

Restore Funding

FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES!



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Shortchanging Mental Health and Substance Use Treatment Will Set Maryland Back

LOSING \$25 MILLION IN FUNDING...

The proposed Fiscal Year 2021 budget **does not fund community mental health and substance use treatment** to the extent required by either the 2019 minimum wage bill or the bipartisan HOPE Act of 2017 – both of which included mandatory increases in community behavioral health spending to correct 20 years of chronic underfunding.



The budget slashes mandatory funding increases from 4% to 2%, underfunding mental health and substance use treatment by nearly

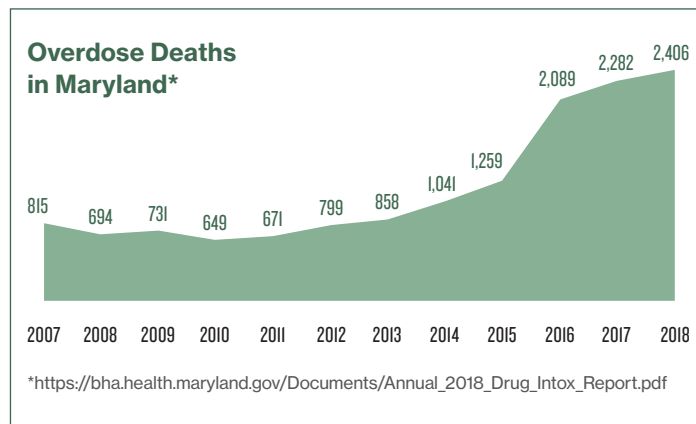
\$25 MILLION

... WILL SET US BACK AMID AN ONGOING OVERDOSE EPIDEMIC

Overdose deaths increased in 2018 for the eighth year in a row, reaching an all-time high of

2,406

The good news is that, thanks to increased support for behavioral health services, Maryland's overdose epidemic shows signs of slow improvement. But we are still very much in the midst of a crisis, and we can't afford to move backward.



KIDS NEED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SUPPORT IN ORDER TO LEARN

AT LEAST

1 IN 5

SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN are affected by a mental health or substance use disorder.



MORE THAN 40% OF MARYLAND CHILDREN have been exposed to at least one adverse childhood experience (ACE), and suicide rates among young people are on the rise.



Our youth with mental health and substance use disorders cannot succeed academically unless we are addressing their behavioral health needs.

As the legislature works to fund strategies recommended in the Kirwan report, we must remember that education only works if children are healthy enough to learn.

Please keep our commitment to Maryland behavioral health services!

Demand for mental health and substance use treatment has risen steadily since 2008, with more than 300,000 Maryland children and adults currently using and depending on the state's public behavioral health system. We strongly urge Maryland legislators to reject the proposed behavioral health funding cuts in the 2021 budget.