

OFFICE OF PRIMARY CARE SERVICES

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The Office of Primary Care Services was formed within the Local and Family Health Administration in July 1994. The Office assures that basic health care is available to all Maryland residents regardless of their ability to pay. The Office works through five programs: the Primary Care Cooperative Agreement; the Office of Rural Health; *Physician Loan-Repayment Program*; *Primary Care for the Medically Indigent Program*; and the Maryland Statewide Home-Health Agency.

OFFICE OF WOMEN, INFANTS, & CHILDREN

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Created by the Department in 1985, the Office of Women, Infants, and Children administers the Maryland Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) under federal law (P.L. 95-627). The Program offers health and nutrition services, including supplemental foods, to pregnant, postpartum and breast-feeding women; infants to one year of age; and children to their fifth birthday. To be eligible, an individual also must meet income requirements and be at nutritional risk.

Funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Program is administered by the Office of Women, Infants, and Children through grants to eighteen local agencies that serve the entire State. Each local agency determines recipient eligibility, prescribes individualized food packages, provides nutrition education, prepares required records and reports, and issues food instruments (negotiable checks used in exchange for approved foods). The Office ensures that Maryland's Program accords with federal requirements.

LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

Local health administration preceded the organization of a State health department by nearly a century, when, in 1793, Baltimore City established a health office to stop an epidemic of yellow fever. The first county health department was formed by Allegany County in 1922. By 1934, each Maryland county had established its own health department. Today, local health departments in Maryland's twenty-three counties and Baltimore City are overseen by the Local and Family Health Administration.

**MENTAL HYGIENE
ADMINISTRATION**

Stuart B. Silver, M.D., *Director of Mental Hygiene*
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The Mental Hygiene Administration originated in 1886 as the State Lunacy Commission (Chapter 487, Acts of 1886). The Commission was established to inspect public and private institutions for the insane and to advise their boards of managers. In 1922, the Commission was replaced by the Board of Mental Hygiene (Chapter 29, Acts of 1922). The Board, in turn, was superseded by the Department of Mental Hygiene in 1949 (Chapter 685, Acts of 1949). The 1949 law abolished not only the Board of Mental Hygiene, but also the separate governing boards of the State mental hospitals, and gave the Department of Mental Hygiene responsibility for the custody, care, and treatment of mentally ill persons. The Department of Mental Hygiene became part of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene in 1969 and subsequently was reorganized as the Mental Hygiene Administration (Chapter 77, Acts of 1969).

The Administration oversees nine mental health centers:

- Walter P. Carter Center
- Crownsville Hospital Center
- Eastern Shore Hospital Center
- Thomas B. Finan Hospital Center
- Highland Health Facility Psychiatric Unit
- Clifton T. Perkins Hospital Center
- Spring Grove Hospital Center
- Springfield Hospital Center
- Upper Shore Community Mental Health Center

The Administration also is responsible for four residential treatment centers for youth, and one research center:

- Focus Point
- Regional Institute for Children & Adolescents—Baltimore
- Regional Institute for Children & Adolescents—Rockville
- Regional Institute for Children & Adolescents—Southern Maryland
- Maryland Psychiatric Research Center

The Administration is headed by the Director of Mental Hygiene, certified in psychiatry by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, and appointed by the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene. With the approval of the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Director of Mental Hygiene is empowered to make State grants-in-aid to further community mental health services (Chapter 125, Acts