



State Report

State: Maryland

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Projects/Issues Addressed This Year:

During the past year Maryland has faced many of the same issues as other states facing the challenges to the economy - cost in services continue to increase while budgets decrease with cuts and hiring freezes within the state. Additionally, more people are seeking public health services as jobs are being lost and family budgets tighten.

Between December, 2008 and June, 2009 all State employees will take 2 – 5 furlough days depending on salary. Many local health departments are facing staffing cutbacks including layoffs. Multiple programs are expecting deep funding cuts as the State crosses into FY '10 July 1.

On a positive note, an on-line training for Maryland's nurse dispensing program has been revised and expected to go live by June 2009. In Maryland, under a 1999 Declaratory Ruling by a joint commission including members from the Board of Pharmacy, Board of Physicians, Board of Nursing, Dept of Health and Mental Hygiene (State Health Dept), MD Council of Public Health Nursing Directors, and a community pharmacist, registered nurses who have met the training requirements and have been delegated dispensing authority by the authorized physician, may dispense medication and devices contained in the Committee on Nurse Dispensing's approved formulary ONLY to patients of the LHD and at LHD sites. Drugs and devices may be dispensed to LHD patients receiving services for communicable disease, alcohol and drug abuse, family planning, and/or reproductive health.

The CHC Coverage Award was presented to the Maryland Immunization Program in recognition of extraordinary accomplishment in achieving 84.6% coverage for the basic immunization series among two year old children. Maryland tied with New Hampshire for the highest rates in the U.S. according to the 2007-2008 National Immunization Survey.