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MAYOR

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From	Dr. Michelle Taylor, Commissioner of Health
Date	Dec 15, 2025
Subject	LO25-0021 - City's Response to the Opioid Crisis
Request Topic	Updates on MOUs with MDH

Background

At the legislative oversight hearing on LO25-0021 - City's Response to the Opioid Crisis, Councilmember Porter asked for an update on BCHD's MOUs with MDH.

Response

The Baltimore City Health Department receives numerous data from the Maryland Department of Health (MDH). This data sharing is subject to data use agreements (DUAs) between BCHD and MDH. BCHD is seeking broader permissions for data use—specifically, permission to publicly share certain data—and is in conversation with MDH about this.

Below is a list of some overdose and behavioral health-related data the agency receives from MDH on a recurring basis, along with associated challenges:

- **Drug Intoxication Death Data from MDH Vital Statistics Administration** – Restrictions: Cannot share publicly, per agreement BCHD staff are required to sign to access data. BCHD has been seeking permission to share aggregate summaries of these data publicly for years, such as
 - Overdose deaths by month looking at year over year percent change
 - Overdose deaths by quarter, looking at sequential percent change
 - Maps of overdose fatalities by CSA by count
 - Maps of overdose fatalities by CSA by rate
 - Overdose deaths involving emerging substances of concern, such as xylazine, carfentanil, and medetomidine
- **Death Certificate Data from MDH Vital Statistics Administration** – Restrictions: Cannot share publicly; BCHD staff are required to sign to access data.
- **Overdose Response Program (ORP) data** – Restrictions: Can only share BCHD's data publicly (BCHD is not the only ORP in Baltimore City). BCHD is seeking permission to share aggregate summaries of Baltimore City ORP data.
- **Rapid Analysis of Drugs (RAD) data** – Restrictions: Can only share BCHD's data publicly (as opposed to being able to share data from other programs).
- **Syringe Services Program (SSP) data** – Restrictions: Can only share BCHD's data publicly. There are currently eight community-based SSPs in addition to BCHD.
- **Maryland Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)** – Restrictions: BCHD must apply for this data in order to receive it, stating the use case in the application. Approval is subject to MDH review.
- **Maryland Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS)** – Restrictions: In order to receive this data, BCHD must apply for this data, stating the use case in the application. Approval is

subject to MDH review. DUA requires Maryland SUDORS to review/approve findings prior to public sharing.

The Health Commissioner has reached out to MDH leadership for an initial meeting to discuss the way forward on revisions of our current DUAs with MDH. Separate conversations with MDH leadership have been favorable.