

TALBOT RESULTS

For Child and Family Well-Being 2009

A summary of Talbot County indicator trends
corresponding to Maryland's eight result areas for
children and families



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

What child and family data trends are encouraging and what data trends are challenging in Talbot County?

Data trends in Talbot County show much improvement in the areas of kindergarten readiness, academic performance, school attendance, substance use for Grades 6, 8, and 10, child maltreatment, juvenile crime, and many areas of adult crime. However, with our struggling economy, several discouraging or declining factors emerge such as families in poverty, prenatal care, births to adolescents, substance use in Grade 12, and larceny theft. These challenges are not easy to confront, but recent data have shown that Talbot citizens are capable of turning the curve with strong collaboration, volunteerism, and vision. Examples of the vision of our community were brought forth in the past 18 months during two opportunities for public engagement.

In February of 2008, the Innovations Institute at University of Maryland came to Talbot County to facilitate a listening forum. Ninety citizens attended and expressed their views about the needs of families and children. Several common themes emerged and included suggestions such as:

- More collaboration between public agencies and private partners
- Shared and flexible funding support that does not encourage agencies to operate in silos
- Greater emphasis on the important contributions being made by Local Management Boards
- More research and use of evidence based programs to strengthen families and children
- Utilize prevention and early intervention services before families are in crisis
- Create more after school programming
- Help schools bring back basics such as art and music
- Focus on wellness and life skills transitions for students
- Provide greater support for parents through parenting skills, early childhood training, gang awareness, and service awareness
- Find ways to sustain drug and teen courts, which seem to be very effective
- Explore and implement youth development opportunities for teens
- Strengthen marketing, access, and utilization of existing programs
- Sustain and grow mental health programs for children, families, and adults
- Sustain the family navigator and Child Advocacy Center models in Talbot County

One year later in January and February of 2009, 13 focus groups were led by the Talbot Family Network where parents, adults, and youth were asked about needs. Their concerns and ideas echoed those from the listening forum one year earlier. Within the focus groups, the most common needs emphasized were transportation, activities for preteens/teens, job skills, housing, and funding for programs that are working. These same groups praised Talbot County's existing services such as the YMCA, the after school programs, the public school system, and local parks. Solutions offered included family-friendly recreation, blending of resources, and better marketing of activities, programs, and events.

It is the hope of the Talbot Family Network that we can sustain or mobilize the strategies suggested by our citizens. We will continue our work together to address challenging data trends and improve our encouraging data trends to an even greater extent. We welcome your involvement.

TALBOT FAMILY NETWORK

Who is the Talbot Family Network and how does this organization support the best results for children and families?

In 1995, the Maryland General Assembly enacted a statute (Article 49D of the Maryland Code) requiring each county and Baltimore City to establish a Local Management Board (LMB). The purpose of the LMB was and is to develop and facilitate effective, coordinated, outcome-based family services responsive to the needs, strengths, and priorities of families. The **Talbot Family Network**, the LMB for Talbot County, was created in 1997 and is comprised of public agency and private sector representatives. Now in its 12th year, the Talbot Family Network office is located at 142 N. Harrison Street in Easton and is staffed by an Executive Director, a Grants Manager/Operations Specialist, and an Executive Assistant/Data Manager.

The mission of the Talbot Family Network is, through collaboration with public and private entities, to identify and develop support systems for a safe, healthy and caring community for all Talbot County children and families.

LMB efforts across Maryland are tracked by the Governor's Office for Children, who provide partial funding to operate LMBs and who assess progress through the monitoring of eight desired results or goals reflective of child and family well-being. The eight result areas for Maryland's children are:

- *Babies Born Healthy*
- *Healthy Children*
- *Children Enter School Ready to Learn*
- *Children Successful in School*
- *Children Completing School*
- *Children Safe in Their Families & Communities*
- *Stable & Economically Independent Families*
- *Communities That Support Family Life*



For each of these results, the Governor's Office for Children recommends indicators to help determine progress toward the results. Based on the indicator trends, each county LMB is encouraged to select two or three result areas for local focus. The Talbot Family Network currently emphasizes two result areas as priorities:

Children Enter School Ready to Learn
and
Children Safe in Their Families and Communities

Staff and volunteers advocate for services or programs to address these two result areas.

Local Management Boards do not provide direct services. Their purpose is to “build capacity” of organizations, community teams, or collaborative partners in ways such as:

1. Identifying needs by collecting indicator data and surveying or interviewing citizens;
2. From the needs assessment, declaring specific goals;
3. Encouraging the collaboration of public and private partners to work toward fulfilling goals or result areas;
4. Seeking funding or facilitating the coordination of existing resources to respond to needs by building relationships, advocating for the creation of new programs, or supporting program expansion;
5. Monitoring programs and services where funding has been provided by the Local Management Board; and
6. Providing technical assistance to support partners toward meeting result areas using those best practices that are most likely to lead to greater success for children and families.

This report, titled *Talbot Results*, provides an overview of the county needs organized by the eight result areas and presented via selected indicators recommended by the Governor’s Office for Children and the Talbot Family Network’s Board of Directors. For a majority of the indicators, the most recent five years of data are shown, along with a comparison to the overall State of Maryland data for the same indicator. Most data are presented in the form of graphs that include the five year trends, plus a linear line to show the direction of the trend. For purposes of consistency and ease in understanding the trends, there is uniformity in the presentation of the data within the graphs. To achieve an additional level of consistency and reliability in the data, this report includes data primarily from official state sources, rather than local data. Based on the state source and the data complexity, some state sources had not yet posted 2008 data at the time of this publication, so the five most recent years of data ranged from 2003 to 2007. Most state data sources use a fiscal year from July to June, rather than a calendar year from January to December. For those data sources using a calendar year, the acronym “CY” is included in the source. Website data sources are provided in Section 9 of this report for in depth reference by readers, if desired.

Goals for each result area are one in the same. The goal IS the result. For example, the two priority goals of the Talbot Family Network are “**children enter school ready to learn**” and “**children are safe in their families and communities.**” Within this document, the goals are declared as results and the selected indicator trends are presented for each of the eight Maryland result areas. However, since the Talbot Family Network’s two priority results are those just mentioned, a discussion of the indicator trends and the strategies in place are described in this document only for the two priority results.

The strategies listed for the two priority result areas are by no means exhaustive. Many organizations collaborate to support one or more of the eight result areas. Those programs described briefly in this report are specific to the two priority result areas and are services where the Talbot Family Network has provided funding, coordination, development, facilitation, and/or some other form of support. For readers who are interested in organizations or agencies supporting one or more result areas, Chesapeake Helps! is a Talbot Family Network partner service designed to provide live operator, online, and hard copy information and resources for

children and families. More detail about Chesapeake Helps! is provided in Section 5 of this report.

Talbot Results for Child and Family Well-Being has multiple purposes. As stated earlier, the collection of data trends is used to monitor the progress of programs supported by the Talbot Family Network. Other purposes for this needs assessment are:

- 1) Help Talbot County organizations, agencies, and communities determine needs or challenges to enable stronger and more focused collaboration;
- 2) Assist citizens in greater understanding of where progress has occurred in addressing child and family concerns;
- 3) Raise awareness among citizens of the potential return on their state tax investment in the Talbot County Local Management Board;
- 4) Provide a source of assessment data to justify future requests of private and public grant funding to support the sustainability or development of services for children and families in Talbot County; and
- 5) Present an overview of programs and services designed in response to the strongest needs among children and families in Talbot County.



The Talbot Family Network Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers are increasingly challenged by greater needs, but reduced funding availability. This challenge has been recently echoed by public agencies and non-profit organizations in Talbot County who desire the same positive results for Talbot County citizens. Now, more than ever, the Talbot Family Network encourages both public and private organizations, businesses, faith centers, communities, and Talbot citizens to collaborate and blend resources toward stronger Talbot results for children and families.

TALBOT COUNTY PROFILE

What are the characteristics of Talbot County?

Talbot County is primarily rural, encompassing 259 square miles of land, 67.7 square miles of waterways, and 605 miles of shoreline. It is bordered by the Chesapeake Bay to the west, Queen Anne’s County to the north, Dorchester County to the south, and Caroline County to the east. At least 64% of the land is agricultural (Maryland Geological Survey).



Easton is the county seat and serves as the commercial hub for the mid-shore of Maryland’s Eastern Shore. Other incorporated towns include St. Michaels, Oxford and Trappe. Numerous small villages are dotted along the waterways and, along with the incorporated towns, yield a rich colonial, maritime, and Native American history. As a result, tourism and hospitality industries typically thrive in the jurisdiction and provide the third largest employment category in the private sector. Talbot County has nearly 1700 businesses employing an estimated 17,600 workers. However, due to the location of the Shore Health Systems in Easton, healthcare is the largest employment sector in the county based on figures compiled by the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development (2008-2009). Other major employers include Allen Family Foods, Wal-Mart, William Hill Manor, Lowe’s, ProTemps Staffing Solutions, Celeste Industries, Chesapeake Publishing, and the federal, state, and local governments.

There are 16,500 housing units and the population density per square mile is 126 people or 61 housing units. According to the 2005 United States Census estimates, the population at the time was 35,500. From 1990 to 2000, the population growth was 10.7% in Talbot County, which is comparable to the State. The population is expected to increase to 36,950 by 2010 and 38,550 by 2015. The median age of residents is 43.3, with the age range of 45-64 year olds projected to represent the largest population group at 31.9% in 2010. Residents ages 0-19 are expected to comprise 21.1% of the population in 2010.

Talbot County Population Distribution/ (2010 Projection)

Age	Number	Percent
Under 5	1,840	5.0
5-19	5,960	16.1
20-44	9,080	24.6
45-64	11,710	31.7
65 and Over	8,360	22.6
Total	36,950	100.0

Note: Columns may not add due to rounding.

Source: Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development,
Brief Economic Facts 2008-2009

The 2000 Census showed African Americans represent over 15% of residents, and 1.8% of the residents represent Hispanic cultures, the largest group of foreign-born residents in the county. Just under 1% of Talbot County people are Asian. The number of multi-ethnic individuals are increasing compared to prior years. Caucasians comprise just over 81% of the population.

**Talbot County Ethnic Distribution
From the 2000 US Census**

Ethnicity	% of Population	Number of People
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.2	54
Asian	0.8	269
African American	15.3	5,161
Hispanic or Latino	1.8	615
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.0	7
Caucasian	81.2	27,456
Other Ethnicities (not mentioned above)	0.1	25
Two or More Ethnicities	0.6	225
Total	100.0%	33,812

Source: P4. HISPANIC OR LATINO, AND NOT HISPANIC OR LATINO BY RACE [73] - Universe: Total population. Data Set: Census 2000 Summary File 1 (SF 1) 100-Percent Data. Census 2000. U.S. Census Bureau

For the 2008-2009 school year, there were 4,419 students enrolled in Talbot County Public Schools. This enrollment level has stayed constant for the past 10 years. Attendance rates were above the 94% satisfactory standard for elementary and middle and just below the 94% rate for high school level students in 2008-09. The graduation rate was slightly above 88%. All student groups met their AYP or Adequate Yearly Progress expectations last year. In total, there are eight public schools in Talbot County and 12 private preschools and schools. Private school enrollment totaled 1,493 students in September of 2007. Enrollment and the attendance rate for each public school site are featured in the following table:

**Talbot County Public School Enrollment
2008-2009 School Year**

Site	Enrollment	Attendance Rate
Chapel District Elementary	320	95.9
Easton Elementary	1,121	95.4
St. Michaels' Elementary	280	95.1
Tilghman Elementary	74	96.3
White Marsh Elementary	230	95.5
Easton Middle	800	94.6
Easton High	1,205	93.9
St. Michael's Middle/High	389	95.1/93.4
Total	4,419	95.5 = Elementary 94.7 = Middle 93.8 = High

Source: www.marylandreportcard.org (Maryland State Department of Education)

Economic data reveals a per capita personal income of \$53,710 compared to \$43,788 for Maryland in 2008 (Brief Economic Facts, 2008-2009). Meanwhile, 11% of the population under age 18 is living in poverty, 10% of children live in high poverty neighborhoods, 22% of children live in single parent households and 6.4% of children ages 5-15 have one or more disabilities. Trends in poverty show significant increases between 1990 and 2000 for children living below poverty (1% increase) and children living in high poverty neighborhoods (10% increase). The Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation reported an average unemployment rate of 4.3% in Talbot County for 2008. For the first three months of 2009 (January to March), the average unemployment rate increased to 7.7% for Talbot County.



FOCUS GROUP SUMMARY

What opinions do youth and adults have about Talbot County needs?

With a purpose to collect public opinions about child/family needs in Talbot County, 13 focus groups were led by the Talbot Family Network staff with assistance (Jeanine Beasley, Ginny Cornwell and Donna Hacker) between January and February of 2009. Of the 13 groups, 11 had adult participants and two had youth participants. The following organizations attended a focus group session:

Youth Focus Groups (21 Youth)

Tilghman Elementary School-Tilghman After School Kids (TASK) Group 3
Scotts United Methodist Church (UMC) After School Tutorial Program Participants

Adult Focus Groups (59 Adults)

Tilghman Elementary School TASK Group 1
Tilghman Elementary School TASK Group 2
Tilghman Parent Teacher Organization PTO Group 4
Tilghman Elementary School TASK Group 5
Tilghman Elementary School TASK Group 6
Talbot County InterAgency Committee
Grandparents as Parents Support Group
Local Coordinating Council (LCC) Members
Local Coordinating Council (LCC) Parent
Scott's United Methodist Church (UMC) Afterschool Tutorial Program
Scotts United Methodist Church (UMC) Tutorial Program Workers and Volunteers
YMCA Special Needs After School Program Parent

In total, 80 youth and adults attended focus group sessions. Of the youth focus group participants, 13 members or 62% were male, 8 members or 38% were females, 12 or 57% were Caucasian, and 9 or 43% were African American. Of the adult focus group participants, 8 members or 14% were male, 51 members or 86% were females, 44 or 75% were Caucasian, 14 or 24% were African American, and 1 or 1% was of unknown ethnicity.

Four questions were posed to the group members. Each group was given ample time to respond. Group facilitators recorded responses on flip chart paper and checked in with the group to make sure responses were accurately written. Respondents were then given an opportunity to rate the ideas by voting on those they believe to be most important. Each question is listed next, followed by the most frequently mentioned responses.

1. What are the strengths of Talbot County when considering the needs of children and families?

The most frequently mentioned responses from the two youth groups were:

4-Wheeling (11 votes/mentions)

Horseback Riding (7 votes/mentions)

Ball sports such as football, baseball, softball (6 votes/mentions)

Boat building, TASK (4 votes/mentions each)

Golf cart driving, Environmental Center, Talbot County schools, a lot of people do not get murdered (3 votes/mentions each)

Hunting, Swimming, Gymnastics, Shopping Centers, YMCA (2 votes/mentions each)

Other responses were: ice skating, lacrosse, tennis, field hockey, fishing and crabbing, air hockey, the Chesapeake Bay, bike riding, school, cheerleading, soccer, MSA scores (smart people), good teachers and students, good principals and vice-principals, security people at the schools, people respect each other, PTO, a lot of good people in Talbot County, beaches, pool, youth rallies, and not many homeless people (1 vote/mention each).

The most frequently mentioned responses from the 11 adult groups were:

TASK/ scholarships too (21 votes/mentions)

Methodist Church on Tilghman Island/ Churches (11 votes/mentions)

Schools/ Tilghman Island School/ small class size (9 votes/mentions)

Afterschool program, Programs available for kids (7 votes/mentions each)

Parks and Recreation (6 votes/mentions)

YMCA, Youth sports groups, Sense of community-ownership of problems (5 votes/mentions)

Important that there is a school on Tilghman Island, First responders i.e. EMT on Tilghman, Specialized court program (teen, family, drug, mental health), volunteer fire companies, Mental health programs and association, Libraries (4 votes/mentions each)

Push to use family driven plans is important, We are creative and think outside of the box, School system offers a good array of services, Collaboration of different agencies involved with families and many, many people who do care, For the most part people work together, spirit of cooperation, St. Michael's Community Center, Community pools, Non-profits, Playgrounds, Volunteers, Computer programs/ laptop initiative (3 votes/mentions each)

Deep pockets/untapped wealth, Tilghman Volunteer Fire Company, Close-knit community on Tilghman (2 votes/mentions each)

Other responses were: Youth sports teams, There are activities for kids and some do not cost that much money, Team Spirit church group, new public parks, Girl Scouts, Talbot Community Center/ice skating, willing people, theater groups, Chesapeake College, generous people in Talbot County, Methodist Church women's group, needs are responded to, environmental group, For All Seasons, children are not home alone, 3rd grade water safety classes, increasing diverse sets of skills of people on Tilghman Island, nice options for eating out, Waterman's Museum, Environmental Center, Bay Hundred Theater program, health suite at Tilghman Elementary, job retention, good follow-up by IAC, non-duplication of services, judges that care, mental health court, adult drug court (in addition to teen court and family recovery court), Family Preservation program, Talbot Mentors, respite program, a lot of services available, rural nature of the

community-self-reliant, Child Advocacy Center, Health Department, early intervention programs, dedication of front-line workers at all agencies (1 vote/mention each).

2. What are the challenges in Talbot County when considering the needs of children and families?

The most frequently mentioned responses from the two youth groups were:

Fights (5 votes/mentions)

Gang Violence (3 votes/mentions)

Drug use, Kidnappings, Bomb threats, Childhood obesity (2 votes/mentions each)

Other responses were: Child abuse, exercising, cursing at a young age, recycling, rapist/child molesters, racism, and school drop outs (1 vote/mention each).

The most frequently mentioned responses from the 11 adult groups were:

Transportation (15 votes/mentions)

Activities for middle/high school aged or teen aged youth (12 votes/mentions)

Concerns about economy on families and family access/affordability for programs (11 votes/mentions)

Jobs/marketable skills (9 votes/mentions)

Housing accessibility and affordability (8 votes/mentions)

Funding for programs, Awareness and marketing of programs (7 votes/mentions each)

Need greater parent involvement and buy in/ parents' expectations of kids being too low (6 votes/mentions)

School issues such as high student workload, intimidating parent/teacher conferences, redistricting, older kids need recess, field trips are too short and not good locations, health suite at Tilghman Elementary is underutilized (5 votes/mentions)

Not enough summer programs or programs fill up fast, Concerns about need for more volunteers, Substance abuse, inclusion issues - making sure programs attract and retain all ethnicities (4 votes/mentions)

Services for Hispanics/illegals, Need for flexible spending funds for families, No public access to the water, Police access, Cell phone reception, Sense of community threatened by more weekenders/ rural community issues, No communication from the schools unless you are involved, Challenges of children are really impacted by the challenges of the parent/family (3 votes/mentions)

Candy/sugar in the schools, Insurance not paying for needs, Locations and times of the activities, Sports fields and Concessions Stand are neglected (2 votes/mentions)

Other responses were: Some resistance to programs, number of seniors living alone that need someone to look after them, trash/dumping problem, public pays for street lights, no skate parks, no sports for girls, coordinating natural resources initiatives with watermen's livelihoods, paper work, trust of bureaucracies, lack of access to community buildings, Strong relationships between agencies can sometimes impede conflict resolution, small town peer pressure and everyone knows everyone's business, supporting the strengths, knowing what works and not being able to get it, lack of service array, family unit is changing, grandparents raising grandchildren and services do not fit, no Big Brothers or Big Sister programs, Communication

with social worker, affordable childcare/ including weekend care, Numbers in intensive programs are skyrocketing, as challenges get larger – natural tendency to hold on to what you have, finding quality provider services in any realm and maintaining those services, a feeling of being alone in a problem – not know there are others who have been through what you and your family has been through, serving the entire county not just Easton, opportunities for exposure for kids/knowing that the world is bigger than Talbot County, parents are overwhelmed (1 vote/mention each).

3. What ideas do you have for overcoming the challenges?

(Note: Youth were asked what kinds of activities/things they would like to see in Talbot County for children and families.)

The most frequently mentioned responses from the two youth groups were:

Subway (fast food store) in St. Michael's (11 votes/mentions)

Arcades, Cabella's in Easton, Outback Steakhouse, Conferences about gang violence (5 votes/mentions each)

More charities, American Girl shop in Tilghman, Community pool, Programs to prevent drugs and gang violence (3 votes, mentions each)

Boys club in TASK, Starbucks in Tilghman, Do not have as many stores that sell cigarettes and liquor, Healthier food, Helping people in your community, Talk to your parents (2 votes/mentions each)

Other responses were: Less pollution, let us ride golf carts on Tilghman Island, deliveries, tourists, do the right thing, church, kids should not hang in a group to avoid kidnappings, be responsible, pay kids to come to school so they do not drop out, raise awareness, not being involved in gangs (1 vote/mention each).

The most frequently mentioned responses from the 11 adult groups were:

Activities for teens including opening up the school spaces in off hours for sports, dances for kids, skate park (11 votes/mentions)

Offer family friendly recreation options i.e. bingo nights, movie nights, Implement prevention programs to include universal prevention, or a teen center that includes prevention activities (8 votes/mentions each)

Partnering of resources i.e. TASK/PTO/ Recreation & Parks, more TASKS at other schools OR coordination between Social Services and church groups OR agencies working better together OR one-stop shop for services (blending resources for all needs) OR share across systems (7 votes/mentions)

More funding (5 votes/mentions)

Substation between St. Michael's and Tilghman for police or community could subsidize a police officer to live in Tilghman, Transportation improvements, Finding funding that is more flexible to be able to do what families need, Housing programs other than Section 8 that are affordable (4 votes/mentions)

Better marketing and awareness of programs, Cell phone tower, More educational opportunities and access to resources – some kids do have computers, internet access, etc. to do work that is expected, Open communication between parents, after school programs and schools – not just

when things are bad, Teachers should show that they care while kids are in the classroom (3 votes/mentions)

Meaningful employment for kids, Value added products and services like local production and local consumption, Parents on re-districting committee, Access problems earlier when they are fixable – structure already exists to do this, Other county government agencies presentations at Talbot Family Network Board Meetings i.e. housing, job opportunities – may grow into public forums similar to the Blue Ribbon Commission, Opportunities for teachers to meet the children in the children’s environment, Training opportunities for students – communication, body language, etc., Teachers need to get more involved with volunteers – examples so volunteers can really help students, teaching methods have changed and some volunteers are not familiar with new methods (2 votes/mentions)

Other responses were: Level the playing field for children and families, make things more accessible, bike/multi use paths, mentoring programs, Boy Scouts on Tilghman, buddy system for Senior citizens, trash transfer station for Tilghman, volunteer pick up service, tennis court back boards, sports for girls, too much sugar in schools, reward system using candy, better field trips, recess after lunch for older kids at Tilghman Elementary, diversify the housing market, research based programs for early learning of social skills and coping skills, more people, cut the red tape, community center in town, another bowling alley and movie theater, higher pay, people rally when there is a need – we need to find a way to make sure people know the needs – someone needs to organize the effort, consumer education, more workshops, training opportunities for teachers, focusing on one method of how to do something, open houses at the schools, schools need to follow through and use the tools available like parent connect, exposure to colleges, scholarships and grants (1 vote/mention each).

4. Any other comments?

One parent (and no youth) volunteered a response as follows for this question:

“Talbot County has huge potential – does not have a dense population and has good roads.”

END OF FOCUS GROUP SUMMARY

PRIORITY RESULT:

CHILDREN ENTER SCHOOL READY TO LEARN

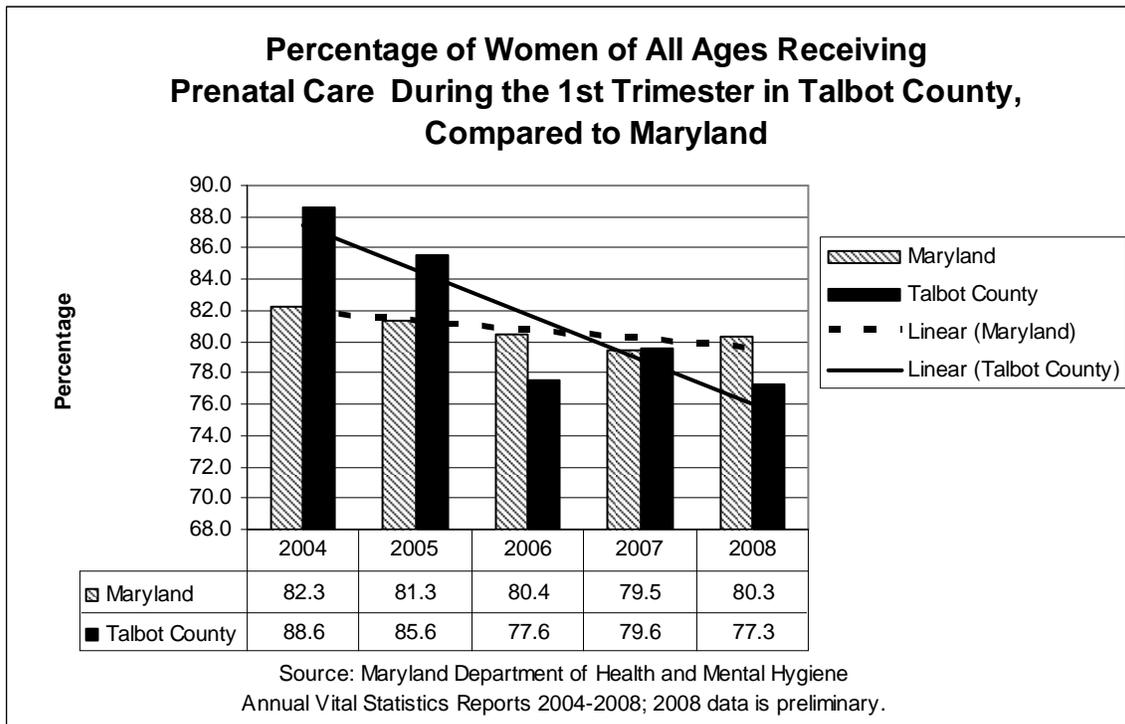
After reviewing available data in Talbot County, the Talbot Family Network chose two result areas in 2004 based on data showing the greatest need for services or support. The Network continues to prioritize each because the need remains great, but also because progress is being made. The first desired result is ***CHILDREN ENTER SCHOOL READY TO LEARN***.

INDICATORS

The headline indicators that reveal the most about whether children are entering school ready to learn are both health and academic based. Indicators include prenatal care, births to adolescents, and Kindergarten readiness. For these leading indicators, a historical and linear trend is presented next. History reveals the progress of the indicator and the linear line shows the most likely direction if the level of effort remains the same.

PRENATAL CARE

The percentage of women in Talbot County, compare to Maryland from 2004-2008 receiving prenatal care during the 1st Trimester of pregnancy, shows a downward trend for both groups. Just over 82% of Maryland women received care in 2004 and 80.3% received care in 2008. Meanwhile, nearly 89% of Talbot County women received care in 2004 and this percentage decreased to 77.3% in 2008. At the prior year rates, the trend is expected to continue downward, with Talbot’s percentage showing a steeper decline than Maryland’s.



Note: At this writing (August 2009), the 2008 Annual Vital Statistic Report had not been published.

CHILDREN ENTER SCHOOL READY TO LEARN - Continued

BIRTHS TO ADOLESCENTS

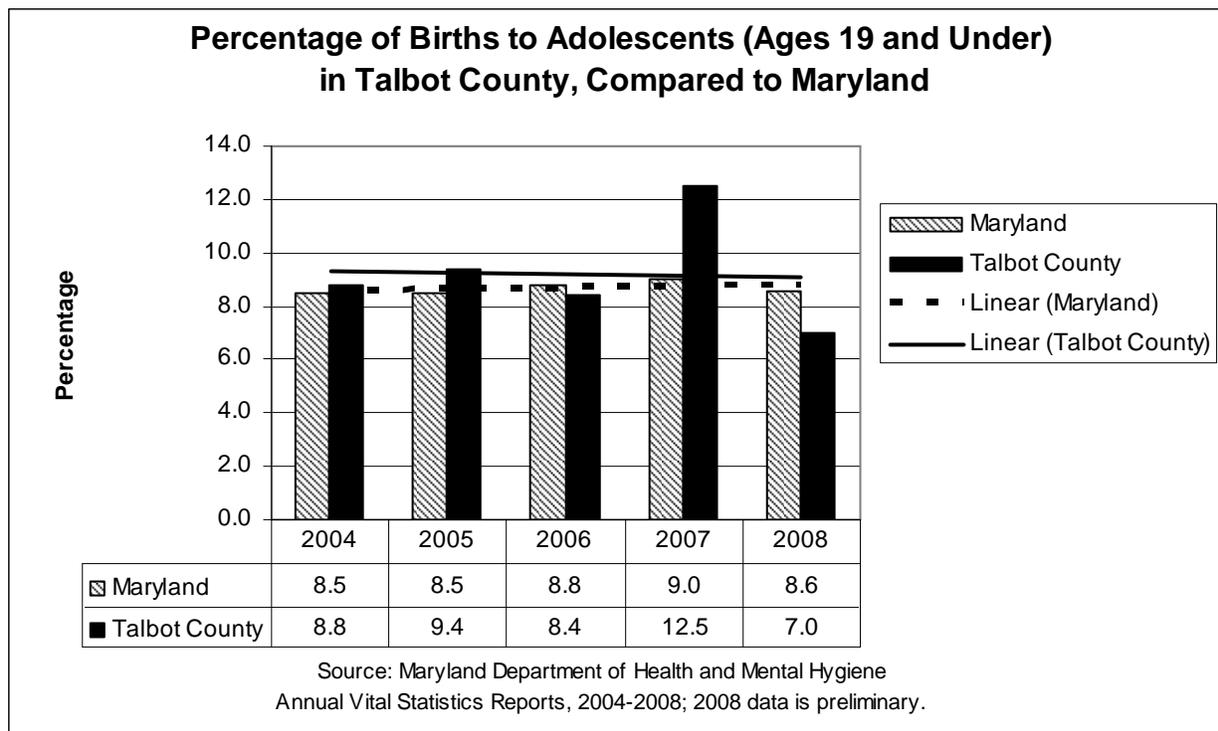
For the indicator of births to adolescents, the percentage of births to women ages 19 and under in Maryland and in Talbot County is tracked between the five year span of 2004-2008. Percentages translated to actual numbers for Talbot County women, follow:

Area ↓ Year →	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008*
Talbot # of All Births	388	294	357	368	387
Talbot # of Births to Adolescents	34	26	30	46	27

*Based on partial data released in the preliminary 2008 Annual Vital Statistics Report

Women in their teens who become pregnant are at a greater risk of health complications for both themselves and their babies. Babies born to teen moms are also more likely to experience learning delays as a result of limited parenting skills.

In Talbot County, the percentage and number of births to adolescents have fluctuated going from 8.8% in 2004, up to 12.5% in 2007, and down to 7.0% in 2008. Maryland births to adolescents have remained steady with a slight upward trend from 2006 to 2007. Talbot's forecast for 2009-2011 reveals a steady percentage of births to adolescents.

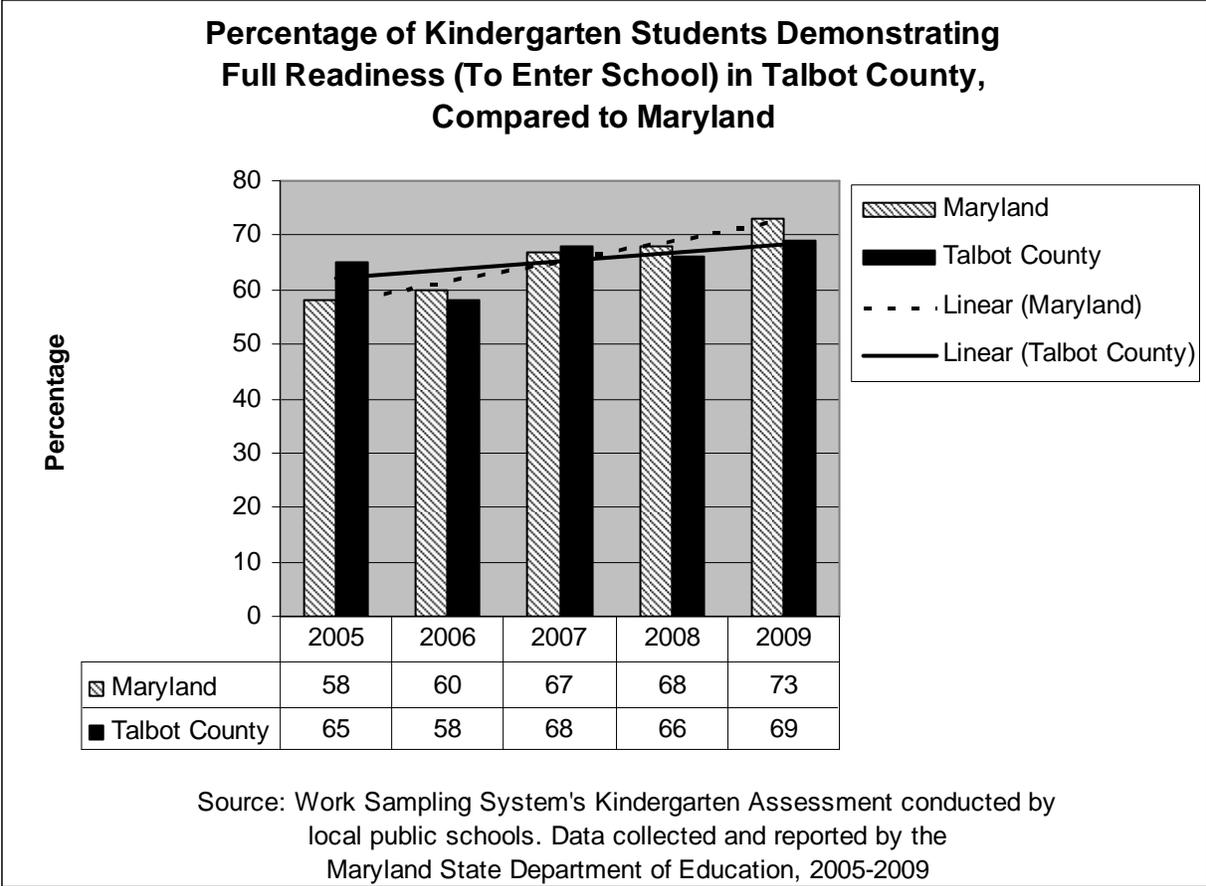


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CHILDREN ENTER SCHOOL READY TO LEARN-Continued

KINDERGARTEN READINESS

The most reliable predictor of Kindergarten readiness currently being administered to pre-school children in every Maryland jurisdiction is the “Work Sampling System’s Kindergarten Assessment.” The Maryland State Department of Education collects and analyzes the data and has set a goal of 75% of children being fully ready for Kindergarten. Talbot County Public Schools and other public and private organizations have worked collectively to improve readiness in Talbot County. Efforts have yielded an 11% increase in readiness scores over the past four years in the County and a 15% improvement across the State of Maryland since 2005. The forecasted trend shows a potential for reaching the 75% goal of pre-Kindergarten children at full readiness within the next five years.



CHILDREN ENTER SCHOOL READY TO LEARN-Continued

STRATEGIES

While there are many public agencies and private organizations working to strengthen the result of Children Entering School Ready to Learn, the Talbot Family Network funds organizations on a limited basis and, through this funding, seeks to supplement existing efforts. Talbot Family Network identifies gaps in services, endorses evidence-based programs and researches and/or advocates for funding to support best practices designed to positively impact targeted result areas. With a pool of funding available, the Talbot Family Network solicits grant applications from local organizations who have a plan for addressing the result area. The following strategies have been recently funded either in whole or in part by the Talbot Family Network. Each strategy is designed to impact the result area of *Children Enter School Ready to Learn*.

Chesapeake Helps!

The Talbot Family Network partnered



with the other four mid-shore counties (Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, and Queen Anne’s) to create and launch two key strategies. First, Chesapeake Helps! is an information and referral help center operated by the Chesapeake Child Care Resource Center at Chesapeake College. Trained resource specialists are available by phone or on-line to provide a “single point of access” for any family member who is faced with social or emotional challenges and who would like to find out what local resources are available. Resource Specialists will help ensure a child-centered, family-focused, community-based, and culturally competent System of Care.

Family Navigator

Through a collaborative funding and programming arrangement, a Family Navigator is available in each of the five mid-shore counties to include Talbot County. For families who may have a child with more intensive needs, a Talbot Family Navigator provides care coordination and advocacy. A Family Navigator is a parent who is or has cared for a child with special needs. S(he) is trained to assist other families to obtain the appropriate services and supports for their child and family. The Family Navigator must be knowledgeable about state and local resources and how to access these resources. Anyone who needs assistance with obtaining services or support for their child or family can reach the Talbot County Family Navigator by calling 410-901-1007. There are no eligibility requirements or fees.



CHILDREN ENTER SCHOOL READY TO LEARN-Continued

Grandparents as Parents Educational Support Group

The Grandparents as Parents Educational Support Group is designed for grandparents who are raising their grandchildren. Trained group facilitators are available to discuss the latest research and knowledge about child developmental growth stages, along with answering general questions about child-rearing. Participants are encouraged to forge relationships with other grandparents attending the group as a support system. The group meets for two hours and frequency of meetings depends on the desire of participants. Childcare and food are provided during the meetings. Additional information is available by calling 410-822-0686 or 410-820-6940.

Healthy Families

Healthy Families Queen Anne's/Talbot provides intensive prevention and early intervention services to first time parents, eligible for M-CHP and residing in Talbot County, who also have risk factors for poor parenting outcomes. Home visitors (Family Support Workers) share the *Parents as Teachers* child development curriculum, build a sustained relationship with the participants, conduct developmental screens, refer for services, and model essential parenting skills. Healthy Families serves 40-50 families per year and screens approximately 100 children annually. This program achieved high satisfaction levels among parents and resulted in high immunization rates among children and nearly all children demonstrated target developmental progress after participating in the program. The lead agency managing Healthy Families is the Talbot County Health Department. The phone number for inquiries or referrals is 410-819-5600.

Local Management Board Lending Resource Library

Talbot Family Network maintains an extensive lending library of literature and program resources for children, parents, caregivers, and families. A wide range of subjects to include parenting, Youth Developmental Asset Building, Systems of Care, child brain development, child development, and after-school programming, are available for temporary use. Citizens may access the lending library by calling ahead to visit the Network office at 410-770-6870.

Talbot Partnership Environmental Strategies

Environmental strategies are strategies in the community that reduce access to alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. These include changing laws to reflect less tolerance of public use, moving products away from eye level displays so customers are less likely to purchase unhealthy products, and reducing the number of alcohol/tobacco vendors in a community. Environmental Strategies address high rates of alcohol abuse by Talbot County youth. Staff members work with organizations to implement policies that decrease youth access to alcohol and provide consequences for delinquent behavior; to enroll families in the *Safe Homes* program and in *Guiding Good Choices* parent education; and to provide alcohol treatment and juvenile justice services to youth. Funds are also used for media campaigns and enforcement activities. *Environmental Strategies* benefit families of all ethnicities with children in Talbot County, as well as businesses, agencies, faith-based and other youth-serving organizations. Talbot Partnership, a non-profit organization, is the lead agency. Staff and volunteers may be reached by calling 410-819-8067.

CHILDREN ENTER SCHOOL READY TO LEARN-Continued

Touchpoints™

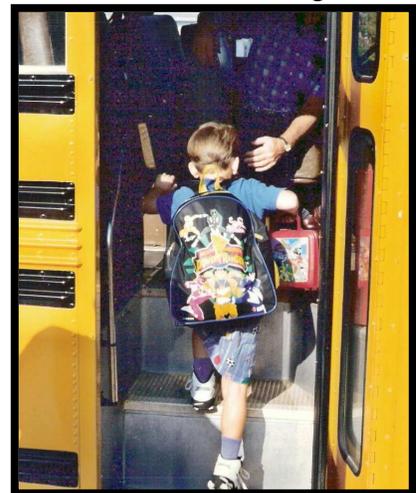
Based on the life work and research done by Dr. T. Berry Brazelton, the ***Talbot Touchpoints™ Project*** is a model for training practitioners/providers around key points in a young child's development. It is a form of outreach and supportive alliance building which engages parents to recognize and support child development phases and progress. It emphasizes prevention through anticipatory guidance and development of relationships between parents and providers. As a result, parents will be more likely to maintain involvement with the systems of care around their children. Through the Touchpoints™ Model of outreach and prevention, practitioners can form connections with families and work with parents to bring healthier and better outcomes for their children. Talbot is one of 75 Touchpoints™ sites in the U.S. Between 150 and 200 individuals are trained each year in Touchpoints™ workshops and seminars and at least 100 parents annually participate in classes. Hundreds of "My Child's Journal" are distributed to parents each year. Touchpoints™ has become integrated as part of the curriculum of the McQueen Gibbs School of Nursing through Chesapeake College. Touchpoints™ is administered locally by the Mental Health Association in Talbot County. More information about Touchpoints™ can be obtained by calling 410-822-0444 or the Touchpoints™ line at 888-706-9902.

The Judy Center Partnership

Judith P. Hoyer Early Child Care and Family Education Centers or "Judy Centers" provide access to early childhood education and family support programs located at or near Title I schools. Typically, education opportunities and support services are available 7-12 hours a day, year around. Judy Centers serve children birth through Kindergarten and their families in an effort to increase the number of children entering school ready to learn. They are unique because they promote school readiness through collaboration with community-based agencies, organizations, and businesses. Most services or assistance a family may need can be provided directly or arranged for at the Judy Center, including health care, Adult Education, identification of special needs and early intervention, child care, parenting classes, and family literacy. The Judy Center is located at 215 Bay Street, Suite A, in Easton. Anyone interested in learning more about "The Judy Center Partnership" may call 410-820-6940.

Other Programs and Services

Many other programs and services have partnered with the Talbot Family Network to strengthen the result area of Children Enter School Ready to Learn. A description of every activity or sponsor would lengthen this report considerably. The Talbot Family Network chose to include only those programs with significant funding or for whom continuing technical assistance by the Talbot Family Network was provided. The Board and Staff apologize for any organization that is a significant partner and was accidentally omitted from this section.



PRIORITY RESULT:

***CHILDREN SAFE IN THEIR FAMILIES
AND COMMUNITIES***

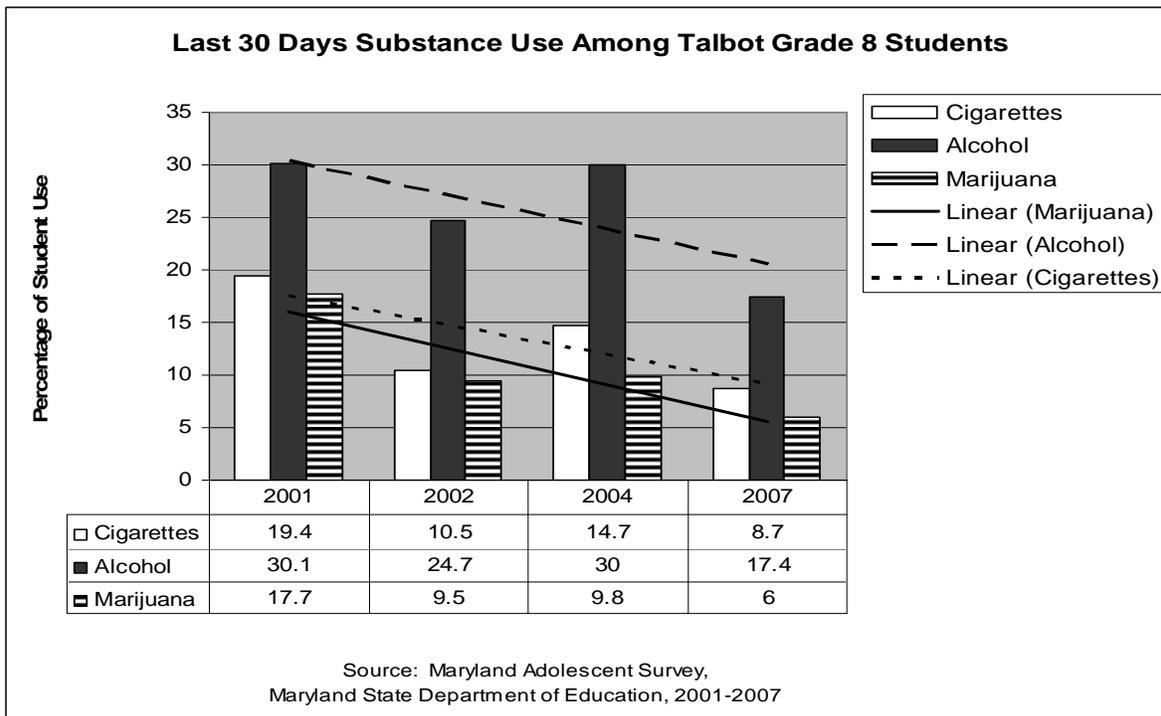
After reviewing available data in Talbot County, the Talbot Family Network chose two result areas in 2004 based on data showing the greatest need for services or support. The Network continues to prioritize each because the need remains great, but also because progress is being made. The second priority result is ***CHILDREN SAFE IN THEIR FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES***.

INDICATORS

The headline indicators that tell us the most about whether children are safe in their families and communities are both health and social based. Indicators include substance use among teens, juvenile crime, and child maltreatment. For these leading indicators, a historical and linear trend is presented next. History reveals the progress of the indicator and the linear line shows the current and projected direction if the level of effort remains the same.

ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, AND OTHER DRUG USE

The Maryland Adolescent Survey is administered approximately every two years to students in Grades 6, 8, 10, and 12 across Maryland with the most recent administration being in December of 2007. Although the survey asks students to report any use, last 12 months use, and use in the 30 days prior to the survey, the most commonly referenced data is the 30-day use rates. Talbot County Grade 8 students are demonstrating decreasing use overall since 2001. Cigarette use rates have declined to 8.7%, alcohol has decreased to 17.4%, and marijuana has decreased to 6%.

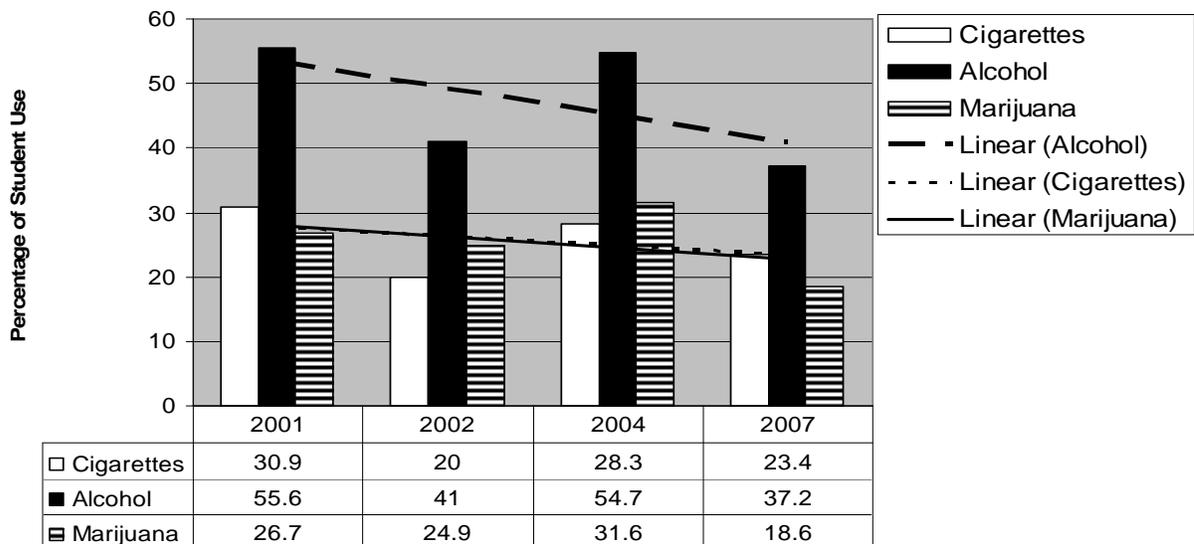


CHILDREN SAFE IN THEIR FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES- Continued



For students in Grade 10, 30-day substance use rates have also declined dramatically in Talbot County. Cigarette use has decreased from a rate of nearly 31% in 2001, down to 23.4% in 2007. Alcohol use was reported by 55.6% of Grade 10 students in 2001 and has decreased to 37.2% in 2007. Marijuana use has also declined from 26.7% in 2001 to 18.6% in 2007.

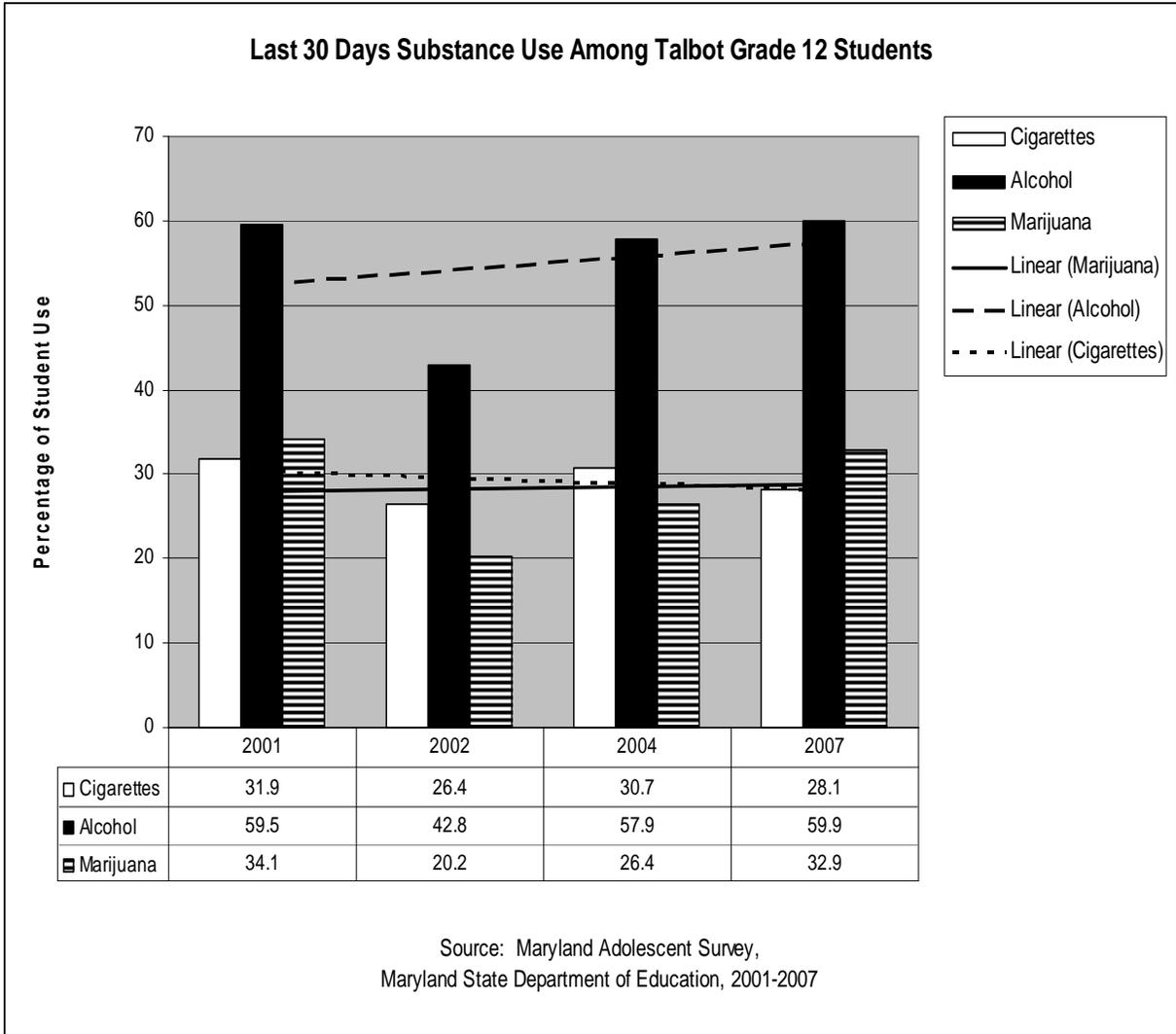
Last 30 Days Substance Use Among Talbot Grade 10 Students



Source: Maryland Adolescent Survey,
Maryland State Department of Education, 2001-2007

CHILDREN SAFE IN THEIR FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES- Continued

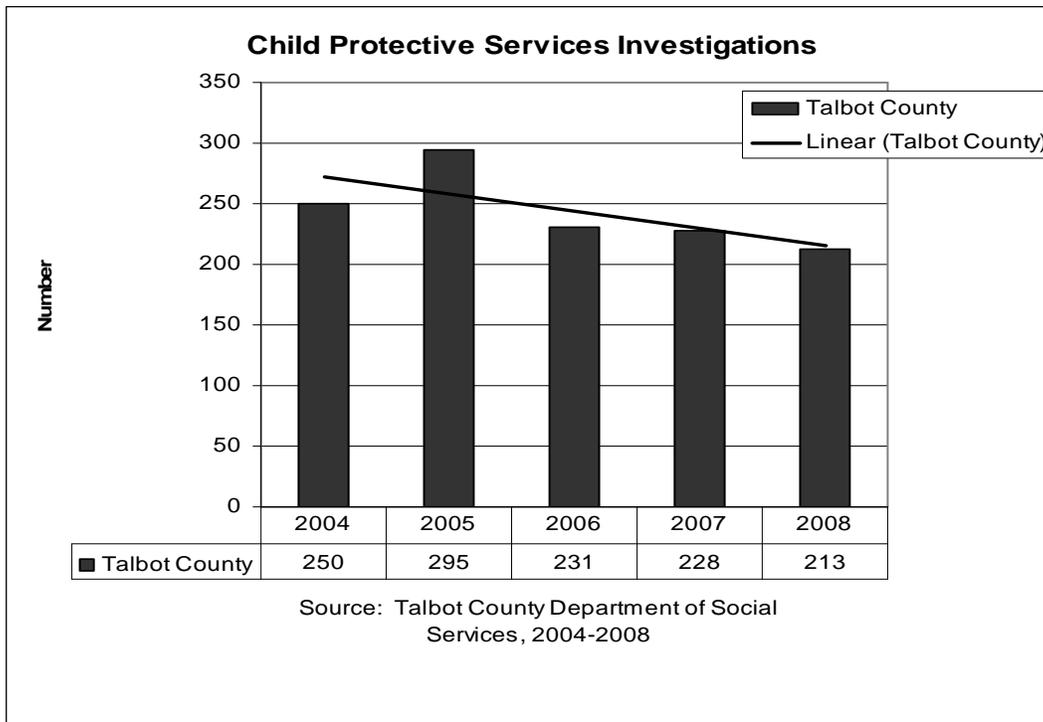
For Grade 12 students, substance use has fluctuated when examining trends from 2001 to 2007. Cigarette rates have declined slightly, while alcohol rates are at a six year high and marijuana use rates are the second highest in six years.



CHILDREN SAFE IN THEIR FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES- Continued

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

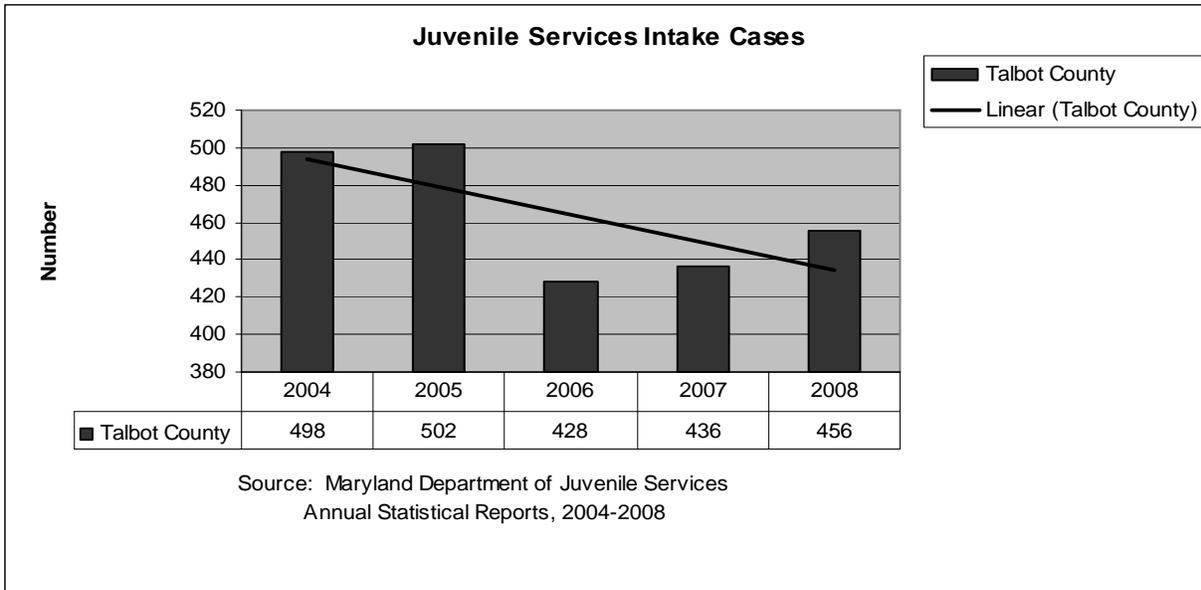
Child abuse and neglect is now commonly referred to by Child Protective Workers as “child maltreatment.” For the purposes of this report, the number of investigations by Child Protective Services, as a division of the Talbot County Department of Social Services, includes child abuse, child sexual abuse, child neglect, and child mental injury cases. Investigations do not mean a case is substantiated. About 20% of all cases are documented by Child Protective Services as substantiated. For Talbot County from 2004 to 2008, the number of investigations decreased from 250 to 213 with a spike in investigations occurring in 2005 at 295. The forecast trend line shows a declining trend in investigations.



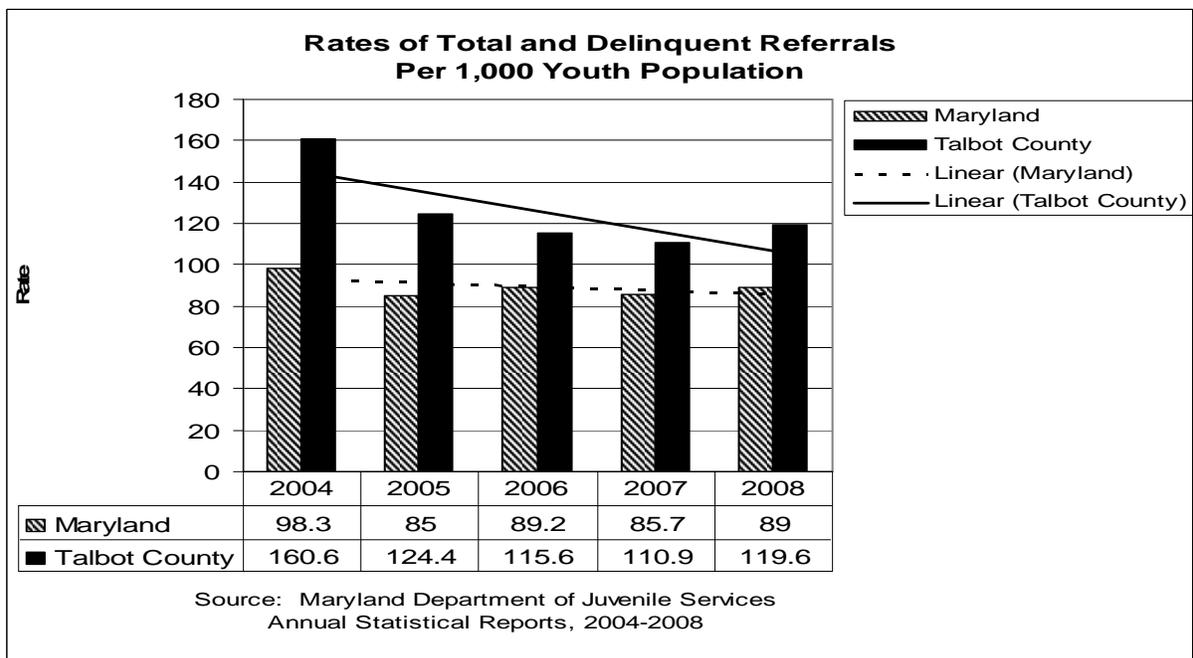
JUVENILE CRIME

The number of actual intakes based on referrals or arrests for juveniles who are accused of committing crimes has ranged from a high of 502 cases in 2005 to a low of 428 cases in 2006. The overall trend shows a decline in intake cases for Talbot County.

CHILDREN SAFE IN THEIR FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES- Continued



Rate of total delinquent referrals per 1,000 youth population are provided annually by the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services and are based on intake dispositions and public school enrollment projections. For Talbot County, the rate has been steadily declining from 2004 to 2008. A linear projection shows this decline is likely to continue over the next few years. Maryland rates are much lower, but have fluctuated. The forecast trend shows a steady rate through 2010.



CHILDREN SAFE IN THEIR FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES- Continued

Violent Crimes

The Maryland State Police, in cooperation with local jurisdiction law enforcement agencies, provides the Uniform Crime Report annually. This report lists the incidence of crime based on police interaction with the public. Overall, violent crimes in Talbot County have decreased since 2003. However, some categories of violent crimes have shown increases in the number of incidents to include robbery and domestic violence.

Violent Crimes – Talbot County/ 2003-2007

↓ Category → Year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Murder	2	1	3	0	0
Rape	10	9	10	9	7
Robbery	10	30	27	31	29
Aggravated Assault	123	99	83	76	76
Domestic Violence	110	116	106	129	122
TOTALS	255	255	229	245	234

Source: 2007 Maryland Uniform Crime Report; Note: 2008 report will not be released until fall 2009

Definitions – Violent Crimes

Murder and the non-negligent manslaughter is the willful (non-negligent) killing of one human being by another.

Forcible rape is defined as the carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will.

Robbery is the taking or the attempting to take anything of values from the care, custody, or control of a person or persons by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear.

Aggravated assault is an unlawful attack by one person upon another for the purpose of inflicting severe or aggravated bodily injury.

Domestic violence is an incident in which an individual has received deliberate physical injury from a current or former spouse or a current or former cohabitant. This includes a homosexual relationship.

Source: 2007 Uniform Crime Report; Maryland State Police

Property Crimes

Property crimes have increased by nearly 16% since 2003 in Talbot County, with larceny theft and motor vehicle thefts showing the greatest increase. The number of arson arrests has decreased dramatically since 2003, while the number of breaking and entering crimes has fluctuated, but in 2007 returned to prior year levels.

CHILDREN SAFE IN THEIR FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES- Continued

Property Crimes – Talbot County/ 2003-2007

↓ Category → Year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Breaking or Entering	174	173	169	186	174
Larceny - Theft	629	669	683	717	755
Motor Vehicle Theft	27	36	26	35	37
Arson	7	13	4	5	1
TOTALS	837	891	882	943	967

Source: 2007 Maryland Uniform Crime Report; Note: 2008 report will not be released until fall 2009

Definitions – Property Crimes

Breaking or entering is defined as the unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or theft.

Larceny-theft is the unlawful taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of property from the possession or constructive possession of another.

Motor vehicle theft is defined as the theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle.

Arson is any willful or malicious burning or attempt to burn, with or without intent to defraud, a dwelling house, public building, motor vehicle or aircraft, personal property of another, etc.

Source: 2007 Uniform Crime Report; Maryland State Police

STRATEGIES

While there are many public agencies and private organizations working to strengthen the result area of *Children Safe in Their Families and Communities*, the Talbot Family Network funds organizations on a limited basis and through this funding seeks to supplement existing efforts. The Network identifies gaps in services, endorses evidence-based programs and researches and/or advocates for funding to support best practices designed to positively impact targeted result areas. With a pool of funding available, the Talbot Family Network solicits grant applications from local organizations who have a plan for addressing the result area. The following strategies have been funded in recent years either in whole or in part by the Talbot Family Network. Each strategy is designed to impact the result area of *Children Safe in Their Families and Communities*.



After School Programs

Programs are provided by a variety of vendors to include school-based and private. Program sponsors choose to address any number of activities including academics, socialization, recreation, community involvement and the arts. A majority of the students in after school programs attend school at least 94% of the time and show improvement their academic performance. Funded programs are currently St. Michaels Elementary School Homework Club,

Tilghman After School Kids (TASK), YMCA Special Needs After School Program, and Scotts UMC After School Tutorial Program.

CHILDREN SAFE IN THEIR FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES- Continued

TASK is sponsored by the St. Michaels Community Center in response to the interests and needs of the school population. The program includes academic, physical, and special interest activities offered five days a week either before or after school with multiple activities hosted each day including: Karate, Woodworking, Legos, Art, Fitness, Cooking, Yu-gi-oh Club, Violin, and Jewelry. Volunteers and staff at TASK may be reached by calling 410-886-2334.

The goal of the St. Michael's Elementary School Homework Club is to help students in risk of school failure to master the necessary student objectives so that they can be promoted to the next grade. The program is staffed by certified teachers and students work independently, in small groups, or with a partner according to their wishes and needs. Students work on homework, long term projects, and practice skills needed for success on Maryland School Assessments. More information about the Homework Club is available by calling 410-745-2882.

For the YMCA program, students with special needs are identified to participate through a collaborative process with school staff and the Talbot County Health Department Developmental Disabilities Coordinator. Each participant has specific identified goals based on his/her needs and these participants are integrated with the traditional after school program participants. The phone number at the YMCA is 410-822-0566.

Scotts UMC After School Tutorial Program offers academic enrichment services for elementary and secondary grade level at risk youth in Talbot County. The program offers a safe environment conducive to learning, homework help, one on one tutoring, and character development. Parents or students who would like more information about Scott's UMC After School Tutorial Program, are encouraged to call 410-476-3042.

Blue Ribbon Commission - County Strategies

With leadership from the Talbot Partnership since 1991, hundreds of individuals and organizations in Talbot County have collaborated to implement solutions toward a purpose to reduce illegal and unhealthy use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs among children and adults. Even though use rates have declined overall, Talbot County remains one of the worst counties in the state for alcohol and other drug use rates. In 2007, the Talbot County Council convened a Blue Ribbon Commission to investigate how substance use adversely impacts the quality of life for Talbot County citizens. The Commission concluded "*Talbot County has a growing substance abuse and addictions problem not limited to its youth.*" The Commission further identified three root causes for the substance abuse problem: 1) a community culture that accepts substance abuse; 2) interventions for alcohol and other drug abuse that occur too late; and 3) drugs and alcohol that are too easy to obtain at home and in the community. In response to their findings, the Commission developed a plan of 34 personal, school, environmental, and community actions. Thirteen actions are underway beginning with the publication of an annual report of priority substance use indicators. Talbot Family Network has been an active partner in the Blue Ribbon Commission plan and strategies. More information about the strategies is available by calling the Talbot Partnership at 410-819-8067.

CHILDREN SAFE IN THEIR FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES- Continued

Checkmate- Alternative to Suspension

As a result of the Checkmate: Alternative to Suspension program originally funded by the Talbot Family Network through the Youth Strategies Consolidated Grant and more recently through other funding sources, there has been a steady decrease in out of school suspensions since 1998. Checkmate requires completion of coursework supplied from the participant's home school. It serves as a deterrent to repeat offenders, keeping them in school and on the path to successful completion. Local data supports the need for programs that assist students in completing high school. For example, in FY 07, there were over 900 referrals to Checkmate; without this program those students would have faced out of school suspension. Program staff host continued quarterly visits from many community partners, including speakers from the Department of Juvenile Services, Talbot Partnership, Allied Health Programs, and the Department of Social Services. More information about Checkmate may be obtained by calling Talbot County Public Schools at 410-822-0330.

Chesapeake Helps!

The Talbot Family Network partnered with the other four mid-shore counties (Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, and Queen Anne's) to create **Chesapeake Helps!**, an information and referral help center operated by the Chesapeake Child Care Resource Center at Chesapeake College. Trained resource specialists are available by phone or on-line to provide a "single point of access" for any family member who is faced with social or emotional challenges and who would like to find out what local resources are available. Resource Specialists will help ensure a child-centered, family-focused, community-based, and culturally competent System of Care.



Community Services Initiative & Rehab Option

Community Services Initiative is a collaboration of community-based services designed to keep children and youth at risk of out-of-home placement in the community in the least restrictive environment. This is a highly concentrated intervention effort which served three children in 2007 and resulted in these children staying in their family homes preventing out-of-home placements. All three children experienced positive and sustainable changes as a result. Persons interested in learning more about the Community Services Initiative are welcome to call the Talbot Family Network at 410-770-6870.

New in FY 08, Rehab Option is an additional funding stream also based on a collaboration of community-based services designed to keep children and youth at risk of out-of-home placement in the community and in the least restrictive environment. In FY 09, two families were served.

CHILDREN SAFE IN THEIR FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES- Continued

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Talbot County

The nation's first Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program was created in Seattle, Washington in 1977 by Superior Court Judge David Soukup, who wanted to make sure he and other judges were making the best possible decisions about the lives of abused and neglected children. He conceived the idea of recruiting adult citizens and training them to serve as advocates for children who came before the court as a result of abuse or neglect. In Maryland, the first CASA program began in 1987. CASA of Talbot County was incorporated as a private, nonprofit organization in 1990. The CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) is appointed by a judge to provide the court with background information to aid in making decisions in the best interests of abused and neglected children. The CASA's goal is to ensure that children are placed in safe, permanent homes in a timely manner and receive all appropriate services while under the court's jurisdiction. A CASA is an information gatherer and an independent advocate, but is not a social worker, therapist, attorney, or big brother/sister. Since 1998, CASA of Talbot County has provided a Court Appointed Special Advocate for 100% of the children assigned by the court. For more information, staff and volunteers at CASA of Talbot County may be reached at 410-822-2866 or www.casaofalbot.org.

Family Navigator

Through a collaborative funding and programming arrangement, a Family Navigator is available in each of the five mid-shore counties to include Talbot County. For families who may have a child with more intensive needs, a Talbot Family Navigator provides care coordination and advocacy. A Family Navigator is a parent who is or has cared for a child with special needs. S(he) is trained to assist other families to obtain the appropriate services and supports for their child and family. The Family Navigator must be knowledgeable about state and local resources and how to access these resources. Anyone who needs assistance with obtaining services or support for their child or family can reach the Talbot County Family Navigator by calling 410-901-1007. There are no eligibility requirements or fees.

Foster Care Campaign

Every May is Foster Care Month. While foster care and foster parents are celebrated throughout the year, special attention is given to the month of May to coincide with the national acknowledgment. Spearheaded by the Talbot County Department of Social Services, a foster care recruitment and recognition campaign includes enhanced marketing for foster parents and special events to raise awareness about the benefits of becoming a foster family. An annual awards dinner is also the focus of Foster Parent Month. Historically in Talbot County, businesses, non-profit organizations, and faith centers have enthusiastically support foster care campaigns led by the Department of Social Services. More information may be secured by calling Social Services at 410-770-4848.

CHILDREN SAFE IN THEIR FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES- Continued

Grandparents as Parents Educational Support Group

The Grandparents as Parents Educational Support Group is designed for grandparents who are raising their grandchildren. Trained group facilitators are available to discuss the latest research and knowledge about child developmental growth stages, along with answering general questions about child-rearing. Participants are encouraged to forge relationships with other grandparents attending the group as a support system. The group meets for two hours and frequency of meetings depends on the desire of participants. Childcare and food are provided during the meetings. Additional information is available by calling 410-822-0686 or 410-820-6940.

Interagency Family Preservation Services & Voluntary Family Services

Interagency Family Preservation Services (IFPS) is the provision of services designed to maintain children and youth at risk of out-of-home placement in the home with intensive supports for the entire family. Highly intensive services requiring many hours of one-to-one intervention and supports, seven families were served in FY 2008 resulting in the families transitioning away from the need for this type of intervention. For more information on Interagency Family Preservation Services, interested persons may call the Talbot County Department of Social Services at 410-770-4848.

Juvenile Drug Court

Drug Court is a collaborative effort in which the court, treatment, child welfare and other public, private and non-profit groups come together in a non-adversarial setting to conduct comprehensive child and parent needs assessments. With these assessments as a base, the team then builds workable case plans to help the teen achieve treatment goals and keep families together. A key feature of this approach is a willingness on part of the judge to engage in constant judicial oversight and interaction with each drug court participant held in informal court reviews. In FY 07, the Talbot County Juvenile Drug Court, in conjunction with Talbot Family Network hosted two Art Therapy receptions for Drug Court participants. Art Therapy classes are required of all drug court participants. Through the use of art, youth increase their self-awareness and insight into addictions problems. Unlike fine art with the focus on the product, Art Therapy uses media as a part of the therapeutic process. Art Therapy has been used successfully around the world in schools, hospitals, clinics, wellness centers and in private practices. During the reception, Drug Court participants displayed their art works and answered questions from visitors. Call 410-770-6823, for more information about Juvenile Drug Court.



CHILDREN SAFE IN THEIR FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES- Continued

Local Management Board Lending Resource Library

Talbot Family Network maintains an extensive lending library of literature and program resources for children, parents, caregivers, and families. A wide range of subjects to include parenting, Youth Developmental Asset Building, Systems of Care, child brain development, child development, and many other topics are available for temporary use. Citizens may access the lending library by calling ahead to visit the Network office at 410-770-6870.

Option Respite

Originated and sponsored by the Talbot County Department of Social Services, Option Respite provides short-term respite experiences for families who have children with physical and/or behavioral challenges. Depending on the situation, a respite provider may come to the home to give parents a few hours for running errands or the respite provider may host a child for a weekend while the parent or guardian enjoys a break from care giving. Studies have shown that families who use respite services are strengthened and are more likely to stay intact. To find out more about Option Respite, interested persons may call Social Services at 410-770-4848.

Parent Education

Parent Education is provided in many venues by several organizations in Talbot County. However, a popular choice for parents is co-sponsored by the Department of Social Services and the Talbot Partnership. Parent education curricula vary according to the needs and ages of family members, but can include approaches such as the Nurturing Program, Systematic Training for Effective Parenting, and Guiding Good Choices. Weekly groups are scheduled in advance and often include meals and childcare options for younger children. Staff and volunteers provide transportation options and reward participants for program completion. All parenting education classes are designed to improve parenting competence and confidence and to ultimately create a safe and more nurturing environment for children. More information about Parent Education may be obtained by calling Social Services at 410-770-4848.

Teen Court

Teen Court, sponsored by the Department of Juvenile Services, partners with the Talbot County Public School system and local law enforcement agencies. Teen Court is a national model and is designed as an alternative to Juvenile Services intake for youth who have committed minor crimes. Volunteer teens are trained as officers of the court and include former teen defendants. Sanctions include serving jury duty, donating community service hours, writing letters of apology or paying restitution. Recidivism rates are very low for students who complete their Teen Court consequences. More information about Teen Court can be obtained by calling the Department of Juvenile Services at 410-822-5010.

CHILDREN SAFE IN THEIR FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES- Continued



Talbot Mentors

The mission of Talbot Mentors is to match young people in Talbot County with volunteer mentors in order to support those children in the challenges and opportunities of adolescence through friendship, guidance, and education. Volunteers with Talbot Mentors make an initial one-year commitment, with a goal of spending one to two hours per week with the child they are mentoring. Popular mentoring activities include sports and outdoor events, arts and

crafts, reading and doing homework, playing board games, or just hanging out. Mentors are people from all walks of life who share an interest in supporting youth. Mentors are interviewed, carefully screened, and thoughtfully matched with students, taking interests and life experiences into consideration. In existence since 1997, the staff and volunteers at Talbot Mentors may be reached by calling 410-770-5999.

Talbot Partnership Environmental Strategies

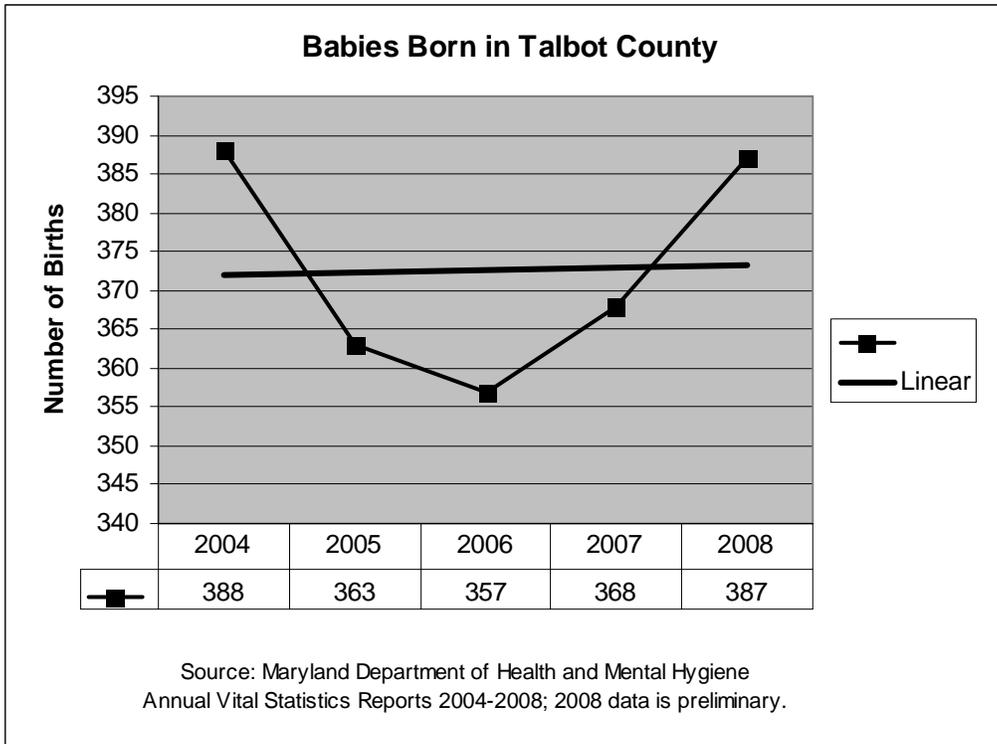
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OTHER RESULTS AND INDICATORS:

BABIES BORN HEALTHY



Note: At this writing (August 2009), the 2008 Annual Vital Statistic Report had not been published. The 2008 figures are preliminary.

Birth Factors and Corresponding Numbers for Talbot County

↓ Category → Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Births	388	363	357	368	387
Early Prenatal Care	342	310	227	293	299
Late or No Prenatal Care	9	14	17	21	30
Births to Adolescents (19<)	34	34	30	46	27
Low Birth Weight Babies	33	26	28	24	27
Very Low Birth Weight Babies	9	5	6	3	NA
Perinatal Deaths (from 28 weeks gestation to 7 days old)	4	1	2	3	NA
Fetal Deaths	6	3	3	3	NA
Infant Deaths	1	0	5	0	1

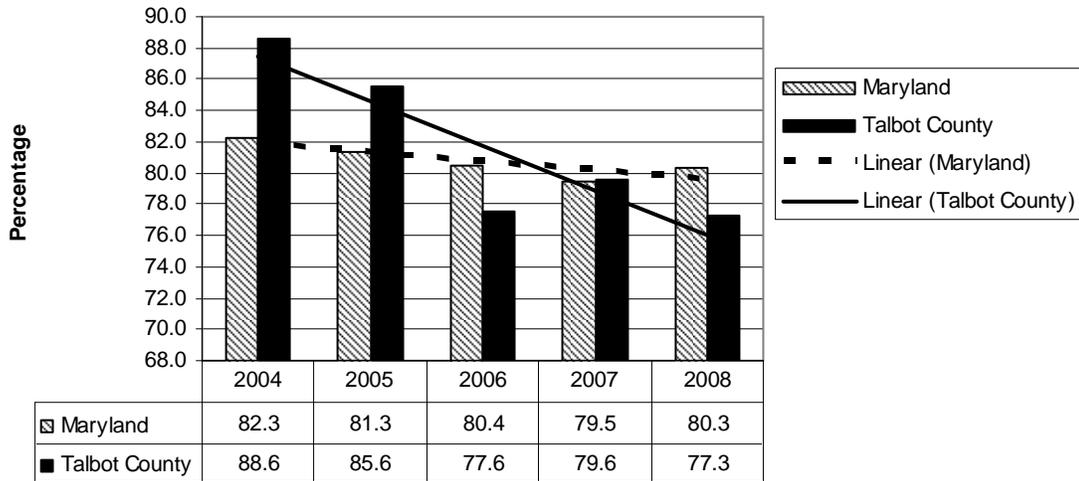
NA = Not Available at publication.

Source: Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Annual Vital Statistics Reports, 2004 to 2008; Note: 2008 data is preliminary.

OTHER RESULTS AND INDICATORS:

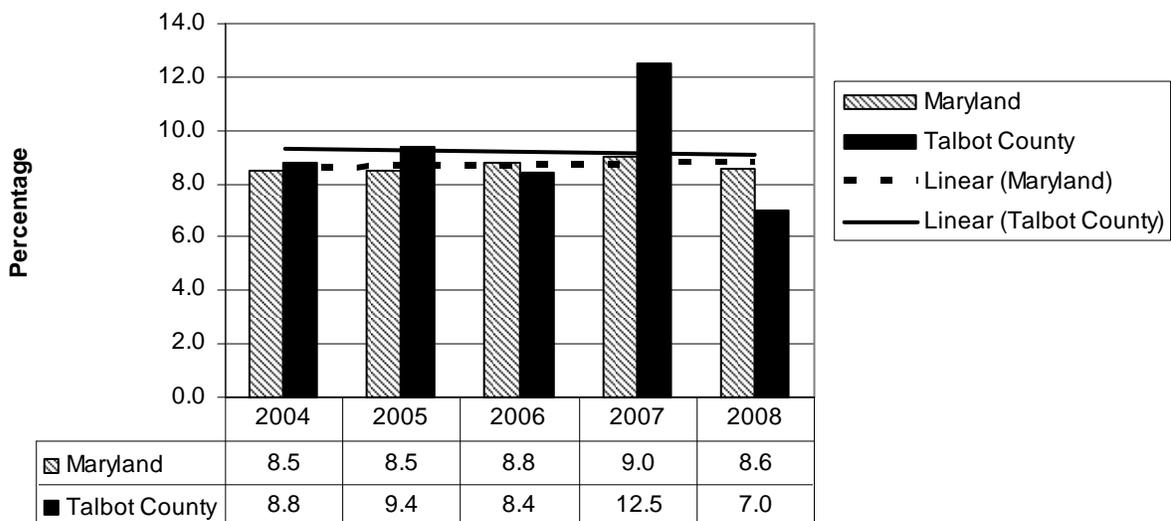
BABIES BORN HEALTHY-Continued

Percentage of Women of All Ages Receiving Prenatal Care During the 1st Trimester in Talbot County, Compared to Maryland



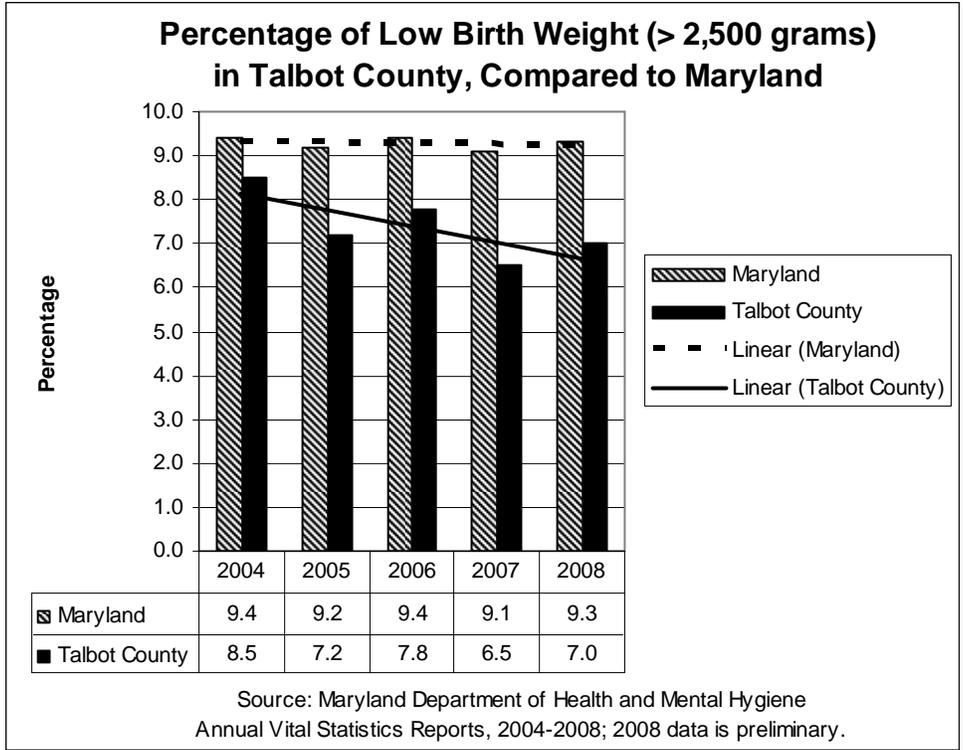
Source: Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Annual Vital Statistics Reports 2004-2008; 2008 data is preliminary.

Percentage of Births to Adolescents (Ages 19 and Under) in Talbot County, Compared to Maryland



Source: Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Annual Vital Statistics Reports, 2004-2008; 2008 data is preliminary.

OTHER RESULTS AND INDICATORS:
BABIES BORN HEALTHY-Continued



Note: At this writing (August 2009), the 2008 Annual Vital Statistic Report had not been published.



OTHER RESULTS AND INDICATORS:

HEALTHY CHILDREN

**National Immunization Survey¹
The Percent of Children Fully Immunized²
Between the Ages of 19 and 35 Months**

Note: The Maryland Immunization Survey is no longer administered.

2003-2007

↓ Area → Year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Maryland	84.6%	81.3%	84.3%	83.5%	93.7
Baltimore City	81.4%	85.3%	80.7%	79.3%	N/A
Rest of State	85.1%	80.8%	84.8%	84.2%	N/A
United States	82.2%	83.5%	83.1%	83.1%	N/A

¹National Immunization Survey (NIS) of children aged 19-35 months using random digit dialing methods.

²Combined series 4:3:1, consisting of 4 or more doses of DTP/DT, 3 or more doses of poliovirus vaccine, and one or more doses of a measles-containing vaccine (MCV).

N/A = Not Available at publication.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; National Immunization Survey Tables

Child Injuries¹ in Talbot County

2002-2006

↓ Category → Year	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Childhood Injuries	58	50	45	51	34*

¹Childhood injuries due to accidents, attempted homicide, attempted suicide, ages 0-19.

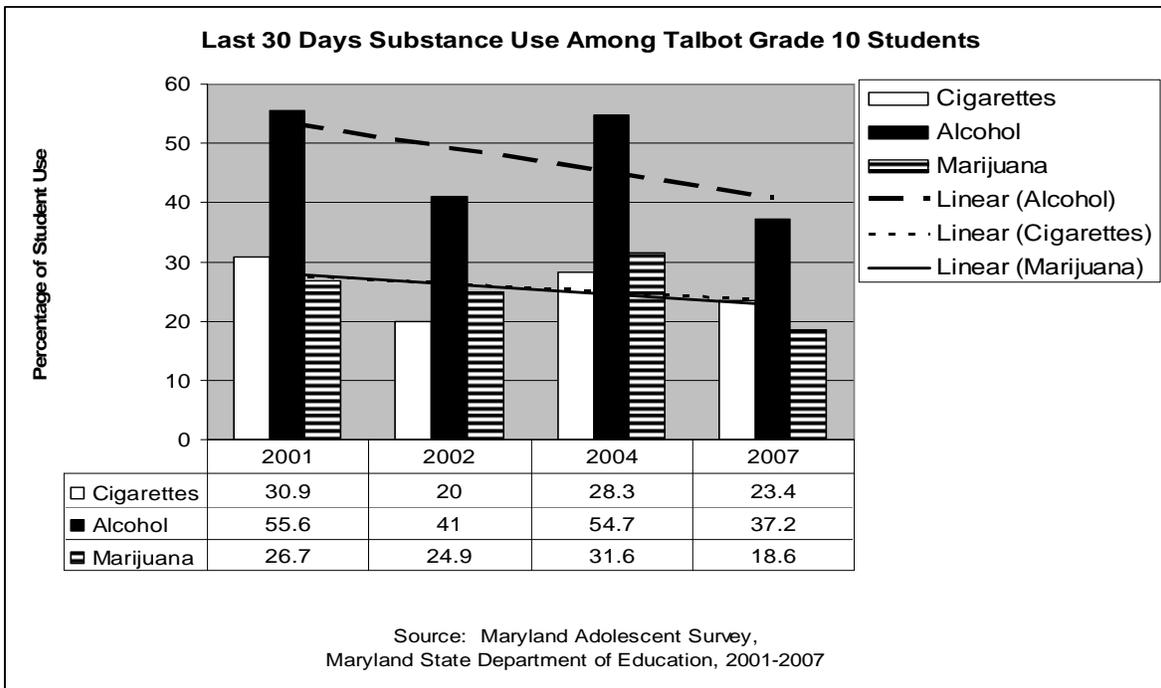
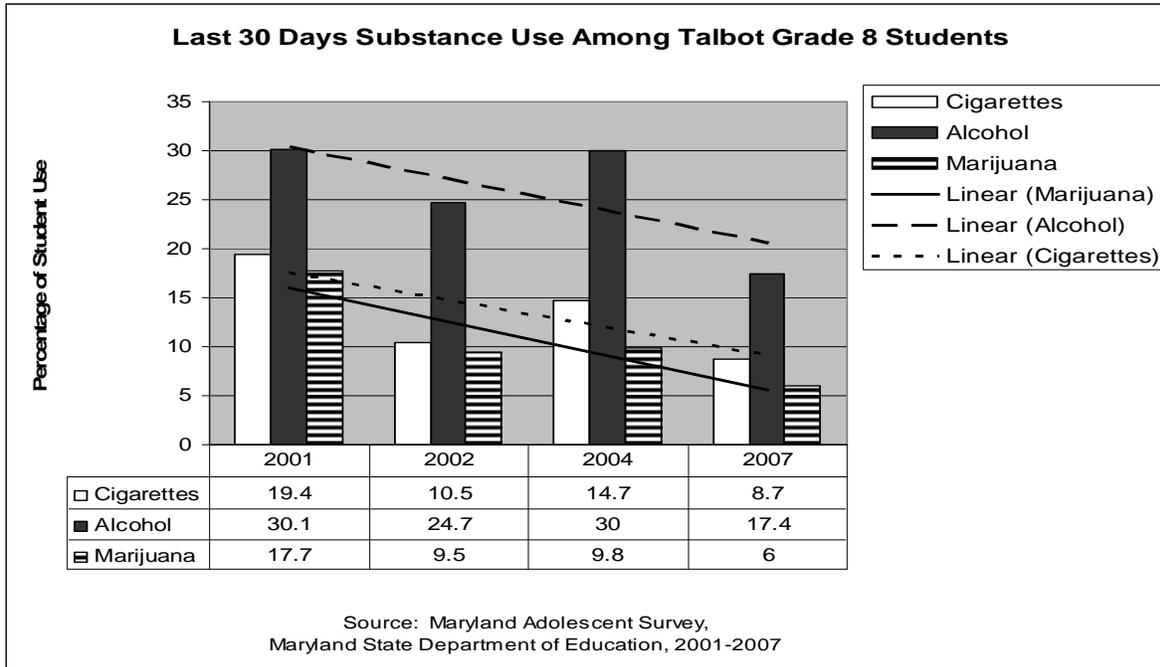
Source: Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; Annual Vital Statistics Reports

*Does not include self-injury incidents due to statistical instability.

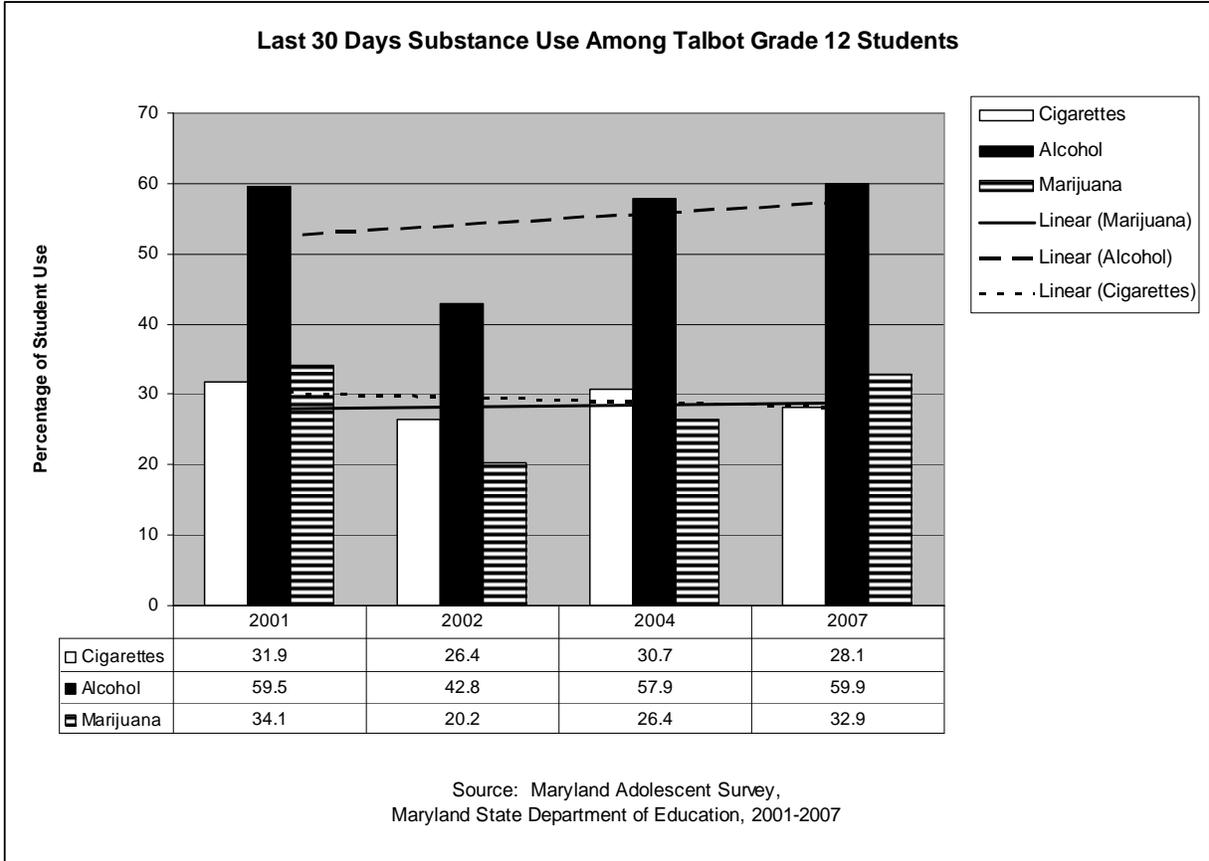
Numbers after 2006 have not been released as of this writing (August 2009)



OTHER RESULTS AND INDICATORS:
HEALTHY CHILDREN-Continued



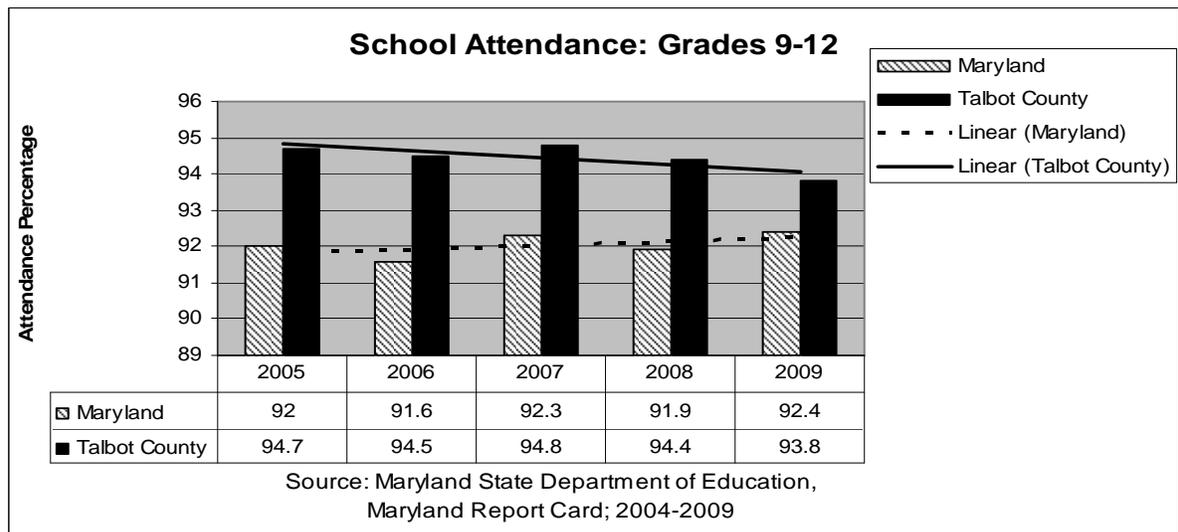
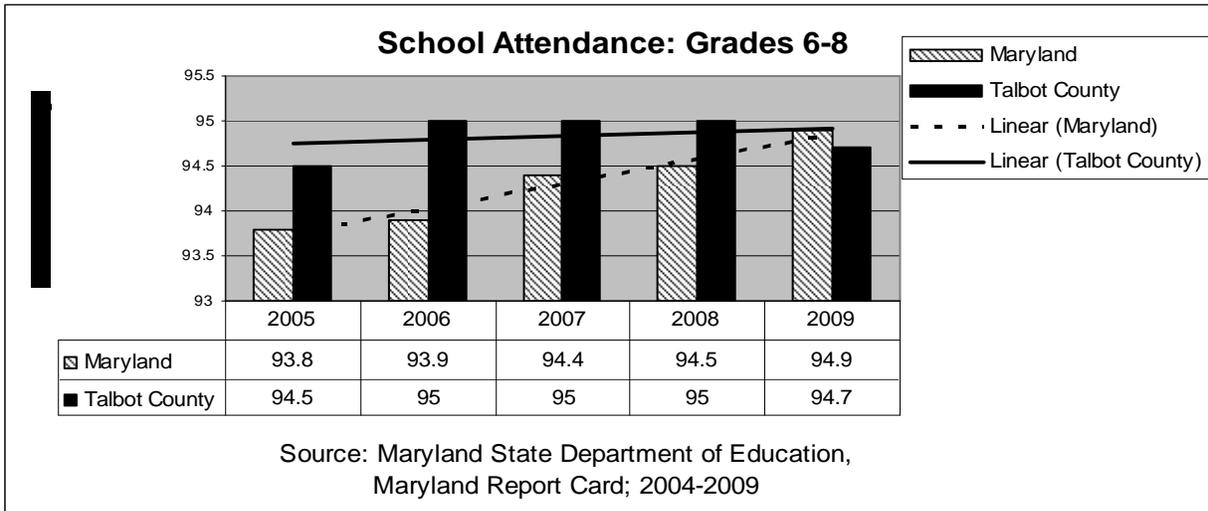
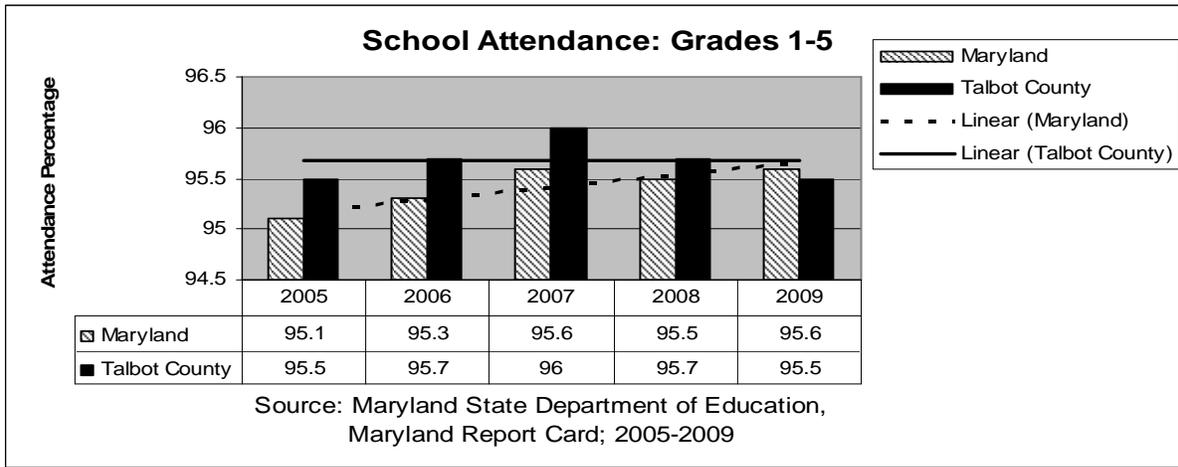
**OTHER RESULTS AND INDICATORS:
HEALTHY CHILDREN-Continued**



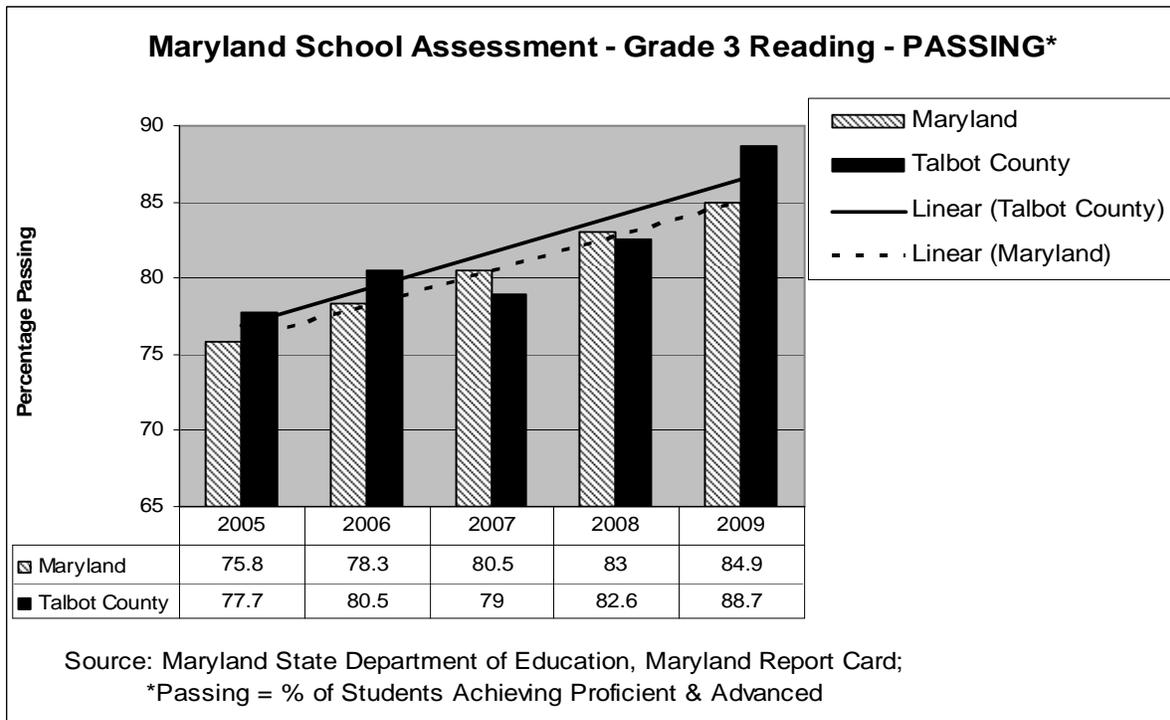
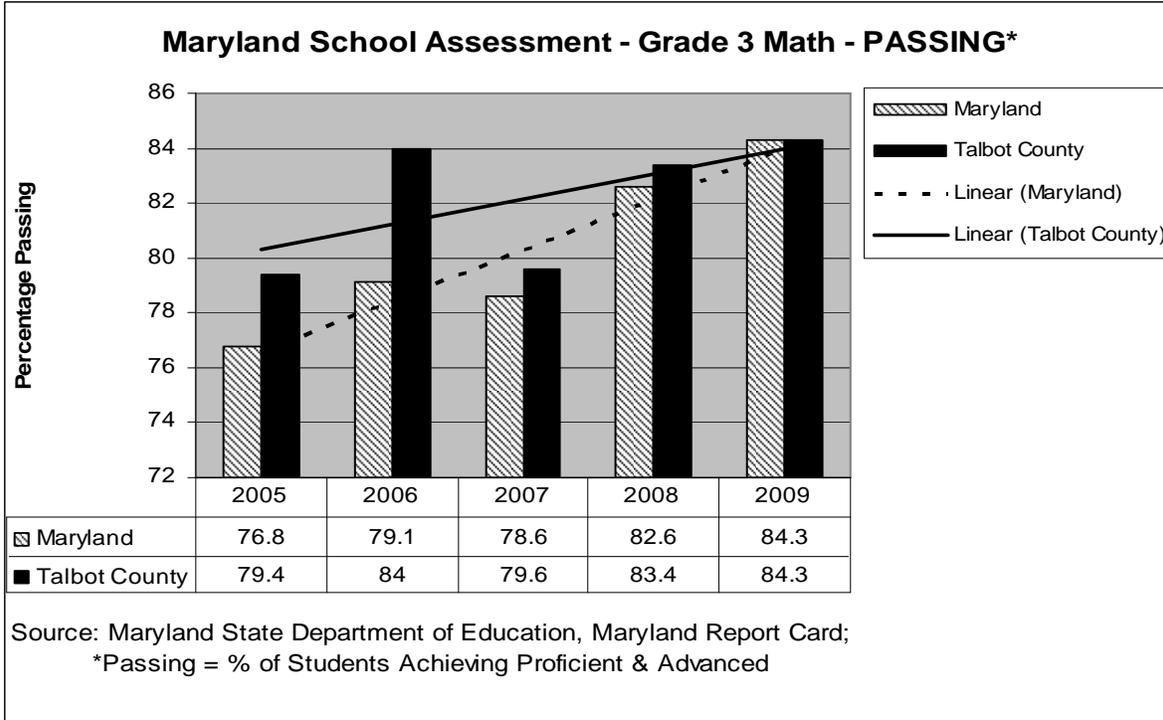
**“I would make
the call to keep
teens safe.”**

Report underage
drinking parties.
Call the Talbot TipLine
at (410) 820-4003
or the local police.
All reports are anonymous.

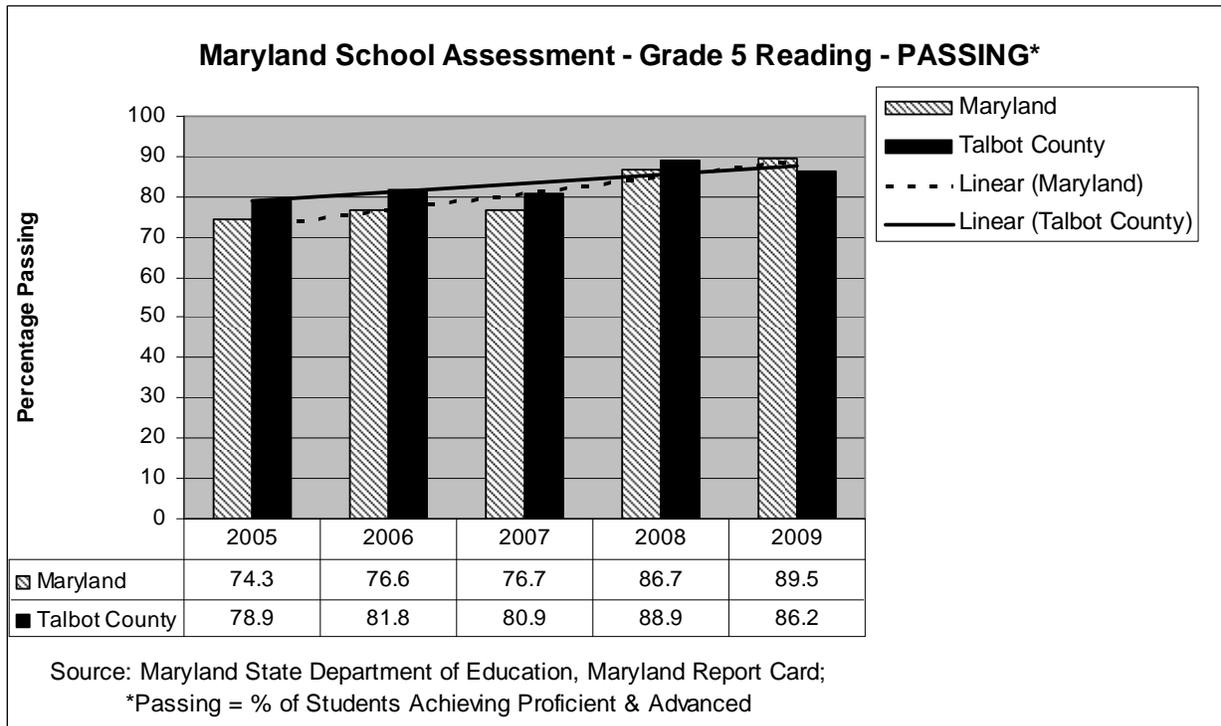
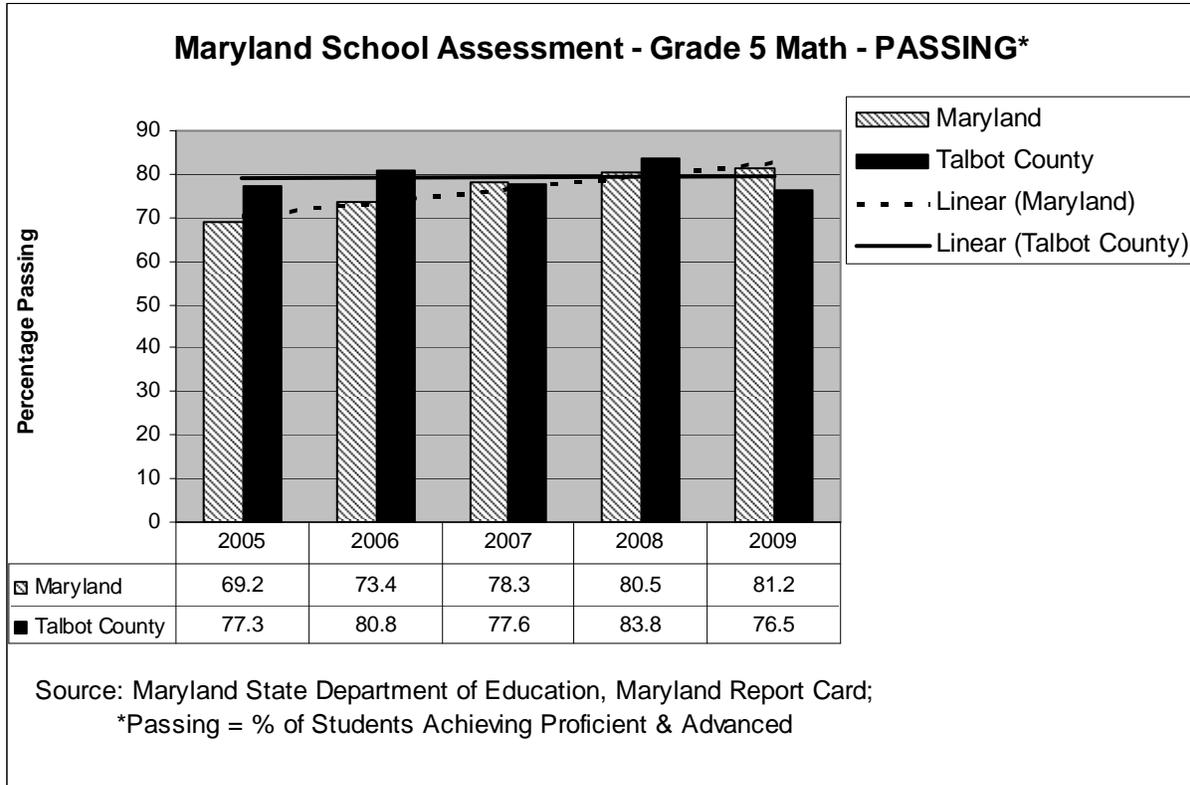
OTHER RESULTS AND INDICATORS:
CHILDREN SUCCESSFUL IN SCHOOL



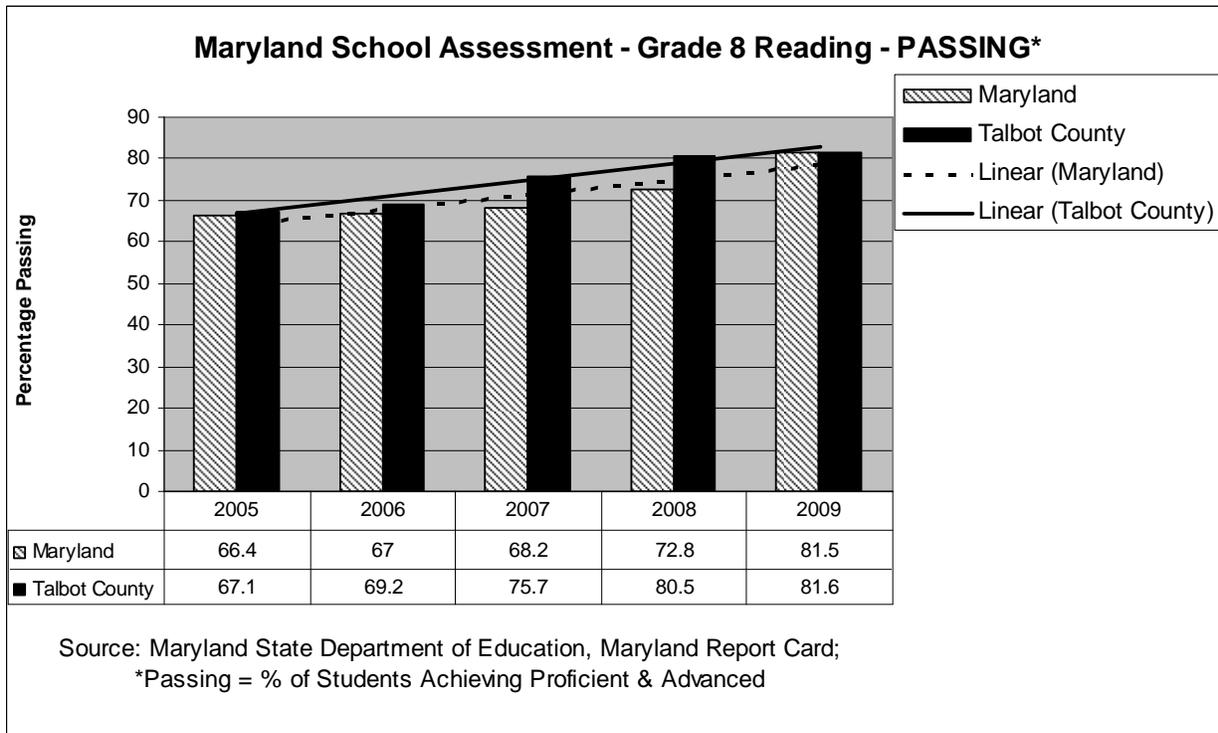
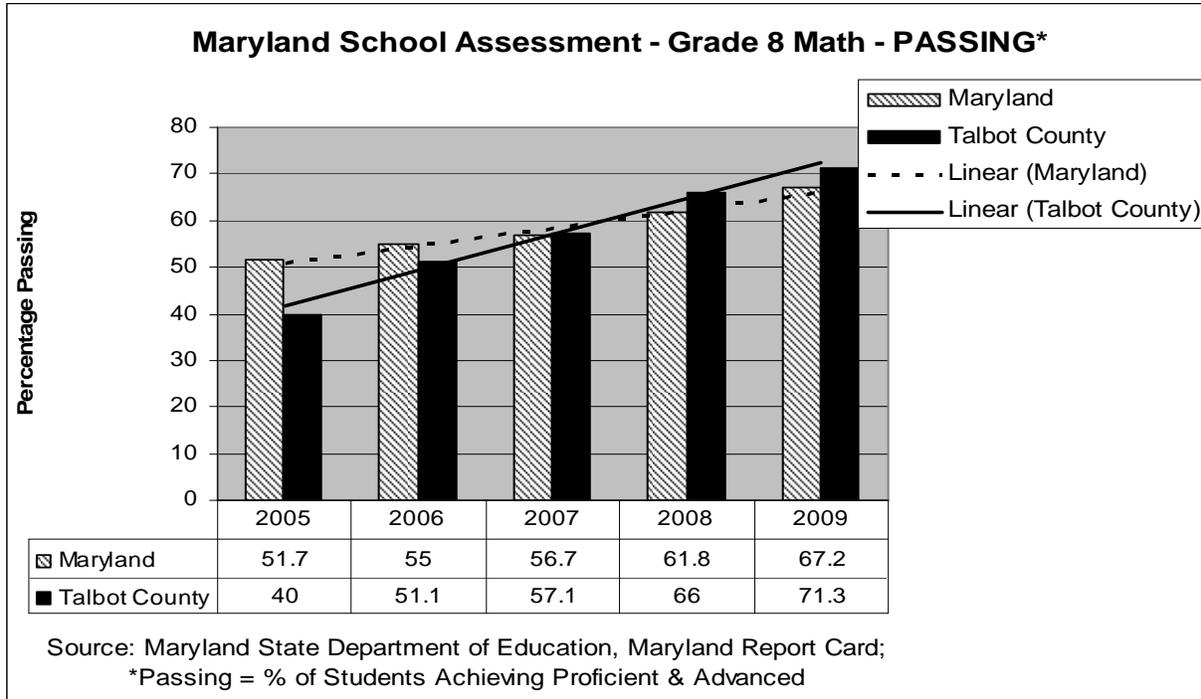
OTHER RESULTS AND INDICATORS:
CHILDREN SUCCESSFUL IN SCHOOL-Continued



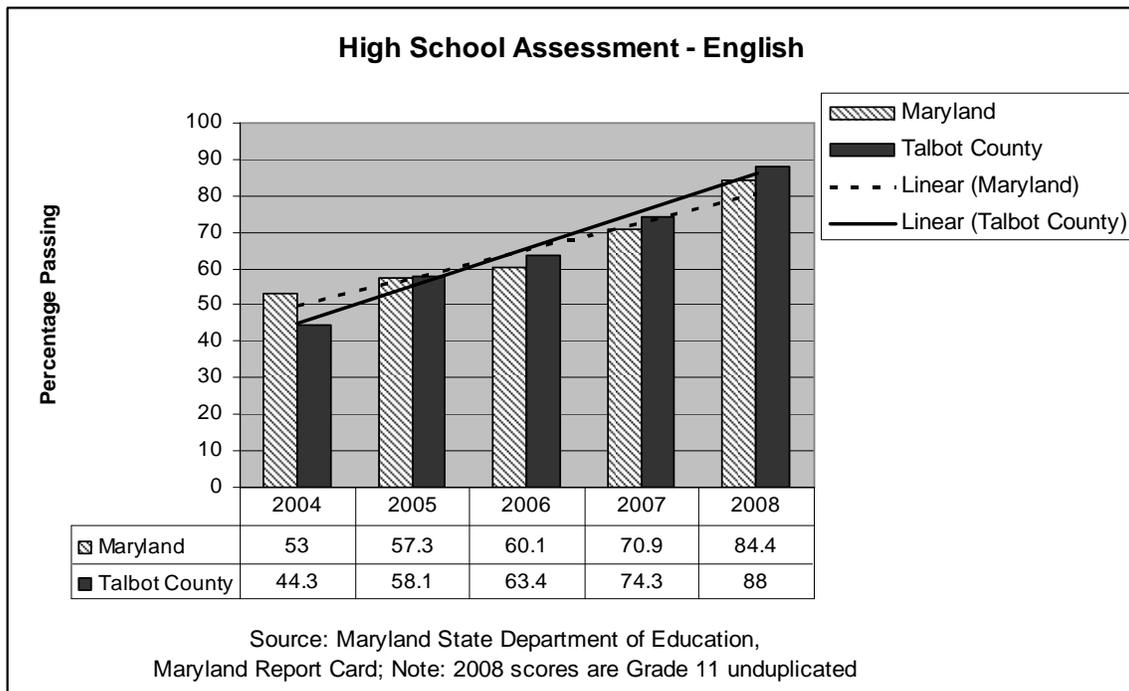
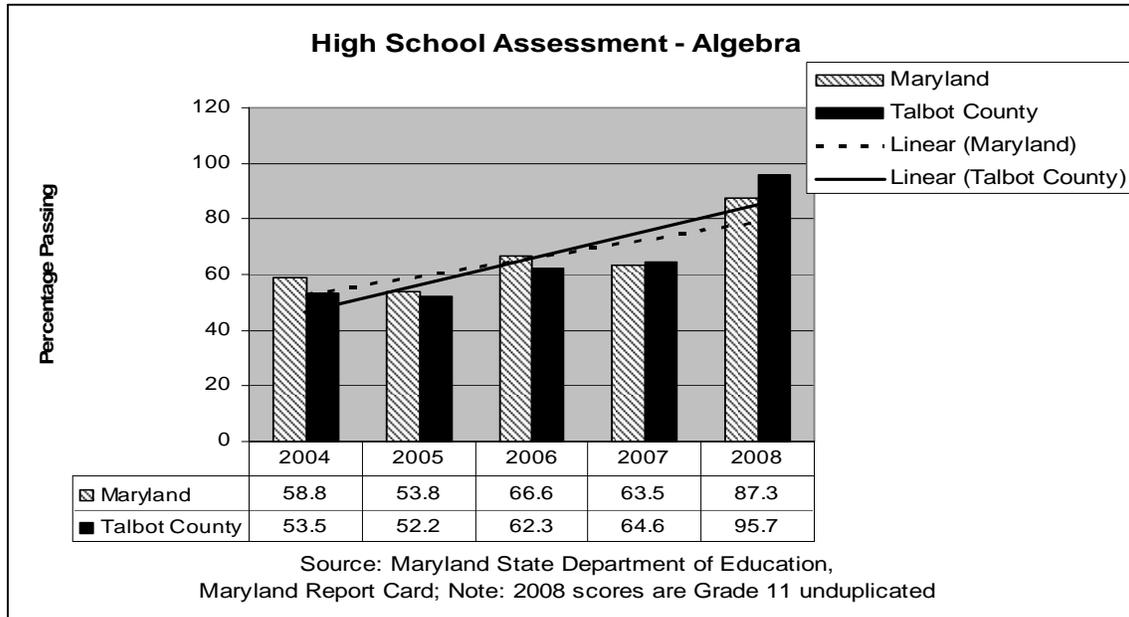
OTHER RESULTS AND INDICATORS:
CHILDREN SUCCESSFUL IN SCHOOL-Continued



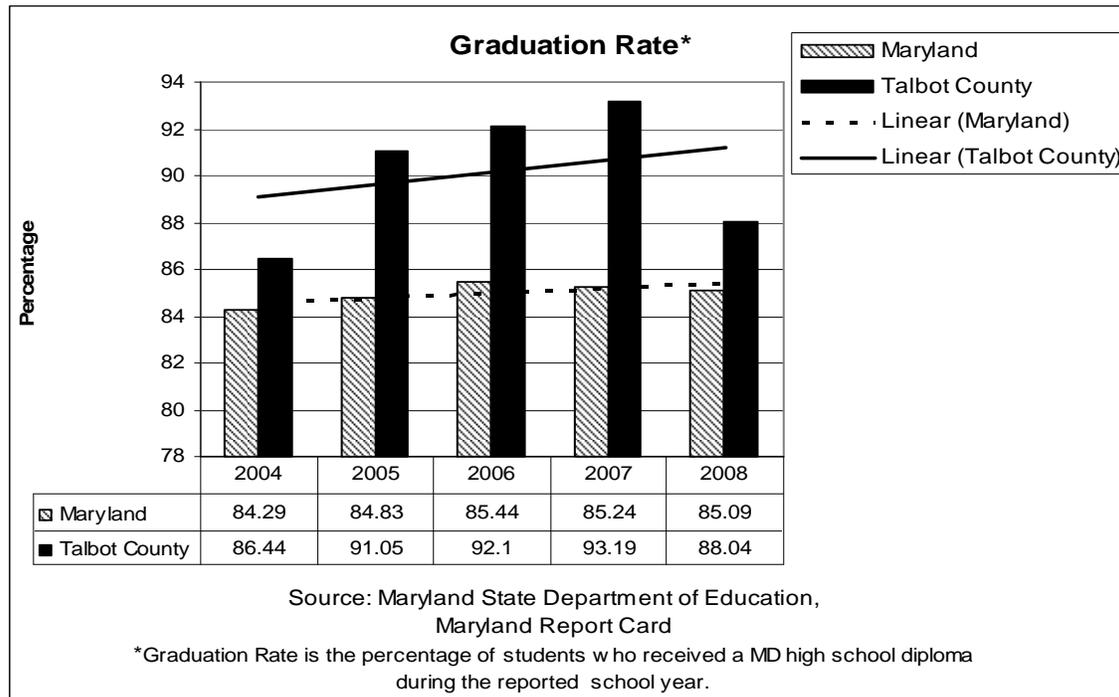
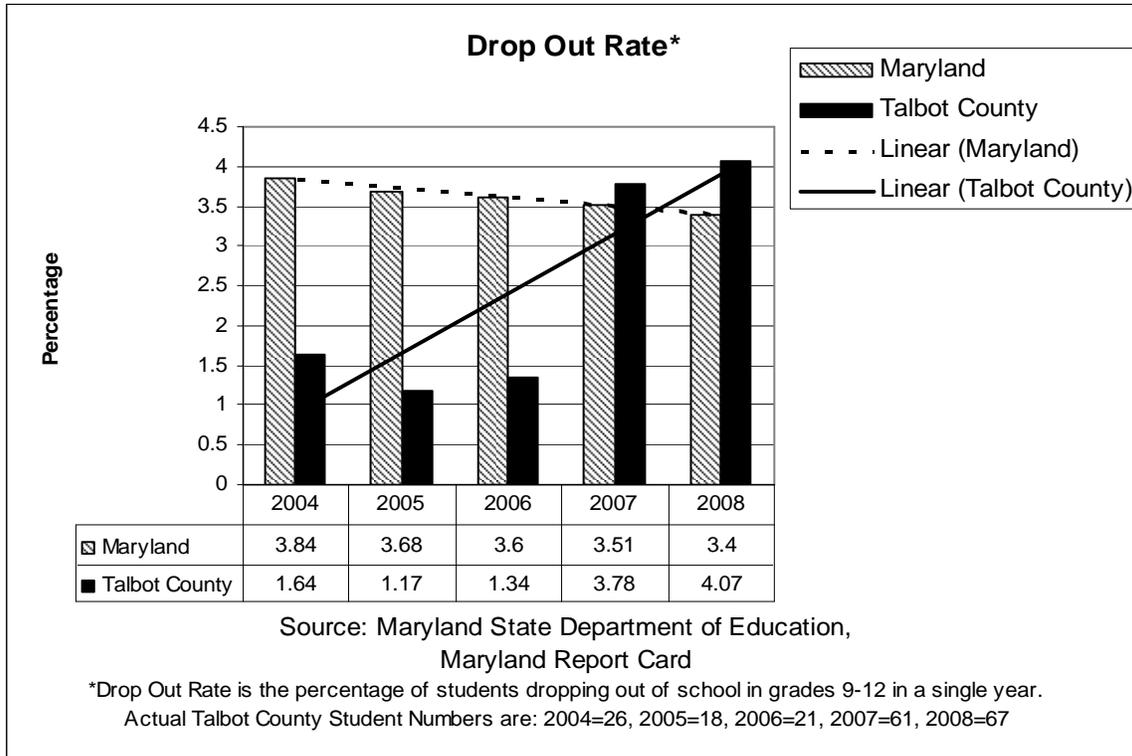
OTHER RESULTS AND INDICATORS:
CHILDREN SUCCESSFUL IN SCHOOL-Continued



OTHER RESULTS AND INDICATORS:
CHILDREN SUCCESSFUL IN SCHOOL-Continued



OTHER RESULTS AND INDICATORS:
CHILDREN COMPLETING SCHOOL



OTHER RESULTS AND INDICATORS:
CHILDREN COMPLETING SCHOOL-Continued

**High School Program Completion – Talbot County
2004-2008**

↓Completion Category →Year	2004 #/ %	2005 #/ %	2006 #/ %	2007 #/ %	2008 #/ %
Maryland High School Certificate	11/3.9	10/3.4	9/2.9	8/2.6	4/1.1
Maryland High School Diploma	274/96.1	285/96.6	303/97.1	301/97.4	346/98.9
a. University System of Maryland Course Requirements	121/42.8	112/38.0	152/49.8	126/40.8	162/46.4
b. Career and Technology Education Program Requirements	54/19/1	53/18.0	69/22.4	85/18.0	78/22.3
c. Both University and Career/Technology Requirements	43/15.2	66/22.4	60/19.5	46/14.9	52/14.9
d. Rigorous High School Program Indicators	62/21.9	75/25.4	66/21.4	48/25.4	89/25.5
e. One or More of Categories a, b, c, or d	218/77.0	232/78.6	281/91.2	257/83.2	292/83.7

**Grade 12 Documented Decisions – Talbot County
2004-2008**

↓Decision Category →Year	2004 #/ %	2005 #/ %	2006 #/ %	2007 #/ %	2008 #/ %
Attend a Four-year College	117/44.3	119/43.6	157/48.0	95/39.4	162/50.3
Attend a Two-year College	36/13.6	39/14.3	44/13.5	40/16.6	39/12.1
Attend a Specialized School or Training	7/2.7	6/2.2	8/2.4	3/1.2	10/3.1
Enter Employment (related to high school)	6/2.3	3/1.1	12/3.7	19/7.9	16/5.0
Enter Employment (unrelated to high school)	16/6.1	22/8.1	25/7.6	20/8.3	18/5.6
Enter the Military	8/3.0	13/4.8	12/3.7	5/2.1	6/1.9
Enter Full-Time Employment and/or School	28/10.6	20/7.3	26/8.0	16/6.6	26/8.1
Enter Part-Time Employment and/or School	26/9.8	37/13.6	29/8.9	15/6.2	32/9.9
Other and No Response	20/7.6	14/5.1	14/4.3	28/11.6	13/4.0

OTHER RESULTS AND INDICATORS:

STABLE AND ECONOMICALLY INDEPENDENT FAMILIES



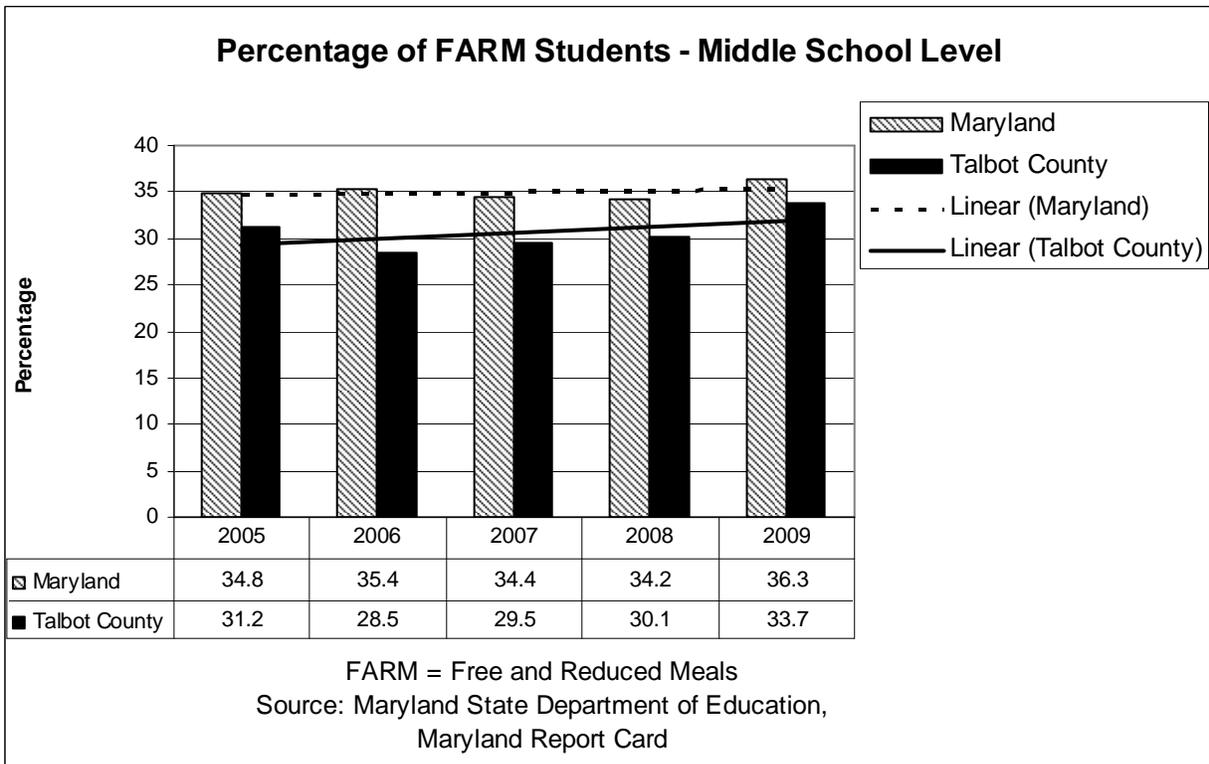
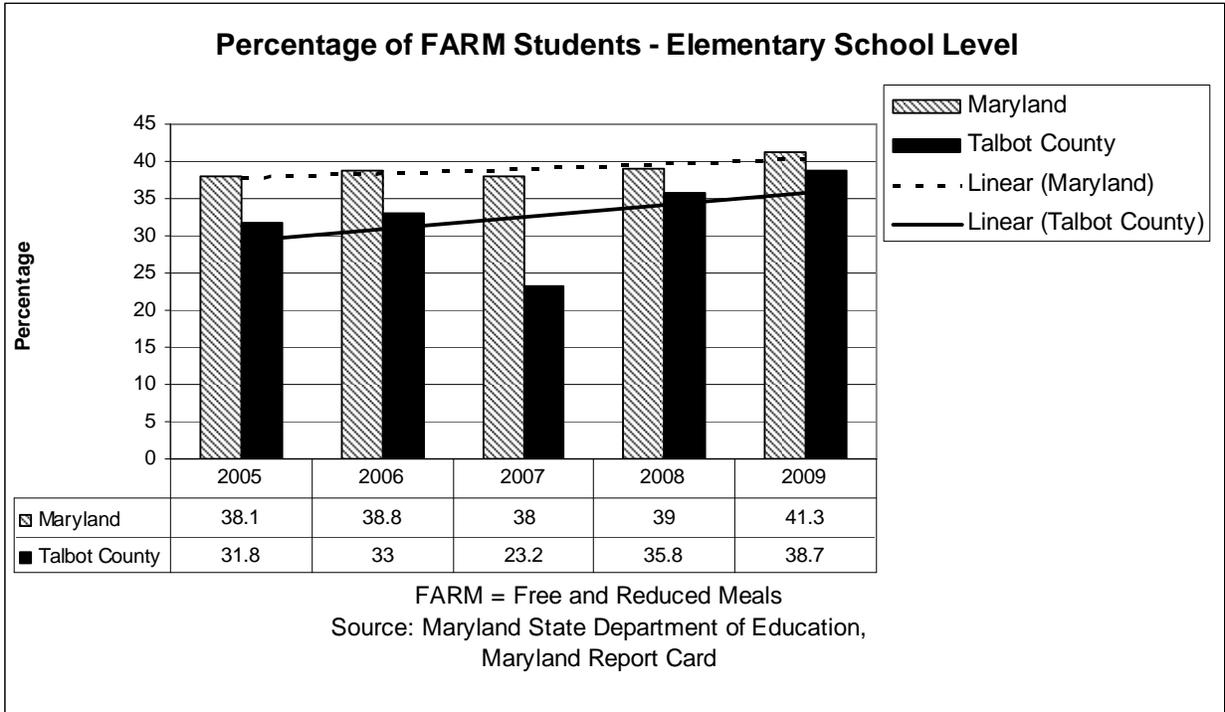
Talbot and Maryland Fact Sheet - Economics

Category	Talbot	Maryland
1990 Population	30,549	4,781,468
2000 Population	33,831	5,296,486
2007 Estimated Population	36,193	5,618,344
Persons Under 5 Years, percent 2006	5.1%	6.6%
Persons Under 18 Years, percent 2006	19.6%	24.2%
Persons 65 Years and Over, percent 2006	22.0%	11.6%
Single Parent Households, percent/number 2000	1,851/19.2%	NA
Female Single Parent Households, percent/number 2000	1,406/14.6%	NA
Females Persons, percent 2006	52.3%	51.6%
Caucasian Persons, percent 2006	83.8%	63.6%
African American Persons, percent 2006	14.1%	29.5%
American Indian and Alaskan Native, percent 2006	.2%	.3%
Asian Persons, percent 2006	.8%	4.9%
Persons Reporting Two or More Races, percent 2006	.9%	1.5%
Persons of Hispanic or Latino Origin, percent 2006	2.7%	6.0%
Foreign Born Persons, percent 2000	3.3%	9.8%
Language Other Than English Spoken at Home, 2000	5.7%	12/6%
High School Graduates, percent age 25+, 2000	84.4%	83.8%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher, percent age 25+, 2000	27.8%	31.4%
Persons with a Disability, age 5+, 2000	6093	854,345
Mean Travel Time to Work in Minutes, Workers 16+, 2000	22.4	31.2
Housing Units, 2006	19,247	N/A
Homeownership Rate, 2000	71.6%	67.7%
Median Value of Owner Occupied Housing Units, 2000	\$149,603	\$57,019
Households, 2000	14,307	N/A
Persons Per Household, 2000	2.32	2.61
Median Household Income, 2004	\$49,603	\$57,019
Per Capita Money Income, 1999	\$28,164	\$25,614
Land Area, 2000 (in square miles)	269.14	9,773.82
Persons Per Square Mile, 2000	125.7	541.9

Source: USCensus.gov

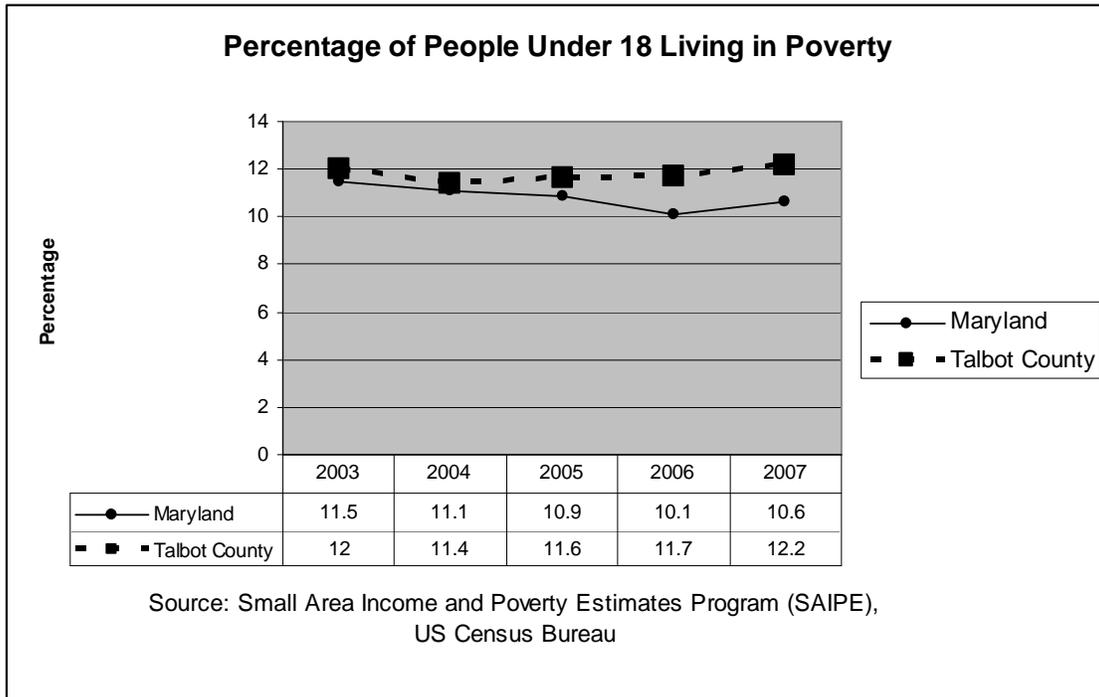
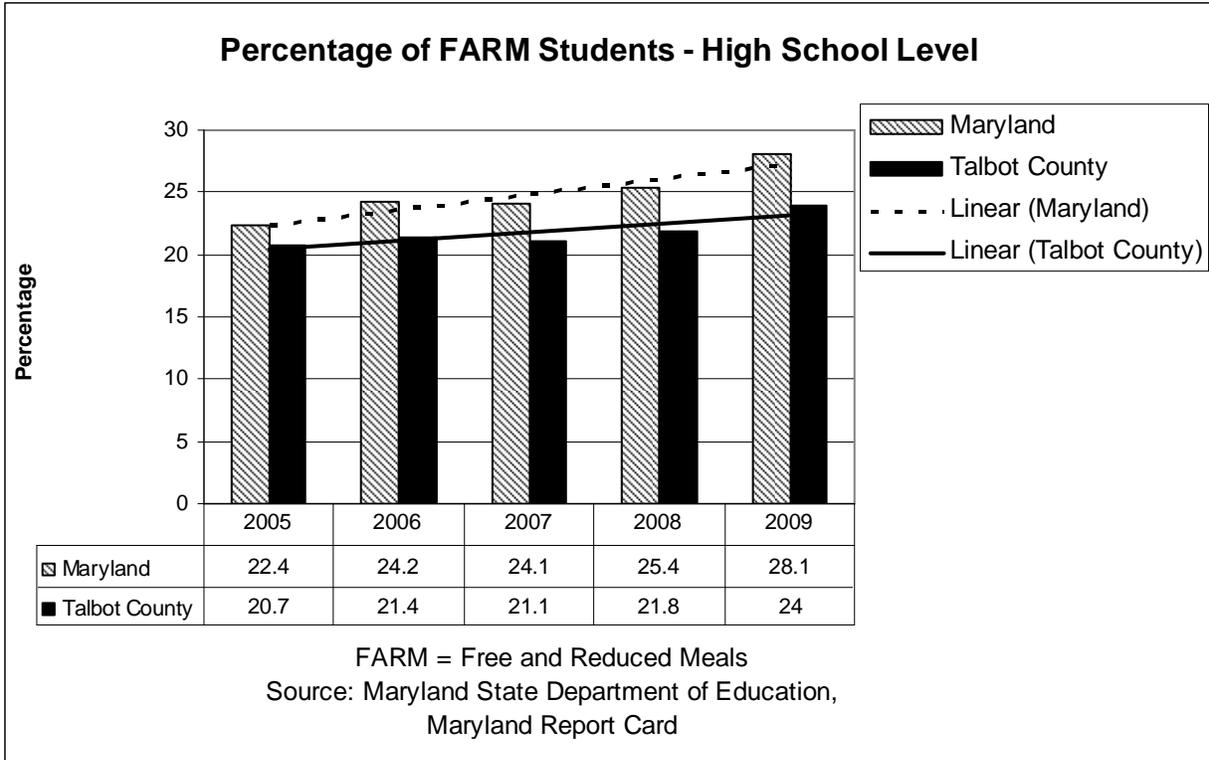
OTHER RESULTS AND INDICATORS:

STABLE AND ECONOMICALLY INDEPENDENT FAMILIES-Continued



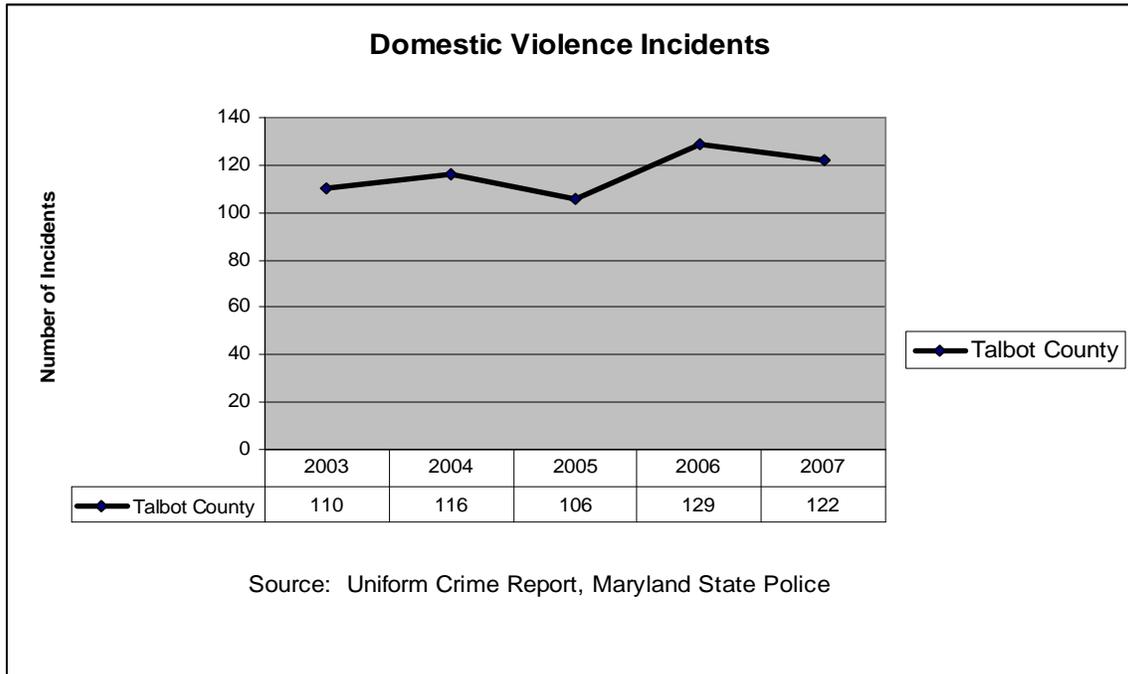
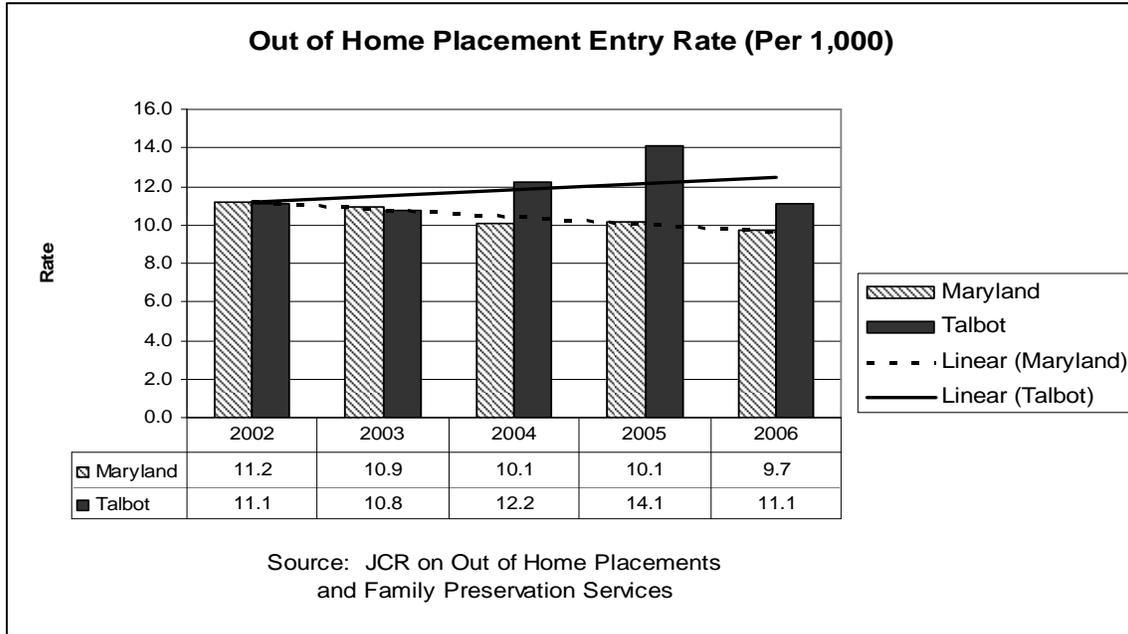
OTHER RESULTS AND INDICATORS:

STABLE AND ECONOMICALLY INDEPENDENT FAMILIES-Continued



OTHER RESULTS AND INDICATORS:

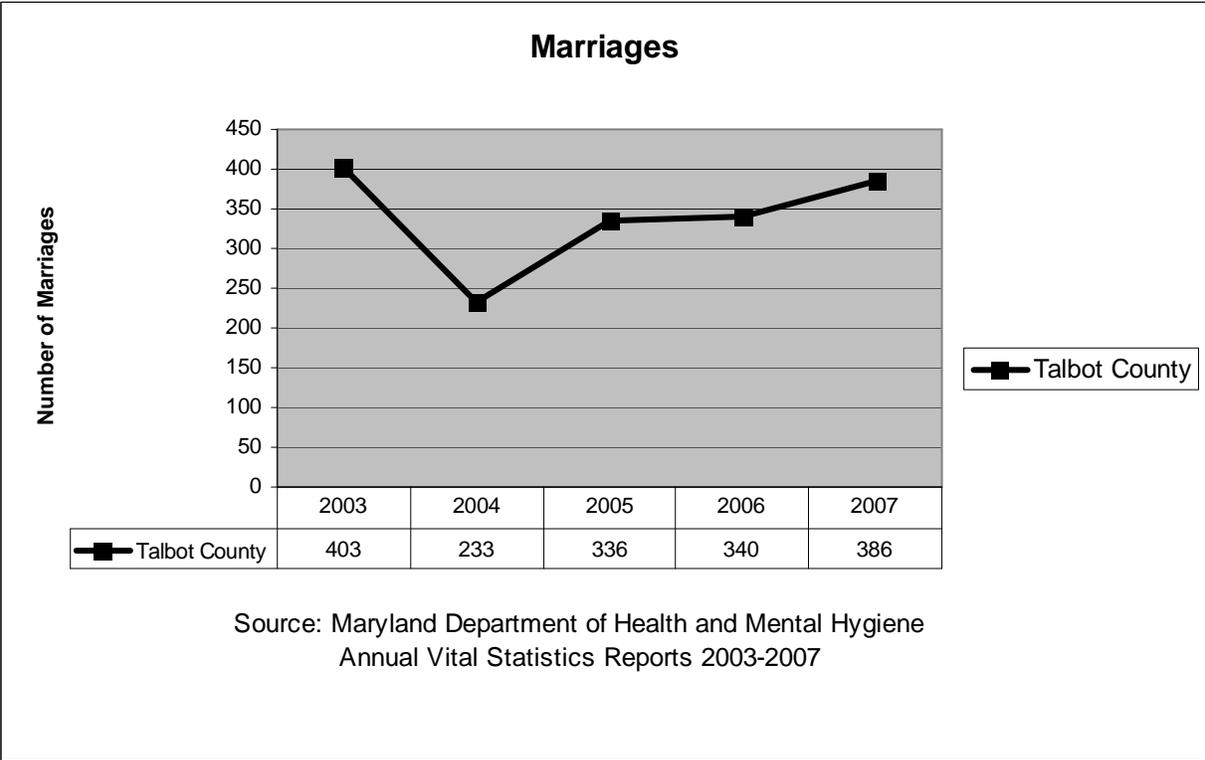
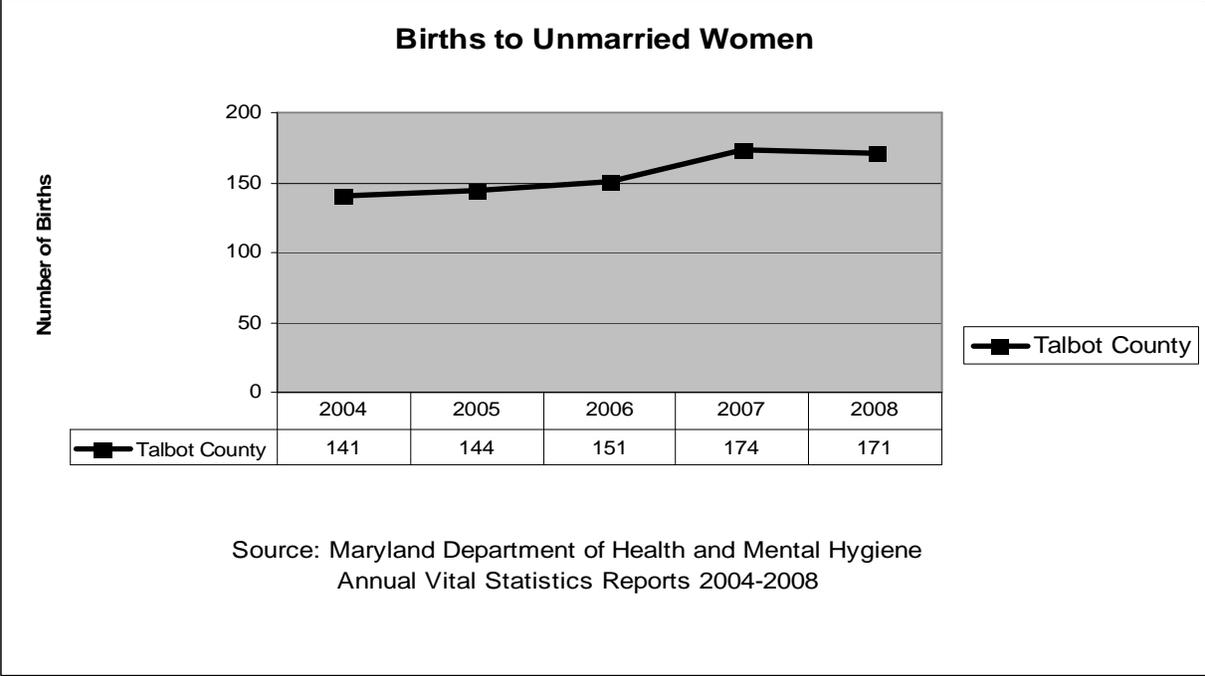
STABLE AND ECONOMICALLY INDEPENDENT FAMILIES-Continued



Note: The 2008 Uniform Crime Report will be released in the fall of 2009.

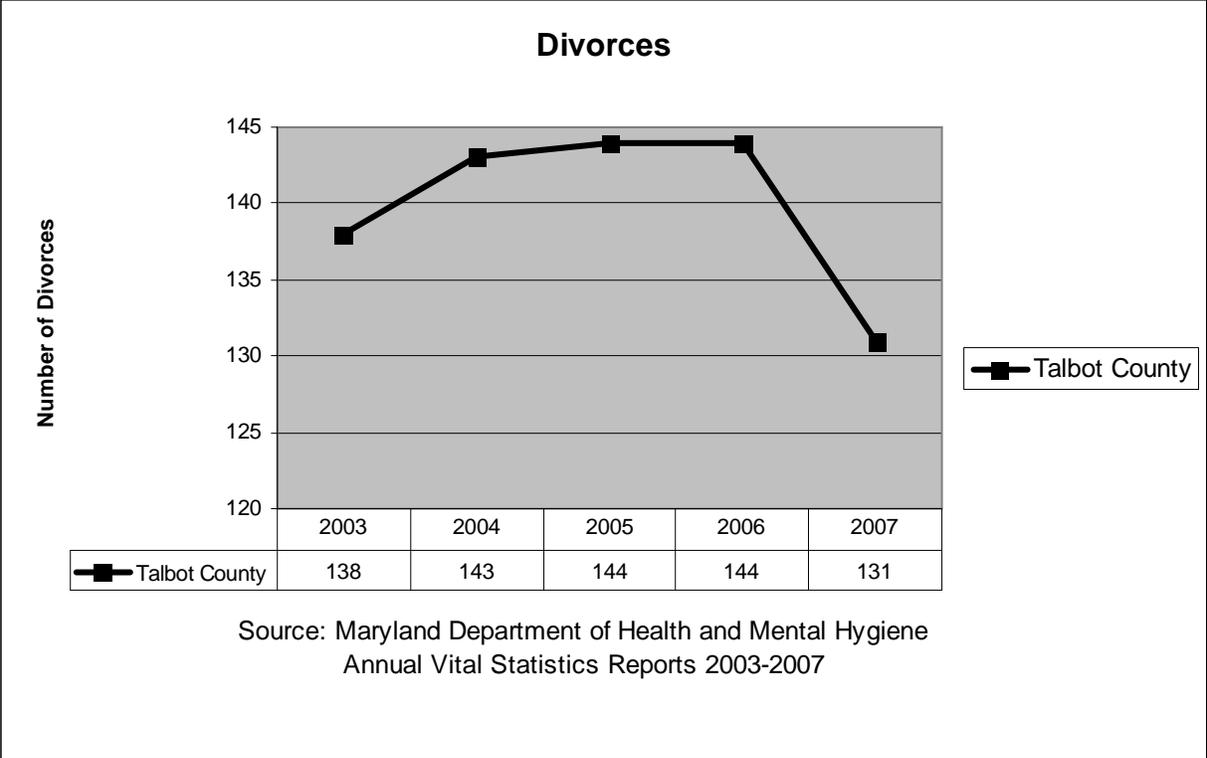
OTHER RESULTS AND INDICATORS:

STABLE AND ECONOMICALLY INDEPENDENT FAMILIES-Continued



OTHER RESULTS AND INDICATORS:

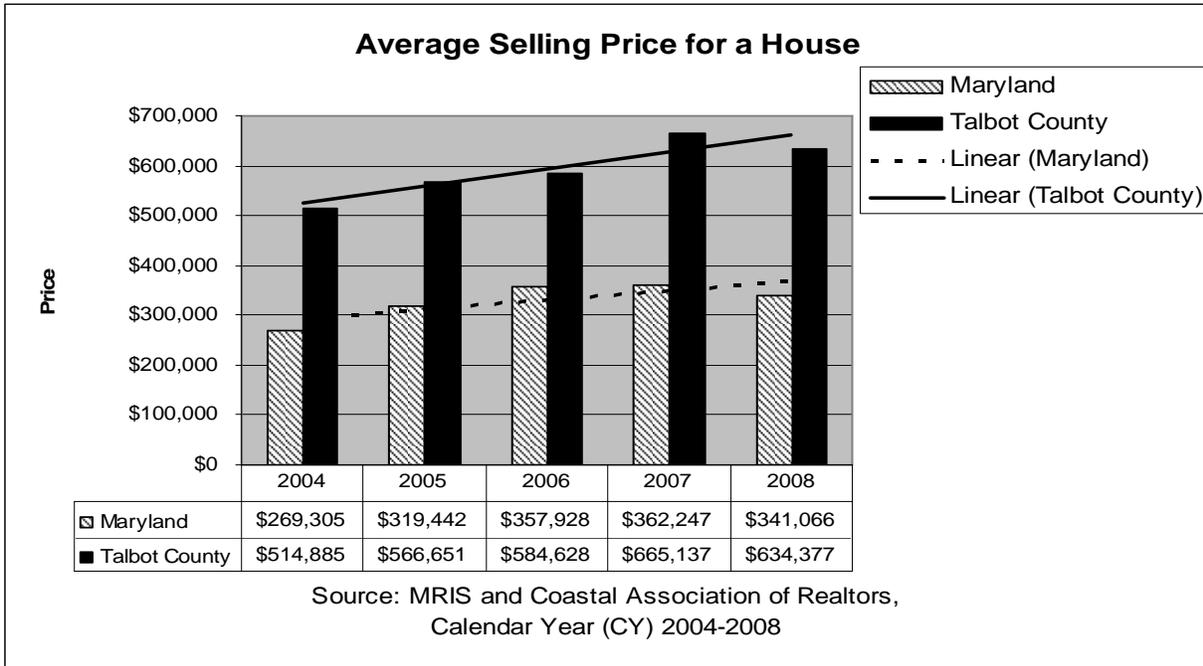
STABLE AND ECONOMICALLY INDEPENDENT FAMILIES-Continued



OTHER RESULTS AND INDICATORS:

COMMUNITIES THAT SUPPORT FAMILY LIFE

There are no pre-determined state indicators for this result area. The Talbot Family Network generally tracks data corresponding to issues brought up by citizens during community meetings or collaborative meetings. Housing, child care/children’s programs, and community resource awareness are reoccurring themes voiced by the community.



Children’s Programs by Type with Capacity/Enrollment

Program	# of Programs	Capacity
Family Child Care Providers	74	562
Office of Child Care Licensed Group Programs	22	1241
8-12 Hour Child Care Centers	8	656
Infant/Toddler	4	39
Part-Day	6	N/A
Before/After School (School & Center-Based)	11	N/A
Small Centers	0	0
Employer-Sponsored Centers	1	59
Youth Camps	6	N/A
Nursery Schools	2	N/A
Kindergarten	1	N/A
Head Start (federally funded)	3	131-enrollment
Public Pre-Kindergarten (state funded)	4	160-participants

Source: Child Care Demographics 2009; Chesapeake Child Care Resource Center; MD Childcare Resource Network; N/A = Not Available

COMMUNITIES THAT SUPPORT FAMILY LIFE - Continued

Community Resources Supported by the Talbot Family Network

Blue Ribbon Commission

With leadership from the Talbot Partnership since 1991, hundreds of individuals and organizations in Talbot County have collaborated to implement solutions toward a purpose to reduce illegal and unhealthy use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs among children and adults. Even though use rates have declined overall, Talbot County remains one of the worst counties in the state for alcohol and other drug use rates. In 2007, the Talbot County Council convened a Blue Ribbon Commission to investigate how substance use adversely impacts the quality of life for Talbot County citizens. The Commission concluded “*Talbot County has a growing substance abuse and addictions problem not limited to its youth.*” The Commission further identified three root causes for the substance abuse problem: 1) a community culture that accepts substance abuse; 2) interventions for alcohol and other drug abuse that occur too late; and 3) drugs and alcohol that are too easy to obtain at home and in the community. In response to their findings, the Commission developed a plan of 34 personal, school, environmental, and community actions. Thirteen actions are underway beginning with the publication of an annual report of priority substance use indicators. Talbot Family Network has been an active partner in the Blue Ribbon Commission plan and strategies. More information within the “Call to Action” report is available by calling the Talbot Partnership at 410-819-8067.

Community Resource Guide for Children and Families of Talbot County

A new initiative has been launched to raise awareness about existing community resources in Talbot County. A community resource guide has been developed through a partnership between the Talbot Family Network, the Talbot County Public Schools Infants & Toddlers Program, the Talbot County Public Schools Family Support and Resource Center & the Judy Center Partnership at Talbot County Public Schools. In FY 09, 6,000 copies of the guide have been printed and are in the process of being distributed county-wide.

Community Partners Calendar

Multiple county organizations have worked together to create a published calendar to assist Talbot County families in tracking and scheduling participation family-oriented activities held throughout the year. Partners include the Talbot County Department of Social Services, Mid-Shore Mental Health Systems, Inc., The Judy Center Partnership at Talbot County Public Schools, Talbot County Juvenile Drug Court, Queen Anne’s/Talbot Healthy Families, Talbot County Public Schools, Family Navigator, Chesapeake Helps!, After School Programs, and Talbot Tipline. At least 1500 copies of the calendar were printed and distributed in FY 09.

Other Programs to Support Family Life

The Talbot Family Network is engaged in promoting and/or funding several other programs designed to support family life in Talbot County. These include *Family Day- A Day to Eat Dinner With Your Children™*, *Lights on Afterschool*, and the month of April designated as *Month of the Young Child*.

TALBOT COUNTY RESOURCES

The resources below are those described earlier in this report, are programs or services directly supported by the Talbot Family Network, and/or are programs for children and families. If you are looking for other resources or need more detailed information about the programs listed below, the Talbot Family Network encourages you to contact Chesapeake Helps! by calling: 1-866-722-HLPS (4577) or going online via www.chesapeakehelps.org. You may also call 410-770-6870 and request a copy of the 2009 Talbot County Community Resource Guide.

Program Name	Phone Number
AA (Alcoholics Anonymous) Meetings – Intergroup	410-822-4226
Alcohol/Addictions Services	410-819-5900
Birth Certificates	410-819-5600
CASA of Talbot County	410-822-2866
Checkmate Alternative to Suspension	410-822-0330
Chesapeake Childcare Resource Center	410-822-5400
Choices Pregnancy Help and Resource Center	410-822-3311
Choptank Community Health	410-745-0200
Delmarva Family Resources	410-758-1787
Early Head Start at the Family Support Center	410-820-6940
Easton Police Department	410-822-1111
Easton Rocks (Afterschool Program)	410-770-3852
Eastern Shore Psychological Services	410-822-5007
Environmental Health	410-770-6880
Family Navigator	410-901-1007
Federalburg Dental Center	410-754-7583
For All Seasons, Inc.	410-822-1018
Foster Care Campaign Talbot County Department of Social Services	410-770-4848
Grandparents as Parents – Educational Support Group	410-822-0686 or 410-820-6940
Head Start – Easton	410-822-6641
Head Start – St. Michaels	410-745-5012
Healthy Families of the Talbot Health Department	410-819-5600
Hospital – Memorial Hospital at Easton	410-822-1000
Hospital –Dorchester General in Cambridge	410-228-5511
Housing – Landlord List (Social Services)	410-770-4848
Housing – Easton Housing Authority	410-822-5358
Housing – St. Michael’s Housing Authority	410-745-5121

TALBOT COUNTY RESOURCES - Continued

Program Name	Phone Number
Infants and Toddlers Program	410-820-0319
Interagency Family Preservation Services	410-770-4848
Judy Center Partnership at Talbot County Public Schools	410-820-6940
Juvenile Drug Court	410-770-6823
Legal Aid Bureau	410-763-9676
Lending Resource Library- Talbot Family Network	410-770-6870
Local Coordinating Council	410-770-6870
Maryland Children's Health Insurance Program	410-819-5670
Maryland State Police	410-822-3101
Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence	1-800-927-4673
Mid-Shore Crisis Center	410-822-5276
Mid-Shore Mental Health Systems, Inc.	410-770-4801
NA (Narcotics Anonymous) Meetings	410-822-4226
Neighborhood Service Center	410-822-5015
Option Respite	410-770-4848
Oxford Police Department	410-226-5650
Parent Education – Social Services	410-770-4848
Planned Parenthood	410-820-9067
Poison Control	1-800-222-1222
Scotts UMC After School Tutorial Program	410-476-3042
Social Security Administration	410-228-8811
St. Michael's Elementary Homework Club	410-745-2882
St. Michael's Police Department	410-745-9500
Talbot County Board of Education	410-822-0330
Talbot County Department of Juvenile Services	410-822-5010
Talbot County Department of Social Services	410-770-4848
Talbot County Drug Court	410-770-6823
Talbot County – Emergency	911
Talbot County Family Navigator	410-901-1007
Talbot County Health Department	410-819-5600
Talbot County Public Schools	410-822-0330
Talbot County Sheriff's Department	410-822-1020
Talbot Family Network	410-770-6870
Talbot Mentors	410-770-5999
Talbot Partnership	410-819-8067

TALBOT COUNTY RESOURCES - Continued

Program Name	Phone Number
Talbot TipLine	410-820-4003
Teen Court	410-822-5010
Touchpoints™	410-822-0444 or 1-888-706-9902
Transportation- MA (Bay Area Transportation)	1-800-987-9098
Transportation – MUST Bus	410-822-4155
Trappe Police Department	410-476-5005
WIC (Women, Infants, Children) Program	410-479-8060
YMCA of Talbot County	410-822-0566
Youth Crisis Hotline	1-800-422-0009

In addition to ***Talbot Results***, the Blue Ribbon Commission Oversight Committee 2009 Status Report is also now available. Call 410-819-8067 or 410-770-6870 to request a copy.



WEBSITE REFERENCES

Anyone interested in taking a closer look at Talbot County’s data trends may consult the following websites for much more information. These websites can be especially helpful if your organization is conducting your own needs assessment or if you are looking for data to support a grant request.

Data Area	Website Address
Census Data By state and county	http://www.census.gov//did/www/saipe/county.html
Economic indicators by region	http://www.choosemaryland.org/regionsandcounties/randcindex.html
Education data for public school students	http://www.mdreportcard.org/
Kids Count Information (Education, Health, Safety) for Maryland and Community Level	http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/bystate/StateLanding.aspx?state=MD
Housing prices and selling trends	http://www.mdrealtor.org/HousingResearchStatistics/HousingStatistics/tabid/161/Default.aspx
Juvenile justice data by state and county	http://www.djs.state.md.us/publications.html
Kindergarten Readiness	http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/newsroom/publications/school_readiness.htm
Maryland Adolescent Survey	http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/newsroom/special_reports/adolescent_survey.htm
Results and Indicators MD Governor’s Office for Children	http://www.goc.state.md.us/
Unemployment by state and county	http://dllr.maryland.gov/lmi/laus/
Vital statistics including birth, death, marriages, and divorce data by state and county	http://vsa.maryland.gov/html/reports.cfm