

Maryland SHIP "Health Action" Newsletter

July 19, 2013

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Governor Martin O'Malley
Lt. Governor Anthony G. Brown
DHMH Secretary Josh Sharfstein

State and Local Officials Respond to Increase In Heroin Overdoses



Health and law enforcement officials across Maryland are taking steps to counter increase

in the number of heroin-related overdose deaths. According to a new report, the number of heroin-related overdose deaths in Maryland rose from 245 in 2011 to 378 in 2012 resulting in a 54 percent increase. These findings are consistent with an alert issued last fall by the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, which warned about the potential increased risk. Additional findings report that the spike in heroin overdoses in 2012 followed a 36 percent decline between 2007 and 2011. The department said the rise in heroin-related deaths was responsible for an overall increase in the number of fatal drug and alcohol related overdoses in the state, from 663 in 2011 to 761 in 2012. According to the report, the increase in 2012 deaths was among all demographic groups and all regions of the state. In order to counter future increases, local prevention plans are being developed to provide opportunities for cross-sector collaboration to address drug and alcohol overdoses.

Click [here](#) to access the July 2013 report.

Click [here](#) to read the entire press release.

View the [SHIP measure](#) and [tools](#) for reducing drug-induced deaths.

The 2013 National Prevention Council Annual Status Report Has Been Released

The 2013 Annual Status Report presents the National Prevention Council, the Health Promotion Council, and Public Health Council's progress in implementing the National Prevention Strategy. The National Prevention Strategy provides evidence-based recommendations for improving health and wellness and addressing leading causes of disability and death in the nation. In addition, the National Prevention Strategy identifies actions that the Federal government and its partners can take to reach the strategy's goal of "increasing the number of Americans who are healthy at every stage of life." The National Prevention Council's



actions support and reinforce the ongoing actions of Healthy People 2020, a 10-year set of science-based national health objectives developed through a multi-agency collaboration and intended to measure the impact of prevention activities.

Highlights of the 2013 report include the [Department of Defense's Healthy Base Initiative](#), the Department of Veterans Affairs innovations for improving access to healthy food, and a multi-department collaboration to prevent heart attacks and strokes. The report updates progress made toward the governmental and non-governmental actions highlighted in the 2012 Action Plan, and shows how federal departments are prioritizing prevention through innovative programs and proven initiatives.

Click [here](#) to access the full report.

View the [SHIP measure](#) and [tools](#) for increasing access to healthy food.

View the [SHIP measure](#) and [tools](#) for reducing deaths from heart disease.

View the [SHIP measure](#) and [tools](#) for reducing hypertension related emergency department visits.

County Health Rankings 2013 Update



Many factors drive health from how much people drink and smoke, to the type of health care they have, to numerous economic and environmental factors like employment and pollution. The recently published 2013 Health Outcomes of the County Health Rankings serves as a useful tool to improve numerous health indicators across the nation. The County Health Rankings show the rank of the health of nearly every county in the nation and illustrate that much of what affects health occurs outside of the doctor's office.

The Rankings help counties understand what influences the health and life expectancy of residents. The Rankings look at a variety of measures that affect health such as the rate of people dying before age 75, high school graduation rates, unemployment, limited access to healthy foods, air and water quality, income, and rates of smoking, obesity and teen births.

This resource focuses on aspects that are fundamentally important to health that are not always targeted. The health

indicators included in this analysis are considered to have equally important roles in determining community and population health. The goal is to get communities to focus on particular issues that specifically impact them. Residents can see how their communities compare to others across 25 metrics, and evaluate where they might need improvement. To see how your county is doing and what health indicators need additional targeted efforts, take a look at the County Health Rankings Web site.

Click [here](#) to access the County Health Rankings Web site.
Click [here](#) to view the SHIP County Health Profiles.

Webinar - Not in My Backyard: What Can Locals Do to Regulate Other Tobacco Products?



Public Health
Law Center

AT WILLIAM MITCHELL COLLEGE OF LAW

The Tobacco Control Legal Consortium will be hosting a webinar on July 23, 2013 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Central Time (9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Eastern Time) entitled "Not in My Backyard:

What Can Locals Do to Regulate Other Tobacco Products?". As a result of increased cigarette taxation and regulation, the tobacco industry and a growing number of consumers are turning to a variety of other tobacco products, including small flavored cigars, dissolvables, and electric cigarettes. This webinar will provide an overview of local and state policy options including youth access restrictions, smoke-free measures, sales restrictions, and pricing initiatives. Speakers will present examples of recent legislation, and examine industry practices and hot issues related to the regulation of these emerging tobacco products.

Click [here](#) for more information and to register.
View the [SHIP measure](#) and [tools](#) for reducing cigarette smoking among adults.
View the [SHIP measure](#) and [tools](#) for reducing tobacco use among adolescents.

News from the Office of Primary Care Access

Please Remember to Register for the Rural Action Assembly

The Maryland State Office of Rural Health (SORH), the Rural Maryland Council (RMC) and the Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA) are collaborating to host a day and a half conference focused on defining key issues for Maryland's rural communities. We hope that through the integration of key rural stakeholders, we will work towards creating sustainable rural communities and plan for the future and prosperity of rural Maryland. Registration includes breakfast and lunch both days

and a sit down dinner on Thursday as part of the Rural Impact Award Celebration (See Nomination information below). Registration is \$230 prior to August 16, 2013. August 17 - October 1, 2013 registration will be \$280.

Click [here](#) to register.

Remember to Submit your Nominations for the Rural Impact Awards

The Maryland Rural Health Association (MRHA), the Rural Maryland Council (RMC), and the State Office of Rural Health (SORH) will be recognizing individuals and organizations in rural communities for outstanding efforts that have impacted the economic development, sustainability, and health of their communities in rural Maryland at a Rural Impact Award Dinner the night of October 17th. Nominations are due by August 31, 2013.

Click [here](#) for more details about nominating a deserving program or individual.

Many State Public Health Departments Struggling to Fill Nursing Vacancies

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation funded the first comprehensive assessment on the nation's public health nursing workforce. The study finds that public health nurses report high job satisfaction and feel they are making a difference, but have concerns about compensation, job stability, and opportunities for promotion.

Click [here](#) to view the article.

HHS seeks applicants for HHSentrepreneurs Program

The Health and Human Services (HHS) is seeking innovators and entrepreneurs to apply for the HHSentrepreneurs Program. HHSentrepreneurs connects private sector innovators and entrepreneurs with teams of federal employees working on projects that address challenges in health, health care and human services. Applications are being accepted until Aug. 16, 2013.

Click [here](#) for more information and to apply.

RHC Program Holds Healthcare Connect Fund Training in Washington, DC

Join the Universal Service Administration Committee (USAC) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for a training about the Healthcare Connect Fund on Monday, September 23,



2013 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. to learn how individual health care providers can participate in the HCF Program. An additional training will be offered Tuesday, September 24, 2013 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. to learn about the consortium application process and how multiple HCPs can apply for HCF support as a consortium.

For more information, e-mail rhc-assist@usac.org.