

Cecil County Needs Assessment

FY 2014

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

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| Introduction | 2 |
| Table of Contents | 5 |
| Theme 1: Health | |
| Result 1: Babies Born Healthy | 6 |
| Result 2: Healthy Children | 9 |
| Theme 2: Education | |
| Result 1: School Readiness | 11 |
| Result 2: School Success | 12 |
| Result 3: School Completion | 17 |
| Result 4: School Transition | 20 |
| Theme 3: Community | |
| Result 1: Safety | 22 |
| Result 2: Stability | 26 |

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%.

| Percentage of Low Birth Weight Births | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|------------------|
| | | Cecil County | Error Margin | Top U.S Performers* | Maryland Average |
| 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

Source: 2014 County Health Rankings.

<http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/maryland/2011/rankings/cecil/county/outcomes/overall/snapshot>

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

| Percentage of Children (19-35 months old) who receive recommended vaccines | | |
|--|------------------|----------|
| | | Maryland |
| 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:

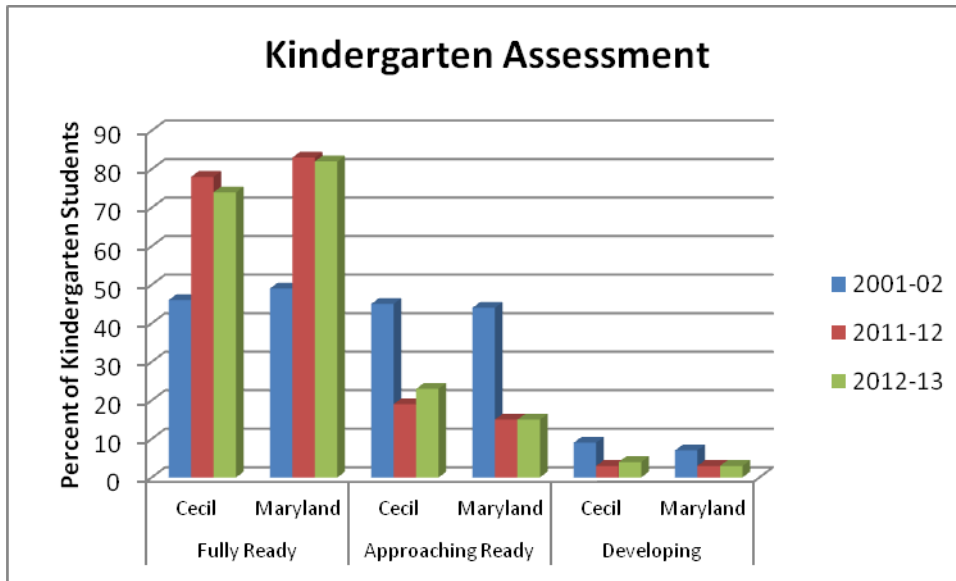
| Death Rate Among Children and Adolescents Ages 1-19, per 100,000 Population* | | |
|---|---------------------|-----------------|
| | Cecil County | Maryland |
| 2008 | 37 | 33 |
| 2009 | 33 | 27 |
| 2010 | 41 | 26 |
| 2011 | 41 | 27 |
| 2012 | 33 | 27 |

*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 |

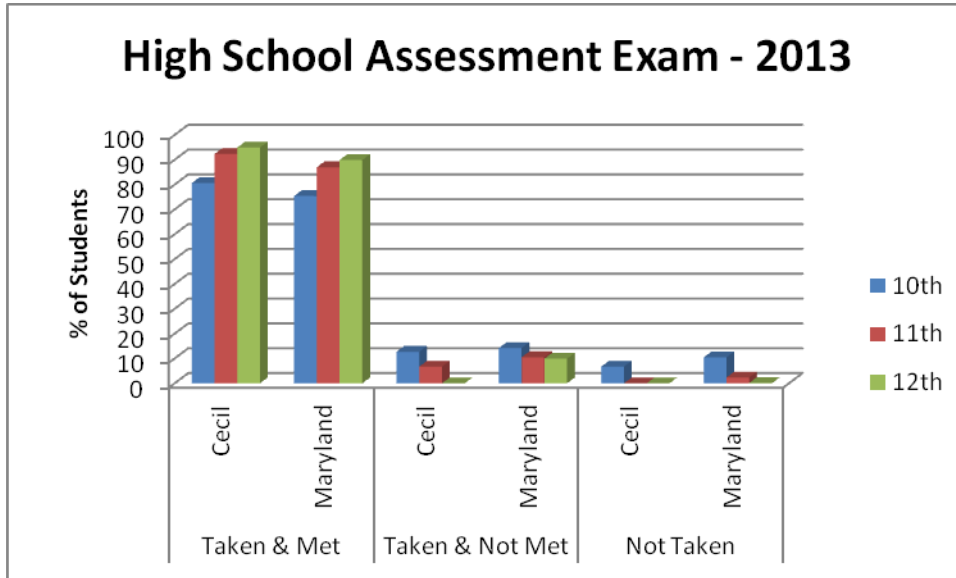
Great strides in kindergarten readiness have been achieved in the last ten years, both across the state and locally in Cecil County. As of 2013, Cecil’s percentage of students in the ‘fully ready’ category is 8% lower than the state rate, and Cecil’s percentage in the ‘approaching ready’ category is 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



Percentage of Students Taking and Passing High School Assessment Exam

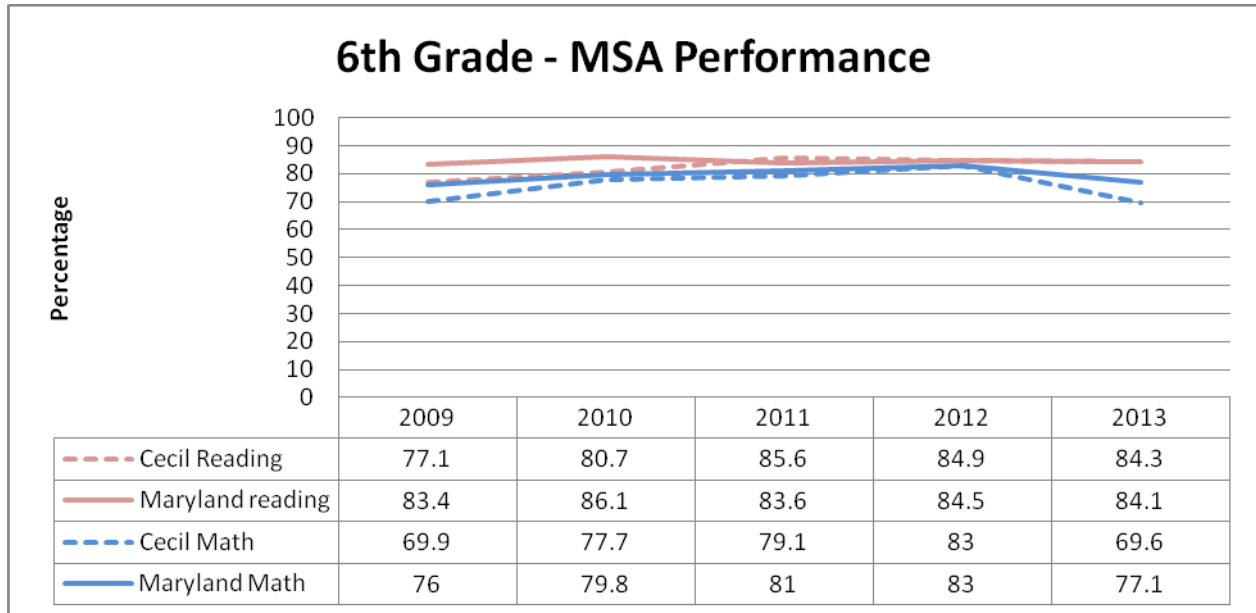
| | Taken & Met | | Taken & Not Met | | Not Taken | |
|-------------|-------------|----------|-----------------|----------|-----------|----------|
| | Cecil | Maryland | Cecil | Maryland | Cecil | Maryland |
| 10th | 80.6 | 75.4 | 12.7 | 14.2 | 6.7 | 10.4 |
| 11th | 92.3 | 87 | 6.7 | 10.5 | * | 2.3 |
| 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.

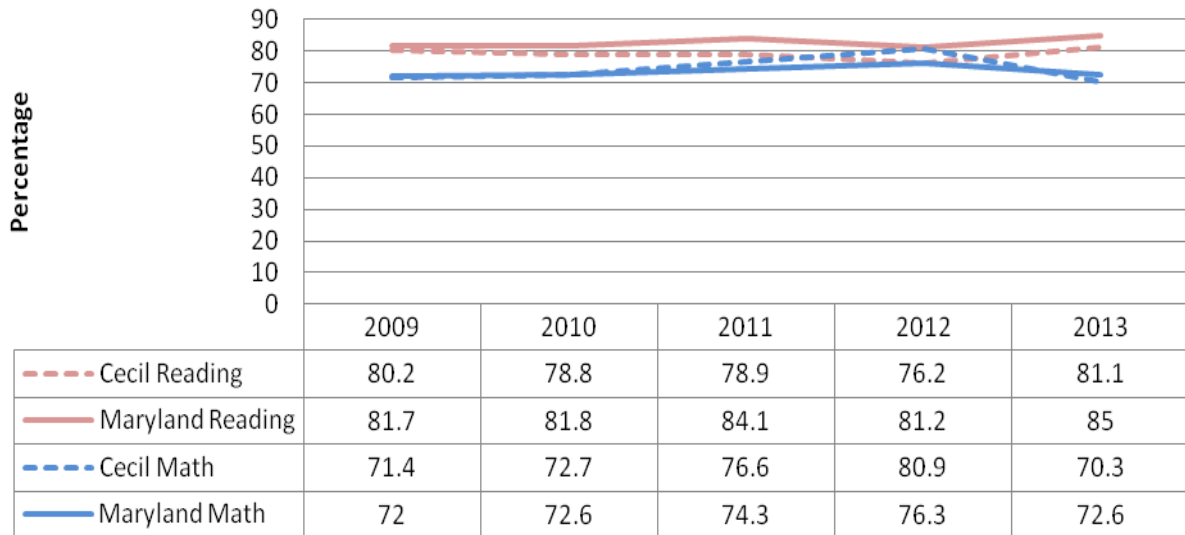
Source: *Maryland Report Card, HSA results 2013.*

Indicator 2: Academic Performance – Middle School Assessment



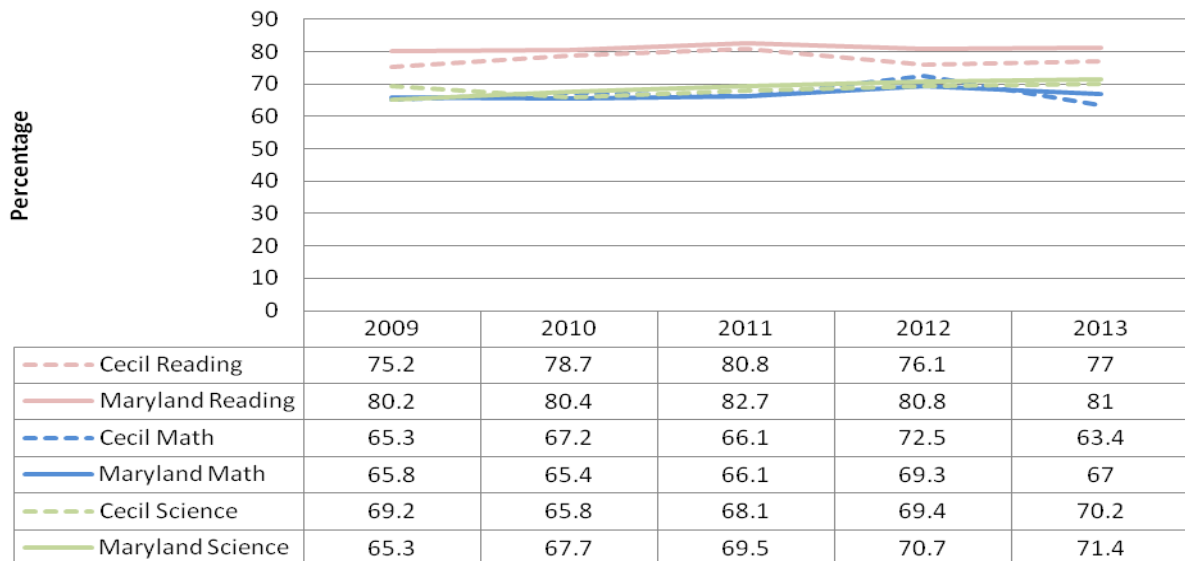
Reading levels for Cecil County 6th graders are on par with state levels and currently stand at 84.3% of students reaching basic, advanced or proficient levels, up from 77.1% in 2009. Math levels, however, are below that of other 6th graders in the state and stand at 69.6% as compared to the state levels 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



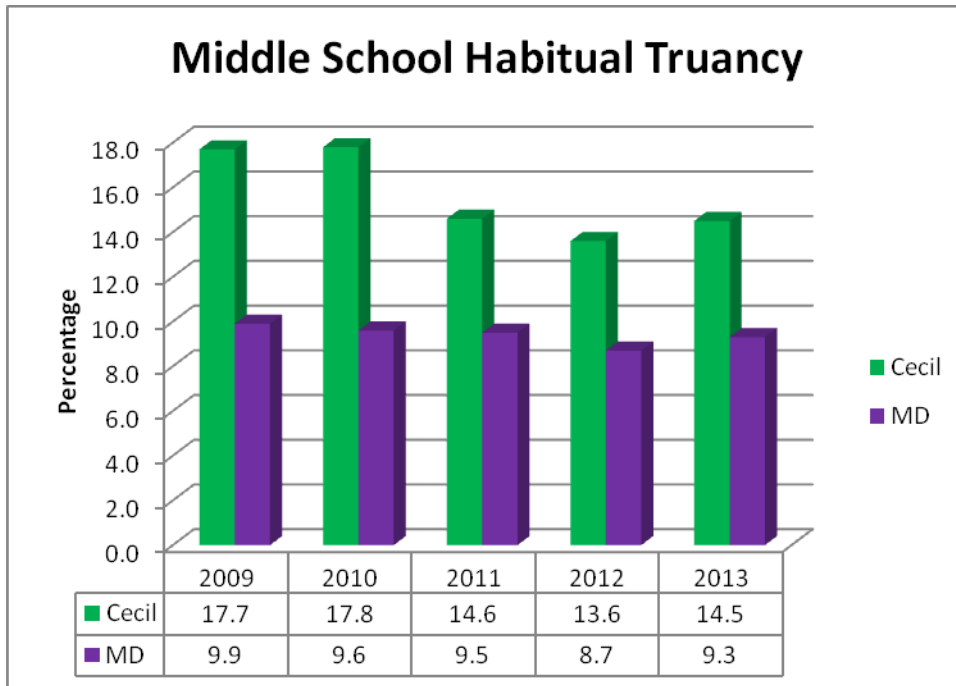
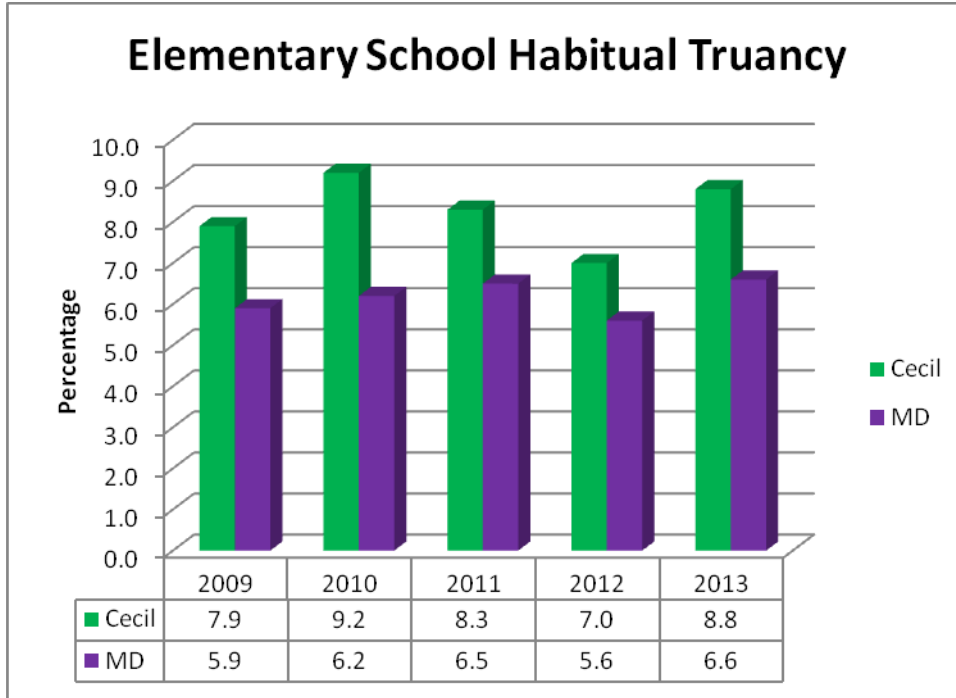
7th grade MSA performance in Reading has increased 3.7% since 2010 and presently stands at 81.1%, which is 3.9% lower than the state reading levels. Performance in Math fell below the state levels by 2.3% in 2013 after consistently outperforming the state average from 2010-2012 and presently stands at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

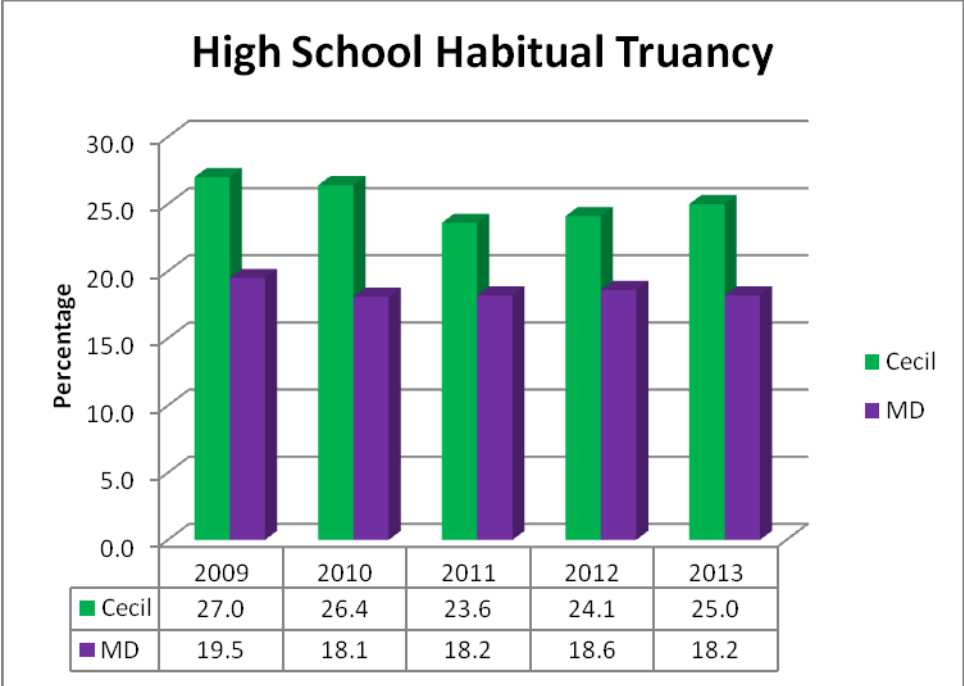
8th Grade - MSA Performance



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



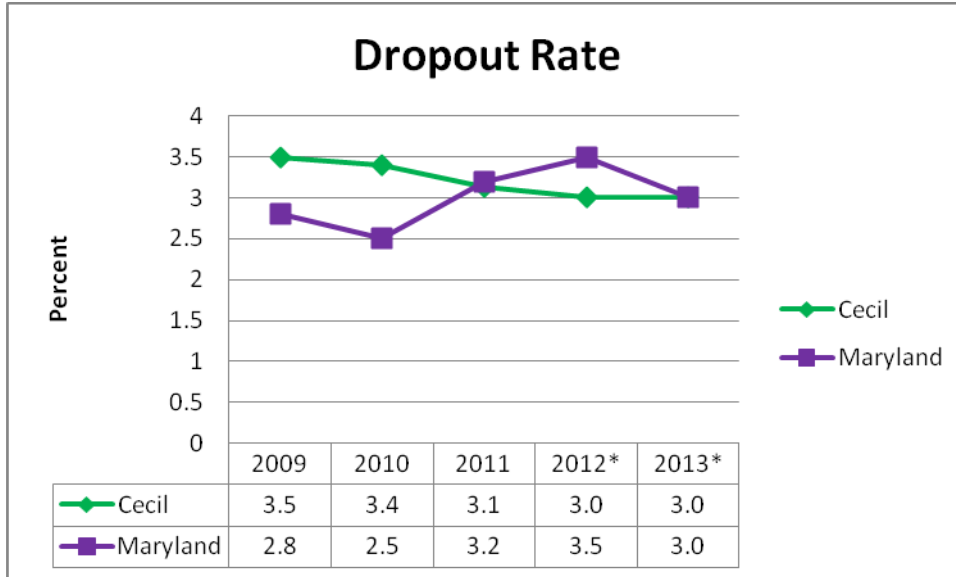


Habitual truancy rates, defined as students missing 20 or more days of school per year, are higher for Cecil County elementary, middle, *and* high school students than comparable State averages. Middle school habitual truant rates in Cecil County averaged 16% for 2009-2013, which is more closely comparable 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%.

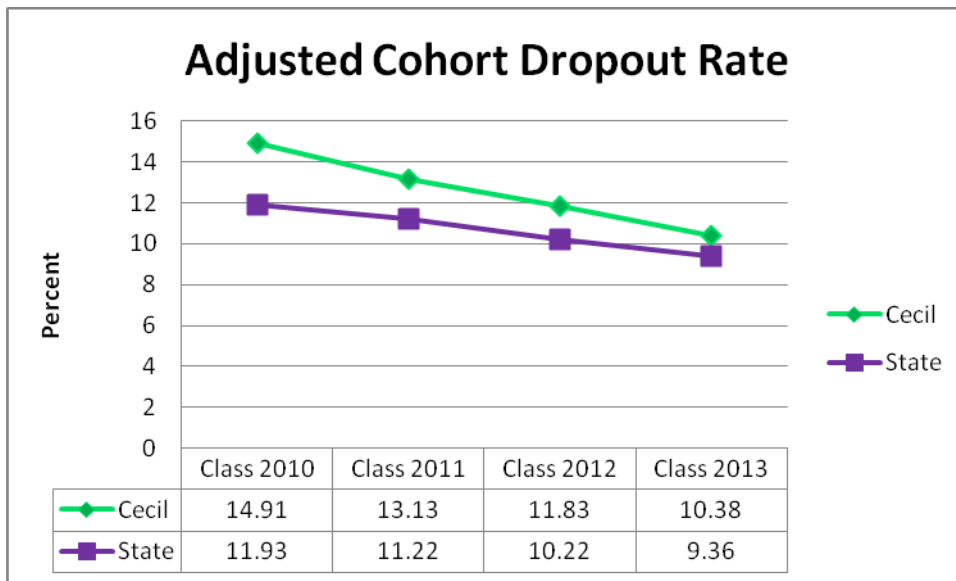
Theme 2: Education

Result 3: School Completion

Indicator 1: High School Dropout Rate

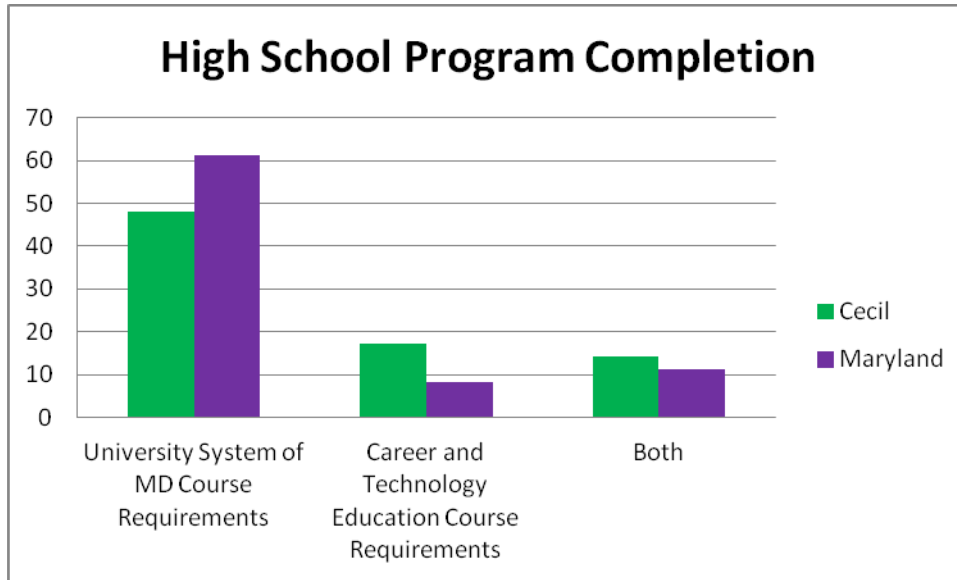


Dropout rates dropped from 2011-2013 for Cecil County, continuing the downward trend started in 2008. 2012 was the second consecutive year Cecil County fell below the State rate and stood at 3% or less in 2012 and 2013.



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)

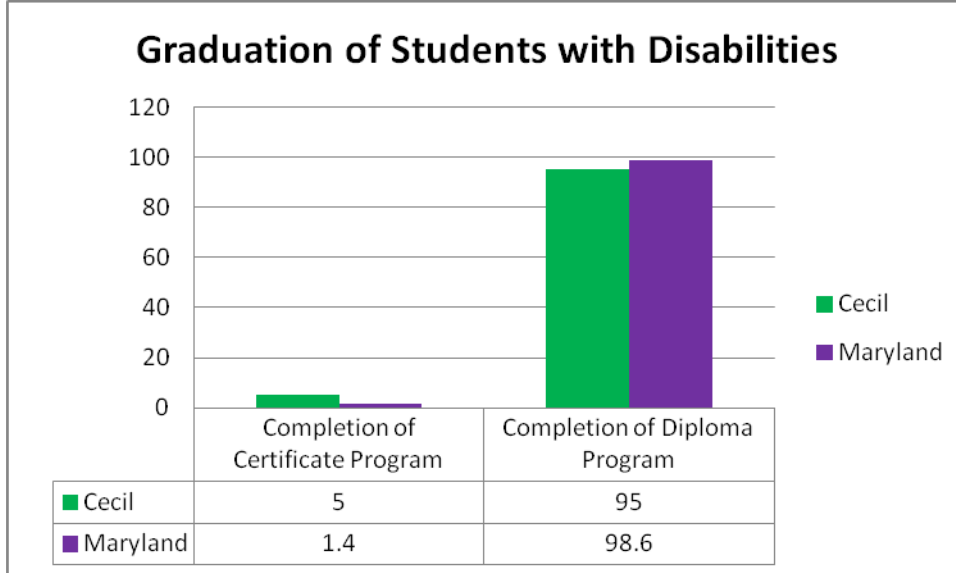
Indicator 2: High School Program Completion



| | 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

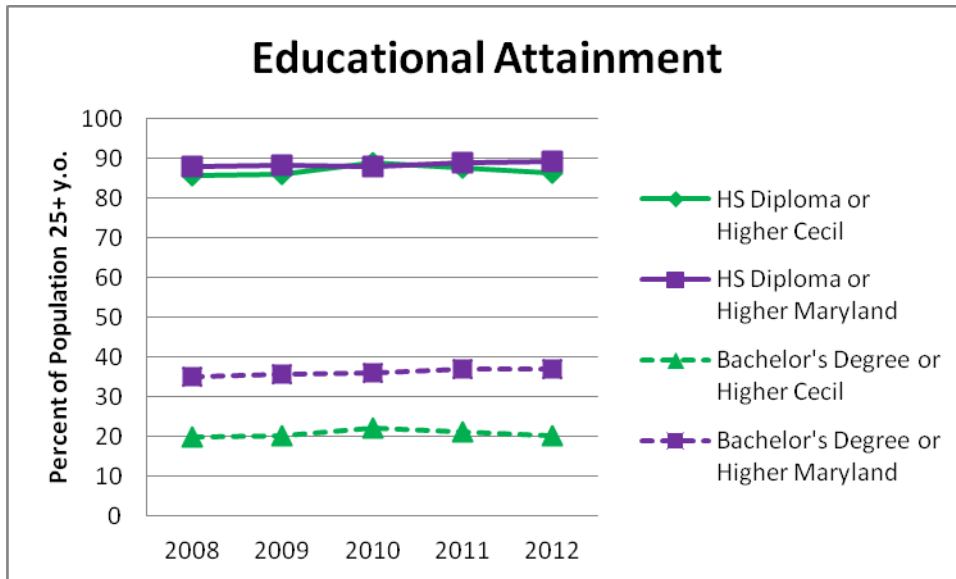


Cecil County students with disabilities graduated from certificate programs at a rate which appears to be higher than the State rate, with less than or equal to 5% of students in Cecil County completing the certificate program as compared to 1.4% of all Maryland graduates. Ninety-five or more percent (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

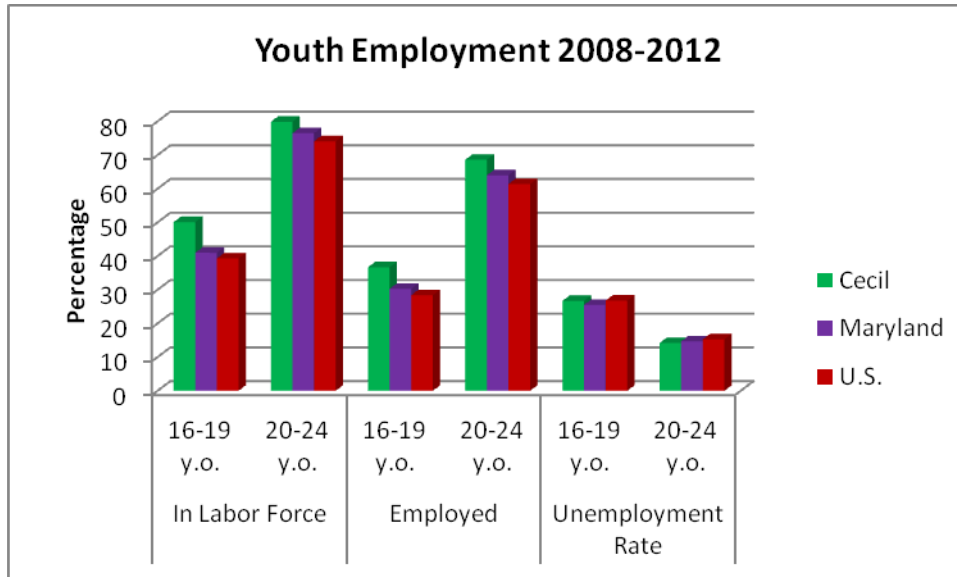
Indicator 1: Educational Attainment



| | 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



| | 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%.

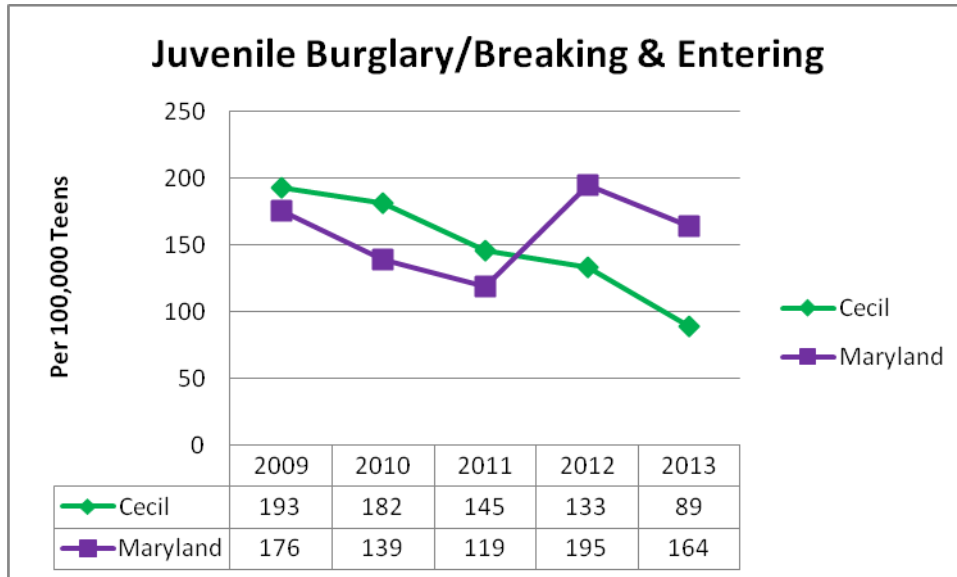
Further, the gap between employed Cecil 16-19 year olds and state and national rates is also notable. Employment rates for those youth in Cecil are 6.4% higher than Maryland rates and 8.3% higher than national rates. In this category the percentages do not change much based on age group – the 20-24 year 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.

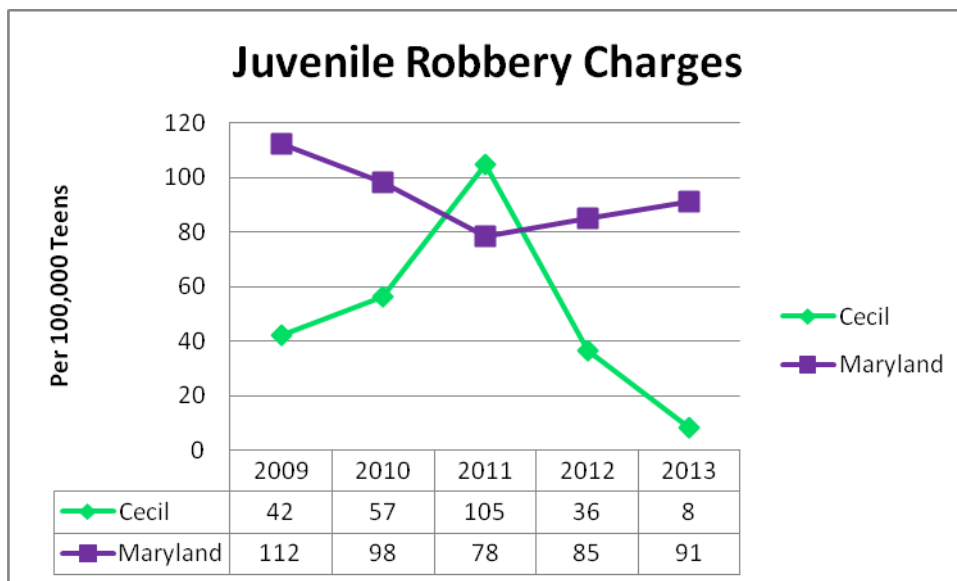
Theme 3: Community

Result 1: Safety

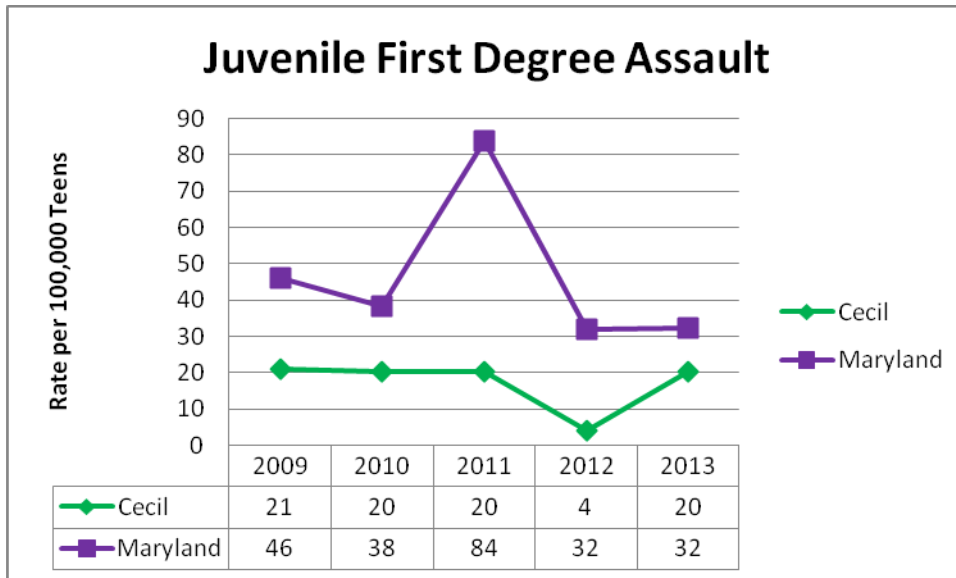
Indicator 1: Juvenile Felony Offenses



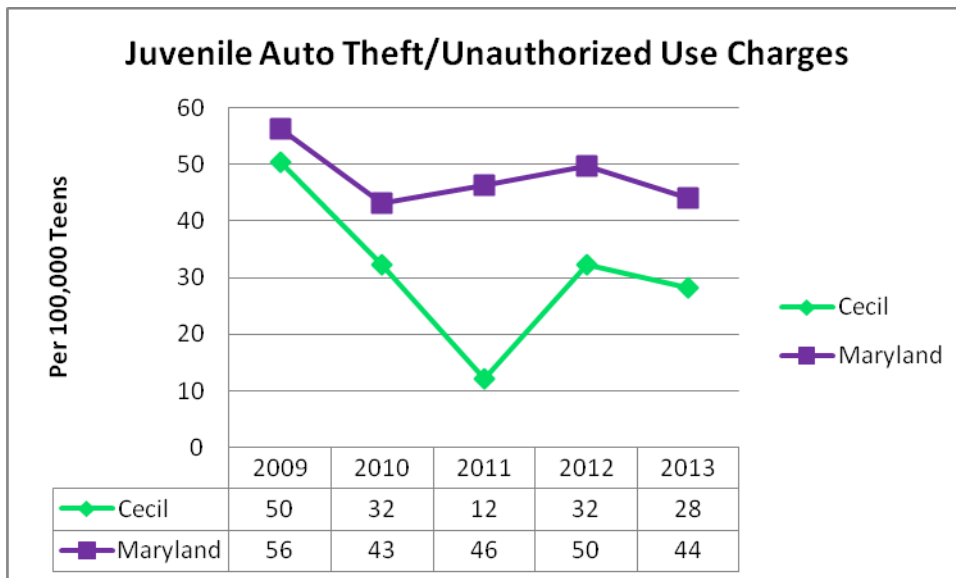
Juvenile larceny/theft, which is considered a serious non-violent crime, impacts the greatest number of Cecil County youth. However, the rate is below the State rate, and after a peak in 2008 seems to be holding steady at a lower level.



Juvenile robbery, 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.



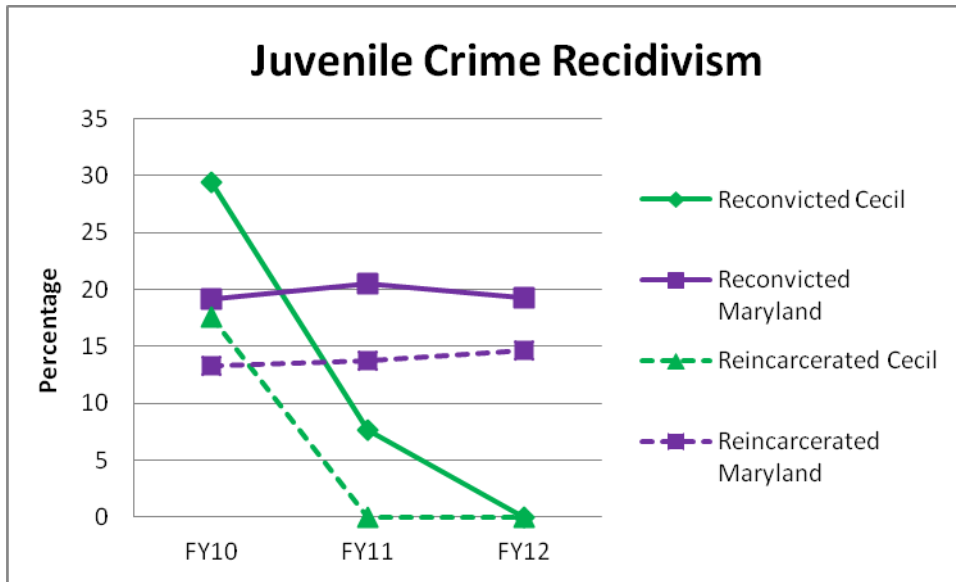
Cecil’s trend for juvenile first degree assault, also a violent offense, has remained steady for four of the last five years and remains below the State rate. The State rate has decreased slowly since 2006, with the exception of a significant spike in 2011.



Juvenile auto theft/unauthorized use, 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.

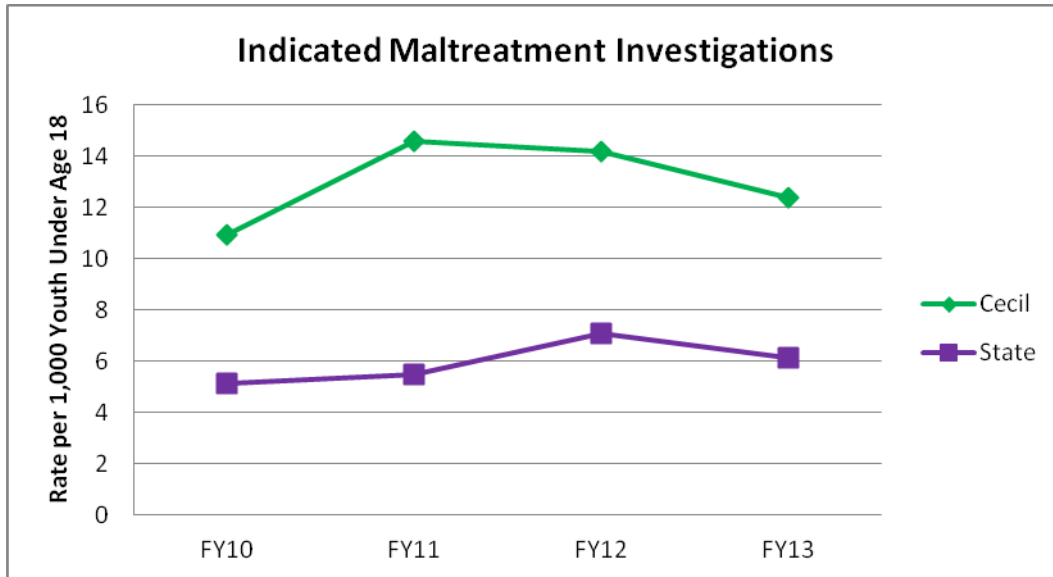
Overall juvenile crime is showing a decreasing trend in Cecil County. *Source: Maryland State Police Uniform Crime Reports (UCR), 2009-2013. <http://www.djs.state.md.us/data-resource-guides.asp>.*

Indicator 2: Recidivism



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



| | 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 |

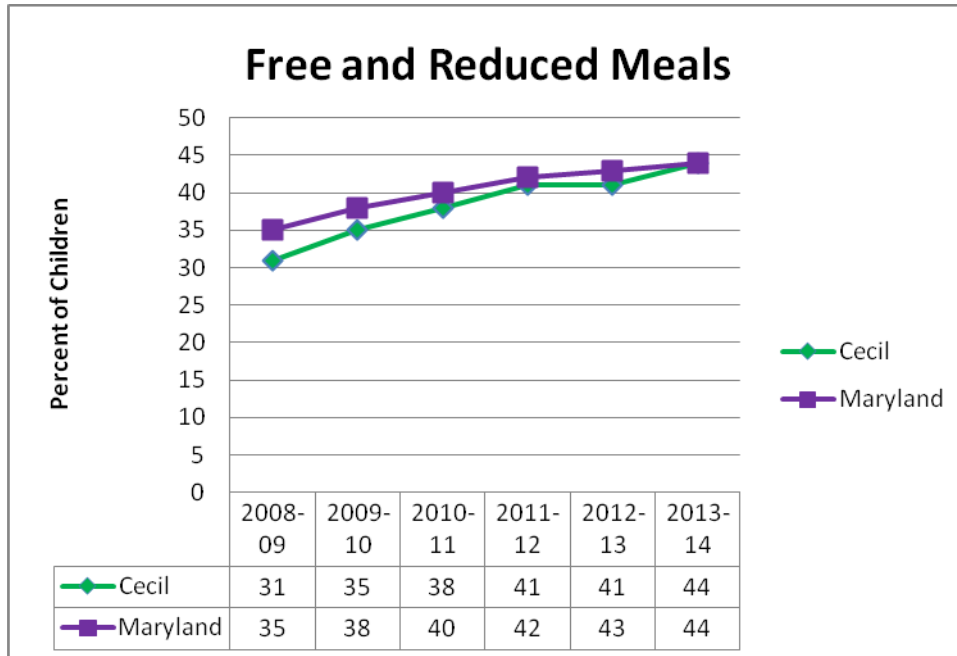
Maltreatment investigations are significantly higher for Cecil County as compared to the state rates. During fiscal year 2013, there were 12.36 investigations per every 1,000 youths under the age of 18, 50% above the state rate of 6.15 youths per every thousand residents under the age of 18. Since FY 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

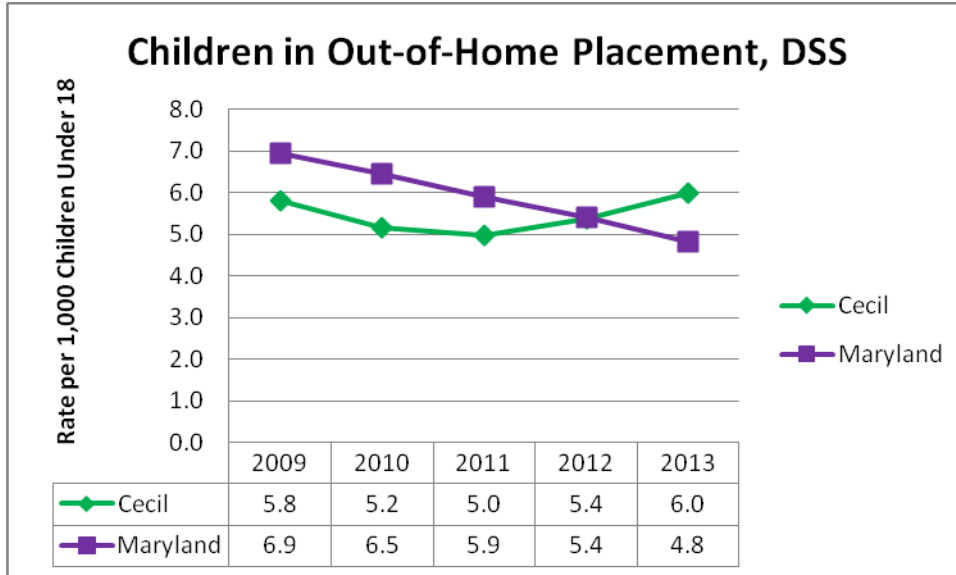
Indicator 1: Hunger



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.

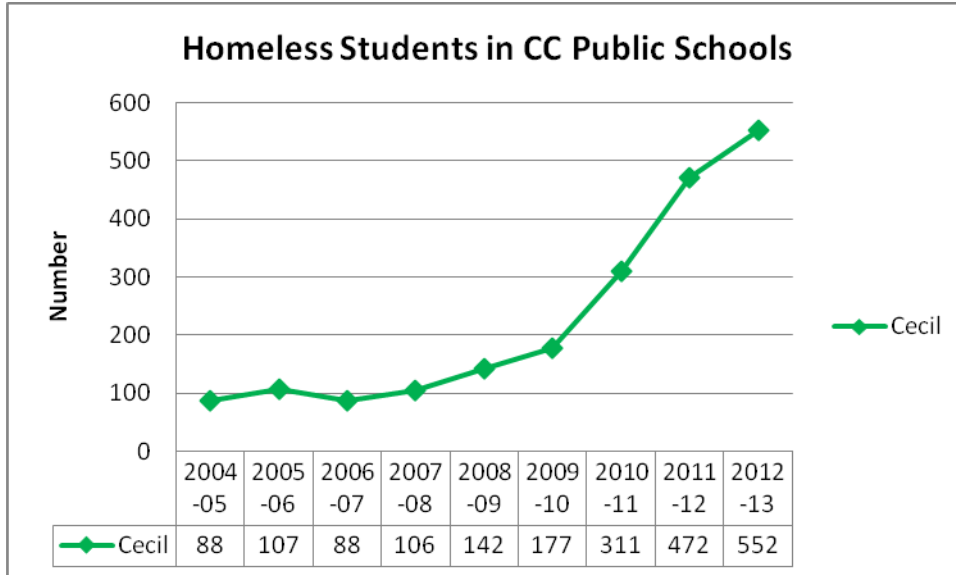
Indicator 2: Out-of-Home Placement



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.

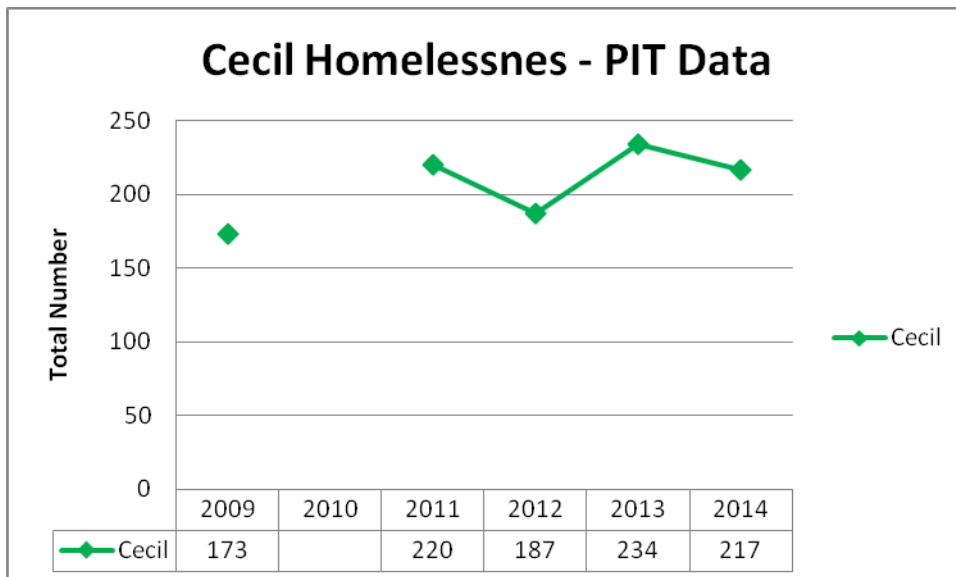
Source: Maryland Dept. of Human Resources, SSA StateStat Jurisdiction Data, 2009-2013.

Indicator 3: Homelessness



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.



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.