



# Baltimore City Health Department: Reproductive Rights Hearing

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Commissioner of Health*

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# Agenda

1. Data and Demographics
2. BCHD's Current Role as Referring Provider
  - a. Supports provided to residents
  - b. Supports provided to providers
3. Preparation for a potential influx of patients
4. Next Steps to support individuals accessing reproductive care and reproductive providers
5. Q and A
6. Reproductive Health Providers testimony
  - a. Planned Parenthood of Maryland
  - b. Baltimore Abortion Fund



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# Resident Demographics

## Population Landscape:

- ❖ Baltimore City: **135,356** women 15-44 yrs  
30% NH White 6% Hispanic  
60% NH Black 4% NH Other

## Abortion Prevalence:

- ❖ US: **13.5** abortions per 1000 women
- ❖ Maryland: **25.0** abortions per 1000 women
- ❖ Baltimore City: **estimated** between **975-2388\*** of pregnancies end in abortion

## Abortion Services:

- ❖ Maryland: **44 clinics** statewide
- ❖ Baltimore City: **2 clinics** in city & **3 clinics** in neighboring counties



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\*Estimate based on assumptions: 4%-10% of population pregnant using US and Baltimore fertility rates as lower/upper bounds & 18% of pregnancies end in abortion (Guttmacher: <https://www.guttmacher.org/fact-sheet/induced-abortion-united-states>)



# BCHD Current Clinical Role

- Title X Provider
  - 2 Clinics - Eastside and Westside
- Reproductive Health Services
  - Contraception (birth control) including IUDs and subdermal implant (Nexplanon)
  - Emergency contraception
  - Pregnancy testing and referrals
  - Breast exams for ages 20+
  - Pap test (cervical cancer screening) for ages 21+
  - STD screening and treatment
  - HIV testing and counseling
  - Substance use and mental health screenings and referrals
  - Individual, group, and family counseling
  - Health education and outreach
- Referral Source to Abortion Providers
- In addition to providing the aforementioned services, BCHD funds the following Title X providers in the City:
  - BCHD's School Health
  - BCHD's Needle Exchange Program
  - Baltimore Medical Systems
  - Johns Hopkins- Harriet Lane Adolescent Clinic
  - University of Maryland – Adolescent and Young Adult Center
  - Johns Hopkins-Rales School-based Health Center



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# BCHD Planning and Preparation: post-Roe

- Met with State and held several individual partner meetings with other abortion providers
- Developed preliminary profile of service location and utilization
- Developed a one-pager outlining the current situation
- Updated resources on website
- Refreshed five-year Youth Sexual Health Strategy in support of Reproductive Justice
- Continue to monitor the Abortion Care Access Act and training for new service providers



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# Next Steps

- Ensure Title X services continue to operate optimally
- Restart youth sexual health monthly coalition with refreshed strategy
- Coordinate with the State on the Abortion Clinical Care Training Program
- Review current referral processes to close any identified gaps
- Continue to ensure providers, city residents, and City agencies understand Maryland's abortion laws
- With our partners, continue to clarify abortion care service utilization and projection of need for services in Baltimore City (residents or out of state currently, etc.)
- Continue to focus on the larger picture of maternal health, ensuring abortion care services is understood within this larger context of need



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# Filling Gaps in Reproductive Health Services

- Implement refreshed youth sexual health strategy to establish a reproductive justice framework
- Ensure family planning services across the city are equitably distributed
- Expand and implement evidence-informed sexual health education to students in collaboration with City Schools
- Seek additional funding for B'more for Healthy Babies and Youth Sexual Health Strategy (UCHOOSE-Know What U Want) for protection of optimal maternal health in the preconception and postpartum periods (for teens and for adults)



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# Resources

If you or someone you know are looking for abortion services, consider these resources:

- **Abortion Finder:** <https://www.abortionfinder.org/>
- **Hey Jane:** <https://www.heyjane.co/>
- **Plan C Pill:** <https://www.plancpills.org/>
- **Repro Legal Hotline:** <https://www.reprolegalhelpline.org/>

For Maryland residents seeking financial support to access an abortion, consider the following resources:

- **Baltimore Abortion Fund:** <https://www.baltimoreabortionfund.org/>
- **Planned Parenthood of Maryland and the June Coleman Fund:** <https://www.plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-maryland/get-involvedlocally/donate/abortion-loan-fund>
- **National Network of Abortion Funds:** <https://abortionfunds.org/>



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# Partner/Provider Testimony

- What is Baltimore City currently experiencing in terms of an influx of patients?
- How are current residents being supported in seeking services?
- What safety measures are in place for current residents seeking abortions and possibly out of state individuals seeking abortions?
- What does long term planning look like as neighboring states revoke abortion rights?
- What additional support/advocacy is needed from City leadership?



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# Questions?

# Thank you for your time!



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