

# Access to Care A Health Department Perspective

Presented to The Maryland Health Care Commission

By

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# Functions of a Local Health Department\*

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- Surveillance
- Community Health Policy Development
- Assurance of Care

\* Institute of Medicine – The Future of Public Health

# NACCHO – Operational Definition of a Public Health Department

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- Monitor health status and understand health issues facing a community.
- Engage the Community to identify and solve health problems
- Help people receive health services
- Develop public health policies and plans

# Local Health Department Role

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## Health Care Commission Grants improve access to Care

- Help evaluate and prioritize local proposals
- Give input on integration of specific projects into community health infrastructure
- Help to leverage other funds to address issue
- In some instances become a recipient of grant funds

# Local Success Stories

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- Medbank
- FQHC Start-Up in Garrett County
- “Something to Smile About” Dental Program
- Reach program

# Medbank

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- 1999 Health Care Foundation Grant – Pilot program in Western Maryland
- Garrett's Program integrated into Health Department
- Leverage corporate dollars through pharmaceutical companies indigent drug program
- More than 10-1 return on investment
- Link to additional local services

# Additional Services Provided to Garrett Medbank Recipients

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- Area Agency on Aging Senior Care
- Energy Assistance
- Outpatient Mental Health Services
- Advanced Directive forms/Counseling
- GCHD Breast & Cervical Cancer
- DSS Chore Service
- Home-delivered Meals Program
- Lions Club Eyeglass Assistance
- Hospital Charity Care Program
- DSS Medicaid
- Older Adult & Living at Home Waivers
- MD Pharmacy/MD Discount Program
- GCHD Home Health
- Medical Day Care
- Emergency Response Systems
- Food Stamps
- Low income Housing
- Medical Equipment
- GCHD Nutrition Consults
- GCHD Smoking Cessation Program
- Vocational Rehab/Job Retraining
- Private In-home Care
- Assisted Living
- DSS Emergency Funds
- Social Security Programs
- Community Organizations
- Dental Referrals
- American Cancer Society
- Senior Information/Insurance Counseling
- VA Referrals
- Transportation Assistance
- Wellness/Wellmobile Referrals
- Hospice of Garrett County

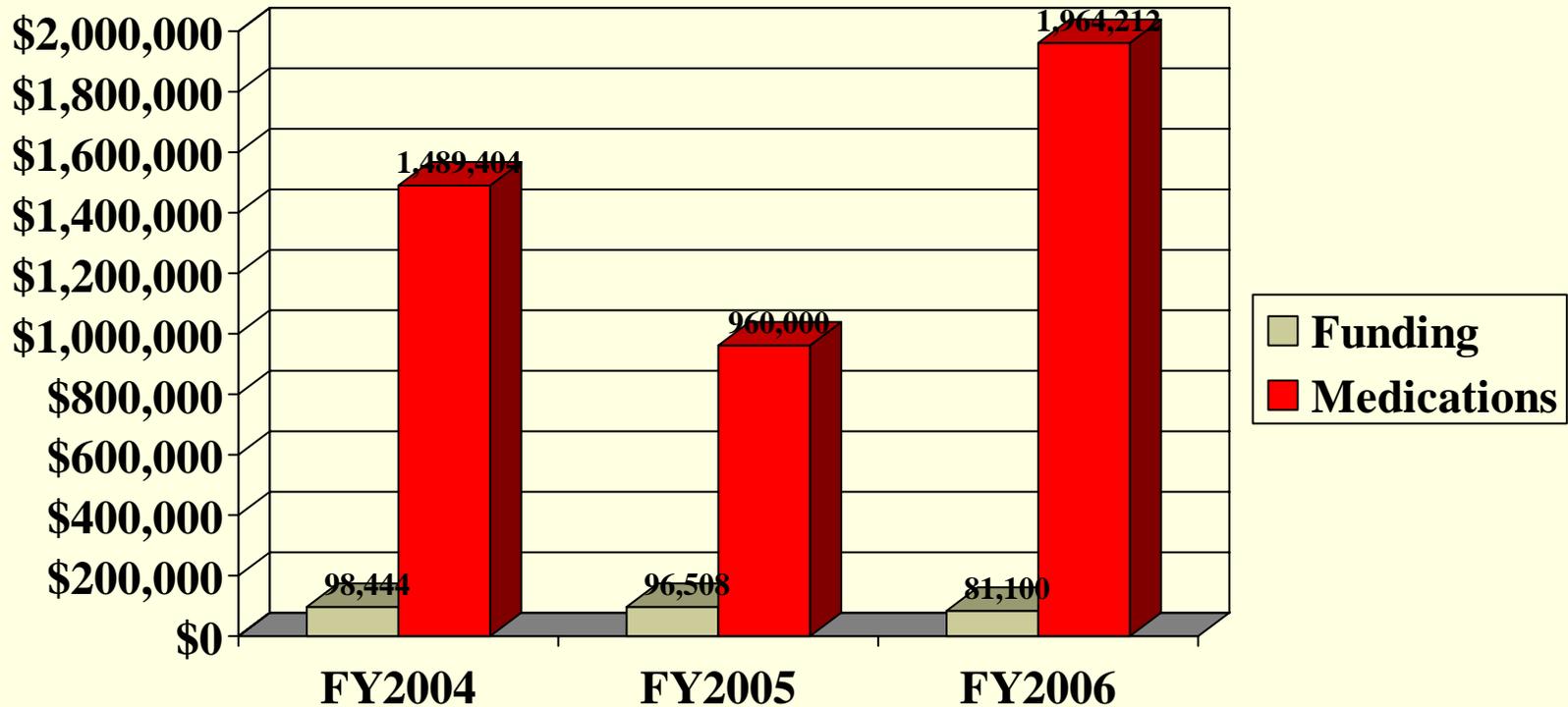
# Program Benefits FY05

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Number served		8,146
Program Costs	\$	2,157,527
■ State Funding		1,000,000
■ In-Kind Contributions		899,234
■ Health Care Foundation		258,293
Wholesale Value Prescriptions Received by Program Participants	\$	23,456,186

# Fiscal Funding vs. Return

## Garrett County



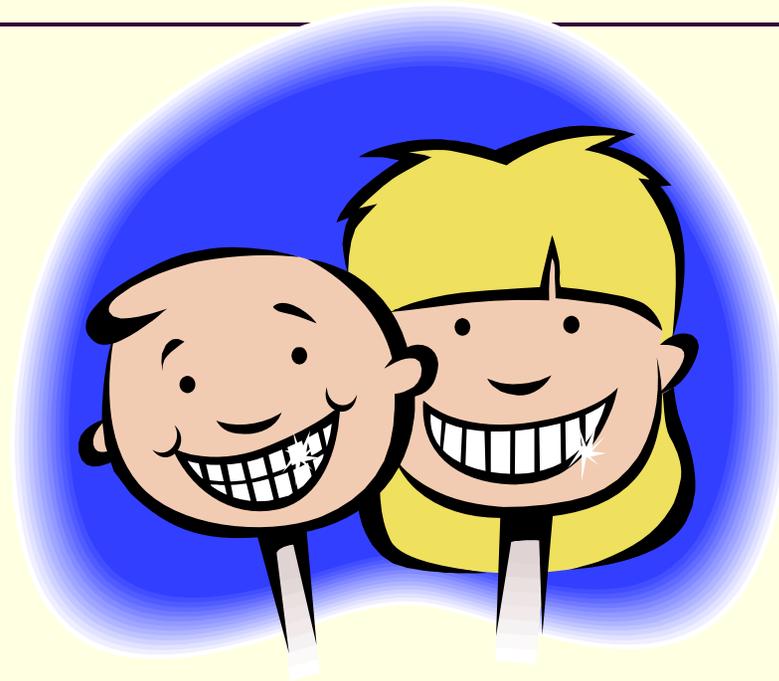
# FQHC New Access Point Startup – Garrett County

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- Outgrowth of GCHD partnering with Garrett Memorial Hospital on strategic planning issues
- Modification of existing non-profit corporation, Western Maryland Health Care Corporation, as entity to apply for Federal Grant
- Administrative support provided by Health Department and Hospital Staff during application process
- Supported by several small grants from Office of Rural Health and Primary Care
- Support for community fund raising activities

# “Something to Smile About”

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Overcoming barriers to dental care for pregnant women and children in Garrett County.

# Rural Issues – Oral Health

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- Lack of fluoridated community water supplies
- Higher rates of poverty
- Lower dental insurance rates
- Acute provider shortages
- Difficulty finding providers willing to treat medicaid patients
- Lack of adequate transportation – Private autos often the only source of travel

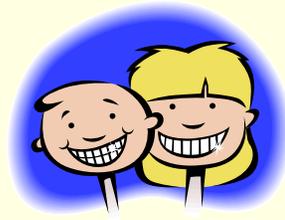
# Children's Oral Health

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- Tooth decay is single most common chronic childhood disease
  - 5x more common than asthma
- Over 50% of 5-9 year olds have at least one cavity or filling
- Poor children are twice as likely to have dental carries than their more affluent peers.
- Medicaid has been unable to fill the gap in providing dental care for poor children.
- Tobacco-related oral lesions are prevalent in adolescents who currently use spit tobacco

# Strategies

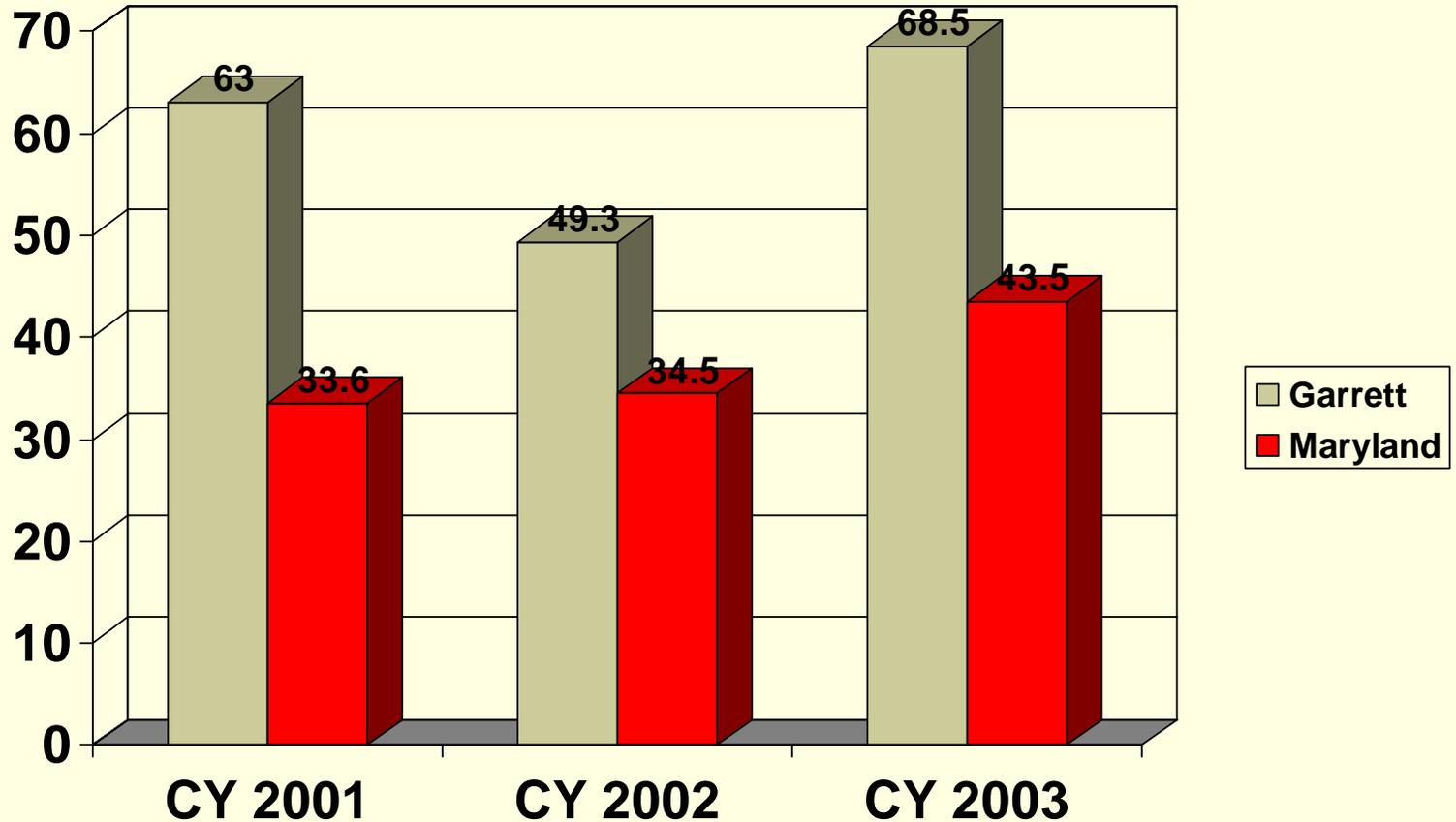
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- Bring private providers and public health staff into partnership to provide direct care
- Organize a sustainable dental care network to negotiate with MCOs and recruit needed dental providers to the area
- Develop a community education campaign to overcome barriers that have traditionally kept individuals from visiting the dentist
- Develop referral base from inter and intra agency partners
- Work with Town Councils and Mayors to increase the percentage of County residents served by fluoridated water supplies

# MCHP Dental Utilization Rates by County

## Children Age 4-20, Enrolled $\geq$ 320 days in a MCO



# REACH Program

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- Partnership between county health department and county medical society.
- Refers qualified low-income uninsured county residents to a network of volunteer providers who offer their services at greatly reduced fees.
- Enrolls participants in a prescription discount program through ScriptSave which provides prescription drugs at participating pharmacies at discounts averaging 21%.

# Donated Services through REACH

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- Since its inception in December 1999, volunteers have provided more than \$10 million in donated services to nearly 5,500.
- Staff have made 4,700 referrals to the network and REACH members have saved \$337,000 on prescription drugs.

# CHRC Grants

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Would make it possible for programs in local health departments similar to the “REACH” “Medbank”, and “Something to Smile About” programs to add infrastructure to initiate new services or expand existing networks to enroll additional Marylanders.

# Possible Program Initiatives

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- Adult Dental Service
- Prenatal Care
- Continued Support for Pharmacy Assistance Programs
- Obesity and It's Complications
- Chronic Disease Prevention Programs