CECIL HUMAN SERVICE AGENCY – CECIL COUNTY'S LOCAL MANAGEMENT BOARD

Cecil County Needs Assessment

FY 2014

C/O CECIL COUNTY DSS, 170 E. MAIN STREET, ELKTON, MARYLAND 21921

Introduction

In reviewing the following measures of child well-being for Cecil County, it becomes evident that while some measures are improving or maintaining, others are either trending in the wrong direction or staying at unacceptable levels. Further, there are two gaps in data currently being collected/reported at the local level. Cecil Human Service Agency will work with community partners to begin capturing this additional information.

In the Health theme, Cecil needs to augment its data sources to ascertain local immunization and hospitalization rates for children. While infant mortality rates are trending in the wrong direction, they are still lower than state rates and meet the State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) 2014 goal. Low birth weight babies for Cecil County have continued to trend slowly downward, and are lower than the state rates. This measure meets both SHIP 2014 and Healthy People 2020 goals. The rate of births to adolescents is trending correctly (lowering), but is still higher than state rates. This number is not meeting SHIP 2014 goals. Child death rates in Cecil, when extrapolated out per 100,000 youth, are consistently higher than state rates.

The Education theme has many measures of performance. The first is Kindergarten Readiness, and Cecil County has improved these numbers greatly in the last 10 years, up from 46% in 2002 to 74% in 2013 of those entering kindergarten rated as Fully Ready. This measure is not as high as the state rate, but has shown positive improvement. On the other end of the educational spectrum, 95% of Cecil's 12th graders have taken and met the requirements for the High School Assessment. This is higher than the state rate of 90%. Sixth, seventh and eighth grade Middle School Assessments have fluctuated very little, though Cecil rates generally stay marginally lower than state rates.

Habitual Truancy, defined as missing 20 or more days of school per year, is a serious issue for Cecil students. Even in elementary school the rates for Cecil County are consistently higher than state rates; this trend worsens in middle school (with rates nearly double the state rates) and continues in high school. Having said that, both middle school and high school habitual truancy rates have dropped a little in the last five years.

On the other hand, the adjusted cohort dropout rate is trending in the right direction in Cecil, and the county is nearly on par with the state rate as of 2013. Unfortunately, only 48% of Cecil's graduates have completed the requirements for entry into the University System of Maryland (the state rate is 61.2%). However, the percentage of Cecil's students who are

prepared for a career in technology is nearly double the state rate. At least 95% of Cecil's students graduate with a Diploma, while 5% or less graduate with a Certificate of Completion. Due to the size of the sample, it is impossible to be any more specific with those percentages.

The final educational standard which needs to be noted is Educational Attainment. While Cecil County and the state have comparable percentages of students earning diplomas or higher education (assessed at age 25 and older), only 20.4% of Cecil's adult population have attained Bachelor's degrees. The state rate is 36.9%.

Youth employment rates for those 16-19 and 20-24 are slightly higher in Cecil County than state and national rates. Notably, Cecil has higher rates of younger people (16-19 year olds) in the labor force and employed than either state or national rates. Although the disparity decreases in the 20-24 age group, Cecil's rates are still somewhat higher. It could be postulated this might be a reflection of Cecil's lower numbers of young people pursuing higher education and opting instead to work.

In the Community Theme, juvenile felony offenses are generally trending in the right direction in Cecil County. Burglary/breaking and entering, robbery, first degree assault and auto theft/unauthorized youth all seem to be trending well. Additionally, recidivism rates are trending well over the last two years, and are below the state rates.

Child maltreatment rates in Cecil are still notably higher than state rates when looking at Child Protective Service investigations. Cecil's rates have dropped somewhat in the last three years, but are still higher than four years ago. Cecil's rate in FY13 of 12.36 investigations per 1,000 population is nearly double the state rate of 6.15. Cecil is not on track to meet the state's goals in this area. Further, the percentage of children in Out-of-Home placements is currently trending in the wrong direction, after reaching a low in FY2011. While the state's percentage for this measure continues to decrease steadily, Cecil's rate is on the rise, and was higher than the state rate as of 2013.

In terms of stability, both hunger and homelessness rates have increased dramatically. The percentage of school children receiving Free and Reduced Meals (FARM) at school has increased by 13% in the last five years in Cecil County and by 9% across the state. The number of children being reported as homeless from Cecil County Public Schools has nearly quadrupled in the last five years, rising from 142 in 2008-09 to 552 in 2012-13. Point in Time (PIT) surveys of general population homelessness provide a somewhat incomplete picture of homelessness, but other resources may be made available in the near future.

MOST FAVORABLE INDICATORS: Low birth weight babies, High School Assessment success, adjusted cohort dropout rate, students prepared for a career in technology, youth employment rates and juvenile felony offenses.

LEAST FAVORABLE INDICATORS: Child death rates, habitual school truancy, high school seniors completing requirements for entry into the University System of Maryland, attainment of Bachelor's degrees among those 25 years and older, child maltreatment rates, hunger, and homelessness.

Table of Contents

Theme 1: Health

Result 1: Babies Born Healthy

Indicator 1: Infant Mortality

Infant Death Rate per 1,000 Live Births				
	Maryland %			**Cecil County %**
2009	7.2		2007-2009	**12(Count Only)**
2010	6.7		2008-2010	**15 (Count Only)**
2011	6.7		2009-2011	**6.0**

Rates not reported if number of deaths was less than 20.
Healthy People 2020 goal: 6.0/1,000 live births
MD 2014 SHIP goal: 6.6/ 1,000 live
births.

Source: Maryland DHMH Vital Statistics Administration
http://dhmh.maryland.gov/ship/SitePages/Home.aspx

Although the infant mortality death rate seems to be rising in Cecil County from 2007-2011, the figure is still lower than the State rate and also lower than the Healthy People 2020 goal.

Indicator 2: Low Birth Weight

The percentage of low birth weights for Cecil County has consistently dropped over the last four years from a high of 7.9% to the current level of 7.4%. The Maryland state average has fluctuated between 9.1-9.2% over the same time, while the top performing counties in the U.S. have maintained a low of 6.0%, with the exception of 2010 when the low was 6.9%.

		Cecil County	Error Margin	Top U.S Performers*	Maryland Average
		Percentage of Low Birth Weight Births			
2010	Low Birth Weight	**7.90%**	7.3-8.5%	6.90%	9.10%
2011	Low Birth Weight	**7.70%**	7.1-8.3%	6.00%	9.10%
2012	Low Birth Weight	**7.60%**	7.0-8.1%	6.00%	9.20%
2013	Low Birth Weight	**7.30%**	6.8-7.9%	6.00%	9.20%
2014	Low Birth Weight	**7.40%**	6.8-7.9%	6.00%	9.10%

* 90th percentile, i.e., only 10% of counties are better.
Source: 2014 County Health Rankings
Healthy People 2020 Goal 7.8%
MD SHIP 2014 Goal: 8.5%

Indicator 3: Births to Adolescents

		Cecil County	Error Margin	Top U.S Performers*	Maryland Average
2010	Teen birth rate	**42**	40-45	20	35
2011	Teen birth rate	**41**	38-43	22	34
2012	Teen birth rate	**41**	38-43	22	33
2013	Teen birth rate	**37**	34-39	21	32
2014	Teen birth rate	**36**	34-38	20	31

* 90th percentile, i.e., only 10% of counties are better.
MD 2014 Goal: 29.6

The teen birth rate for Cecil County is trending downward from its high of 42 teens per every 1,000 teen females in 2010 to the present level of 36 teens per every 1,000 females between ages 15-19. Between the years of 2010-2014, Cecil County reduced teen birth rates by 14%, but presently remains 14% higher than the state average and 44% higher than the top performing counties in the nation. The state of Maryland teen birth rate goal for 2014 is 29.6 teen births per every 1,000 females between the ages of 15-19.

Theme I: Health

Result 2: Healthy Children

Indicator 1: Immunizations

		Maryland
Percentage of Children (19-35 months old) who receive recommended vaccines		
2009	Vaccination Rate	78.0%
2010	Vaccination Rate	66.0%
2011	Vaccination Rate	78.0%

Source: Maryland DHMH Vital Statistics Administration
http://dhmh.maryland.gov/ship/SitePages/Home.aspx

The percentage of children statewide between the ages of 19-35 months receiving immunization vaccines increased by 12% from 2010-11 and stood at 78% as of 2011. There is no specific data available for Cecil County.

The Maryland goal for 2014 is 80%.

Indicator 2: Hospitalizations

We are unable to find local data for non-fatal hospitalizations for children at this time.

Indicator 3: Child Deaths

	Number of Deaths Among Children and Adolescents Ages 1-19	
	Cecil County	Maryland
2008	9	437
2009	8	351
2010	10	343
2011	10	357
2012	8	351

The number of deaths among children and adolescents between ages 1-19 dropped 20% from 2011-12 and as of 2012 stands at 8. These numbers are on par with the last 5 years, ranging with the number of deaths ranging from 8 to 10 per year since 2008.

Although data cannot be extrapolated to an exact rate because census population data counts children under 18 while the above death data counts children through 19, the following rates can be estimated using that slightly mismatched data:
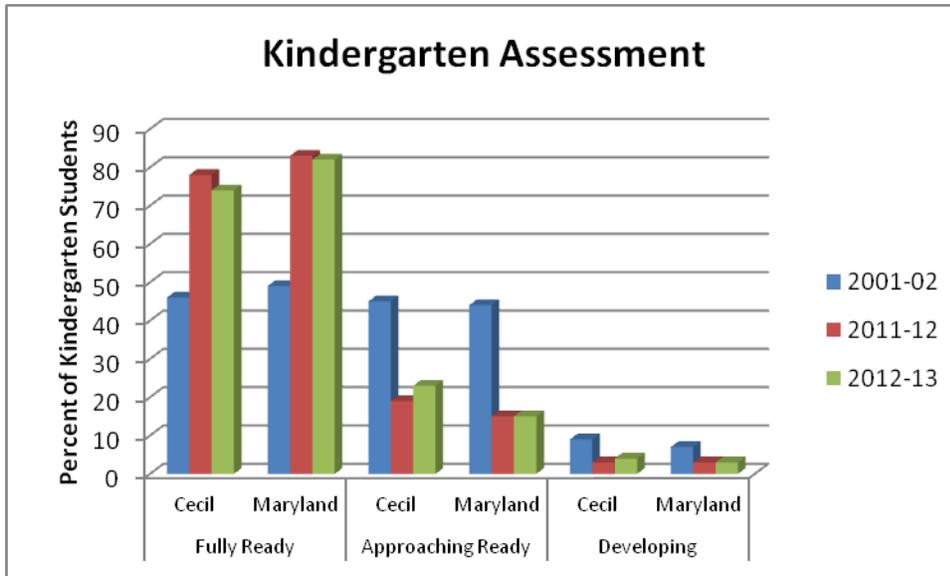
	Death Rate Among Children and Adolescents Ages 1-19, per 100,000 Population*	
	Cecil County	**Maryland**
2008	**37**	33
2009	**33**	27
2010	**41**	26
2011	**41**	27
2012	**33**	27

*Calculated using death data through age 19 and census data to age 18.

Theme 2: Education

Result 1: School Readiness

Indicator 1: Kindergarten Assessment

|	Fully Ready		Approaching Ready		Developing	
	Cecil	**Maryland**	**Cecil**	**Maryland**	**Cecil**	**Maryland**
2001-02	46	49	45	44	9	7
2011-12	78	83	19	15	3	3
2012-13	74	82	23	15	4	3

Great strides in kindergarten readiness have been achieved in the last ten years, both across the state and locally in Cecil County. As of 2013, Cecil's percentage of students in the 'fully ready' category is 8% lower than the state rate, and Cecil's percentage in the 'approaching ready' category is 8% higher. Rates for 'developing' students are very similar.

Source: MSDE, Maryland Model for School Readiness, 2012-2013 Kindergarten Assessment.

Theme 2: Education

Result 2: School Success

Indicator 1: Academic Performance – High School Assessment

High School Assessment Exam - 2013
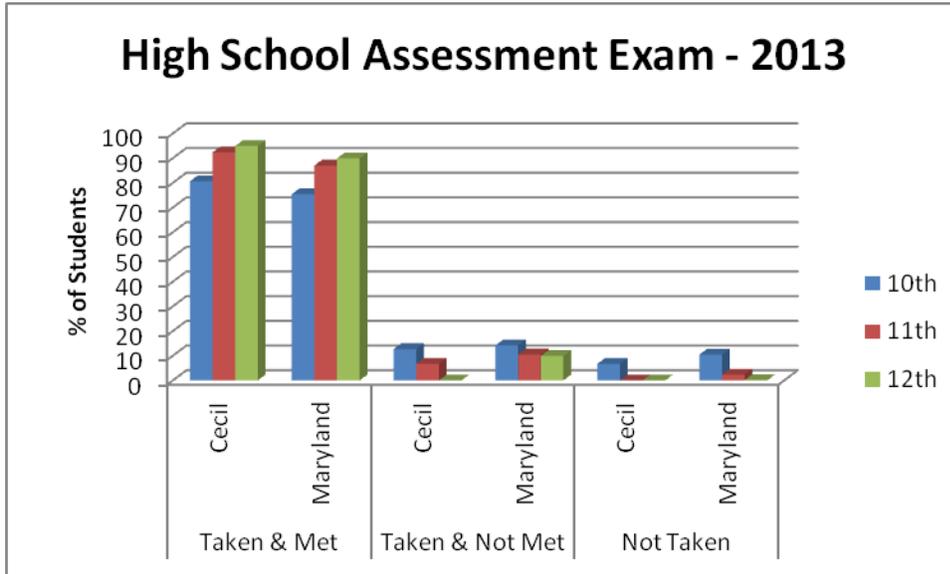
Percentage of Students Taking and Passing High School Assessment Exam

	Taken & Met		Taken & Not Met		Not Taken	
	Cecil	**Maryland**	**Cecil**	**Maryland**	**Cecil**	**Maryland**
10th	**80.6**	75.4	12.7	14.2	6.7	10.4
11th	**92.3**	87	6.7	10.5	*	2.3
12th	**94.9**	89.9	*	9.9	*	0.1

*Less than or equal to 5%.

The percentage of Cecil County students taking and passing the High School Assessment Test was higher than the state rate for grades 10, 11 and 12 in the 2013 school year.

Source: Maryland Report Card, HSA results 2013.

Indicator 2: Academic Performance – Middle School Assessment

6th Grade - MSA Performance

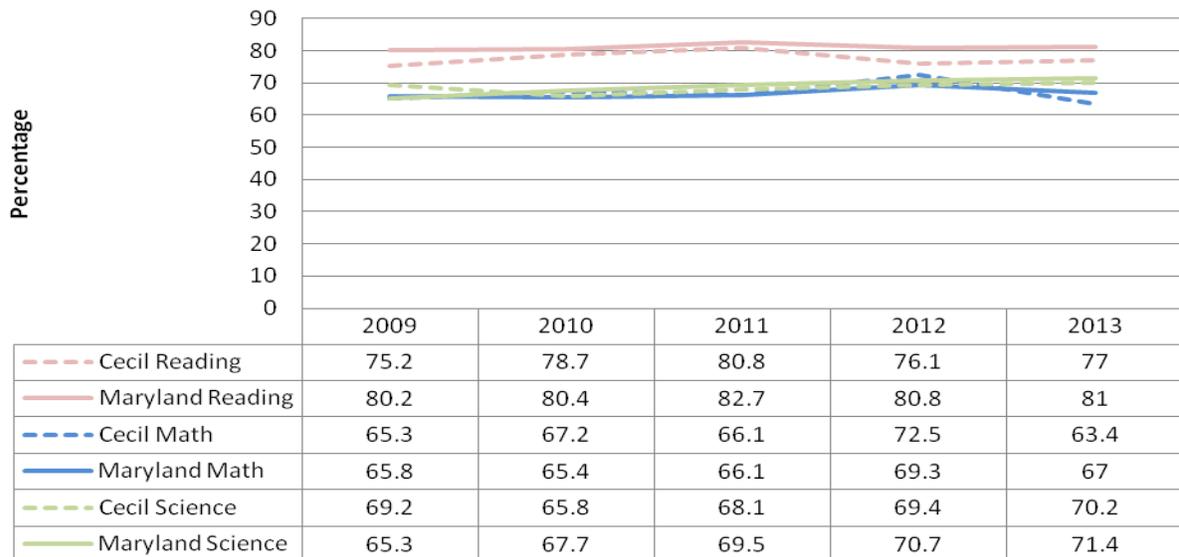|	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
- - - Cecil Reading	77.1	80.7	85.6	84.9	84.3
—— Maryland reading	83.4	86.1	83.6	84.5	84.1
- - - Cecil Math	69.9	77.7	79.1	83	69.6
—— Maryland Math	76	79.8	81	83	77.1
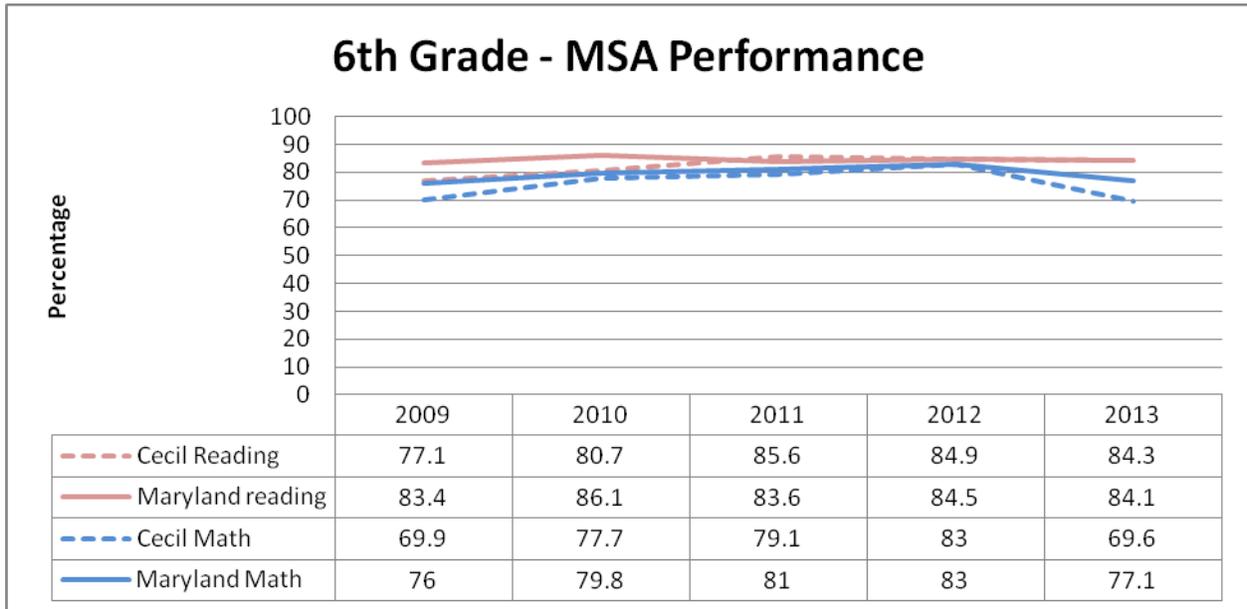
Reading levels for Cecil County 6th graders are on par with state levels and currently stand at 84.3% of students reaching basic, advanced or proficient levels, up from 77.1% in 2009. Math levels, however, are below that of other 6th graders in the state and stand at 69.6% as compared to the state levels of 77.1%. Both of these rates showed a significant drop in the year from 2012 to 2013, though rates had been similar (and higher) for the three previous years.

7th Grade - MSA Performance

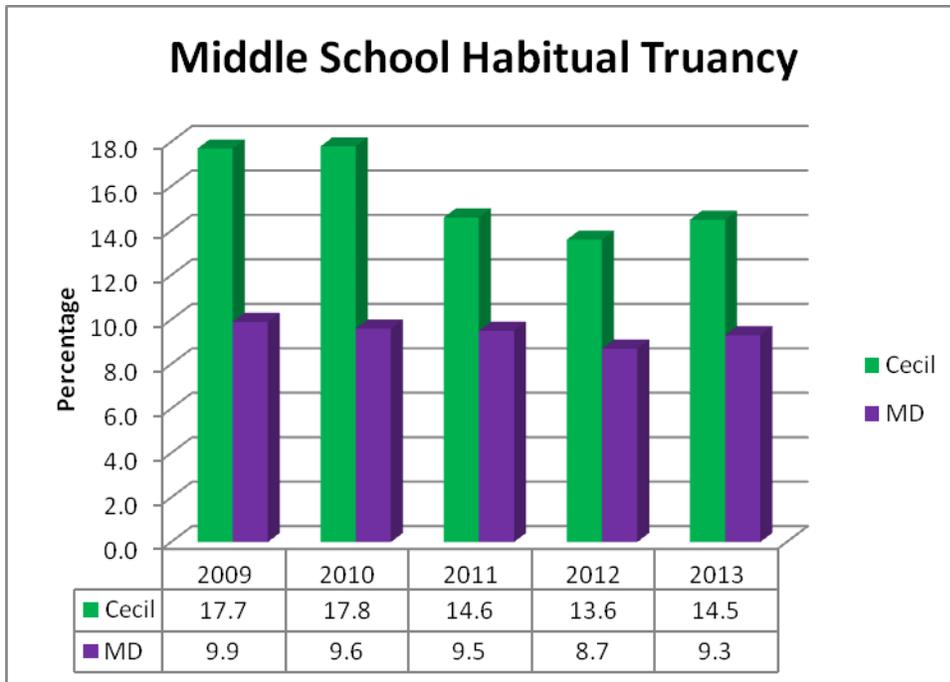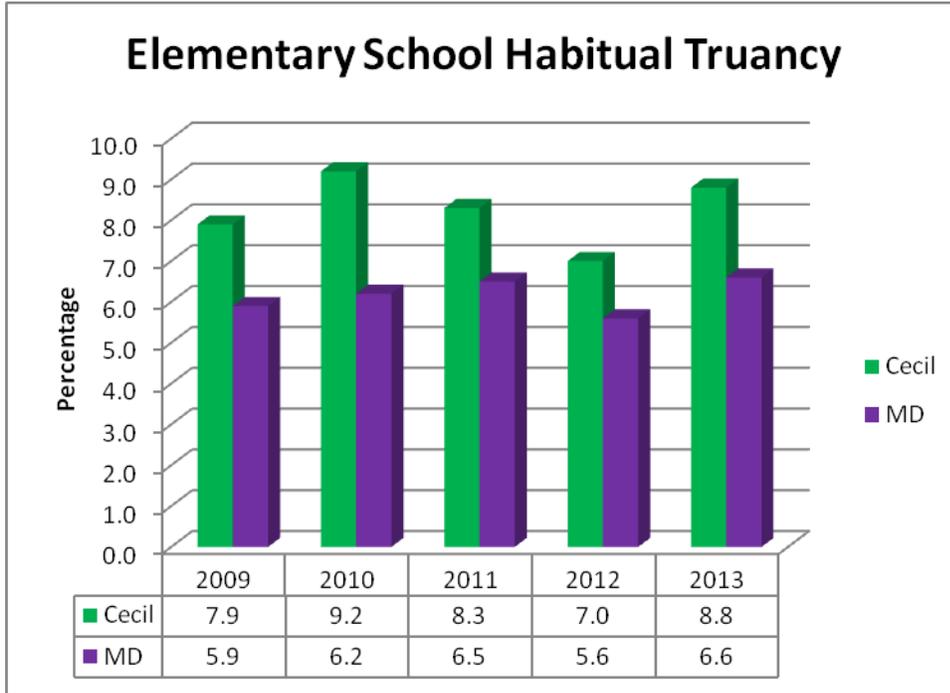|	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
---- Cecil Reading	80.2	78.8	78.9	76.2	81.1
—— Maryland Reading	81.7	81.8	84.1	81.2	85
---- Cecil Math	71.4	72.7	76.6	80.9	70.3
—— Maryland Math	72	72.6	74.3	76.3	72.6

7th grade MSA performance in Reading has increased 3.7% since 2010 and presently stands at 81.1%, which is 3.9% lower than the state reading levels. Performance in Math fell below the state levels by 2.3% in 2013 after consistently outperforming the state average from 2010-2012 and presently stands at 70.3%.
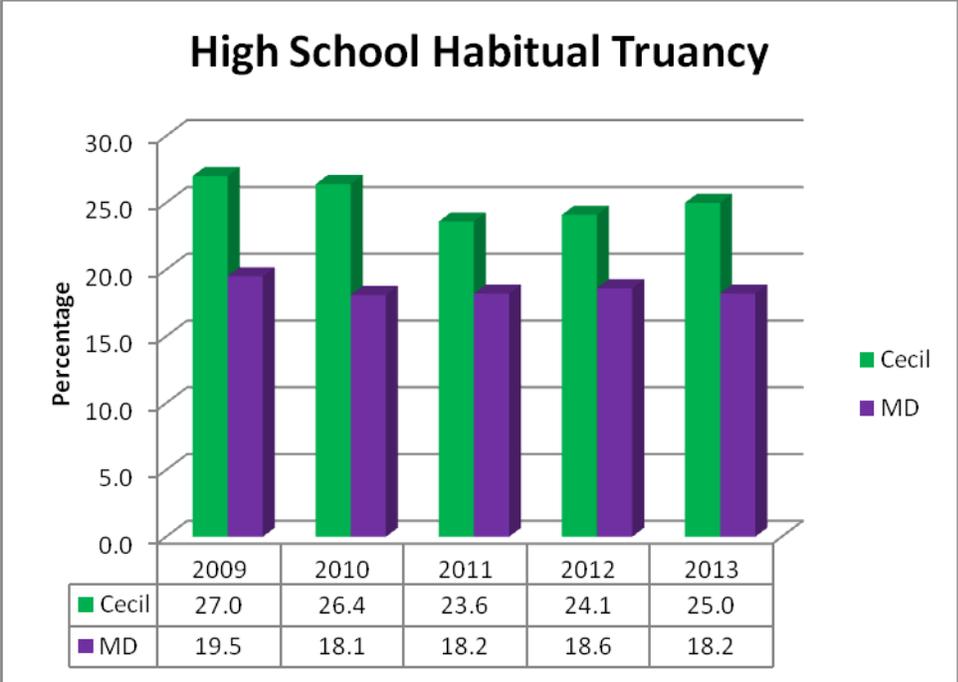
8th Grade - MSA Performance

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
---- Cecil Reading	75.2	78.7	80.8	76.1	77
—— Maryland Reading	80.2	80.4	82.7	80.8	81
---- Cecil Math	65.3	67.2	66.1	72.5	63.4
—— Maryland Math	65.8	65.4	66.1	69.3	67
---- Cecil Science	69.2	65.8	68.1	69.4	70.2
—— Maryland Science	65.3	67.7	69.5	70.7	71.4

8th grade performance captured Reading, Math, and Science proficiency with the county falling below state levels in all three subjects by 1-4%.

Indicator 3: Truancy

Elementary School Habitual Truancy

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Cecil	7.9	9.2	8.3	7.0	8.8
MD	5.9	6.2	6.5	5.6	6.6

Middle School Habitual Truancy

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Cecil	17.7	17.8	14.6	13.6	14.5
MD	9.9	9.6	9.5	8.7	9.3

High School Habitual Truancy

|	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
■ Cecil	27.0	26.4	23.6	24.1	25.0
■ MD	19.5	18.1	18.2	18.6	18.2

Habitual truancy rates, defined as students missing 20 or more days of school per year, are higher for Cecil County elementary, middle, *and* high school students than comparable State averages. Middle school habitual truant rates in Cecil County averaged 16% for 2009-2013, which is more closely comparable to the State high school average of 18% than the State middle school average of 9%. Cecil County's high school average for habitual truancy remains high at 25%. In spite of these poor comparisons to State rates, however, Cecil's habitual truancy rates are trending in the right direction, with middle school rates dropping by 3% and high school rates declining by 2%.
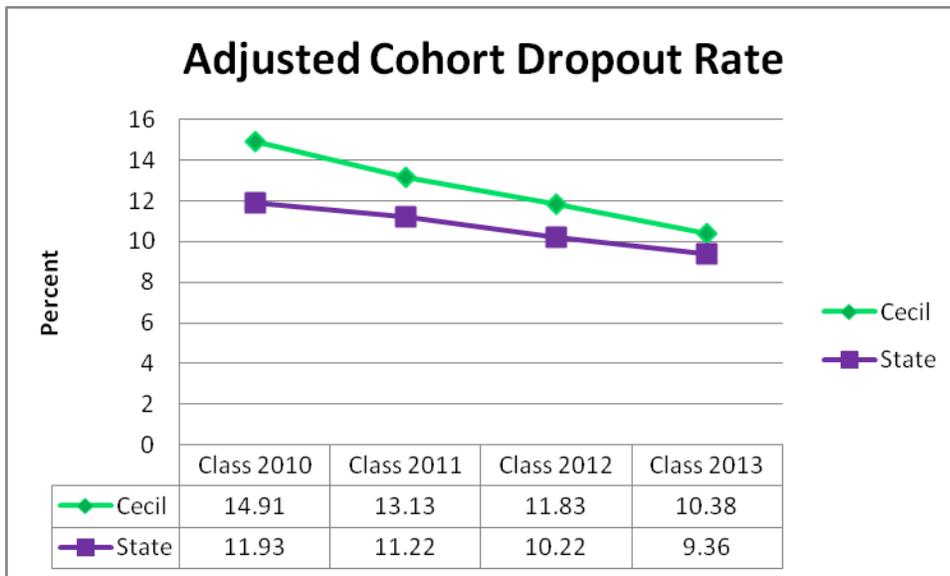
Theme 2: Education

Result 3: School Completion

Indicator 1: High School Dropout Rate

Dropout Rate

|	2009	2010	2011	2012*	2013*
Cecil	3.5	3.4	3.1	3.0	3.0
Maryland	2.8	2.5	3.2	3.5	3.0
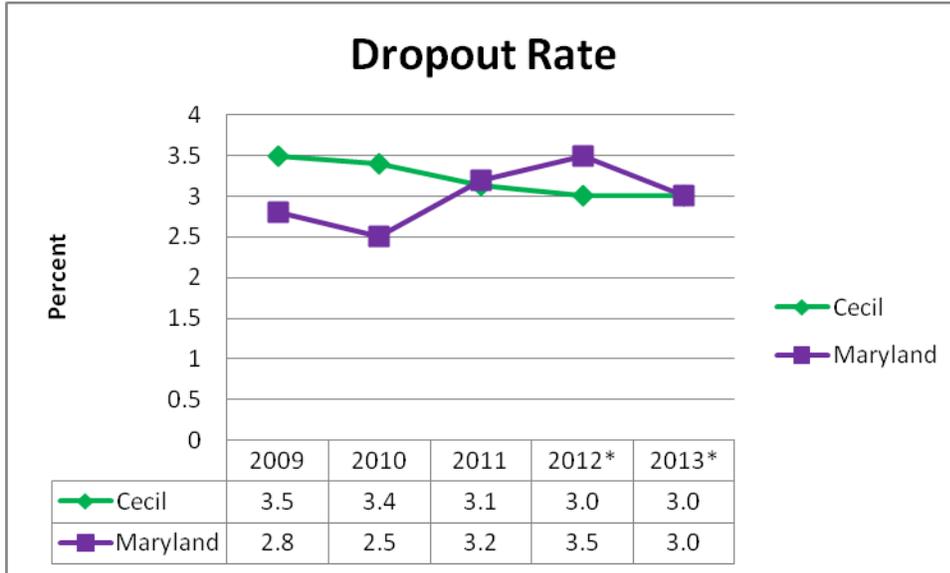
Dropout rates dropped from 2011-2013 for Cecil County, continuing the downward trend started in 2008. 2012 was the second consecutive year Cecil County fell below the State rate and stood at 3% or less in 2012 and 2013.

Adjusted Cohort Dropout Rate

	Class 2010	Class 2011	Class 2012	Class 2013
Cecil	14.91	13.13	11.83	10.38
State	11.93	11.22	10.22	9.36

The 4-year adjusted cohort dropout rate for Cecil County has declined from the class of 2010 at nearly 15%, to the class of 2011 at approximately 13%, to the class of 2012 at just under 12% and the class of 2013 at just over 10%. While this trend is moving in the right direction, the percentages are still higher than the State rates, which moved from 12% to 9% over the same time period. *(Source: Maryland State Department of Education, Maryland Report Card, 2013*

Indicator 2: High School Program Completion
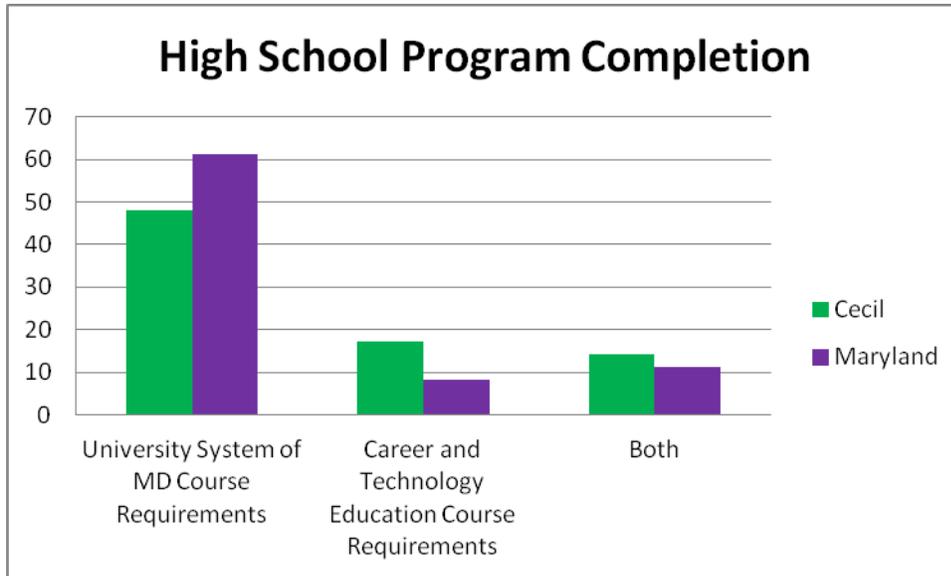
	Cecil	Maryland
University System of MD Course Requirements	**48**	61.2
Career and Technology Education Course Requirements	**17.1**	8.1
Both	**14.2**	11.1

The high school program completion rates represent the percentage of diploma-earning students who completed course requirements that would qualify them for admission to the University System of Maryland, completed an approved Career and Technology Education Program, or accomplished both. While Cecil's percentage of diploma graduates prepared to enter the University System of Maryland was significantly lower than the State's percentage (by 22%), the percentage of those completed Career and Technology Education was higher than the State's rate by 47%.

Indicator 3: Graduation of Students with Disabilities

Graduation of Students with Disabilities

|	Completion of Certificate Program	Completion of Diploma Program
Cecil	5	95
Maryland	1.4	98.6
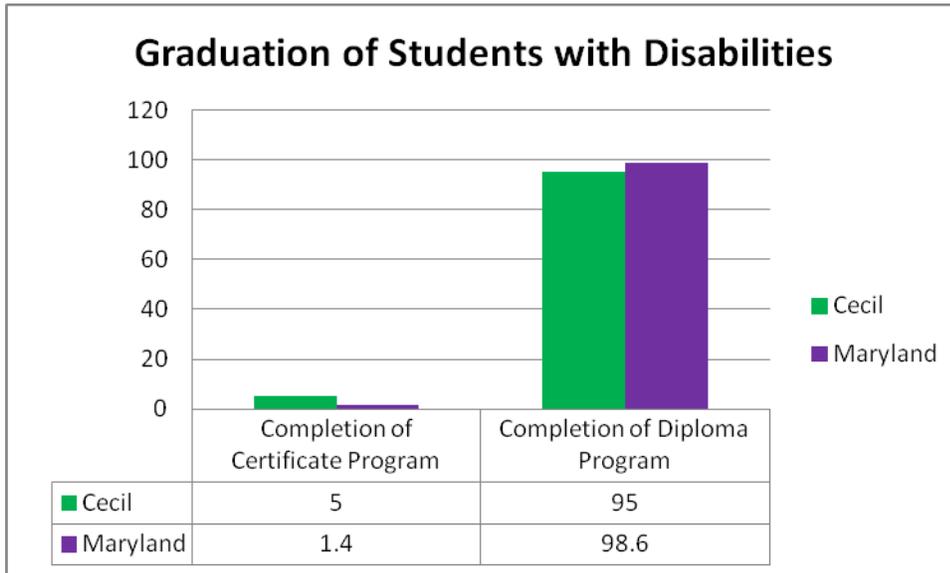
Cecil County students with disabilities graduated from certificate programs at a rate which appears to be higher than the State rate, with less than or equal to 5% of students in Cecil County completing the certificate program as compared to 1.4% of all Maryland graduates. Ninety-five or more percent (95%) of Cecil's students completed a diploma program, 3.6% below the state level of 98.6% of students. Due to the local sample size, more precise measures of Cecil's percentages cannot be determined.

Theme 2: Education

Result 4: School Transition

Indicator 1: Educational Attainment
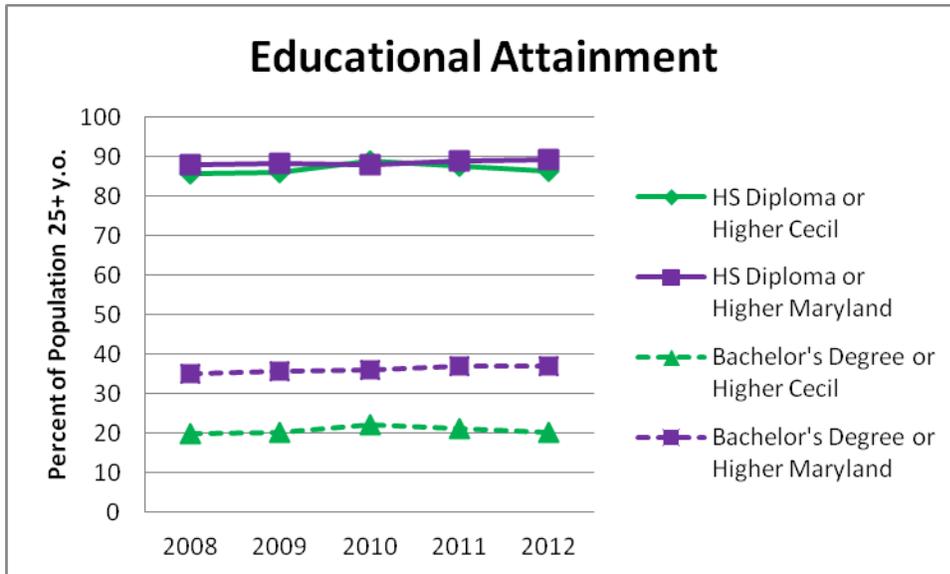
	HS Diploma or Higher		Bachelor's Degree or Higher	
	Cecil	Maryland	Cecil	Maryland
2008	85.6	88.0	**20.0**	35.2
2009	86.1	88.2	**20.4**	35.7
2010	88.9	88.1	**22.2**	36.1
2011	87.7	88.9	**21.2**	36.9
2012	86.4	89.1	**20.4**	36.9

Although Cecil's percentage of the population 25+ years of age with a high school diploma is comparable to the state rate, the percentage of the population in Cecil who continue their education through attainment of a Bachelor's degree is notably lower. The average for Cecil County is 20.84% while the average for the State of Maryland is 36.16.

Indicator 2: Youth Employment

Youth Employment 2008-2012
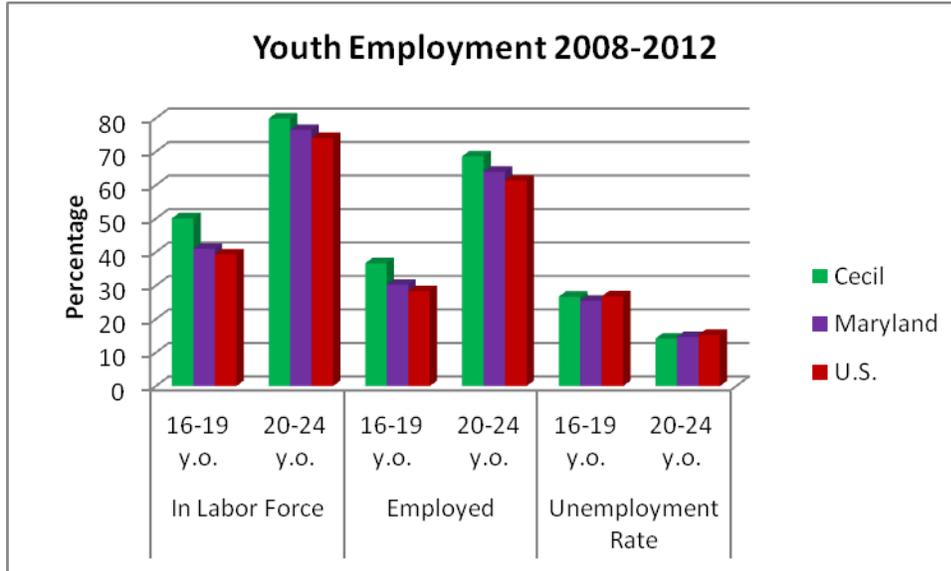
	In Labor Force		Employed		Unemployment Rate	
	16-19 y.o.	**20-24 y.o.**	**16-19 y.o.**	**20-24 y.o.**	**16-19 y.o.**	**20-24 y.o.**
Cecil	**50.1**	**79.9**	**36.7**	**68.6**	26.7	14.2
Maryland	41.0	76.5	30.3	64.0	25.5	14.7
U.S.	39.3	74.1	28.4	61.4	26.8	15.3

Five-year data indicates Cecil's rate of 16-19 year olds in the labor force is notably higher than rates in Maryland (by 10%) or the United States (by nearly 11%). The disparity decreases significantly for 20-24 year olds, with a difference of roughly 6%.
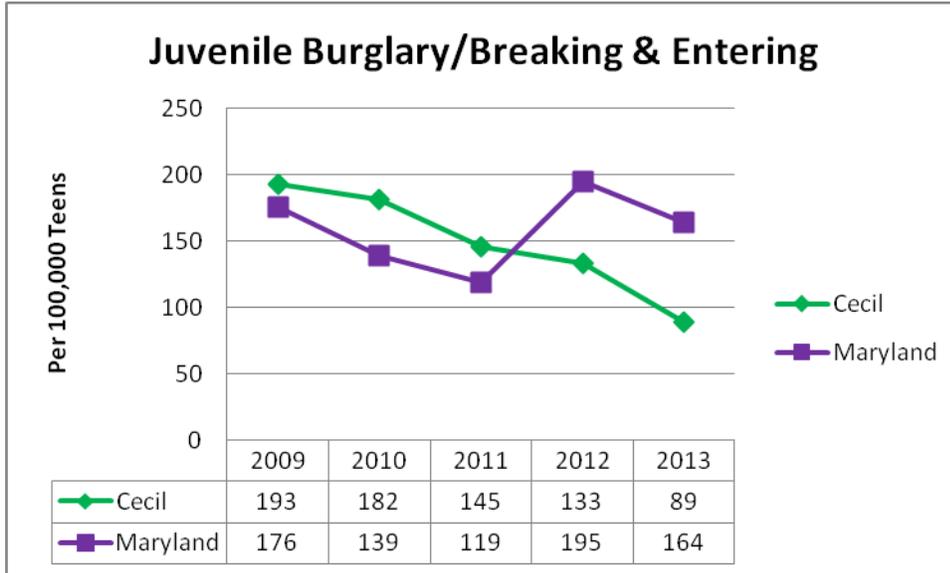
Further, the gap between employed Cecil 16-19 year olds and state and national rates is also notable. Employment rates for those youth in Cecil are 6.4% higher than Maryland rates and 8.3% higher than national rates. In this category the percentages do not change much based on age group – the 20-24 year olds in Cecil are employed at rates nearly 5% higher than the Maryland rate and 7% higher than the national rate.

Finally, unemployment rates for all youth 16-24 are relatively on par between Cecil County, the State of Maryland and the United States.
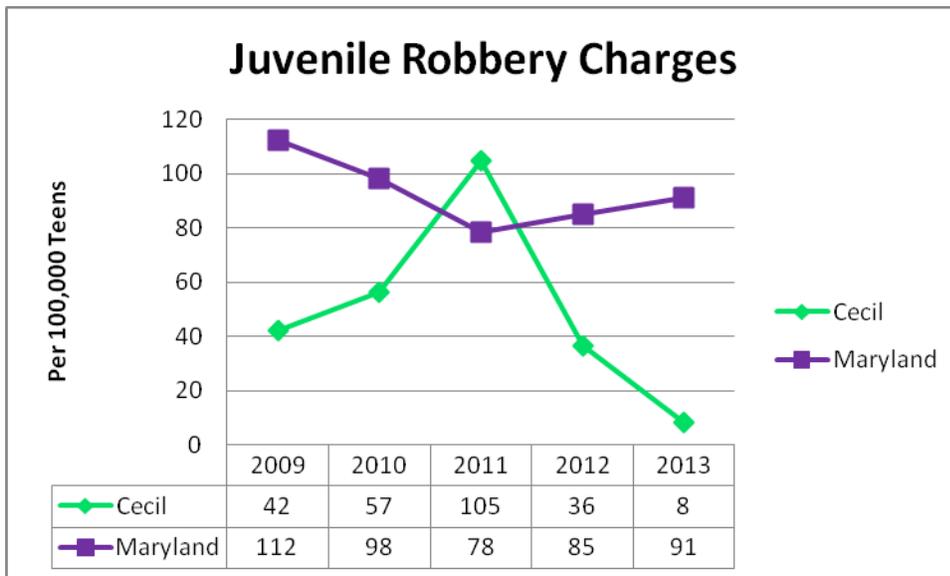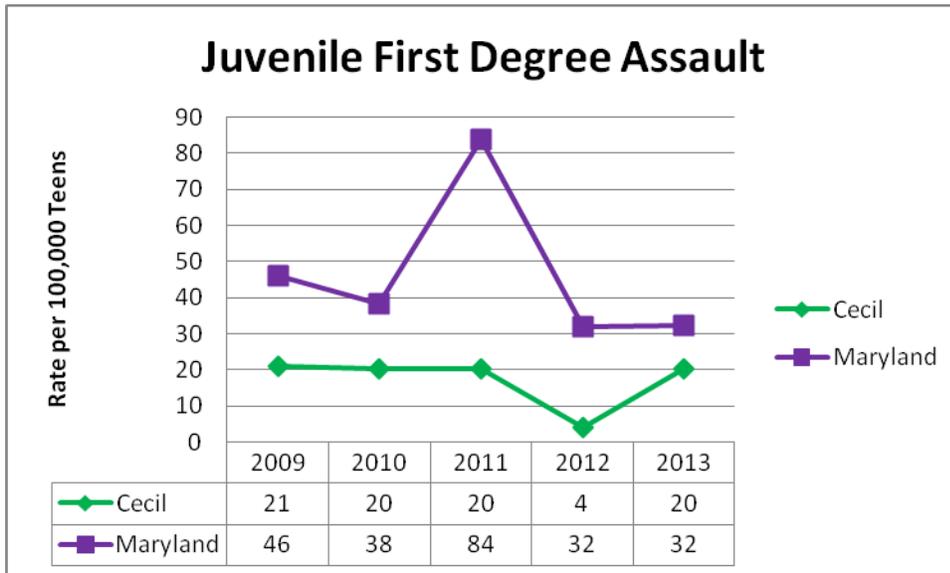
Theme 3: Community

Result 1: Safety

Indicator 1: Juvenile Felony Offenses

Juvenile Burglary/Breaking & Entering

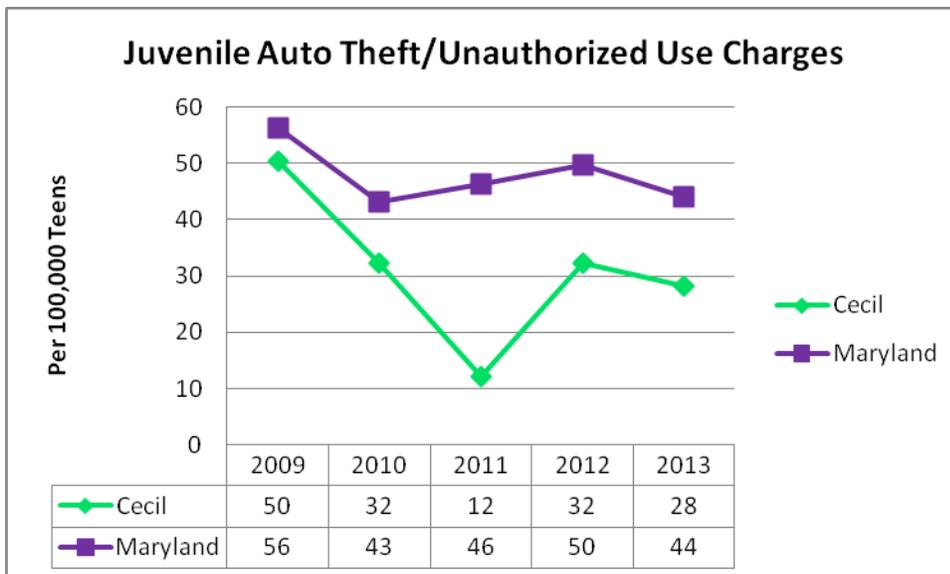|	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Cecil	193	182	145	133	89
Maryland	176	139	119	195	164

Per 100,000 Teens

Juvenile larceny/theft, which is considered a serious non-violent crime, impacts the greatest number of Cecil County youth. However, the rate is below the State rate, and after a peak in 2008 seems to be holding steady at a lower level.

Juvenile Robbery Charges

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Cecil	42	57	105	36	8
Maryland	112	98	78	85	91

Per 100,000 Teens

Juvenile robbery, which is considered a violent offense, exceeded the State rate for the first time in 2011, but decreased notably in 2012 and declined to a five-year low in 2013.

Juvenile First Degree Assault

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Cecil	21	20	20	4	20
Maryland	46	38	84	32	32

Cecil's trend for juvenile first degree assault, also a violent offense, has remained steady for four of the last five years and remains below the State rate. The State rate has decreased slowly since 2006, with the exception of a significant spike in 2011.

Juvenile Auto Theft/Unauthorized Use Charges

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Cecil	50	32	12	32	28
Maryland	56	43	46	50	44

Juvenile auto theft/unauthorized use, a serious non-violent crime, impacts relatively few youth across the state. The trend in Cecil decreased after a spike in 2008 to a low in 2011, and has remained relatively stable in 2010, 2012 and 2013. Cecil's rate remains below the State rate.

Overall juvenile crime is showing a decreasing trend in Cecil County. *Source: Maryland State Police Uniform Crime Reports (UCR), 2009-2013. http://www.djs.state.md.us/data-resource-guides.asp.*

Indicator 2: Recidivism

Juvenile Crime Recidivism
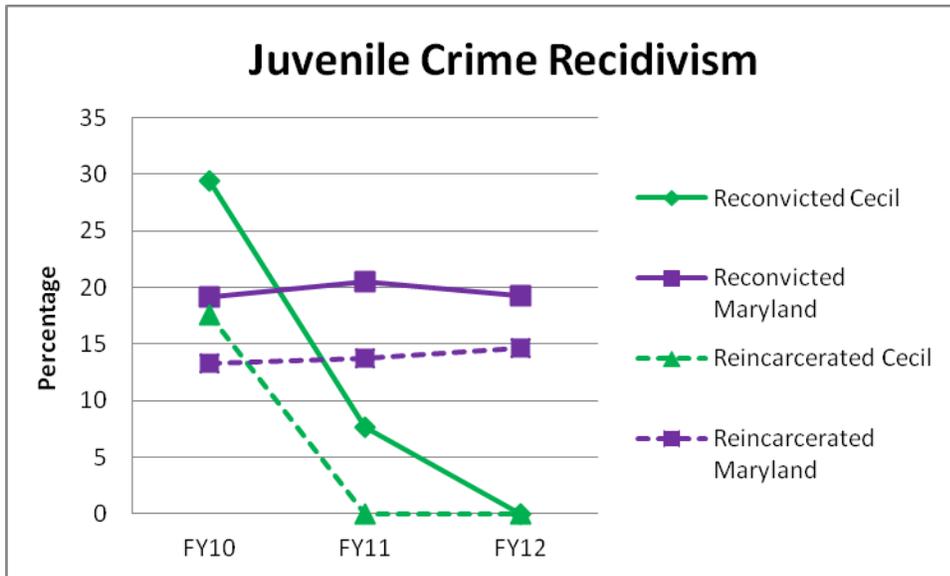
Cecil County's Juvenile Crime Recidivism rates are trending in the right direction, though data is only available for fiscal years 2010, 2011 and 2012. In 2011 and 2012, both reconvictions and reincarcerations decreased significantly. This trend is not being followed by the state, which is remaining relatively stagnant on reconvictions and actually increasing a bit in reincarcerations.

Indicator 3: Maltreatment

Indicated Maltreatment Investigations
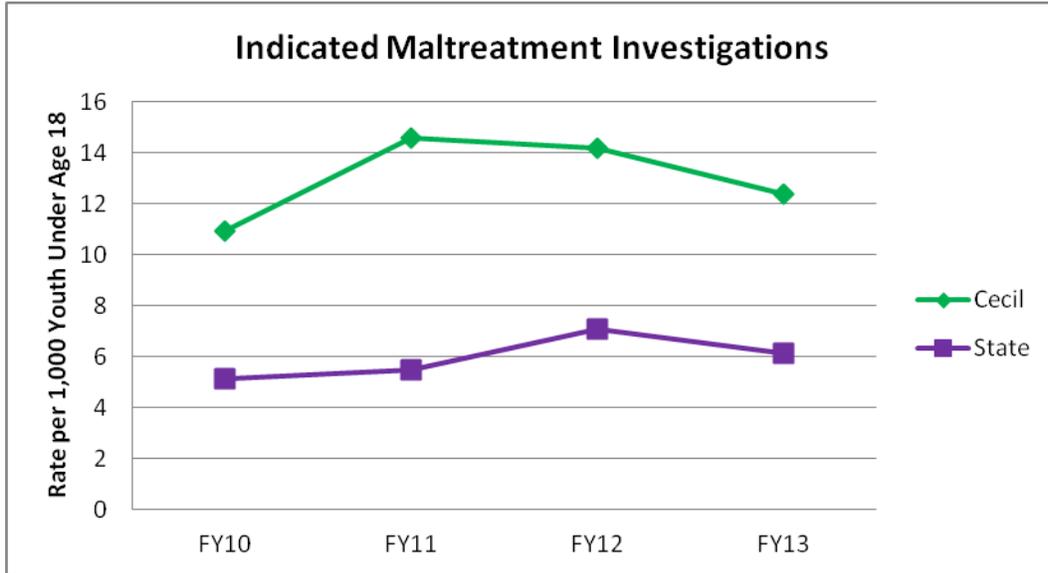
	Cecil			State		
	#	**Pop**	**Rate per 1,000**	**#**	**Pop**	**Rate per 1,000**
FY10	265	24266	**10.92**	6747	1316386	5.13
FY11	354	24266	**14.59**	7194	1316386	5.46
FY12	344	24266	**14.18**	9321	1316386	7.08
FY13	300	24266	**12.36**	8094	1316386	6.15

Maltreatment investigations are significantly higher for Cecil County as compared to the state rates. During fiscal year 2013, there were 12.36 investigations per every 1,000 youths under the age of 18, 50% above the state rate of 6.15 youths per every thousand residents under the age of 18. Since FY 2010, Cecil County has remained *at least* 50% higher than the state rate. Of note, Cecil County has a 24% youth population while the state youth population is 22.8%; these figures are based on population census data from 2010.

Source: Maryland Dept. of Human Resources, SSA StateStat Jurisdiction Data, 2009-2013.
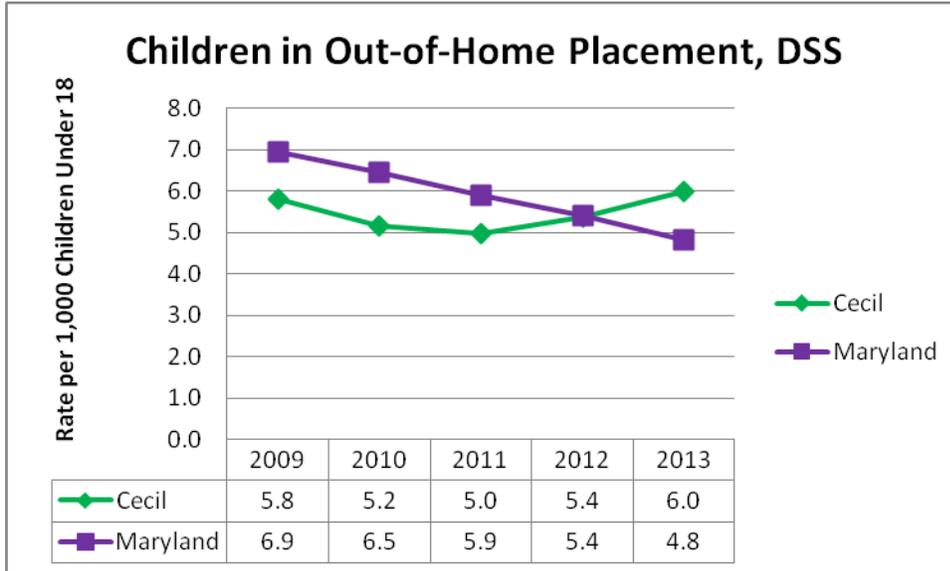
Theme 3: Community

Result 2: Stability

Indicator 1: Hunger

Free and Reduced Meals

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Cecil	31	35	38	41	41	44
Maryland	35	38	40	42	43	44

In the current school year (2013-2014) nearly 44% of the student population purchasing meals at school are eligible for the Free and Reduced Meal (FARM) program at Cecil County's 30 public schools. This number has risen steadily for the last five school years, and is now at its highest rate. (It was at approximately 35% in the 2009-2010 school year.)

Source: Maryland State Department of Education, Free and Reduced-Price Meal Data, SY 2010-2014.
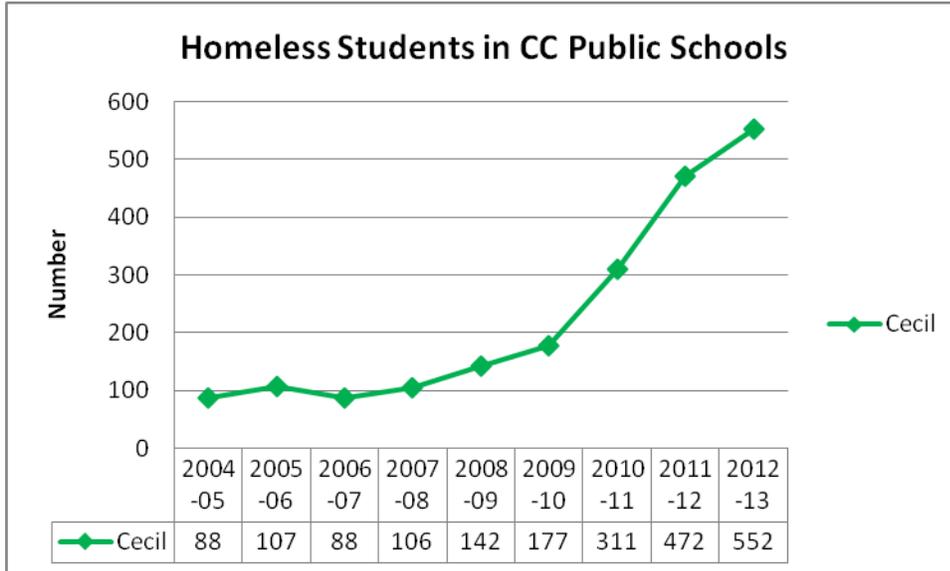
Indicator 2: Out-of-Home Placement

Children in Out-of-Home Placement, DSS

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Cecil	5.8	5.2	5.0	5.4	6.0
Maryland	6.9	6.5	5.9	5.4	4.8

Rate per 1,000 Children Under 18

In spite of significant success by the Maryland Department of Human Resources to reduce the rate of out-of-home placements, the trend in Cecil County continues to rise. Cecil County has been experiencing a large surge in substance abuse, which is the primary circumstance associated with referrals to the Cecil County Department of Social Services (DSS). In the last four years, substance abuse has been cited in intake allegations 3-5 times more frequently than any other circumstance.

Source: Maryland Dept. of Human Resources, SSA StateStat Jurisdiction Data, 2009-2013.

Indicator 3: Homelessness

Homeless Students in CC Public Schools

	2004 -05	2005 -06	2006 -07	2007 -08	2008 -09	2009 -10	2010 -11	2011 -12	2012 -13
Cecil	88	107	88	106	142	177	311	472	552

Source: Maryland State Department of Education, 2005-2013

The data results depicting rates of homelessness throughout the county varies by source. According to Cecil County Public Schools data, there has been a surge in homelessness from 2008-09 school year where it stood at 142 students, through the present where it currently stands at 552 students, representing an increase of 74% over a 5-year span.

Cecil Homelessnes - PIT Data

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Cecil	173		220	187	234	217
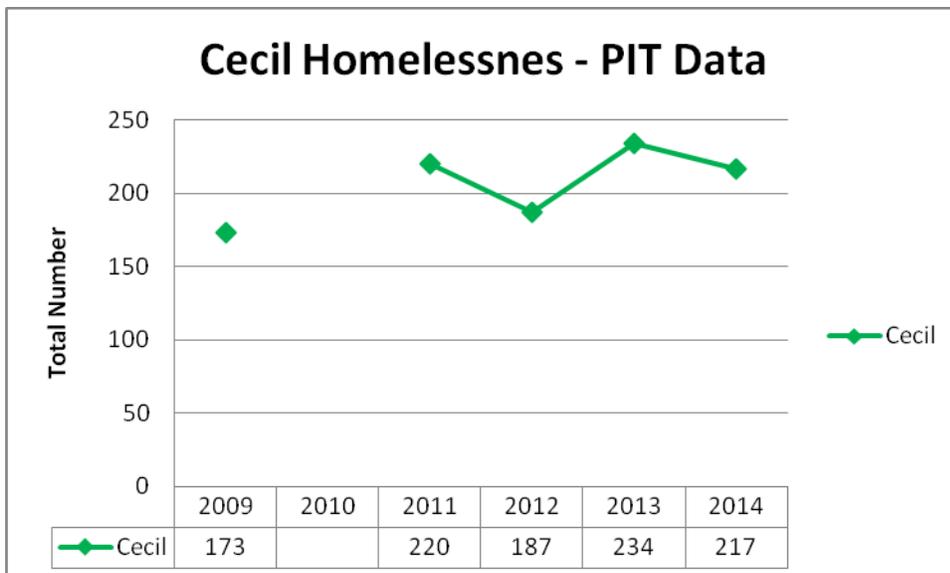
Source: Homeless Management Information System

One measure of homelessness, the annual Point in Time Survey, shows Cecil County averaging just over 200 sheltered and unsheltered persons per year over the last six years (though it should be noted Cecil County data is unavailable for 2010). It is noteworthy that Cecil County has a comparatively high rate of homeless veterans, due to the location of Perry Point Veteran's Administration Medical Center near Perryville. It should also be noted that the Point in Time survey is literally just that – a snapshot on a certain day of those homeless individuals who are in shelters or receiving services that specific day. A better method to track homeless individuals would be strongly preferable.