker, salesperson, and home appraisal license fees
- Numerous fees associated with financial regulations
- \$65 reduction in annual license fee for veterinarians
- 20% across-the-board reduction in lab fees for animal health diagnostics (115 individual fees)
- Elimination or reduction of business fees associated with asbestos contractor licenses
- Elimination of license fees for underground storage tank technicians, removers, and inspectors
- Elimination of the state park boat launch fee for seniors with Golden Age Pass
- Elimination of child support income tax intercept fee

Since this initial action, the Hogan Administration has continued its work in reducing the burden of fees on State residents and businesses with the following actions:

- Introduction and passage of 2016 legislation reducing the fee for certified copies of birth and death certificates from \$24 to \$10
- Support of the passage of 2016 legislation eliminating the Maryland Health Insurance Plan (MHIP) and the assessment fee on hospital rates that was in place to pay for the operation and administration of the program; individuals who used to be covered under the MHIP program are now eligible to get insurance through the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange, and the elimination of the assessment will lower hospital costs for residents throughout Maryland
- In May 2016, the Hogan Administration announced 155 additional fee reductions and eliminations across state government, including reduced admission to state parks for veterans, cuts to the child support collection fee, and a \$15 million cut to the surcharge paid by every single Marylander who gets a phone bill each month<sup>11</sup>

<sup>11</sup> "Governor Larry Hogan Announces Additional \$60 Million in Fee Cuts," Governor Hogan Press Release May 12, 2016.

<sup>12</sup> "Governor Larry Hogan Saves Marylanders \$46 Million by Permanently Eliminating E-ZPass Transponder Fee," Governor Hogan Press Release May 23, 2018.

As of FY 2018, the Administration had delivered more than \$1.2 billion in tax, toll, and fee relief.<sup>12</sup>

### Reduced Health Insurance Premiums

In September 2020, the Maryland Insurance Commissioner approved an average 11.9% premium rate decrease for individual health insurance plans with an effective date of January 1, 2021. For the third consecutive year, all individual insurance rates in Maryland under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) experienced significant decreases.

- 2019: -13.2%
- 2020: -10.3%
- 2021: -11.9%

The lower rates reflect the impact of the State Reinsurance Program, which has helped to stabilize the individual health insurance market after years of major premium increases. The three-year cumulative impact is a rate decrease of 31.4% versus 2018 premiums.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>13</sup> "Governor Hogan Announces Third Consecutive Year of Lower Individual Health Insurance Premiums," Governor Hogan Press Release September 15, 2020

### 3. FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

#### Performance Overview

Performance Status (percentages are rounded)	Number of Indicators	Percent
Favorable (Change >10%)	1	16.7%
Favorable (3% to 10%)	1	16.7%
Stable (-2% to 2%)	3	50.0%
Unfavorable (-3% to -10%)	0	0.0%
Unfavorable (< -10%)	1	16.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>100%</b>

In the area of Fiscal Responsibility, five out of six indicators either performed favorably or held stable between the 2017 and 2021 report years. The next section highlights and explains the factors behind significant performance trends.

#### Significant Performance Trends

##### Indicator 3.1: Bond ratings from three nationally recognized bond rating agencies for each issuance of State general obligation (GO) bonds

Maryland uses the proceeds from the issuance of GO bonds to finance capital projects such as schools, community colleges, university projects, and hospitals. A triple-A rating, the highest possible rating, means that the State has an extremely strong capacity to meet financial commitments. Maryland has consistently maintained triple-A bond ratings from all three nationally recognized rating agencies, each of which has acknowledged Maryland's strong financial management; diverse, wealthy economy; strong debt oversight; and moderate debt burden. Retention of the triple-A rating allows the State to save millions of taxpayer dollars resulting from the low interest rates achieved because of these ratings.

##### Indicator 3.2: Capital debt service as a percent of State revenue

Capital debt service as a percent of State revenue measures whether the State can pay the debt service, and considers the ability of the State to manage debt over time to achieve goals. Tax supported debt is tracked by the Capital Debt Affordability Committee (CDAC). Under criteria imposed by CDAC, debt service on State tax-supported debt may not exceed 8% of revenues.

While staying below the 8% threshold, the debt to revenue ratio increased by 2.3% from the 2017 to 2021 report due to increased debt service costs from prior issuances. Maintaining debt below the threshold has contributed to

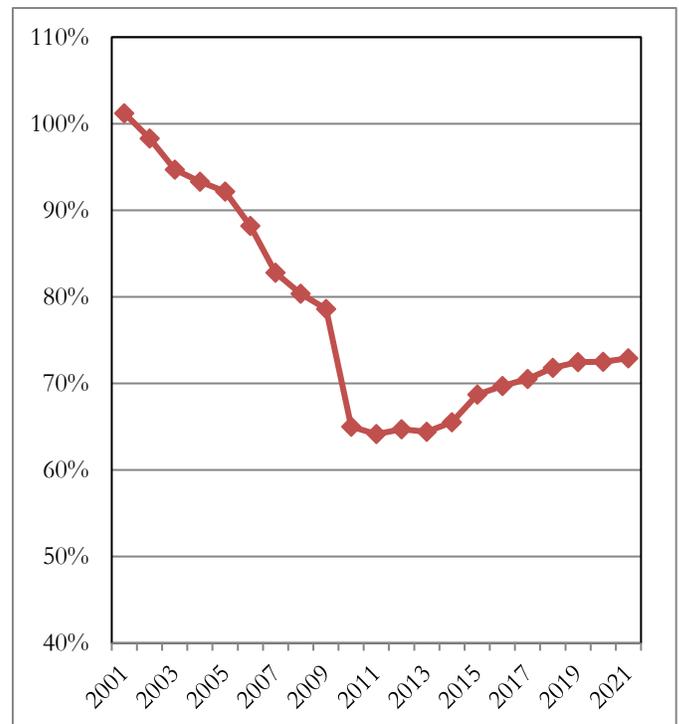
the continued triple-A bond ratings given by the bond rating agencies for Maryland's GO bond issuances. The Hogan Administration has continually proposed limiting capital budget borrowing either at or below the limit recommended by the legislature's Spending Affordability Committee in order to begin to bend the curve back towards sustainable, affordable levels.

##### Indicator 3.3: Asset to liability ratio for the Maryland State Retirement and Pension System (funded ratio)

The funded ratio measures the ability of the Maryland State Retirement and Pension System to pay all projected retirement benefits as they become due. The funded ratio is the primary measure of funding progress, and the System is fully funded if the funded ratio is greater than or equal to 100%. When analyzing the overall funded status, it is important to keep in mind that a funding plan is over a long horizon in which fluctuations in the market are expected.

Pension reform legislation was passed during the 2011 Legislative Session with the goal of improving the funded ratio of the System. **Exhibit 3.1** shows that the results of that reform are starting to be realized. The funding level has steadily ticked up to 72.9% in report year 2021 from a low of 64.1% in report year 2011.

*Exhibit 3.1 Maryland State Retirement and Pension System Funded Ratio, Report Years 2001-2021*

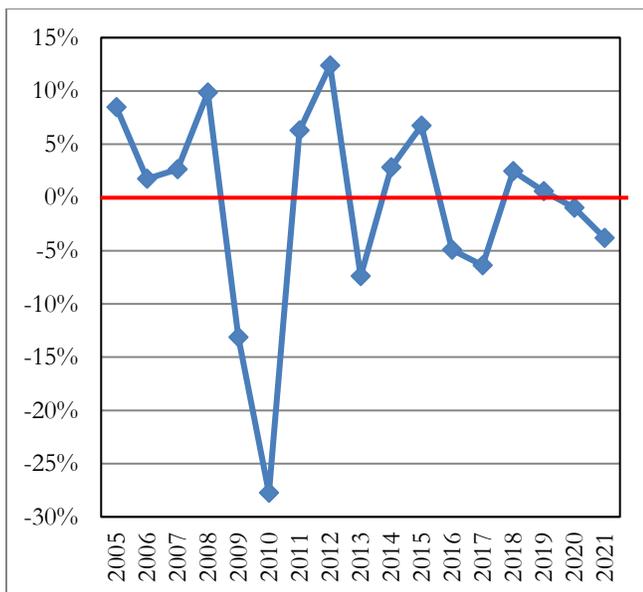


**Indicator 3.4: Difference between the actual rate of return for the composite portfolio and the actuarial return assumption set by the State Retirement Agency (SRA) Board of Trustees over one year**

The State pension system, including over 300,000 active and retired members, is funded through three sources of income: (1) State government contributions, (2) contributions from employees in the system, and (3) investment returns. Employee contribution rates are set in statute, but when the Board of Trustees is determining how much the State budget should include in order to move the system towards full funding, they must make certain assumptions regarding how much investment income the system will collect. If that assumption is exceeded, the State can contribute less in future years, but if investment returns fall short the system is short-funded and the State budget has to make up the difference in future years. The System’s portfolio returned 3.57% on investments for FY 2020. Although the fiscal year earnings fell short of the plan’s 7.40% assumed actuarial return rate, they exceeded the policy benchmark of 3.14%. The policy benchmark is a standard for comparing a portfolio’s performance in the market from which the manager selects securities. The fund’s performance raised the system’s assets to \$54.8 billion, an increase of \$563 million over last year.

**Exhibit 3.2** shows the degree to which the system either fell below (-%), met (0%), or exceeded (+%) this assumption over the past seventeen years. In ten of the years, returns were strong. However, the impact of the recession and slow recovery can clearly be seen in the years where the System failed to hit its investment target.

*Exhibit 3.2 Pension System Investment Performance Above or Below Return Assumptions, Report Years 2005-2021*



**Indicator 3.6: Projected percentage of ongoing revenues covering ongoing spending based on the Governor’s 5-year plan**

The Budget Highlights document each year includes a 5-year general fund budget projection showing how much of projected revenues will cover projected expenditures over the next five years. The last five years has shown stability in this metric, changing very little from 93.9% in report year 2017 to 93.8% in report year 2021.

When Governor Hogan took office in 2015, he inherited a large looming budget gap. Quick action was taken to resolve the budget deficit, and by the time the fiscal 2017 budget was introduced in January 2016 it was in full structural balance as shown by the 100.1% value on this metric in the 2015 Performance Report.

The fiscal 2018 budget, however, faced growth in Medicaid spending, softening revenues, and new mandated spending enacted in the 2016 and 2017 sessions. Due to a combination of these factors, at the end of the 2017 session a three-quarter billion-dollar structural gap was estimated for fiscal 2019, significantly larger than the budget as introduced by the Administration.

With a cash surplus of \$91 million in fiscal 2018 coming out of the 2017 session, Governor Hogan set out a fiscally prudent course of action to once again shore up the State’s finances. He directed state agencies to find spending efficiencies at the end of FY 2017 and prepare budget reduction options for FY 2018 to ensure that the budget would stay in balance. State agencies were successful in turning back \$246 million to the General Fund at the end of FY 2017, \$90 million more than estimated. The State was able to close FY 2017 with a balance of \$258 million - - nearly three times greater than expected -- a direct result of agency actions, along with slightly higher than estimated revenues.

Despite higher than expected revenues at the end of FY 2017, revenue collections grew at a slower pace than expected at the beginning of FY 2018; therefore, the Administration moved forward with implementing a plan to make mid-year budget reductions. The Administration set forth an \$80 million plan to help offset potential revenue reductions, which was approved by the Board of Public Works. Shortly after, the Board of Revenue Estimates revised General Fund revenues downward by \$53 million. In December 2017, the Board revised revenues downward by another \$73 million for FY 2018.

The Administration then began finalizing work on the fiscal 2019 budget in a much better position than had these actions not been taken, and the magnitude of reductions

needed to balance the fiscal 2019 budget was lessened. Governor Hogan was able to resolve the remaining fiscal 2019 budget shortfall through thoughtful cost containment strategies including limiting growth of legislative mandates, realizing favorable trends in Medicaid and employee health insurance spending, and using bond premiums to offset debt service costs.

The State closed FY 2018 with a surplus of \$589 million--nearly \$400 million larger than estimated. The budget surplus was primarily the result of higher than estimated revenues, and secondarily because state agencies returned more funds to the Treasury than estimated for the fourth consecutive year. When combined with moderating enrollment in entitlement programs such as Medicaid and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, this set the stage for a smoother than anticipated short-term budget outlook than just one year prior.

The State general fund budget was structurally balanced in FY 2018 and FY 2019. Due to higher than estimated revenues, the FY 2019 budget closed with a fund balance of \$974.2 million—almost \$256 million higher than expected.

The outlook on the FY 2020 budget was positive and by mid-year it was estimated to close with a fund balance of \$414 million. However, in March of 2020, the first known cases of the coronavirus were identified in Maryland. Governor Hogan acted quickly, implementing scientifically proven social distancing guidelines in an attempt to control the spread of the disease and to ultimately save Marylanders' lives. This public health crisis was coupled with historic economic decline.

Facing a dire economic outlook, Governor Hogan froze state spending and hiring and implemented a series of targeted but significant reductions as part of a larger budget balancing plan to prevent a massive shortfall in the final days of FY 2020. Initial estimates had reflected potential revenue losses of up to \$2.8 billion in FY 2020, \$2.6 billion in FY 2021, and a massive \$4 billion in FY 2022 -- a drop that would have completely wiped out the past six years of economic growth.

Instead, FY 2020 ended roughly \$100 million short of budgeted revenues, and the most recent projections estimate that the combined loss, while still significant, will be only \$921 million over the next two fiscal years. Further, as a result of the Governor's actions to curtail agency spending, federal stimulus which helped to support individuals and small businesses, and the prudent use of the Coronavirus Relief Fund, the State closed FY 2020 with a fund balance of \$703 million, \$357 million higher than expected.

The FY 2022 budget as introduced provides record investments for all key budget priorities without jeopardizing economic recovery.

## Performance Detail – Fiscal Responsibility

### Key Performance Area 3 – Data by Report Year

Indicator	Agency/ Data Source	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	4 Year Change	Specific Target
<b>3.1.</b> Bond rating from all three nationally recognized bond rating agencies for each issuance of State General Obligation bonds (maintain AAA rating) (CY 2016 - CY 2020)	Treasurer's Office	AAA	AAA	AAA	AAA	AAA	No change	Maintain AAA
<b>3.2.</b> Capital debt service as a percent of State revenue (FY 2016 - FY 2020)	CDAC	7.27%	7.53%	7.62%*	7.53%*	7.44%	2.3%	At or below 8%
<b>3.3.</b> Asset to liability ratio for the MD State Retirement and Pension System (funded ratio) (FY 2016 – FY 2020)	State Retirement and Pension System	70.5%	71.8%	72.5%	72.5%	72.9%	3.4%	100% funded by 2039
<b>3.4.</b> Difference between the actual rate of return for the composite portfolio and the actuarial return assumption set by the SRA Board of Trustees over one year (FY 2016 - FY 2020)	State Retirement and Pension System	-6.4%	2.5%	0.56%	-0.99%	-3.83%	40.1%	0.0% or higher
<b>3.5.</b> Percent of repeat audit findings for State agencies (FY 2016 - FY 2020)	DBM	23%	23%	24%	26%	28%	21.7%	N/A
<b>3.6.</b> Projected percentage of ongoing revenues covering ongoing spending based on the Governor's 5-year plan included in the budget allowance (FY 2018 - FY 2022)	DBM	93.9%	93.8%	92.0%	93.2%	93.8%	-0.1%	N/A

\* Numbers have been updated since last year's report.

## 4. GOVERNMENT REFORM

### **Performance Discussion**

Another major principle of the Hogan Administration is reform: “We must improve our State government’s ability to be more responsive to, and to better serve and represent all of our citizens.” It is difficult to measure reform efforts; therefore, this section of the Performance Report highlights the steps the Hogan Administration has taken to reform State government in Maryland to date.

### **Regulatory Reform**

In July 2015, the Governor signed Executive Order 01.01.2015.20, establishing the Regulatory Reform Commission. The Commission was tasked with resolving regulatory issues that impact Maryland’s business environment, while still continuing to protect the health, safety, and welfare of Marylanders. The Commission’s initial report was submitted December 2, 2015, based on input from more than 500 citizens obtained through six public outreach meetings, as well as departmental meetings and commission research. The second of the Commission’s three reports was released in December 2016 and highlighted over 180 regulations which were subsequently eliminated or streamlined by the Administration.

In December 2017, the Hogan Administration announced the third and final report of the Regulatory Reform Commission, identifying an additional 657 regulations for elimination or streamlining. Among those identified for reform were:

- the repeal of over 200 obsolete regulations in the Maryland Department of Health,
- the repeal of a \$500 fee charged to towing companies applying for a permit by the Maryland Transportation Authority, and
- allowing the Maryland Department of the Environment to issue one single permit for toxic substances and pesticide application rather than two separate permits under current regulations.

In addition, the Governor signed Executive Order 01.01.2017.33, mandating that all state agencies use new, more precise guidance formulated by the Advisory Council on the Impact of Regulations on Small Business when estimating the compliance cost and economic impact of regulations affecting Maryland small business.

During the 2019 Legislative Session, the Hogan Administration introduced legislation requiring the Department of Budget and Management to facilitate training for State agencies regarding economic impact

analysis of proposed regulations (HB 157). Though this Governor’s legislation was not passed by the General Assembly, a different version (CH 212 of 2019) requires this training and was signed by the Governor.

### **Procurement Reform**

In February 2016, Governor Hogan signed Executive Order 01.01.2016.05, establishing the Commission to Modernize State Procurement, a bipartisan commission that conducted a comprehensive review of Maryland’s procurement code and regulations. Due to an outdated approach, as well as a lack of modern technology, the State’s existing process for procurement was unpredictable and discouraged full participation among Maryland citizens and the business community. “Over the past year, it has become apparent that Maryland’s procurement system is a patchwork of archaic laws and processes that are inefficient, ineffective, and result in wasted taxpayer dollars,” said Governor Hogan. “By modernizing the way Maryland deals with procurement, we will create a predictable, consistent, and transparent system, and get the best value for every dollar we spend – exactly what Marylanders expect and deserve.”

In December 2016, the 19-member Commission released its final report, including 57 recommendations, and unveiled a new website ([procurement.maryland.gov](http://procurement.maryland.gov)), as a comprehensive communications portal providing online access to Maryland procurement information for all policymakers, vendors, and citizens.

During the 2017 Legislative Session, the Hogan Administration introduced and the General Assembly passed a three-bill package implementing the Commission’s recommended reforms, including:

- increasing the agency small procurement dollar threshold from \$25,000 to \$50,000,
- eliminating the statutory preference for competitive sealed bidding, allowing multiple other procurement strategies at the agencies’ discretion, and
- increasing the Small Business Reserve Program goal and making the goal applicable to all state agencies

The Administration also supported other significant procurement reform legislation passed by the General Assembly, including the creation of a Chief Procurement Officer for the State and the consolidation of all non-transportation State agency procurement into the Department of General Services. This merged Office of State Procurement was effective in FY 2020, and the Hogan Administration has invested to expand the office as it continues efforts to modernize state procurement

practices, get the best value for taxpayers, and make it easier for vendors to work with the State.

## Enhancing Customer Service

In June 2016, Governor Hogan launched the Customer Service Initiative, a continuous program designed to foster improvements in customer service across Maryland state agencies. The initiative focuses on three core deliverables: a renewed focus on a strong service culture in state agencies, improved customer service training for state employees, and the establishment of new service performance metrics which will allow the Administration and all Marylanders to track improvements in customer service over time.

A key provision of the initiative is a requirement for every state agency to develop and maintain a plan to continually improve service delivery, including minimum response times for phone, written, and in-person inquiries and services. These plans were initially due by October 1, 2016, are required to be resubmitted each fall for review, and will be reviewed annually by the Governor's Customer Service Workgroup.

To solicit direct feedback from the public, in November 2016 the Workgroup launched an online survey where citizens can rate an agency's service. The data collected by the survey will allow the State to track customer service performance among agencies and make targeted improvements as needed. In FY 2020, the State received 70,762 survey responses with an overall average customer satisfaction rating of 81%. The Hogan-Rutherford Administration has received an overall customer satisfaction rating of 81% or higher each year.<sup>14</sup>

## Ethics Reform

In January 2017, Governor Hogan introduced major legislation representing the first significant overhaul of State ethics law in 15 years.<sup>15</sup> The Public Integrity Act of 2017 was passed on a bipartisan basis by the General Assembly. Among other provisions, the legislation:

- bans former State legislators, governors, and all other State constitutional officers from lobbying for one-year after leaving office,
- requires ethics disclosures made by State officials be made available online to the public for free,
- increases the mandatory fine for State officials found guilty of bribery,

- strengthens financial disclosure requirements for State officials to include spouses and all major business activities, and,
- establishes the Citizens' Advisory Board for Legislative Ethics to offer recommendations to changes in public ethics laws.

## Government Efficiency and Transparency

The Hogan Administration has taken multiple steps to enhance the efficiency of State services. Maryland's government is the smallest it has been since 1984 and is at its lowest level per capita since 1972.

In July 2015 the Governor announced the closure of the Baltimore City Detention Center, ending a long history of corruption, deteriorating conditions, and waste. In the fall of 2015, the Administration began the consolidation of (a) certain human resources functions, which were spread inefficiently throughout a multitude of agencies, under the Department of Budget and Management's Office of Personnel Services and Benefits and (b) certain information technology functions, which were also widespread, under the Department of Information of Technology. This consolidation annually saves State tax dollars and improves efficiency.

The Governor's Office of Performance Improvement (GOPI) was established in October 2015 (Executive Order 01.01.2015.26) to improve business processes throughout Maryland State agencies through greater accountability. GOPI strives to increase the responsiveness and level of customer service of State agencies and departments; regularly reviews procedures, rules, and regulations of State agencies and departments to increase their efficiency and effectiveness; and promotes business process improvement strategies to make government more efficient and responsive to taxpayers.

GOPI also helps to curate the Maryland Open Data Portal. Since 2015 the State has nearly tripled the number of datasets (more than 1,000) available on the portal, providing constituents with more self-service access to state data than ever before. In 2018, GOPI launched a new Data Analytics initiative to support state agencies with improved access to business intelligence tools and to drive better management insights. As a result of this work, there are currently a dozen analytics apps available to state agencies through a secure portal.

In May 2016, the Governor signed Executive Order 01.01.2016.06, rescinding 72 obsolete executive orders

<sup>14</sup> Governor's Annual Customer Service Initiative Annual Report 2020.

<sup>15</sup> "Governor Larry Hogan Announces Integrity in Government Initiative" Governor Hogan Press Release January 19, 2017.

issued by previous administrations over the last 46 years. The removal of almost five decades of gubernatorial directives that are either outdated or superseded by legislation reflects the ongoing effort of the Hogan Administration to modernize and streamline state government, including the removal of archaic and duplicative regulations.

In another important step in fiscal transparency and keeping the Governor's promise to make State government accessible and convenient, the Governor unveiled the Maryland Transparency Portal ([mtp.maryland.gov](http://mtp.maryland.gov)) in August 2019. The website makes navigating the State budget easy to understand for all constituents, with searchable databases of payments the State makes to vendors as well as grants and loans awarded by State agencies. The level of budget detail provided on the website is more than required by law to be published in the annual budget books – a user can navigate down to individual subprograms (such as a specific State Park) and subobjects (such as vehicle purchases or office supplies).

### **Oversight and Review of Quasi-Governmental Agencies**

In December 2020, Governor Hogan issued an Executive Order to establish the State Transparency and Accountability Reform Commission. The Commission will review and investigate the operations of at least 14 of Maryland's quasi-governmental agencies and make recommendations regarding standards for oversight and accountability measures. Its recommendations may include term limits, requirements for financial and conflict-of-interest disclosures, independent audits and reports, and other standards to promote efficiency, effectiveness, and ethical conduct. Findings must be reported to the Governor and General Assembly on or before December 1, 2021.

### **Other Improvements to the State's Business Climate**

The Governor has introduced and supported a number of bills which would improve Maryland's business climate. In May 2015 he signed several such bills into law, including legislation:

- establishing the Advisory Council on the Impact of Regulations on Small Business,
- establishing the State Customer Service and Business Development Efforts Training Program to improve customer service provided by state agencies to businesses and customers in the State,

- requiring the Motor Vehicle Administration to establish a program to assist veterans and members of the military transitioning out of military service to obtain a commercial driver's license, and
- limiting the amount of a bond that a small business has to post to proceed with an appeal or verdict.

In addition, the Department of Commerce was renamed in October 2015 and has since (1) placed more of its team members in customer-facing positions, (2) worked to expand its team of business representatives who can assist businesses with everything from expanding and finding a new location to financing assistance and navigating regulations, (3) started hiring more regional and strategic industry representatives and putting more emphasis on core and growing industries in Maryland including life sciences, cybersecurity, manufacturing, and aerospace and defense, and (4) begun plans to add a liaison to the State's higher education community, which combines two of the main ingredients for Maryland's economic success—highly educated workers and cutting-edge research.<sup>16</sup> The end result is a Department that better serves both Maryland's businesses and its citizens.

### **Information Technology Enhancements**

In December 2017, the Maryland Department of Information Technology (DoIT) completed a Hogan Administration initiative to launch an online portal that allows Maryland residents and visitors to find information on state-issued licenses and permits through a single website called Maryland OneStop. This is a major improvement over the preexisting situation where public applicants had to navigate through a myriad of web pages within the agency site to find relevant information such as license requirements, the application cost, approval criteria, etc. Through the OneStop project, paper-based processes will be upgraded to electronic forms that citizens can fill and submit online, pay any associated fees, and check the status of their requests. As a result, the licenses will be easier to apply for and processing costs will drop, resulting in savings to the taxpayers of Maryland.

Since fiscal 2017, the Department of Human Services (DHS) has been working with DoIT to develop MD THINK, which will replace all of DHS's legacy IT systems and integrate them with the human services systems at the Department of Juvenile Services, the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange, and the Maryland Department of Health. This is a shift from program-centric systems to a client-centric platform. MD THINK will include a cloud-based shared infrastructure and a data repository. This

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<sup>16</sup> "Governor Larry Hogan Announces Formation of Maryland Department of Commerce," Press Release, October 1, 2015.

allows for a modular approach to systems in which an agency can develop an application that is much more adaptable to changing requirements.

The Hogan Administration continues to work to identify aging systems in need of replacement to dramatically improve processes for Marylanders. The Cloud Revenue Integrated System (CRIS) will allow tax credit applicants to

self-check the status of their submissions, receive automated and individualized communications from the Department of Assessments and Taxation, and more easily facilitate necessary corrections or updates based on those submissions. Customers will have access to an online, interactive help guide and receive an instant receipt when working with the application, providing better customer service to the applicants.

## 5. IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE

### Performance Overview

Performance Status (percentages are rounded)	Number of Indicators	Percent
Favorable (Change >10%)	15	26.3%
Favorable (3% to 10%)	19	33.3%
Stable (-2% to 2%)	10	17.5%
Unfavorable (-3% to -10%)	5	8.8%
Unfavorable (< -10%)	8	14.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>100%</b>

The final major Hogan Administration priority, improving quality of life, encompasses many areas of performance across the State. Overall, 77.2% of related indicators either performed favorably or held stable between the 2017 and 2021 report years. These indicators can be broken down into four different categories: (1) Education, (2) Public Safety, (3) Health and Human Services, and (4) Environment.

Education and Public Safety metrics have performed particularly well in recent years, with 93% and 86% respectively showing favorable or stable trends. Health and Human Services metrics also show promise, with 84% performing favorably or holding stable. The Environmental metrics represent an area for improvement in the State's overall performance, with 50% of metrics showing unfavorable outcomes.

The next section highlights and explains the factors behind significant performing trends in each category, but particularly notable favorable trends were seen in the following areas:

- Education
  - The percent of students receiving grades 3, 4, or 5 on AP Exams increased from 62.0% to 69.4%.
  - The percent of bachelor's degrees awarded to racial/ethnic minorities at public and private Maryland colleges and universities jumped by 12.9%.
  - The four-year transfer and graduation rate of first-time community college students has increased from 33.1% to 39.6%.
  - The number of higher education graduates in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields grew by 24.9%, from 15,039 to 18,780.

- Public Safety
  - Youth recidivism, or the percent of Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) youth re-adjudicated within one year after release from all residential placements fell by 5.4%.
  - The Part I crime offense rate per 100,000 went from 2,652 to 2,412, a decline of 9.0%.
  - The number of offenders under Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) jurisdiction declined by 11%.
  - The rate of referral for non-violent and violent youth felony offenses decreased by 31%.
- Health and Human Services
  - Maryland's uninsured rate was reduced by more than half in the past eight years, from 14.1% to 6.0%.
  - The rate of new HIV diagnoses dropped 22.3%.
  - The rate of live births to adolescents between 15 and 19 plummeted by 20.8 % in the past five years.
  - The infant mortality rate for all races dropped from 6.7 per 1,000 to 5.9, a decline of 11.9%.
- Environment
  - Maryland's recycling rate increased by 7%, from 42.9% to 45.9%.
  - The total number of acres preserved by all land preservation programs grew by 10.5%.
  - The estimated nitrogen load to the Chesapeake Bay dropped by 9.8%.
  - Percent of vehicles registered in the State that are alternative fuel, electric, or hybrid-electric increased by 9.2%.
  - The number of children under 6 years of age with elevated blood lead levels dropped by 29.5%.

The following section discusses significant trends in performance.

### Significant Performance Trends – Education

#### **Indicator 5.2: Percent of AP exams with a passing score of 3 or above**

Maryland high schools have experienced a large increase in the amount of passing Advanced Placement (AP) exam scores. These exams test students in advanced level topics on a score of 1 to 5, with a score of 3 or higher typically being accepted as college credit to many nation-wide colleges and universities.<sup>17</sup> Students in the state

<sup>17</sup> AP Students, College Board.

experienced an increase in the rate of passing scores from 62.0% in 2016 to 69.4% in 2020, a jump of 12.0%.

At the nation-wide level, the State had the 8<sup>th</sup> highest passing student body score in calendar year 2020,<sup>18</sup> showing a state-wide educational trend that places high emphasis on excellence, dedication, and improvement. Students with AP credit moving into their college career can have quicker graduation rates and movement into the workforce.<sup>19</sup>

### Indicator 5.3: Prekindergarten enrollment

Prekindergarten enrollment in the State has grown from 31,868 students in 2016 to 32,203 students in 2020, an increase of 1.1%. In FY 2021, the Hogan Administration dedicated \$110.7 million in funding to support and expand prekindergarten. Under the Hogan Administration, state funding to expand access to prekindergarten education has increased substantially.

Numerous studies have shown that prekindergarten programs have beneficial and lasting impacts on all children, with an additional emphasis on those from low-income and disadvantaged families.<sup>20</sup> Children enrolled in prekindergarten programs are less likely to be held back through middle and elementary school, and have statistically higher high school graduation rates.<sup>21</sup> The Hogan Administration acknowledges difficulties that disadvantaged families face with accessibility to prekindergarten programs and is investing in meaningful ways to help all families.

### Indicators 5.4 and 5.5: High school completion

- Indicator 5.4: High school graduation rate
- Indicator 5.5: Percent of high school dropouts

High school graduation rates have declined slightly in recent years, from 87.0% in report year 2017 to 86.9% in report year 2021, a decrease of 0.1%. At the same time, high school dropout rates have increased slightly, from 8.1% in report year 2017 to 8.4% in report year 2021.

Completion of high school program requirements indicates students' readiness for post-secondary education and/or employment.<sup>22</sup> At the same time, failure to complete high school is closely linked with decreased employment opportunities, low pay, and limited paths to advancement.<sup>23</sup> Unemployment rates of high school dropouts are more than three times higher than that of individuals with bachelor's degrees.<sup>24</sup>

### Indicators 5.8 and 5.10: Higher education completion

- Indicator 5.8: Six year graduation rate of first-time, full-time students at public four-year colleges and universities
- Indicator 5.10: Four-year transfer and graduation rate of first-time community college students

Graduation rates of those pursuing higher education after high school in the State have also increased in recent years. From report years 2017 to 2021, the six-year graduation rate for those in four-year colleges and universities has increased by 7.6% while the transfer and graduation rate for those at community colleges has increased by 19.8%.

Part of this growth rate can be attributed to low tuition and fee costs at public institutions for State residents. In FY 2006, Maryland's resident tuition and fees at public four-year colleges and universities were the 8<sup>th</sup> highest in the United States.<sup>25</sup> Since then, the State has incorporated many initiatives and financial investments to cap tuition growth for in-state undergraduate students in the University System of Maryland (USM). From 2011 to 2021, Maryland's public four-year in-state tuition and fees increased by a total of 14.1%, while the national average growth rate during this same time was 17.4%, a stark difference that shows the continuing commitment and investment that the State has made in its students.

In addition, from 2015 to 2021, strategic investments in the State's community colleges has slowed tuition growth, making the growth rate of in-district tuition at public two-year community colleges in the State the 20<sup>th</sup> lowest in the nation.<sup>26</sup>

<sup>18</sup> AP Program Participation and Performance Data 2018, Retrieved from <https://research.collegeboard.org/programs/ap/data/participation/a-p-2018>

<sup>19</sup> "Are AP Students More Likely to Graduate from College on Time?" College Board, 2013.

<sup>20</sup> The Current State of Scientific Knowledge on Pre-Kindergarten Effects, 2017.

<sup>21</sup> The Current State of Scientific Knowledge on Pre-Kindergarten Effects, 2017.

<sup>22</sup> Maryland Results for Child Well Being, 2009.

<sup>23</sup> Maryland Results for Child Well Being, 2009.

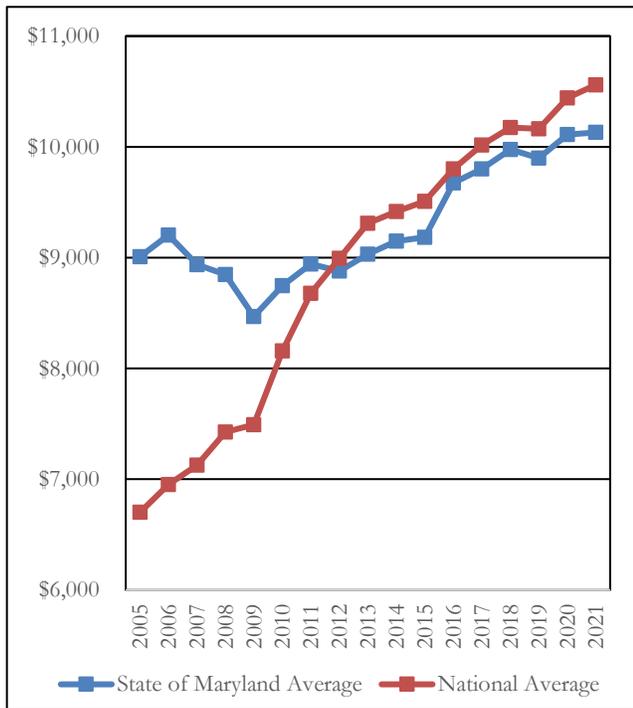
<sup>24</sup> US Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2017. Retrieved from: <https://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2017/unemployment-rate-2-point-5-percent-for-college-grads-7-point-7-percent-for-high-school-dropouts-january-2017.htm>

<sup>25</sup> College Board, Tuition and Fees by Sector and State over Time, Retrieved from <https://trends.collegeboard.org/college-pricing/figures-tables/tuition-fees-sector-state-over-time>

<sup>26</sup> College Board, in-district tuition and fees at public two-year institutions by state, retrieved from <https://research.collegeboard.org/trends/college-pricing/figures-tables/published-district-tuition-and-fees-public-two-year-institutions-state>

**Exhibit 5.1** compares the average public four-year in-state tuition and fees for Maryland to the nationwide average. Of note, the state-wide average for Maryland has remained slightly below the national average since 2012.

*Exhibit 5.1 Average Public Four-Year In-State Tuition and Fees for Maryland Compared to the National Average, Report Years 2005 – 2021, in 2018 Dollars.<sup>27</sup>*



**Indicator 5.9: Percent of bachelor’s degrees awarded to racial/ethnic minorities at public and private Maryland colleges and universities**

From report years 2017 to 2021, the percent of bachelor’s degrees awarded to racial/ethnic minorities at public and private Maryland colleges and universities increased by 12.9%, from 39.3% to 44.4%.

The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) continues to work with the Segmental Advisory Council and representatives of its member campuses to discuss the merits and outcomes of plans designated to increase the degree attainment rate of minority students. MHEC’s work on near completers, reverse transfers, and course redesign is expected to increase degree attainment, particularly for students from minority backgrounds.

<sup>27</sup> College Board, Tuition and Fees by Sector and State over Time, Retrieved from <https://trends.collegeboard.org/college-pricing/figures-tables/tuition-fees-sector-state-over-time>

In addition, MHEC will continue to work with the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to revise and refine the summer bridge programs and other initiatives.

**Indicator 5.10: Four-year transfer and graduation rate of first-time community college students**

Maryland has made significant progress in eliminating barriers to community college transfers to Maryland four-year campuses, including facilitating strong articulation agreements related to the transfer of credits. The percentage of first-time community college students who transferred to four-year institutions and graduated grew from 33.1% in FY 2016 to 39.6% in FY 2020, a 19.8% increase.

Community colleges play a pivotal role in Maryland’s efforts to improve degree completion and workforce penetration. MHEC continues to work collaboratively with higher education institutions to support these initiatives. FY 2022 will mark the third year of the Maryland Community College Promise Scholarships program. The program provides eligible Maryland high school graduates and GED recipients with need-based scholarships that help pay for tuition and mandatory fees incurred while pursuing associate degrees, certificate or licensure programs, and registered apprenticeship programs at community colleges. The FY 2022 budget has allocated \$15 million for the program, which will provide awards to an estimated 7,000 students.

**Indicator 5.13: Number of graduates in science, technology, engineering, math (STEM) from Maryland’s public and private higher educational institutions**

The number of graduates in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) from Maryland’s public and private higher educational institutions has increased from 15,039 in FY 2016 to 18,780 in FY 2020, a jump of 24.9%. STEM graduates are particularly important for a developing workforce and STEM job concentration has been noted as remarkably high in the State since 2015.<sup>28</sup>

To continue this trend, the State has continually included investments into the University System of Maryland for STEM initiatives and has emphasized the need to have a workforce that is not only competitive but remarkably educated in the ever-changing needs of this century. In fact, the Governor’s Workforce Development Initiative at

<sup>28</sup> Maryland Commission on Higher Education, 2017-2021 State Plan for Postsecondary Education, Retrieved from <http://www.mhec.state.md.us/About/Documents/2017.2021%20Maryland%20State%20Plan%20for%20Higher%20Education.pdf>

USM, which began with \$2 million in FY 2019 and reached \$32 million in FY 2021, aims to fill critical workforce needs across the State by developing and expanding certain programs at USM institutions. Programs supported by the initiative are expected to produce over 3,400 additional degrees upon full completion.

In FY 2022, the State has committed over \$1.9 million to provide graduates from the Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) Program with a high school diploma and a two-year postsecondary degree in a STEM field from an accredited community college. Two high schools have students who have completed the six-year P-TECH program: Carver Vocational-Technical High School and Paul Laurence Dunbar High School in Baltimore City. At Carver and Dunbar, 93% and 100% of P-TECH respectively earned their high school diplomas. Almost half (42%) of P-TECH students that earned their high school diplomas in 2020 are continuing their education at 4-year colleges.

The Hogan Administration has recognized that these investments in STEM education are not only worthwhile, but necessary to make a growing and competitive workforce in the State for years to come.

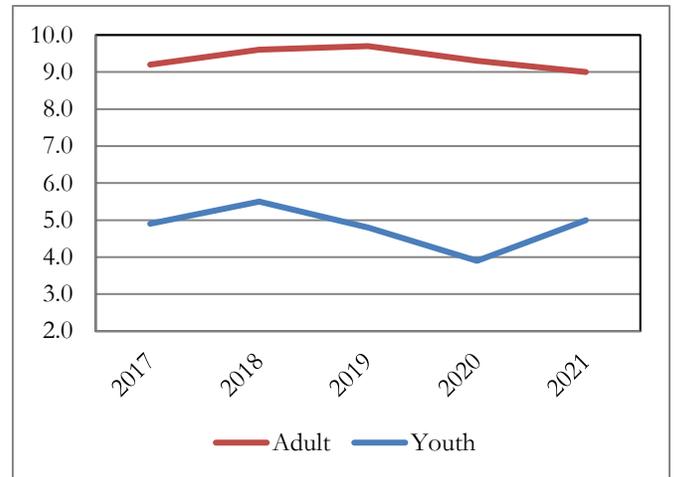
**Significant Performance Trends – Public Safety**

**Indicator 5.15: Homicide rate per 100,000**

The rate of homicides in Maryland declined significantly from 2006 through 2013, with an overall drop of 36% among adults and nearly 25% in the children and youth homicide metrics. However, both metrics reversed trends in 2016. This trend mirrors nationwide data, where murder rates grew nationally in 2015 and in 2016.<sup>29</sup> Only the adult homicide rate saw a slight improvement with the numbers beginning to decline slightly in report year 2020. From report year 2020 to report year 2021, adult homicides declined by 3.2%, meanwhile the youth homicide rate increased by 28.2%.

**Exhibit 5.2** displays both youth and adult homicide trends in Maryland through time.

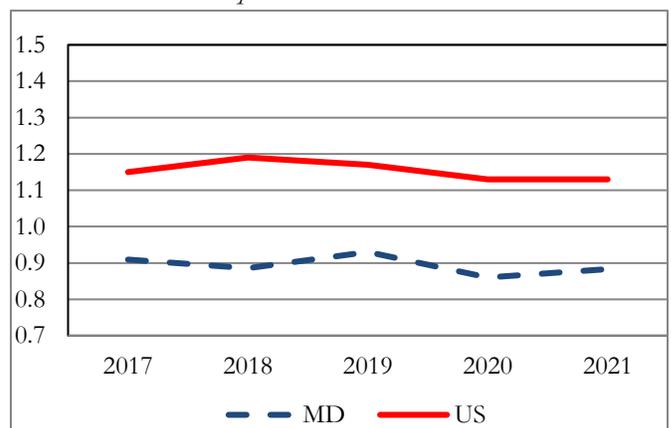
*Exhibit 5.2 Homicide Rate (for adult and children) per 100,000 Population, Report Years 2017 – 2021*



**Indicator 5.17: Traffic fatality rate per 100 million miles traveled**

The State of Maryland has consistently achieved a lower traffic fatality rate than the national average, as shown in **Exhibit 5.3**. From report year 2020 to 2021, Maryland’s traffic fatality rate increased slightly from 0.86 to 0.88, a 2.7% change.

*Exhibit 5.3 Traffic Fatality Rate per 100 Million Miles Traveled, Report Years 2017 – 2021*



To address traffic safety challenges, the Maryland Department of Transportation worked with multiple agencies and jurisdictions to develop a five-year, statewide coordinated safety plan known as the Maryland Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) 2016-2020, which provides a framework for reducing transportation fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads. This plan aims to reduce statewide traffic fatalities per 100 million miles

<sup>29</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2017 Report - Crime in the United States.

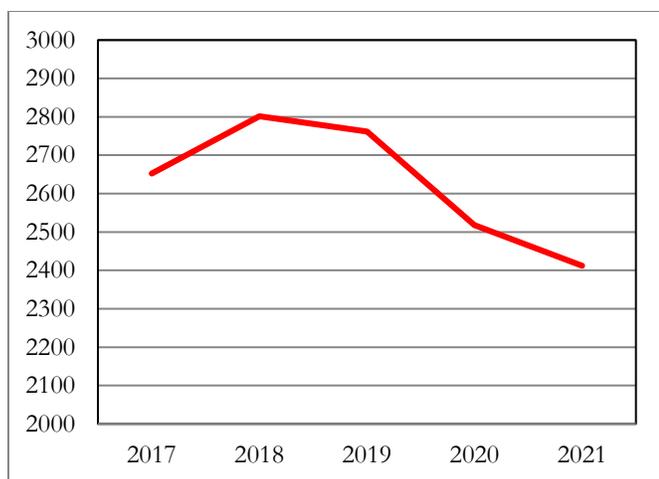
traveled to 0.64 or fewer by calendar year 2020 and 0.53 by calendar year 2030.<sup>30</sup>

Recently enacted legislation has enhanced traffic safety. Improvements include combating driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs, establishment of a task force to study bicycle safety in Maryland, utilizing speed cameras in school and work zones, banning text messaging and hand held cell phone use in moving vehicles, providing clearance for bicycles and emergency vehicles, and strengthening the graduated licensing process.<sup>31</sup>

**Indicator 5.18: Part I crime rate (offenses per 100,000 population)**

Part I crimes include murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, breaking or entering, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. Overall, the Part I crime rate declined by 44.4% since 2004. **Exhibit 5.4** shows a decrease of 9% from report years 2017 to 2021.

*Exhibit 5.4 Maryland Part I Crime Rate, Report Years 2017 - 2021*



Maryland is fighting and solving crime through a variety of strategies including increasing inter-agency cooperation, aligning State resources with the priorities of local governments at increased levels, enhancing warrant service to swiftly remove offenders from the streets, expanding efforts to reduce illegal gun possession and use, and improving use of technology such as DNA Fingerprinting, License Plate Recognition, Crime Mapping, Crime Analysis, and the Public Safety Dashboard.

<sup>30</sup> Maryland Department of Transportation, 2015 Report - The Maryland Strategic Highway Safety Plan, Retrieved from <https://www.roads.maryland.gov/mdotsha/pages/index.aspx?PageId=240>

<sup>31</sup> Maryland Department of Transportation, 2010, 2011, and 2017 Annual Attainment Reports on Transportation System Performance, Maryland Department of Transportation, e-mail correspondence,

The Violence Prevention Initiative (VPI) continues to be a primary strategy to track and supervise the State's most violent offenders in a community setting.<sup>32</sup> The Initiative has been enhanced to include drug treatment, mental health counseling, family counseling, and job readiness training.

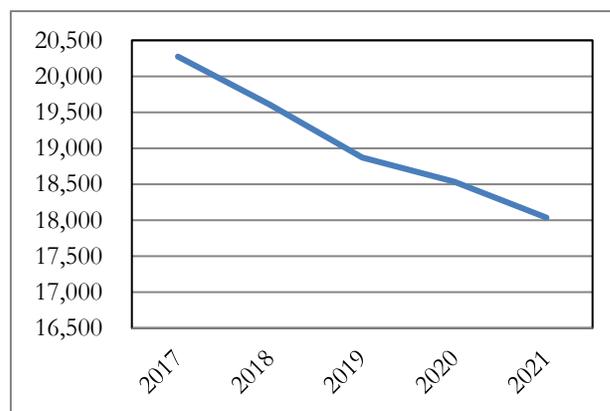
Following the tragedy on September 11, 2001, the Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center (MCAC) was formed which coordinates the efforts of federal, state and local agencies to gather, analyze, and share intelligence information with law enforcement, public health, and emergency responder personnel.

The Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services has also implemented a network of police officers and community supervision agents who work together to exchange real time information to respond effectively to non-compliant offender behavior.<sup>33</sup>

**Indicator 5.19: Offenders under Correctional Jurisdiction**

Incarcerated offenders under Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services jurisdiction have continued to decline. As shown in **Exhibit 5.5**, offenders in correctional institutions have declined by 11% since report year 2017. Currently, the number of incarcerated offenders is at its lowest level since 1992.

*Exhibit 5.5 Maryland Offenders under Correctional Jurisdiction, Report Years 2017-2021*



Over this time period the Maryland General Assembly passed the Justice Reinvestment Act (JRA), which is a

September 28, 2010, Maryland Department of Transportation fiscal years 2011, 2012, and 2013 MFR Performance Discussions.

<sup>32</sup> Fiscal year 2015 MFR Performance Discussion, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services.

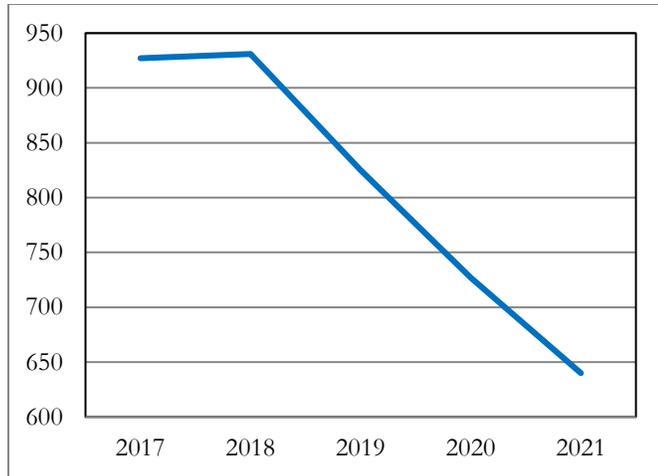
<sup>33</sup> Fiscal year 2014 and 2015 MFR Performance Discussion, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services.

nationwide, data-driven approach to public safety seeking to reduce corrections spending and reinvest savings in evidence-based strategies to decrease crime and reduce recidivism. Key provisions of the bill include the elimination of mandatory minimum sentences for certain drug convictions, enhanced administrative release procedures, and greater emphasis on drug treatment diversionary programs for defendants while expanding penalties for violent offenders and high-level drug traffickers.<sup>34</sup> As the Justice Reinvestment Act matures, it will manifest further decreases to correctional populations.

**Indicator 5.21: Rate of referral for non-violent and violent felony offenses per 100,000 youth between ages 11 and 17<sup>35</sup>**

Involvement in felony offenses increases the risk of injury or death, and continued criminal activity into adulthood. The referrals for violent and non-violent offenses for youths declined by 31% since 2013 and has maintained that rate of decline from report year 2017 through 2021. Juvenile referrals include adult court transfers, citizen referrals (such as parents or teachers), police arrests and violations of probation. **Exhibit 5.6** shows positive trends in this measure over the report period.

*Exhibit 5.6 Rate of Referral for Violent and Non-violent Youth Felonies (per 100,000), 2017 - 2021*



Success in assessing the needs of juveniles (physical and mental health services, drug abuse services, improved education, or social services) and treating troubled juveniles for their needs are important factors in preventing juvenile crime.

<sup>34</sup> Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention, “Governor Larry Hogan Announces Implementation of Justice Reinvestment Act,” 3 October 2017, Retrieved from <http://goccp.maryland.gov/governor-larry-hogan-announces-implementation-justice-reinvestment-act/>

DJS is collaborating with other child-serving local and State agencies to improve outcomes for youth. DJS initiatives include: the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative, in which DJS works with courts to identify community alternatives to detention, the Youth Crossover Model, in which DJS and the Department of Human Services coordinate services for youth in both systems, and the Under 13 Initiative, which provides wraparound services to pre-teens who have had contact with DJS.

**Significant Performance Trends – Health and Human Services**

**Indicator 5.25: Maryland’s uninsured rate (estimated), individuals under 65**

The uninsured rate for individuals under 65 in Maryland declined by 20% since calendar year 2015 as only 6% remain uninsured in 2019.

This significant improvement in metric performance reflects a national trend and can be attributed largely to the Affordable Care Act. The State’s Reinsurance Program has also contributed to stabilizing the uninsured rate as it has helped lower health insurance premiums in the individual market in Maryland, with a decline of 31.4% over the past three years.

**Indicators 5.27 and 5.28: High school student health**

- Indicator 5.27: Cumulative percent change from the calendar year 2000 baseline for underage high school students who ever smoked a whole cigarette
- Indicator 5.28: Percent of public-school students in grades nine through twelve who are current drinkers

The first measure estimates the proportion of underage high school students who have ever smoked a whole cigarette and is from a survey administered every two years. The percent change from the calendar year 2000 baseline for underage high school students who ever smoked a whole cigarette is on a steady downward trend, with a decline of 212.1% since the start of the survey.

The Maryland Cigarette Restitution Fund Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation Program utilizes a comprehensive tobacco-use prevention strategy that includes “school-based programs, community-based programs, youth access enforcement, tobacco-use

<sup>35</sup> This metric was previously reported as juveniles ages 10 to 17 and has been updated to track juveniles 11 to 17. Additionally, this metric has been updated to include both violent and non-violent felony offenses, measuring “referrals” instead of “arrests,” based on how the Department of Juvenile Services now collects and tracks this data.

cessation programs, media messages promoting the availability of cessation assistance and the health benefits of cessation generally, surveillance (tobacco surveys) of under-age tobacco use behaviors, and ongoing evaluation of programmatic efforts.”<sup>36</sup> Other strategies that contribute to reduced tobacco use include restrictions on smoking in public places and increases in excise or sales taxes on tobacco products.<sup>37</sup>

Data for the second measure comes from the Maryland Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) which is part of the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) developed by the Centers for Disease Control to monitor health-risk behaviors among youth. Starting in 2005, the survey is administered every two years.

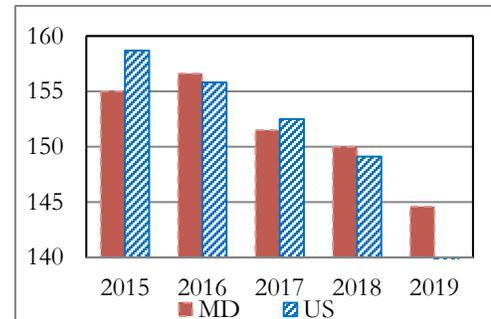
Early use of alcohol is associated with later drug use and the prevalence of high-risk behaviors by youth. Alcohol is the most commonly used drug among Maryland youth.<sup>38</sup> The percentage of high school students drinking alcohol is in decline, down to 24.1% in report year 2021, a decrease of nearly 35% since 2009.

**Indicator 5.29: Overall cancer mortality rate per 100,000 persons (age adjusted to 2000 U.S. Standard Population)**

Cancer is the second leading cause of death in Maryland and the nation and accounted for 21.6% of all deaths in Maryland in calendar year 2018.<sup>39</sup> The overall cancer mortality rate in Maryland declined by 6.7% from calendar year 2015 to 2019, a reduction of ten deaths per 100,000 persons.

Maryland’s cancer mortality rate has largely remained below the national rate since 2010, with the exception of 2016 and 2018. **Exhibit 5.7** shows trends through time for both Maryland and the nation as a whole.

*Exhibit 5.7 Maryland and U.S. Cancer Mortality Rate (per 100,000 Persons), Calendar Years 2015 - 2019*



\*National data not yet available for calendar year 2019.

In September 2016, the Hogan Administration announced the update and signing of Maryland’s Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan which is a “valuable roadmap for Marylanders involved in cancer prevention and treatment at every level.”<sup>40</sup>

The Maryland Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan is a guide for professionals to reduce the burden of cancer in Maryland and is updated every four years by the Maryland Department of Health with input from 83 public and private stakeholders. The Cancer Plan is far-reaching and encourages any individual or organization—whether they are involved in planning, directing, implementing, evaluating, or performing research on cancer control—to apply best practices and the appropriate strategies for better cancer control in Maryland.

Primary strategies to address cancer mortality include continuing strong public health surveillance, education, prevention, screening, diagnosis and treatment efforts, and strong cancer research.

**Indicator 5.30: Heart disease mortality rate for all races per 100,000 population (age adjusted)**

Heart disease mortality refers to the death of an individual by acute rheumatic fever, chronic rheumatic heart disease, hypertensive heart disease, hypertensive heart and renal disease, or ischaemic heart disease.<sup>41</sup> Heart disease continued to be the leading cause of death in Maryland in calendar year 2018, accounting for 23.1% of all deaths. The age adjusted heart disease mortality rate was 156.8 per 100,000 population in 2019, 7.4% below the rate five years ago. **Exhibit 5.8** shows trends through time for heart disease mortality in Maryland.

<sup>36</sup> Strategies and Discussion of Program Performance, FY 2015 MFR submission, Cigarette Restitution Fund–Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation Program - Family Health Administration.

<sup>37</sup> Strategies and Discussion of Program Performance, FY 2015 MFR submission, Cigarette Restitution Fund–Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation Program–Prevention and Health Promotion Administration, Maryland Department of Health.

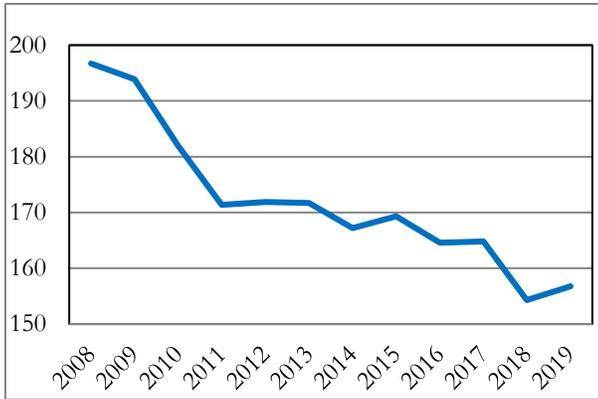
<sup>38</sup> Maryland’s Results for Child Well-Being 2011

<sup>39</sup> Maryland Vital Statistics Annual Report 2018, Vital Statistics Administration, Maryland Department of Health.

<sup>40</sup> “Governor Larry Hogan Reaffirms State’s Commitment to Fighting Cancer, Hosts Blood Drive,” Press Release September 15, 2016.

<sup>41</sup> Fiscal year 2012 MFR Data Definition and Control Procedures, Family Health Administration, Maryland Department of Health.

*Exhibit 5.8 Heart Disease Mortality Chart (per 100,000 population), Calendar Years 2008-2019*



Public health efforts contribute to Maryland's comprehensive approach in addressing heart disease mortality, including surveillance, screening, diagnosis, and treatment efforts.

**Indicator 5.31: Rate of diagnoses and the percent change from the prior year level in the number of age adjusted new HIV diagnoses (per 100,000 population)**

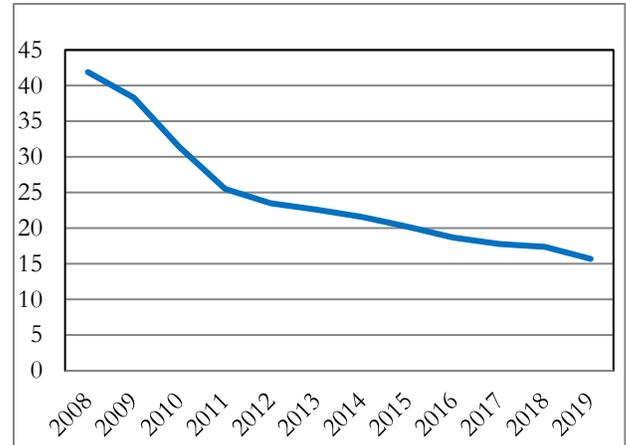
The rate of HIV diagnoses declined by 64.5% from calendar years 2008 through 2019, as seen in **Exhibit 5.9**. Strategies to reduce the rate of new HIV diagnoses include:

- increased collaboration among State agencies and community-based organizations to enhance access to and use of needed prevention services by disproportionately affected populations;
- reduced drug and alcohol use associated with HIV risk behaviors among adults and youth by expanding work with substance abuse providers;
- among the current providers, increased skills and support to deliver quality HIV interventions;
- increased supply of free and sterile needles among injection drug users; and
- access to condoms among sexually active youth and adults engaging in HIV risk behaviors.<sup>42</sup>

<sup>42</sup> Fiscal year 2017 MFR Strategies and Discussion of Program Performance, Infectious Disease and Environmental Health Services—Prevention and Health Promotion Administration, Maryland Department of Health

<sup>43</sup> Fiscal year 2013 MFR Data Definitions and Control Procedures, Infectious Disease and Environmental Health Administration,

*Exhibit 5.9 Rate of New HIV Diagnoses (per 100,000 population), Calendar Years 2008-2019*



**Indicator 5.32: Rate of primary/secondary syphilis incidence (cases per 100,000 population)**

Syphilis causes significant complications if untreated and facilitates the transmission of HIV. Cases of syphilis tend to be under reported as the disease goes undiagnosed in some individuals and unreported by some providers.<sup>43</sup> Maryland's rate of primary/secondary syphilis cases per 100,000 population historically exceeded the national rate over the past decade. Maryland currently ranks the twelfth highest state in terms of the syphilis cases rate, down from fifth place in 2013.<sup>44</sup>

The rate of syphilis incidence in Maryland increased 69.4% since calendar year 2015. From 2015 to 2016 the rate remained stable but has increased each year since, reflective of national trends. Maryland continues to focus on collaborative public health efforts to expand the infrastructure and expertise of Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) prevention staff and to connect patients to timely treatment to interrupt the spread of the infection and contribute to the long-term reduction of the syphilis epidemic.

**Indicator 5.35: Maryland prevalence of household-level very low food security (3-year average)**

Very low food security is defined as households in which food intake of one member or more was reduced and eating patterns were disrupted because of insufficient money and other resources for food. Data for this

Maryland Department of Health; CDC Sexually Transmitted Diseases in the United States, 2008, November 2009

<sup>44</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2018 Sexually Transmitted Diseases Surveillance

indicator are derived from responses to a survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau.<sup>45</sup> In most households with very low food security, the survey respondent reported that they were hungry at some time during the previous twelve months but did not eat because there was not enough money for food. Prevalence rates of food insecurity vary widely from state-to-state. Therefore, a 3-year average is used to provide more reliable statistics at the state level.

Over the past decade, Maryland's prevalence of household-level very low food security was equal to or below the U.S. level, in 2018 this trend reversed, and in 2019 Maryland's rate exceeded the U.S. level by 0.7%. The recession was a significant factor contributing to household level food insecurity, but Maryland continues to maintain food insecurity rates below peak recession levels. Since 2011 the prevalence of household-level food insecurity declined by 12%.

Over the last several years, Maryland identified and implemented successful strategies to connect children and families to the School Breakfast and Summer Food Service Programs, and other programs, while drawing down millions of additional dollars in federal funding.

Governor Hogan charged his Children's Cabinet with four major initiatives, one of which is to continue efforts to reduce the incidence of child hunger. In May of 2017 the Governor signed the Hunger-Free Schools Act, extending a provision to allow high-need schools in Maryland to provide free school breakfast and lunch to all students<sup>46</sup>. During the 2018-2019 school year, nearly 390,000 students received free or reduced meals throughout Maryland<sup>47</sup>. Further, the Governor's fiscal 2022 budget includes \$1.2 billion in federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits to serve more than 341,000 households.

### **Indicator 5.36: Rate of live births to adolescents between 15 and 19 years of age (per 1,000 women)**

Adolescent mothers are more likely to drop out of high school, experience unemployment, or, if employed, earn lower wages than women who begin childbearing after age 20. Children born to teen mothers face increased risks of low birth weight and being pre-term, having developmental problems, and experiencing poverty.<sup>48</sup> Maryland's rate of live births to adolescents between 15

and 19 years of age compared favorably to the U.S. rate for each year in the last decade. In the last five years, the Maryland rate declined by 20.8%, mirroring a national trend.

Maryland uses a multifaceted approach to prevent teen pregnancy including health education and counseling, access to health care, outreach, and public awareness.

### **Indicator 5.41: Heroin overdose-related deaths in Maryland**

The heroin epidemic in the U.S. gained increasing media and policy attention over the past several years, and Maryland is no exception. At the peak level in calendar year 2016 the number of heroin overdose-related deaths in Maryland was 1,212 or 209% more deaths than calendar year 2013.

Governor Hogan issued Executive Orders 01.01.2015.12 and 01.01.2015.13, and State resources are devoted to confronting this heroin and opioid epidemic through a comprehensive approach that includes education, treatment, improvements to quality of care, law enforcement, alternatives to incarceration, and overdose prevention.

A Heroin & Opioid Emergency Task Force was convened, chaired by Lieutenant Governor Rutherford, and the Task Force held six regional summits throughout the State to hear testimony from those with substance use disorders, family members, educators, faith leaders, elected officials, law enforcement, addiction treatment professionals, and other stakeholders. The Task Force issued its final report in December 2015, including contributions from 431 stakeholders and 33 recommendations. It is a major priority of the Hogan Administration to implement these recommendations.

In January 2019, the Governor signed Executive Order 01.01.2019.02 establishing the Commission to Study Mental and Behavioral Health in Maryland. The Commission is chaired by the Lieutenant Governor and includes representatives from each branch of state government, representatives from the state departments of Health, Public Safety and Correctional Services, and Human Services, as well as the Maryland State Police, the Maryland Insurance Administration, the Opioid

<sup>45</sup> The Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, compiles and analyzes data for this indicator from an annual survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau as a supplement to the monthly Current Population Survey (CPS).

<sup>46</sup> "Governor Larry Hogan Signs Hunger-Free Schools Act of 2017" Retrieved From: <http://www.mdhungersolutions.org/press/governor-hogan-signs-hunger-free-schools-act-of-2017/>

<sup>47</sup> "Free and Reduced Price Meal Statistics" SY 2018-2019 Retrieved from: <http://marylandpublicschools.org/programs/pages/school-community-nutrition/freereducedpricemealstatistics.aspx>

<sup>48</sup> Maryland's Results for Child Well Being 2009; State Profiles of Child Well-being, 2011 Kids Count Data Book, The Annie E. Casey Foundation

Operational Command Center, and six members of the public with experience related to mental health. The Commission is tasked with studying mental health in Maryland, including access to mental health services and the link between mental health issues and substance use disorders.

The Governor's fiscal 2022 budget continues to demonstrate a strong commitment to combating the opioid crisis with record level spending on mental health and substance use disorders. In fiscal 2022, more than \$978 million in direct state support is dedicated to various mental health services and initiatives, including \$296 million for substance use disorder services, a \$35 million (or 13%) increase over FY 2021.

Governor Hogan declared a State of Emergency in March 2017 in response to the heroin and opioid crisis and established the Opioid Operational Command Center (OCCC) to lead the State's response and coordinate directly with all 24 local jurisdictions. The OCCC launched *Before It's Too Late*, the State's effort to bring awareness to the heroin and opioid epidemic and to mobilize resources for effective prevention, treatment, and recovery.

In keeping with the Governor's five-year \$50 million commitment, the FY 2022 budget includes the fifth installment of \$10 million to fund activities of the OCCC. The Governor's continued commitment for funding the OCCC and mental health and substance use programs has contributed to the 40.1% decline in heroin overdose-related deaths since 2016. Marylanders grappling with a substance use disorder can find help at [BeforeItsTooLateMD.org](http://BeforeItsTooLateMD.org) and 1-800-422-0009, the State crisis hotline.

## **Significant Performance Trends – Environment**

### **Indicator 5.42: Chesapeake Bay Habitat Health Index – Maryland**

The Chesapeake Bay Habitat Health Index (Bay Health Index) measures the progress of seven indicators<sup>49</sup> against scientifically derived ecological thresholds or goals. The seven indicators are combined into one overarching Bay Health Index. The health of the Chesapeake Bay is reported annually in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

Report Card. The data presented is for both the Maryland portion<sup>50</sup> of the Chesapeake Bay and the Bay-wide number. From calendar year 2013 to calendar year 2017, the Bay Health Index showed steady progress, but the calendar year 2018 score decreased and the 2019 score slightly decreased. Maryland's score fell from 40% to 39% for the 2021 report. The score for the entire Chesapeake Bay also decreased in report year 2021, from 47% to 44%. Maryland and Bay-wide scores can vary widely from year to year depending on trends in weather, among other factors.

In calendar year 2019, the greatest improvement of the fifteen regions scored in the Bay Health Index was in the Upper Western Shore, Elizabeth, Patapsco and Back, and Potomac rivers.<sup>51</sup> While there is still improvement to be made, the implementation of Enhanced Nutrient Reduction (ENR) technologies at wastewater treatment facilities along the rivers and elsewhere in Maryland will make the process of nutrient removal more effective going forward.<sup>52</sup>

As Maryland continues implementing the Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP), it will continue to strategize how best to reduce nutrient loads into the Chesapeake Bay. In addition to fully funding the 2010 Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund, the Hogan Administration is also continuing to dedicate funding from the Bay Restoration Fund for septic system upgrades. These funds replace older septic systems with upgrades containing nitrogen-removal technology, which prevent the discharge of nitrogen from septic systems to the Chesapeake Bay.

### **Indicator 5.43: Acres of submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV)**

Restoring underwater grasses to the rivers, streams, and shallow waters of the Chesapeake Bay will dramatically improve the Bay ecosystem. Grass beds provide food and shelter to fish, crustaceans and other species, add oxygen to the water, absorb nutrient pollution, reduce shoreline erosion, and help suspended particles of sediment settle to the bottom. In report year 2021, aquatic grasses covered 39,151 acres across the Bay. This is a 31% decrease from 2020, and a 27% decrease from the 2017 acreage total of 53,783 (**Exhibit 5.10**).

<sup>49</sup> The Chesapeake Bay Indicators are dissolved oxygen, nitrogen, phosphorus, chlorophyll a, water clarity, aquatic grasses, and benthic community.

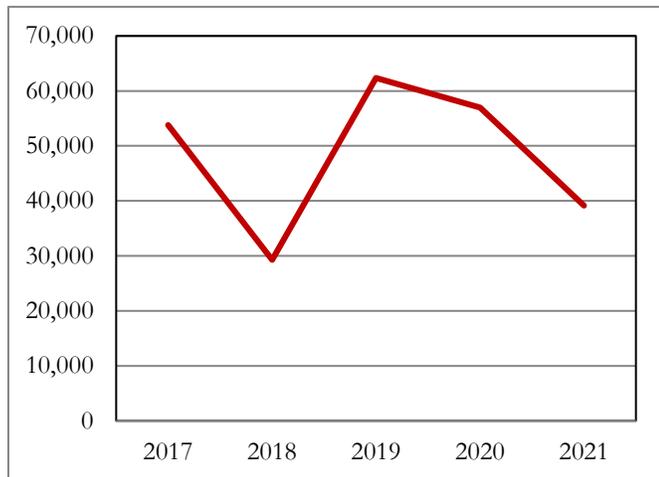
<sup>50</sup> It is not possible to completely separate Maryland data from Bay reporting regions. Three of the regions include parts of Virginia: Lower Eastern Shore, Mid Bay, and Potomac River. Per the University of

Maryland Center for Environmental Science, in the broad scheme, Maryland data is not affected much by including data for parts of Virginia.

<sup>51</sup> UMCES. 2020. Chesapeake Bay Report Card 2020.

<sup>52</sup> Maryland Department of the Environment. 2017. *The Evolution to Enhanced Nutrient Removal Technology*

*Exhibit 5.10 Acres of Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)  
Report Years 2017 - 2021*



The Chesapeake Bay Program, an organization committed to tracking progress toward the goals and outcomes of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, attributes the recent decline in SAVs to the loss of Widgeon grass. Widgeon grass is a species whose numbers increase and decrease year to year. Although it is unknown why this occurs, it is predicted that the reduction of water quality by higher than average river flows may be causing their decline.<sup>53</sup>

**Indicator 5.44: Female Dredge Survey Index of stock size (crabs) – estimated**

Female stock size refers to the number of female crabs of all sizes in the over-wintering crab population within a 1,000 metered square area (i.e. crab density). The data is derived from the annual Bay-wide winter female dredge survey conducted by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science. Indices of stock size are average catches per tow, after the catches have been corrected for the efficiency of the dredge gear and overwintering mortality.<sup>54</sup>

Total blue crab abundance estimated by the 2020 Bay Wide Winter Dredge Survey decreased 32% from calendar year 2019 to 405 million crabs. The abundance of spawning age females decreased from calendar year 2019 to about 141 million crabs, which is below the target 215 million, but still above the 70 million threshold. Despite these population decreases, the percentage of female crabs removed by fishing was 17%, which is below the target of 25.5% and the threshold of 34% for the 12th consecutive year since 2008. This means overfishing is not occurring.<sup>7</sup>

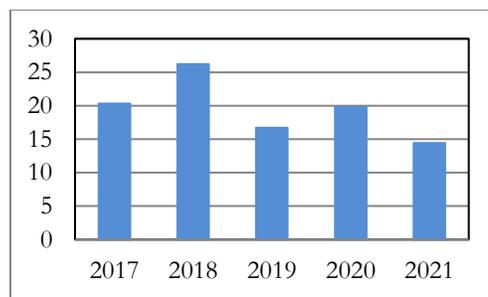
<sup>53</sup> Chesapeake Bay Program. 2021. Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV).

<sup>54</sup> Maryland Department of Natural Resources, 2015 Fishery Management Plans.

Although the abundance of adult female crabs decreased in 2020, it remained above the threshold. Variations in abundance are a characteristic of the blue crab species and not unexpected. Based on analysis of the 2020 winter dredge survey results, the Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessment Committee (CBSAC) concluded that substantial changes in management are not necessary.

As **Exhibit 5.11** shows, the blue crab population can vary dramatically from year to year. Crabs are vulnerable to extreme cold, particularly prolonged winter temperatures.

*Exhibit 5.11 Dredge Survey Index - Crab Stock Size,  
Report Years 2017-2021*



**Indicator 5.47: Acres of cover crops planted**

In 2010, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency established nutrient and sediment limits for the Chesapeake Bay known as the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). Cover crops are one of the most cost-effective strategies to meet nutrient and sediment TMDL reduction targets outlined in Maryland’s Watershed Implementation Plan to protect and restore the Chesapeake Bay by 2025. Through the Cover Crop Program, farmers plant non-harvested cereal crops on agricultural land to control soil erosion and absorb unused nitrogen and phosphorus remaining in the soil following the fall harvest. The Cover Crop Program provides cost share assistance to farmers to implement this best management practice.<sup>55</sup>

In report year 2021 the number of acres planted reached its highest point since 2017, with 490,000 cover crop acres planted. This is a 36.2% increase over last year. Over the past decade, the number of acres planted has increased dramatically. From 2011 to 2021, the number of acres of cover crops planted has increased by 161%, from 187,479 acres to 490,000 acres.

<sup>55</sup> Cost-share support is administered through Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share (MACS) program.

**Indicator 5.49: Percent of Marylanders served by public water systems in significant compliance with all new and existing regulations**

Water systems are evaluated for compliance with technical and health-based rules, as well as compliance with health-based drinking water standards. Technical violations include items such as monitoring and reporting of compliance reports, failure to issue public notification, and failure to complete corrective actions for treatment technique requirements. Health-based standards are established for over eighty regulated contaminants such as bacteria, nitrates, arsenic, lead and copper, disinfection byproducts, and radionuclides.

Performance in this category has fallen slightly from 96% in FY 2014 to 94% in FY 2020. However, 94% is an increase over last year’s 92% of Marylanders served by public water systems in significant compliance. This decrease is due to several large water systems, which each serve over 10,000 people, experiencing violations during FY 2020. As of the end of FY 2020, most of the violations that caused this decrease in compliance for community water systems have been resolved. The majority of the violations were technical violations for monitoring and reporting that do not impact public health.

**Indicator 5.50: Three-year average of days the eight hour ozone standard was exceeded**

Breathing in ozone, a primary component of smog, can trigger a variety of health problems. Other impacts of air pollution are reduced visibility; damaged crops, forests and buildings; and acidified lakes and streams. Emissions from industrial facilities and electric utilities, motor vehicle exhaust, gasoline vapors, and chemical solvents are some of the causes of ozone forming pollutants. Maryland’s ozone levels are not only due to ozone-forming pollutants being emitted by sources within Maryland, but from ozone formed in other states that is delivered to Maryland by prevailing winds.

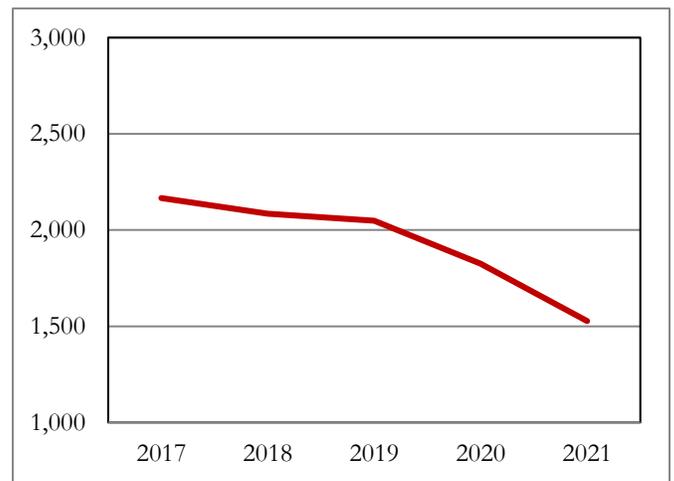
Maryland is doing its part locally to meet National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ozone and fine particulate matter through the Maryland Healthy Air Act (HAA) enacted in July 2007, at the time the toughest power plant emission law on the east coast. Additionally, Maryland has had three coal-fired power plants retire in the past three years and four more coal-fired power plants are scheduled to retire between 2020 and 2027. In report year 2021, the three-year average of days the eight-hour ozone standard was exceeded was 15.7 days, its lowest average since report year 2018.

However, prior to report year 2021, there was an increase in days of 8-hour ozone standard exceedances, which MDE attributes to air pollution transported into Maryland from states west of the Maryland border. To address this issue of out-of-state air pollution impacting Marylanders, Maryland is pushing the EPA to require large coal-fired power plants in other states to reduce their emissions through legal means provided under the federal Clean Air Act. Maryland also continues to work with other states on efforts to reduce the amount of pollution that blows upwind from other states, which impacts Maryland’s ozone performance.<sup>56</sup>

**Indicator 5.56: Number of children under 6 years of age with elevated blood lead levels (>5ug/dl)**

The major source of child exposure to lead is paint dust from deteriorated lead paint or from home renovation. Elevated blood lead levels are associated with a number of detrimental effects including behavioral and neuro-developmental effects in childhood such as learning and behavioral problems and lowered intelligence, and seizures and death depending on the levels of blood lead. The number of children with elevated blood lead levels (above 5 ug/dl) declined sharply from report year 2017 to 2021, dropping by 29.5% (Exhibit 5.12).

*Exhibit 5.12 Number of Children Under 6 Years of Age with Elevated Blood Lead Levels (>5ug/dl), Report Years 2017 – 2021*



The number of children with elevated blood levels is at its lowest level since data began being collected in 1993. The decline in blood lead levels is expected to continue due to the multitude of intervention strategies as well as the gradual reduction in the number of residences with lead paint hazards.

<sup>56</sup> MDE. Maryland Clean Air 2019 Progress Report.

A primary prevention strategy that is responsible for much of the past decline in blood lead levels is the implementation and enforcement of Maryland’s “Reduction of Lead Risk in Housing” law.<sup>57</sup> A recent change in Maryland’s lead law - requiring the agency to notify parents, guardians and owners of properties where children who have elevated levels of lead reside – took effect in 2019.<sup>58</sup> Also part of the changes to Maryland’s lead laws, starting in 2020 children identified with blood levels of 5 micrograms per deciliter or more now receive case management.

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<sup>57</sup> Maryland Department of the Environment, Lead Poisoning Prevention Program Childhood Blood Lead Surveillance in Maryland, Annual Report 2019.

<sup>58</sup> Lead poisoning numbers in Maryland’s children continue to drop as new state law takes effect in October to accelerate the decline. Maryland Department of the Environment. October 2019.

## Performance Detail – Improved Quality of Life

### Key Performance Area 5 – Data by Report Year

Indicator	Agency/ Data Source	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	4 Year Change	Specific Target
<b>Education</b>								
5.1. Percent of students entering Kindergarten demonstrating Full Readiness on the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (AY 2017-2020) – <i>test new in 2015</i>	MSDE	45.2%	42.7%	45.0%	47.2%	46.7%	3.3%	Annual increase from 2015
5.2. AP Exams – Percent receiving grade 3, 4, or 5 (AY 2016 - 2020)	MSDE	62.0%	63.5%	65.4%	66.8%	69.4%	12.0%	Annual increase
5.3. Prekindergarten enrollment (AY 2016 - 2020)	MSDE	31,868	32,088	30,422	30,947	32,203	1.1%	N/A
5.4. High School Graduation Rate (AY 2015- 2019)	MSDE	86.98%	87.61%	87.67%	87.12%	86.86%	-0.1%	88.49% by 2020
5.5. Percent of children in grades 9 through 12 who drop out of school in an academic year (AY 2015 - 2019)	MSDE	8.08%	7.97%	8.21%	8.38%	8.42%	4.2%	N/A
5.6. Number of teachers with National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Certification (AY 2016 - 2020)	MSDE	2,785	2,818	3,056	3,328*	3,328+	19.5%	N/A
5.7. Average percentage of schools surveyed by the Interagency Commission on School Construction in the past six years that received Superior, Good, or Adequate ratings for school maintenance (FY 2016- 2020)	IAC	97.2%	97.5%	96.5%	96.3%	96.4%	-0.8%	Annual increase
5.8. Six year graduation rate of first-time, full-time students at public four-year colleges and universities (all groups) (FY 2016 - 2020)	MHEC	66.1%	65.5%	67.0%	68.8%	71.1%	7.6%	67% by 2018
5.9. Percent of bachelor's degrees awarded to racial/ethnic minorities at public and private Maryland colleges and universities (FY 2016 - 2020)	MHEC	39.3%	40.0%	41.3%	42.8%	44.4%	12.9%	N/A

Indicator	Agency/ Data Source	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	4 Year Change	Specific Target
5.10. Four-year transfer and graduation rate of first-time community college students (FY 2016 - 2020)	MHEC	33.1%	35.8%	37.0%	38.8%	39.6%	19.8%	N/A
5.11. Percent of Maryland median family income required to cover tuition and fees at Maryland public four-year institutions (FY 2016 - 2020)	MHEC	11.5%	12.0%	11.5%	11.5%	11.7%	1.7%	Below 10%
5.12. Percent of Maryland median family income required to cover tuition and fees at Maryland community colleges (FY 2016 - 2020)	MHEC	6.0%	6.0%	5.5%	5.4%	5.6%	-6.7%	Below 4%
5.13. Number of graduates in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) from Maryland's public and private higher educational institutions (FY 2016 - 2020)	MHEC	15,039	15,923	16,378	18,076	18,780	24.9%	Above 13,000
5.14. Post-secondary degree attainment rate for Marylanders ages 25 to 64 (FY 2016 - 2020)	MHEC	45.2%	46.0%	47.3%	48.4%	49.5%	9.5%	N/A
<b>Public Safety</b>								
5.15. Homicide rate per 100,000 (FY 2016 - 2020)	State Police	9.2	9.6	9.7	9.3	9	-2.2%	N/A
5.16. Rate of homicide deaths of children and youth ages 0 to 19 (per 100,000 population) (CY 2015 - 2019)	Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services	4.9	5.5	4.8	3.9	5.0	2.0%	N/A
5.17. Traffic fatality rate per 100 million miles traveled (CY 2015 - 2019)	State Police	0.90909	0.88514	0.93001	0.86000	0.88300	-2.9%	N/A
5.18. Part I crime rate (offenses per 100,000 population) (CY 2015 - 2019)	State Police	2,652	2,801	2,762	2,518*	2,412	-9.0%	Below 4,800
5.19. Offenders under Department of Public Safety & Correctional Services jurisdiction (FY 2016 - FY 2020)	DPSCS	20,274	19,604	18,869	18,535	18,036	-11.0%	N/A
5.20. Percent of all cases released from supervision where the offender was employed at closing (FY 2016 - FY 2020)	DPSCS	32%	31%	32%	31%*	31%	-3.4%	At least 31%

Indicator	Agency/ Data Source	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	4 Year Change	Specific Target
5.21. Rate of referral for non-violent and violent felony offenses per 100,000 youth between ages 11 and 17 (CY 2015 - 2019)	DJS	927	931	825	727	640	-31.0%	N/A
5.22. Youth Recidivism: Percent of youth re-adjudicated within one year after release from all residential (FY 2015 – 2019, 2020 and 2021 est.)	DJS	20.3%	19.0%	19.2%	19.2%	19.2%	-5.4%	23.5%
<b>Health and Human Services</b>								
5.23. Percent of live births for which prenatal care was initiated during the first trimester (CY 2015-2019)	MDH	66.9%	67.8%	69.6%	70.0%*	73%	9.1%	At least 78% by CY 2021
5.24. Infant mortality rate for all races (per 1,000 live births) (CY 2015-2019)	MDH	6.7	6.5	6.5*	6.1*	5.9	-11.9%	No more than 5.7 by CY 2021
5.25. Maryland's average annual uninsured rate among the nonelderly (under age 65; estimated) (CY 2015-2019)	MDH	7.5%	7.5%	6.6%	7.0%	6.0%	-20%	N/A
5.26. Percent of two-year-old children with up-to-date immunization (Birth Year 2013-2017)**	CDC	72.5%	70%	73.9%	73.5%	72.3%	-0.3%	N/A
5.27. Cumulative percent change from the calendar year 2000 baseline for underage high school students smoking cigarettes (CY 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018) (biannual)	MDH	-49.89%	-53.7%	-62.2%	-64.4%	-66.5%	7.0%	N/A
5.28. Percent of public school students in grades nine through twelve who are current drinkers (AY 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019 (biannual)	CDC	34.8%	31.2%	26.1%	25.5%	24.1%	-34.9%	N/A
5.29. Overall cancer mortality rate per 100,000 persons (age adjusted to 2000 U.S. Standard Population) (CY 2015-2019)	MDH	155.0	156.6	151.5	150.0*	144.6	-6.7%	No more than 140.7 by CY 2021
5.30. Heart disease mortality rate for all races per 100,000 population (age adjusted) (CY 2015-2019)	MDH	169.3	164.5	164.8	154.3	156.8	-7.4%	No more than 142.4 by CY 2021

Indicator	Agency/ Data Source	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	4 Year Change	Specific Target
5.31. Rate of age adjusted new HIV diagnoses (per 100,000 population) (CY 2015 - 2019 estimated)	MDH	20.2	18.7	17.8*	17.4*	15.7	-22.3 %	N/A
5.32. Rate of primary/secondary syphilis incidence (cases per 100,000 population) (CY 2015-2019)	MDH	8.5	8.5	9.5	12.2	14.4	69.4%	N/A
5.33. Percent of children with no recurrence of maltreatment within 6 months of first occurrence (FY 2016 - 2020)	DHS	87.6%	90.1%	89.8%	90.2%	93.8%	7.1%	90.9% or more by FY 2020
5.34. Percent of related children and youth under age 18 whose families have incomes below the poverty level (estimated) (CY 2015-2019)	U.S. Census	12.9%	12.4%	11.7%	11.2%*	11.7%	-9.3%	N/A
5.35. Maryland prevalence of household-level very low food security (3 year average) (CY 2013-2015 to 2017-2019)	USDA	3.8%	3.9%	4.3%	5.2%	5.0%	31.6%	N/A
5.36. Rate of live births to adolescents between 15 and 19 years of age (per 1,000 women) (CY 2015-2019)	MDH	17.8	16.9	15.9	14.2	14.1	-20.8%	No more than 13 by CY 2021
5.37. Statewide percent of current child support paid (FFY 2016- FFY 2020)	DHS	68.98%	68.74%	68.73%	68.99%	68.85%	-0.2%	1% increase each year
5.38. Rate of children placed in out-of-home care (per 100,000 children) (2015 – 2019)	Children's Cab. Inter-agency Fund	7.5	5.3	6.7	7.1	7.8	3.6%	N/A
5.39. Percent increase in employment of adults at completion of substance abuse treatment (2016-2020)	MDH	31%	39%	36%	36%	36%+	16.5%	40% or more by FY 2020
5.40. Percent of Public Behavioral Health System (PBHS) service recipients who are readmitted to the same or different mental health inpatient treatment facility within 30 days of discharge (FY 2020)**	MDH	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	18.3%	N/A	N/A
5.41. Heroin overdose-related deaths in Maryland (CY 2015-2019)	MDH	748	1,212	1,078	830	726	-2.9%	N/A

Environment								
5.42. Chesapeake Bay Habitat Health Index-MD (CY 2016 - 2020)	UMCES EcoCheck	48%	50%	50%	40%	39%	-18.8%	N/A
5.43. Acres of submerged aquatic vegetation (CY 2014 - 2018)	DNR	53,783	29,277*	62,356	56,994*	39,151	-27.2%	114,034 acres of SAV
5.44. Female dredge survey index of stock size - crabs (2015 - 2019)**	DNR	20	26	17	20	14	-28.9%	N/A
5.45. Oyster biomass index (2015 - 2019)	DNR	1.8	1.4	1.4	1.8	1.7	-4.0%	10
5.46. Estimated nitrogen load to the Chesapeake Bay from Maryland (in million lbs.) (FY 2015 - 2019)	DNR	55.45	54.22	52.75	52.50	50.00	-9.8%	45.48
5.47. Acres of cover crops planted (CY 2015 - 2019)	MDA	499,531	558,918	359,873	359,702	490,000	-1.9%	N/A
5.48. Waters impaired by nutrients per the Integrated Report of Surface Water Quality (2015 - 2019) – <i>note report done biannually</i>	MDE	7	7	8	8	8	14.3%	N/A
5.49. Percent of Marylanders served by public water systems in significant compliance with all new and existing regulations (FY 2015 - 2019)	MDE	98%	99%	90%	92%	94%	-4.1%	At least 97%
5.50. 3 year average of days the 8 hour ozone standard was exceeded (CY 2015- 2019)	MDE	7	13	17	20	16	114.1%	0
5.51. Maryland's recycling rate (CY 2015- 2019)	MDE	42.9%	44.1%	44.7%	45.3%	45.9%	7.0%	N/A
5.52. Total acres preserved by all land preservation programs (CY 2015 - 2019)*	MDP	1,605,637	1,640,830	1,667,185	1,680,318	1,773,458	10.5%	N/A
5.53. Energy consumption by all State government facilities (millions of MMBTU's) (owned and leased) (CY 2015 - 2019)	DGS	11.54	11.40	11.77	11.67	11.70	1.4%	N/A
5.54. Maryland per capita electricity consumption in megawatt hours (CY 2014 - 2018)	MEA	11.0	10.7	10.5	10.7	10.5	-4.3%	N/A
5.55. Percent of vehicles registered in the State that are alternative fuel, electric or hybrid-electric (FY 2015 -2019)*	MVA	11.9%	11.9%	12.0%	13.0%	13.0%	9.2%	N/A

<b>5.56.</b> Number of children under 6 years of age with elevated blood lead levels (CY 2014 - 2018)	MDE	2,166	2,084	2,049*	1,825*	1,527	-29.5%	N/A
<b>5.57.</b> Maryland rapid transit trips (including Maryland Transit Administration, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, and Locally Operated Transit Systems) (thousands) (CY 2015 - 2019)	MDoT	263,771	248,281	237,881*	225,290	226,964	-14.0%	N/A

\* Numbers have been updated since last year's report.

\*\* New replacement measure for 2021 report year. Historical data reported if available.

+ Data was not available for 2021 report year.