



LO25-0021: CITY'S RESPONSE TO THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC

April 15, 2026



Brandon M. Scott
Mayor

Agenda

1. Baltimore City Overdose Data Review
2. Overdose Response Strategic Plan Updates
3. Updates on Existing Programmatic Initiatives
4. New & Expanded Overdose Response Initiatives



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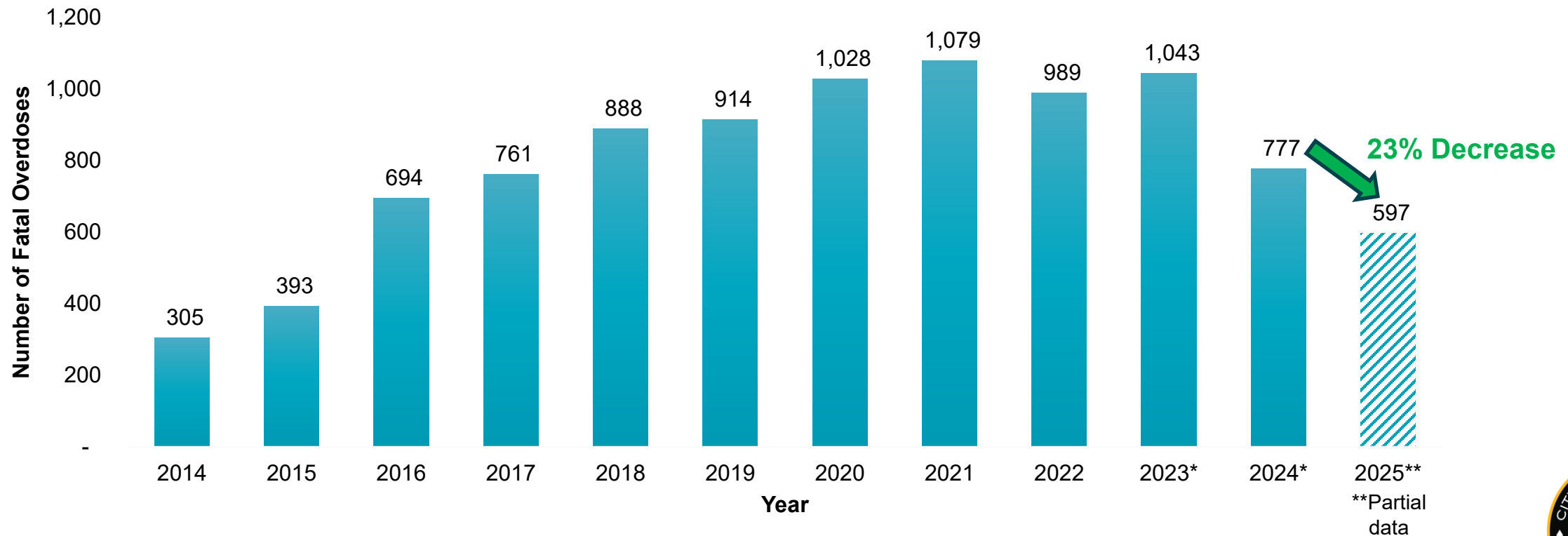
Baltimore City Overdose Data Review



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Fatal overdoses

Number of Overdose Deaths by Year in Baltimore City, 2014-2025**



Source: Maryland Department of Health Overdose Dashboard Link: <https://health.maryland.gov/dataoffice/Pages/mdh-dashboards.aspx>.

Overdose deaths include accidental or undetermined drug and alcohol-related intoxication deaths that occurred in Baltimore City.

*Data are preliminary and subject to change. ** Data are partial/incomplete for 2025. Updated on 3/30/2026.



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Black men ages 60+ are at highest risk

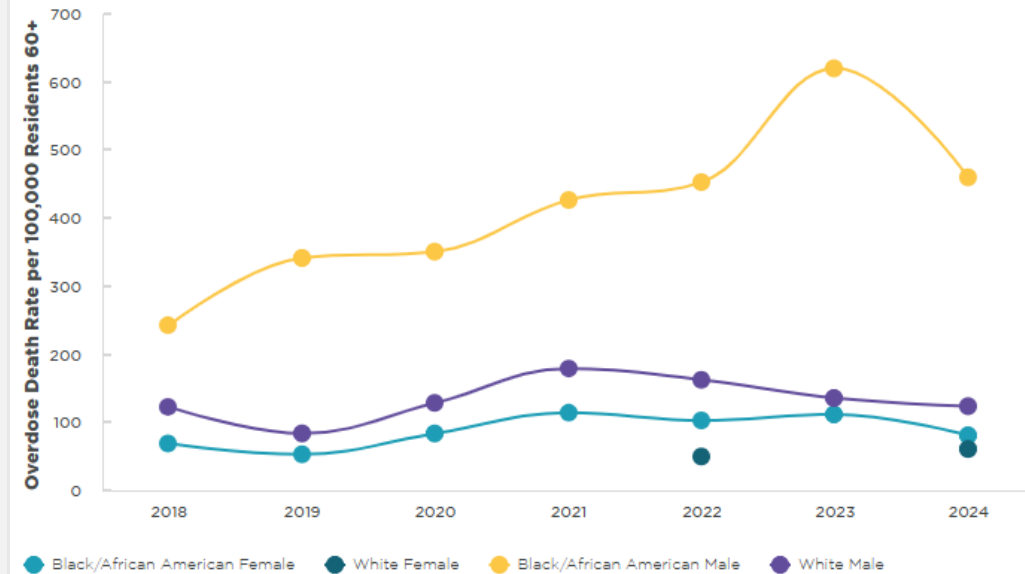
- Disparities exist in overdose deaths and in access to resources
- Highest Risk Group: older Black or African American men in Baltimore City ages 60 and older
- Graph shows fatal overdose rates among residents ages 60 and older by race and sex

Source: Baltimore City Overdose Needs Assessment Dashboard

Race and Sex: Residents Aged 60+

The overdose death rate among Black/African American male residents was the highest in Baltimore City between 2018-2024.

Overdose Death Rate per 100,000 Among Residents 60 and Older by Race, Sex, and Year, Baltimore City, 2018-2024



Source: CDC WONDER (See Data Details at bottom of page for Query Criteria)

Link: <https://wonder.cdc.gov/mcd.html>

Rates for all other race and ethnicity categories but Black or African American and White are suppressed by CDC because they meet criteria for confidentiality constraints to protect personal privacy.



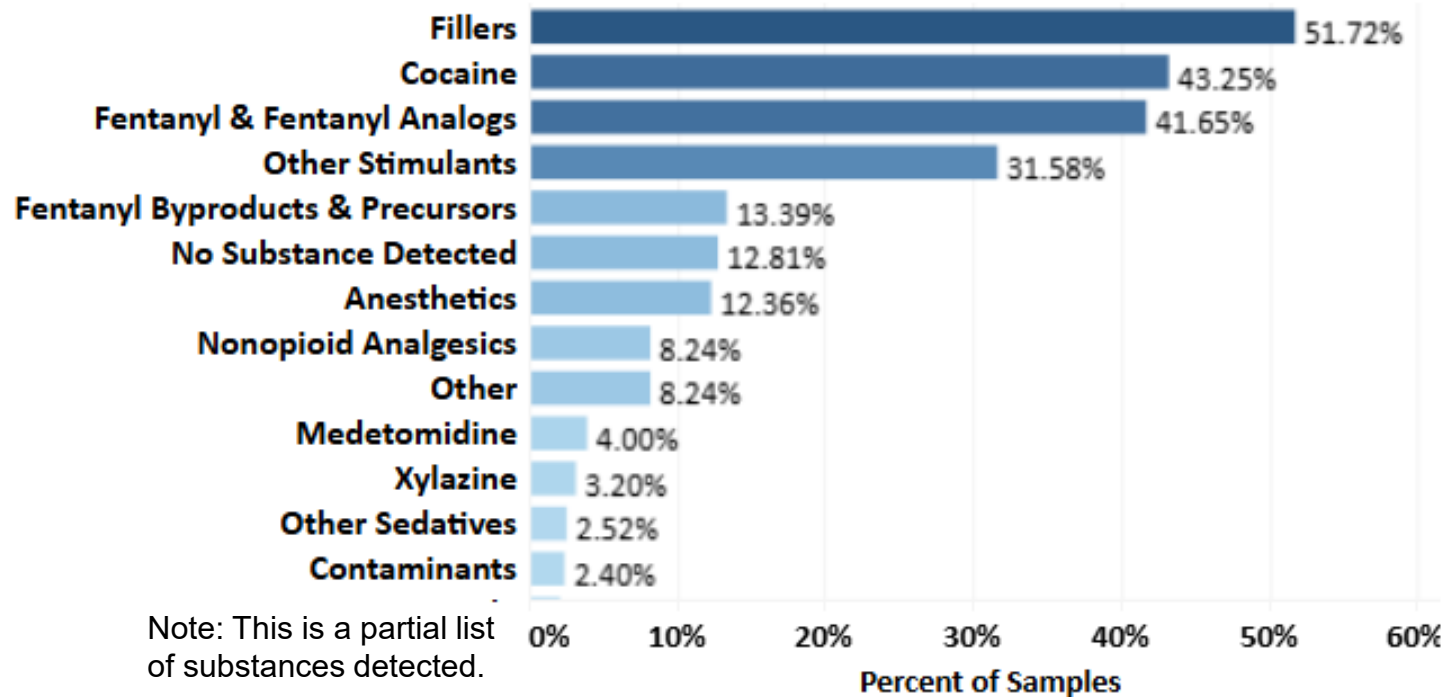
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What's in the drug supply

Baltimore City: Percent of Substance Detected

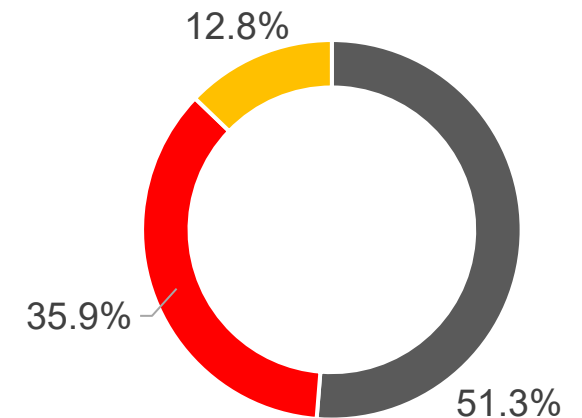
April 2025-March 2026* (partial data, n = 874 samples)

Percent of Substance Detected



Baltimore City: Percent of Samples That Included What Person Expected

- Some Expected Substances
- No Expected Substances
- All Expected Substances

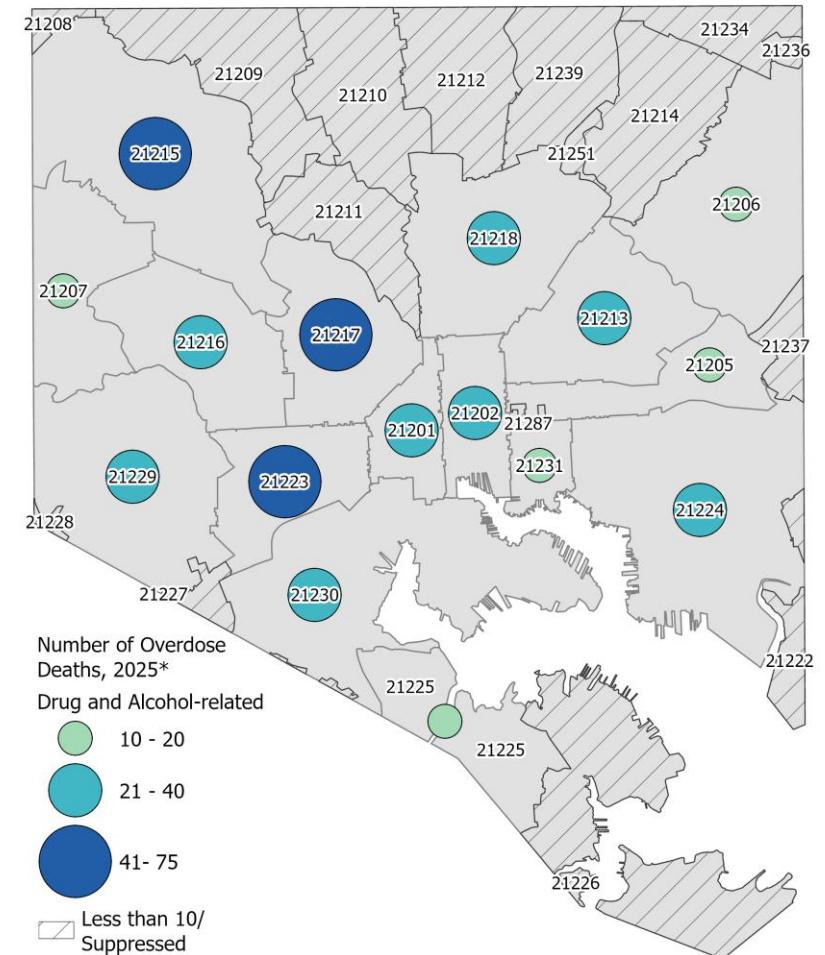


Overdose Needs Assessment Dashboard

- Highlights substance use and overdose trends in Baltimore City to help decision-makers, communities, and service providers identify needs and guide actions.
- Data is updated as new data is available with a full data review at least every two years, following the Mayor's Executive Order on Opioid Restitution Funds.

<https://dashboards.mysidewalk.com/baltimorecityoverdose/>

Baltimore City: Fatal Overdose Deaths by ZIP Code, 2025*



* Preliminary data for 2025. Source: Maryland Department of Health Overdose Dashboard. Only deaths that occurred in Baltimore City are included. The manner of death for included deaths are unintentional or undetermined. ZIP codes with less than 10 fatal overdose are suppressed. Created on 2/19/2026. Prepared by: Baltimore City Health Department.



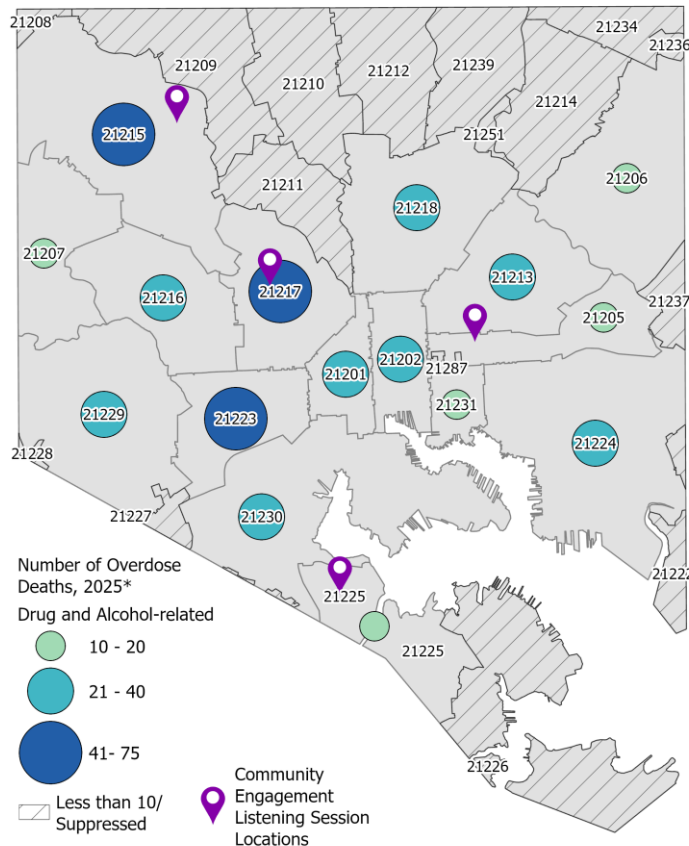
Overdose Response Strategic Plan Updates



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Finalized Overdose Response Strategic Plan for 2025-2027

Baltimore City: Fatal Overdose Deaths by ZIP Code, 2025*



* Preliminary data for 2025 as of 2/9/2026. Source: Maryland Department of Health Overdose Dashboard. Only deaths that occurred in Baltimore City are included. The manner of death for included deaths are unintentional or undetermined. ZIP codes with less than 10 fatal overdose are suppressed. Created on 4/7/2026. Prepared by: Baltimore City Health Department.

On March 19, Mayor Scott released the finalized Overdose Response Strategic Plan for 2025-2027

Incorporated feedback from:

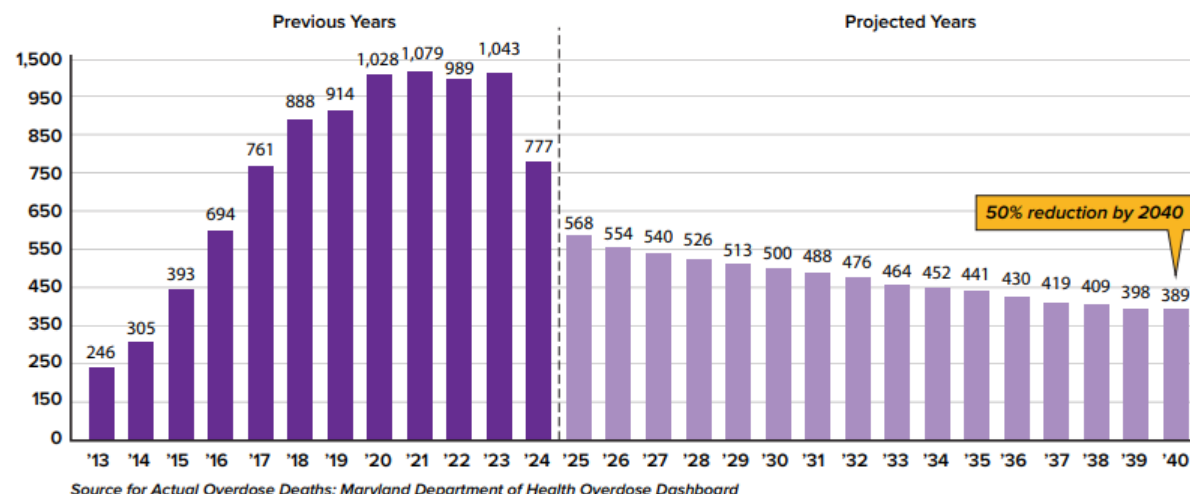
- Four community engagement listening sessions in neighborhoods disproportionately harmed by overdose crisis (Cherry Hill, Penn North, Park Heights, and East Baltimore)
- Resident responses to an online Community Input Form



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Finalized Overdose Response Strategic Plan for 2025-2027

Specifically, Baltimore City's Overdose Response aims to reduce overdose deaths by 50% by 2040.



Key changes:

- **New overarching goal of reducing fatal overdoses by 50% by 2040**
- Added new strategy focused on prevention through youth engagement and empowerment
- Rearranged certain strategies within priorities
- Use plain language

Specific resident feedback and corresponding changes in appendix



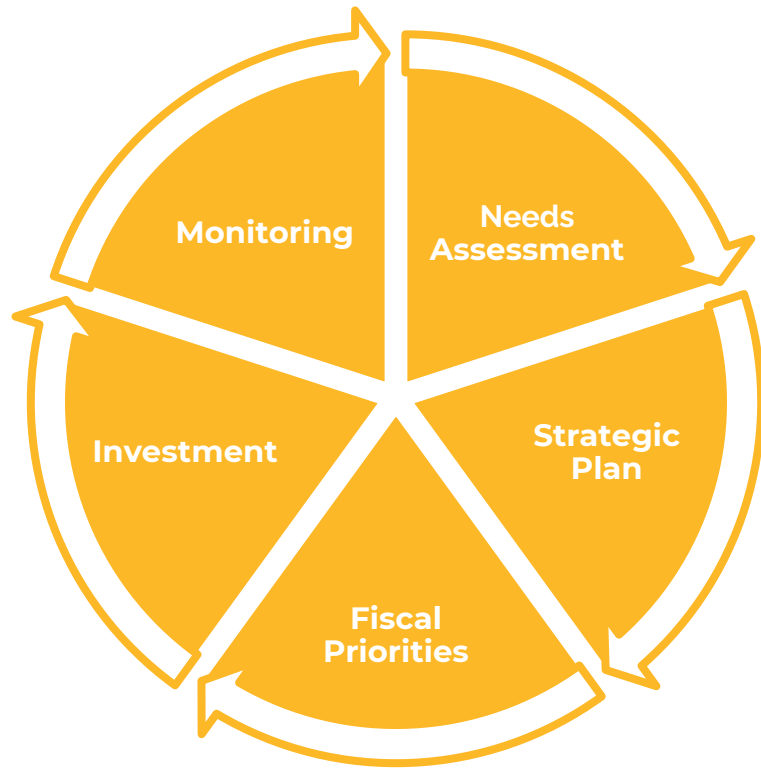
Implementation Update

- Strategic Plan will guide citywide overdose response efforts and identify fiscal priorities for continued investment of the Opioid Restitution Fund
- Implementation already in progress
 - **19** signed grant agreements with named organizations
 - **11** Opioid Restitution Fund community grants announced on February 26
 - Ongoing and new programs and projects by City agencies
 - Partnerships with State of Maryland



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Next Steps



- Ongoing implementation tracking and oversight
- Required by Executive Order to be updated every two years
- Planning for the next Overdose Response Needs Assessment and Strategic Plan has already begun



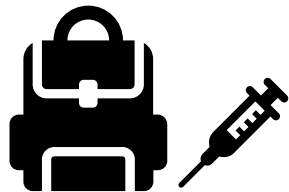


Updates on Existing Programmatic Initiatives



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BCHD's Behavioral Health Portfolio



Community Risk
Reduction
Services



Health Care on
the Spot



Kids Off Drugs



Levels of Care



Overdose
Response
Program



Overdose
Fatality Review
& Overdose
Prevention
Team



Harm Reduction
Vending
Machine



Safe Syringe
Drop Boxes



Prenatal to Child
Behavioral
Health Unit



Aging and
Community
Support Harm
Reduction
Program



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Community Risk Reduction Services

Program	Performance Measure	FY2025 July 2024- March 2025	FY2026 July 2025- March 2026*	Change (%)
Syringe Services Program	Number of patient encounters	6,348	6,248	-2%
	Number of sterile syringes, distributed	568,715	671,740	+18%
	Number of Fentanyl test strips	1,478	7,154	+384%
	Number of Xylazine test strips distributed	1,645	7,225	+339%
Rapid Analysis of Drugs	Number of samples submitted for testing	18	385	+2000%

* FY26 is partial data for the fiscal year, as of early April 2026



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Overdose Response Program

Performance Measure	FY2025 July 2024- March 2025	FY2026 July 2025- March 2026*	Change (%)
Number of <u>all</u> individuals trained to administer naloxone	4,570	10,708	+134%
Number of City employees trained	495	917	+85%

* The number of naloxone kits (2 doses) distributed is roughly the same as the number of individuals trained. FY26 is partial data for the fiscal year, as of early April 2026.



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Harm Reduction Vending Machine

- Approx. 700 registered users since September 2024
 - 158 new users in FY26
- Nearly 6,000 total kits distributed in FY26
+74% from FY25
- Most popular kits (FY26):
 - Personal Hygiene: 1,047 kits vended
 - Wound Care: 725 kits vended
 - Safe Injection: 626 kits vended



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Programming for special high-risk groups

Prenatal to Child Behavioral Health

- Number of clinical service encounters: ~300
- Number of naloxone kits distributed: 227
 - At least 50 kits went to women of reproductive age
- Number of coalition meetings: 7

Aging and Community Support Harm Reduction Program

- Number of naloxone kits distributed
 - To older adults: 228
 - To older adult-serving organizations: 324
- Community events attended: 18



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New & Expanded Overdose Response Initiatives



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Expansion Projects

- CRRS street-based outreach expanding reach with the addition of **2 new sprinter vans**
- CRRS mobile unit adding **reproductive health services, STI testing, wound care**
- Harm reduction vending machines expanding to **12 machines**, including one at City Hall
 - Adding **HIV and syphilis tests**
 - Creating volunteer program for **kit making**
 - Issuing RFP to allow **CBOs to apply as host sites**
- Sharps disposal drop boxes **expanding from 8 to 18** across priority communities
- Healthcare on the Spot adding **mental health services**



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Academic Detailing Program

- One on one educational outreach to prescribers and pharmacists (virtual and in-person)
- Aims to prevent opioid-related overdose deaths through
 - Improving opioid prescribing and dispensing practices
 - Increasing prescriptions for medication for opioid use disorder



Image credit: Baltimore Business Journal



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Addressing Drug Supply Risks

- Close collaboration with **State partners**
 - Amplifying State's ongoing threat alert regarding medetomidine in drug supply
 - Joint request for CDC epi-aid investigation
 - Strategic planning at March 10 W/B HIDTA and RAD Program briefing convened by Lieutenant Governor Miller
- Coordination with **local providers** to promote awareness
- \$250,000 ORF community grant awarded to **Check-It at Johns Hopkins University** to expand rapid response drug checking and follow-up services
 - Strategic Plan Activity 8a



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Expanding Naloxone Distribution

Naloxone ONEboxes on Public Transit

- Partnership with MTA and MPAC
- Installed and maintained in all 14 metro stations (132 doses available at any given time)
- \$25,000 grant from Bloomberg American Health Initiative for expansion to LightRail and buses

Naloxone Neighbors

- 5 neighborhoods engaged
- Onboarding for Captains currently taking place
- First community event slated for May 15

Naloxone in City Buildings

- Large "Naloxboxes" to be installed in 24 buildings
- Mini emergency boxes to be co-located with AEDs in 50 buildings

Strategic Plan Activity 1d



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City of Baltimore's Workplace Readiness



- Last August, the City of Baltimore received MDL's Silver-tier Recovery Friendly Workplace (RFW) designation
- City has been **upgraded to Platinum-tier RFW**
 - Overdose response training for employees + naloxone in the workplace
 - Policies and practices addressing hiring, retention, and support of employees with SUD
 - Participation in State's ongoing data collection efforts and monthly reporting
- Strategic Plan Activity 10c



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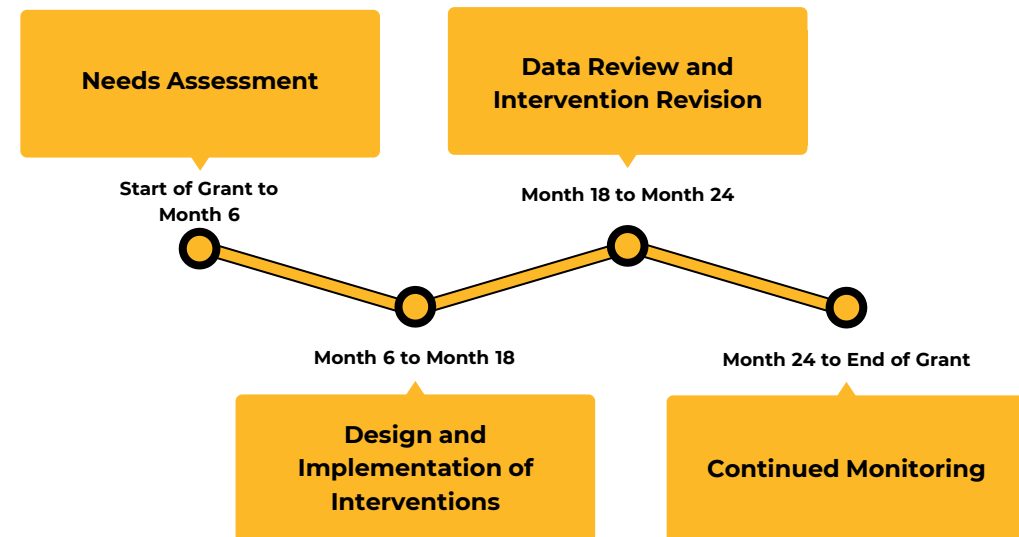
Partnership for Healthy Cities

- Baltimore was named to join Bloomberg Philanthropies' Partnership for Healthy Cities
- DM Dzirasa, Dr. Taylor, and Executive Director Whaley joined health officials from 70+ cities at annual summit in Rio de Janeiro



Partnership for Healthy Cities

- Baltimore received a **\$150,000 grant for overdose prevention** with a three-year implementation period
- BCMOOR, BCHD, and MOHS will collaborate to **support PWUD in accessing Baltimore City shelter services**
- Strategic Plan Activity 13c



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THANK YOU

Questions?

