

Howard County LHIC

Local Health Improvement Coalition



Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)

2026-2028 Strategic Plan



SUBMITTED BY:

Maura Rossman, MD, Health Officer, Howard County Health Department & Co-Chair, Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition

Jeanette T.M. Nazarian, MD, Vice President, Medical Affairs/Chief Medical Officer at Johns Hopkins Howard County Medical Center & Co-Chair, Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition

B. Reena Rambharat, MPH, MCHES®, Deputy Director, Bureau of Assessment, Planning & Community Engagement, Howard County Health Department

Maribet Rivera-Brute, MPH, Director, Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition

Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition 2026-2028 Strategic Action Plan

Introduction



The Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition (HCLHIC) was established in 2011 as part of Maryland's State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP). The coalition, comprising over 200 partner agencies and 600 individual members, aims to achieve health equity and reduce health disparities in Howard County. The 2026-2028 Strategic Action Plan outlines the coalition's priorities, goals, objectives, and activities for the next three years.

Mission and Vision

Mission: Howard County's Local Health Improvement Coalition works to achieve health equity and to identify and reduce health disparities for all in Howard County.

Vision: All community members in Howard County have an equitable opportunity to achieve health and wellness.

Strategic Priorities

The Strategic Plan Priorities include:

1. **Healthy Beginnings:** Improving maternal, infant, and family health through prevention and care.
2. **Healthy Living:** Promoting disease prevention through access to healthy foods, health education, physical activity, and healthcare.
3. **Healthy Minds:** Supporting mental wellness and behavioral health through social engagement.

Development Process

The goals and objectives were developed using the Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) 2.0 framework, incorporating data from various sources and community feedback. The process involved reviewing quantitative and qualitative data, developing problem statements, gathering community and partner input into root causes, and prioritizing solutions.

Implementation and Monitoring

The Strategic Plan goals will be achieved in collaboration with the four (4) Workgroups:

1. Growing Healthy Families Workgroup
2. Healthy Lifestyle Workgroup
3. Healthy Minds & Suicide Prevention Coalition
4. Community Health Worker Learning Collaborative

Each workgroup is led by two (2) co-chairs who serve as Subject Matter Experts to guide the implementation of the Strategic Plan activities in collaboration with partners and community members. Mid-point and end-point review of the Action Plan progress will be done and adjustments will be made accordingly to achieve the Coalition's goals.

Healthy Beginnings

Growing Healthy Families (GHF) Workgroup



Maternal Deaths[^]



- Overall: 36.2 pregnancy-related deaths per 100,000 live births
- 60% of the 10 maternal deaths between 2010 and 2022 were Black/African American women
- SHIP Target: 17.2 of fewer pregnancy-related deaths per 100,000 live births overall for Maryland by 2029

[^]Maryland Vital Statistics Administration (2010-2022)

Goals and Objectives

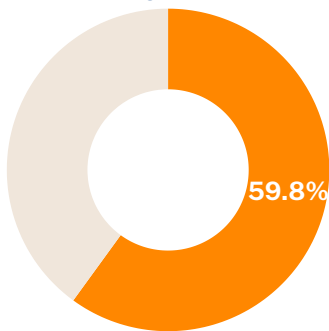
1. Improve health outcomes for Black/African American infants and mothers:
 - Increase awareness of educational resources and Doula services.
 - Promote culturally appropriate care for all women.
2. Enhance equitable access to healthcare:
 - Increase awareness of affordable healthcare coverage and transportation assistance.
 - Promote prenatal care and nutrition education, such as Black Maternal Health Week.
3. Engage community members in maternal health activities:
 - Increase awareness of healthcare resources.
 - Promote mental and physical health among women.

Healthy Living

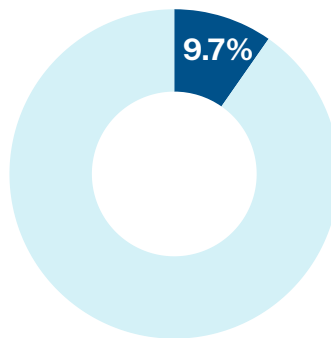
Healthy Lifestyle (HL) Workgroup



Adults: Overall Overweight and Obesity Prevalence*



Food Insecurity Prevalence**



Falls-Related Deaths^



10.2 per 100,000 in 2022, 3 year rate

SHIP Target: 8.3% Food Insecurity by 2029

*Maryland Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS, 2016-2022)

**American Community Survey (2022)

^Maryland Vital Statistics Administration (2010-2022)

Goals and Objectives:

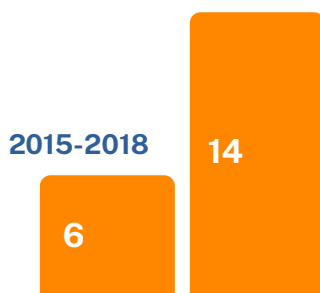
1. Advance healthy lifestyle behaviors:
 - Implement short healthy lifestyle messaging.
 - Promote chronic disease prevention, nutrition-focused wellness, and physical activity.
2. Increase awareness of nutritious food:
 - Promote access to affordable, nutritious food.
 - Support community gardening efforts.
3. Promote falls prevention opportunities:
 - Collaborate with organizations to promote falls prevention resources.
 - Increase knowledge about falls risk factors.

Healthy Minds

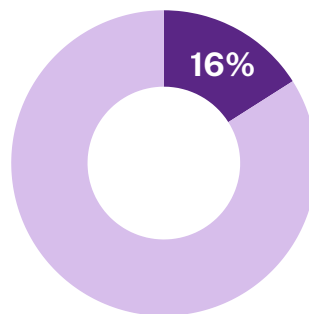
Healthy Minds & Suicide Prevention Coalition (HMSPC)



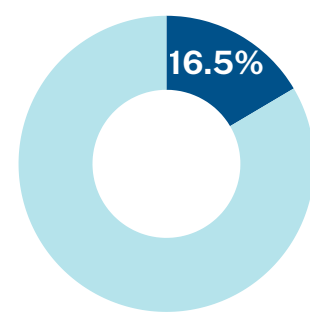
Firearms assault deaths*
2019-2022



Suicide in Youth^



Depression, Hopelessness in Adults^



*Center for Disease Control (CDC) Wonder data for 2023

^Chesapeake Regional Information System for our Patients (CRISP) Public Health Dashboard (2016-2024)

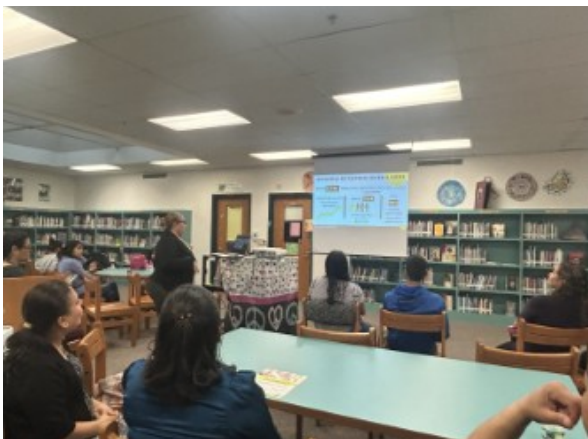
Goals and Objectives

1. Promote safe home practices and reduce stigma:
 - Create materials to make homes safer and prevent suicide.
 - Increase community engagement for mental health support.
2. Highlight community violence intervention programs:
 - Support initiatives to reduce firearm-related deaths.
 - Collaborate with law enforcement to address gun violence.
3. Promote behavioral health resources:
 - Collaborate with organizations to promote mental health and behavioral health resources.

Community Health Worker Learning Collaborative (CHWLC)

Goals and Objectives:

1. Create a centralized Community Health Worker (CHW) network:
 - Connect with CHWs to share resources and funding opportunities.
 - Enhance professional development and collaboration.
2. Elevate CHWs as trusted advocates:
 - Develop best practices for CHWs.
 - Establish a sustainable network connecting CHWs with community organizations.



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Local Health Improvement Coalition



We extend our sincere appreciation to the following staff members for their invaluable contributions to the development of the CHIP 2026–2028:

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- Bernadette Bindewald, MS, MPH
- K. Stephanie Foster
- Kendra Robinson
- Lois Jollenbeck, DrPH

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Contact us



<https://www.hclhic.org>



lhic@howardcountymd.gov



(410) 313-6204



Ascend One Building, 8930 Stanford Blvd,
Columbia, MD 21045

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