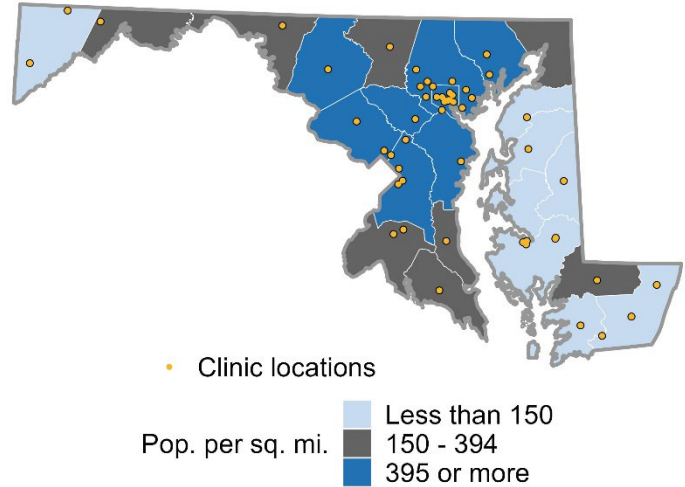


# Maryland Department of Health

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) is a state-level agency that has been a Title X recipient for more than 30 years. It offers Title X services across the state through a network of 22 subrecipient agencies. Service sites include city or county health departments, federally qualified health centers (FQHCs), school-based health centers, hospital-associated clinics, and Planned Parenthood clinics.<sup>1</sup>







## Stats at a Glance<sup>2</sup>

- Number of family planning (FP) encounters – 58,898
- FP users with incomes below 100% Federal Poverty Level (FPL) – 23,709 (58%); all FP users with incomes below 250% of FPL – 31,403 (77%)
- Number of tests performed for gonorrhea – 25,504, syphilis – 15,985, and HIV – 13,199
- Number of female users who received a chlamydia test – 17,060 or a Pap test – 4,279

## Overview of Services Offered

As a Title X recipient, MDH provides a broad range of FP services including pregnancy prevention and birth spacing, pregnancy testing and counseling, assistance to achieve pregnancy, basic infertility services, sexually transmitted infection (STI) services, and other preconception health services. The services are voluntary, confidential, and provided regardless of ability to pay.<sup>3</sup> The infographic below is an Overview of Services Offered within the MDH network. The data shown below are not specific to any particular site but rather are representative of the broader grantee network. For information on services available at individual service sites, please refer to the [OPA clinic locator](#).

 Pregnancy assistance and counseling	 Contraceptive services	 STI services	 Other preventative health services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Counseling on achieving pregnancy</li> <li>● Preconception health services</li> <li>● Pregnancy testing and counseling</li> <li>● Basic infertility services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◐ FDA approved long-acting contraceptives</li> <li>◐ FDA approved short-acting contraceptives</li> <li>● Natural family planning methods</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● STI and HIV education and counseling</li> <li>◐ STI and HIV screening and testing</li> <li>◐ STI and HIV treatment</li> <li>◐ STI self-testing</li> <li>◐ Expedited partner therapy</li> <li>◐ PrEP counseling and risk assessment</li> <li>◐ PrEP prescription services</li> <li>◐ PEP counseling</li> <li>◐ PEP prescription services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◐ Screening for breast cancer</li> <li>◐ Screening for cervical cancer</li> <li>◐ HPV vaccinations</li> <li>● Screening for intimate partner violence</li> <li>● Screening for mental health</li> <li>◐ Screening for obesity</li> <li>● Screening for smoking, drug, and alcohol use</li> <li>● Adolescent-friendly health services</li> </ul>
<p><b>LEGEND</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Available at all service sites</li> <li>◐ Available at service sites and through referrals</li> <li>○ Available through referral only</li> </ul>			

<sup>1</sup> Source: Data collected by Mathematica in 2023 for the Title X Implementation Study. Title X services are not administered at the correctional facilities at which Unity provides clinical services.

<sup>2</sup> Source: Family Planning Annual Report (FPAR): [2022 National Summary](#).

<sup>3</sup> See the [Title X Service Grants web page](#) for more information on the requirements and regulations guiding Title X projects.

## Equity in Practice



MDH has taken a proactive approach to expanding family planning and Title X services for youth living in rural and urban areas across the state. For example, MDH has a partnership with the Healthy Teen Network to support the True You Maryland campaign, which brings together partners including youth, parents, and other community members to expand and improve sexual health education and services for youth living in rural counties. In addition, MDH has a robust network of school-based health centers and is focused on expanding services within school-based health centers. MDH also provides family planning services to adolescents participating in the Baltimore City Youth Opportunity program, which connects youth ages 18–24 who are neither in school or the workforce to educational, workforce preparation, and personal development services.

## Innovations in Practice



MDH and the Center for STI Prevention have co-located family planning and STI services and developed reproductive care clinics across many service sites. Instead of having two separate service sites, the staff at these co-located sites are cross-trained to ensure clients can receive same-day family planning and STI services during their appointment, which eliminates the need for follow-ups, referrals, or additional appointments. Same-day services include access to emergency contraceptives, IUD and/or implant insertion or removal, and STI testing and treatment. Mobile clinics provide supplemental services when availability at traditional service sites is limited.

## Did You Know?



In 2023, MDH launched a statewide needs assessment to gather input from clients, partners, and community members to better understand family planning needs and identify gaps in services across the state. The needs assessment, which is guided by a steering committee of MDH staff, subrecipient staff, and other Title X providers across the state, features primary data collection through surveys, focus groups, and key informant interviews. The findings from the needs assessment will directly inform priorities for clinical services and activities for the remainder of the current Title X funding period.



MDH recently partnered with subrecipient staff to simplify and improve its client satisfaction survey. MDH asked subrecipients for feedback and learned that the client satisfaction survey, which originally included over 20 questions, was burdensome for clients, had a low response rate, and was not an effective quality improvement tool. MDH used this feedback to revise the survey and sent subrecipients guidance on how they could customize and adapt the survey to fit their client population's specific needs. This effort resulted in higher response rates and a useful tool for quality improvement.



MDH uses annual chart reviews to ensure accurate reporting and help subrecipients identify opportunities for quality improvement. For example, a recent chart review revealed that a specific service site had particularly low referral rates when compared to other service sites of similar size. MDH used the chart review to understand the root cause of the low referral rate, learning that the service site was not accounting for a majority of its referrals because staff thought they needed a system to follow up and ensure clients were successfully linked to that referral to report it. MDH was able to provide technical assistance to ensure the service site understood when to log referrals and could create additional touchpoints for clients who were referred to external services. By identifying this misunderstanding in reporting, MDH was able to improve the experience of clients at the service site and support the service site in tracking more accurate data.

## About the Title X Program

The Title X Family Planning Program, created in 1970 and authorized under Title X of the Public Health Service Act, is administered by the Office of Population Affairs (OPA) in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. For more information, please refer to OPA's [website](#).

Grant number: FPHPA006514

Website: [https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/mch/Pages/MFPP\\_Main.aspx](https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/mch/Pages/MFPP_Main.aspx)