



**Child Maltreatment Task Force Report
Cecil County Community Health Advisory Committee
January 15, 2015**

Progress:

The Child Maltreatment Task Force has evolved over the last 2.5 years in order to comply with the nine objectives set forth by the Local Health Improvement Plan.

- Initially, task force members voted on the most pressing of the nine objectives and formed work groups to explore promotional opportunities, provide in-home counseling and family intervention services, educate parents about child abuse prevention, and build a resource directory for the community.
- Momentum proved the most fruitful in the “educate parents about child abuse prevention” objective when the Judy Center brought the Strengthening Families program to Cecil County in 2014 (a 14-week program where families receive education on appropriate parenting and family activities). Three sites were established in 2014 and one in 2015. The program is free and each site can accommodate 10 families.
- In June 2014 the task force brought the Stewards of Children: Identifying Child Sexual Abuse training to Cecil County. Through a Cecil County Health Department grant, this event trained 45 community members on how to identify and report child sexual abuse. The training was facilitated by the Delaware YMCA.
- The Cecil Human Service Agency (Cecil County’s Local Management Board) released its Needs Assessment in 2014.
- In the summer/early fall 2014, the Cecil County court system received funding to begin a Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program, where community volunteers are trained to advocate on behalf of abused children during court proceedings. As of early 2015, additional funding has been secured and the program is in process of recruiting a director.
- Most recently, the task force created a subcommittee to develop and implement a child abuse prevention and awareness campaign to take place during a week in April 2015. Known as the Pinwheels for Prevention campaign, it will focus on raising awareness of child maltreatment and educating parents on positive parenting skills and other preventative factors.

Child Maltreatment Rate per 1,000 Children Under the Age of 18.			
	SHIP 2012 (2011)	SHIP 2013 (2012)	SHIP 2014 (2013)
Cecil County	18.4	20.1	16.5
Maryland	9.3	10.2	9.2

• HP 2020 Goal: 8.5 • MD 2014 Goal: 4.8

Data Source: Maryland Department of Human Resources (DHR)

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