



# **Juvenile Justice Commission Prevention Panel**

**Reproductive Health - Maryland Department of Health**

April 13, 2026

# Office of Family and Community Health Services

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Public Health Services

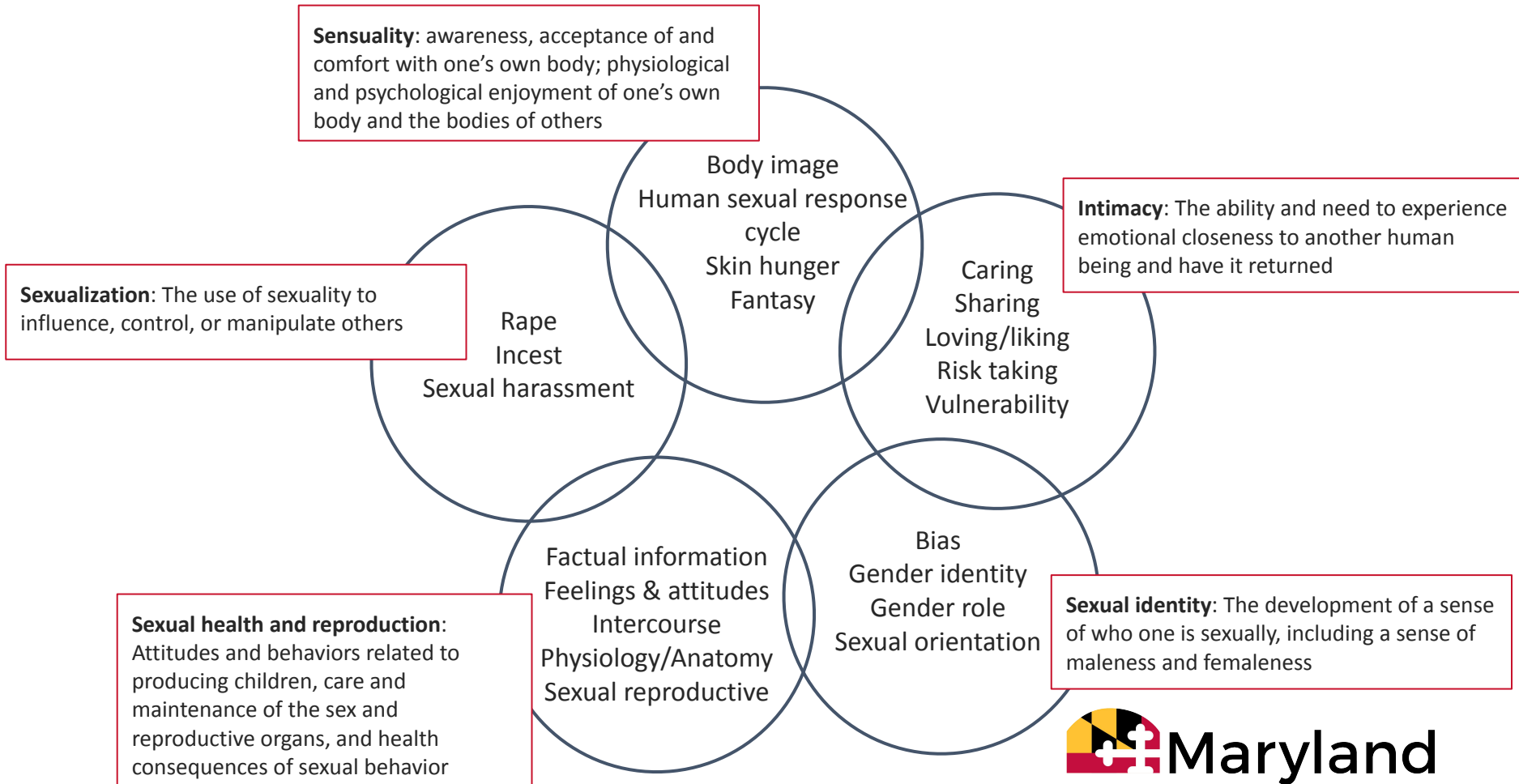
Prevention and Health  
Promotion  
Administration

Maternal and Child  
Health Bureau

Office of Family and  
Community Health  
Services

- Mission: committed to empowering youth to make healthy choices, reducing unintended pregnancies and rates of sexually transmitted infections through a comprehensive approach
- Relevant Programs
  - Title V
  - Maryland Family Planning Program (Title X)
  - Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP)
  - Sexual Risk Avoidance Education Program
  - True You Maryland

# Circles of Sexuality



# Building Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) Priority Scores

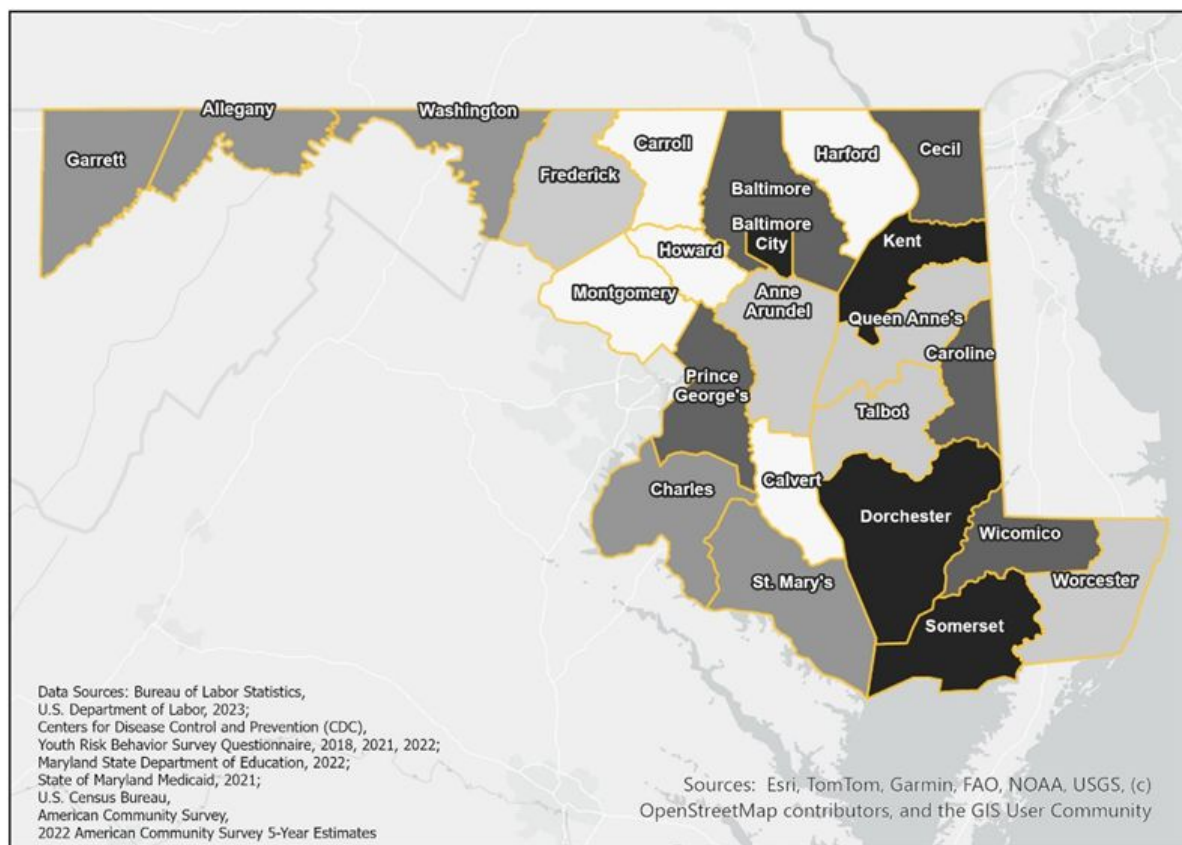
| Environmental Factors<br>                                                                                                                                | Individual Factors<br>                                                                                      | Behaviors<br> | Health Concerns<br>                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Income and unemployment</li><li>• Education</li><li>• Neighborhood quality</li><li>• Family characteristics</li><li>• Housing insecurity</li><li>• Attachment and involvement in school</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Drug and alcohol use</li><li>• Emotional distress</li><li>• Lack of social support</li><li>• Health screening</li><li>• Coercion and abuse</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ever had sex</li><li>• Contraception use</li></ul>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Teen birth rate</li><li>• Teen chlamydia, gonorrhea, and acquired syphilis rate</li></ul> |

## Data & Trends

### SRH Priority Score

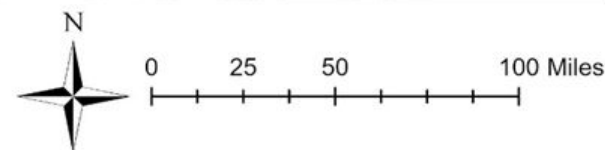
**Highest priority counties:**  
Baltimore City, Dorchester, Kent, and Somerset counties

**Lowest priority counties:** Calvert, Carroll, Harford, Howard, and Montgomery



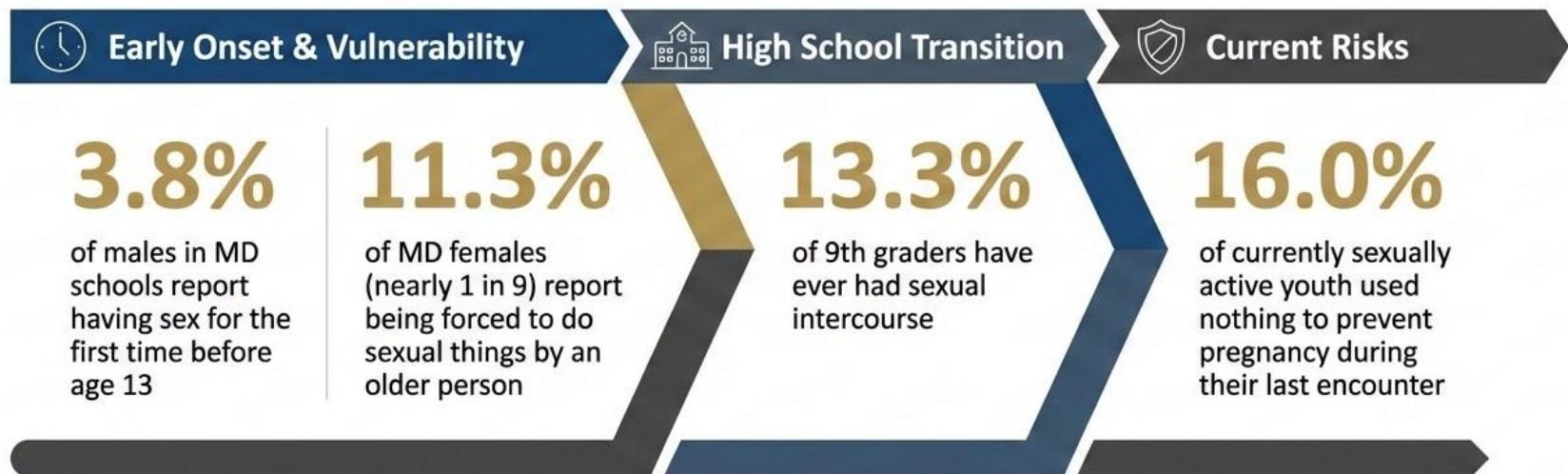
#### Legend

- Highest Priority
- High Priority
- Average Priority
- Low Priority
- Lowest Priority



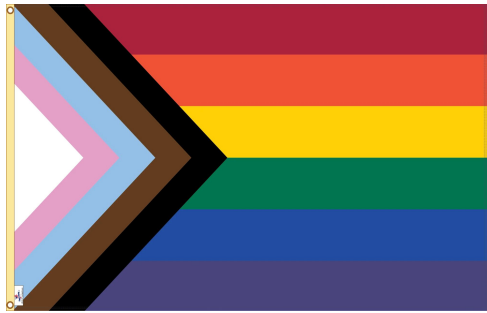
# Prevention Must Start Early

If our prevention and screening protocols don't start until mid-high school, we have already missed the window for early intervention for nearly 15% of the population.



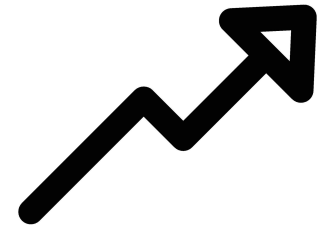
# The LGBTQ+ Equity Gap

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## Identity Trends

- 70% increase in # students identifying as LGBTQ



## Safety Crisis

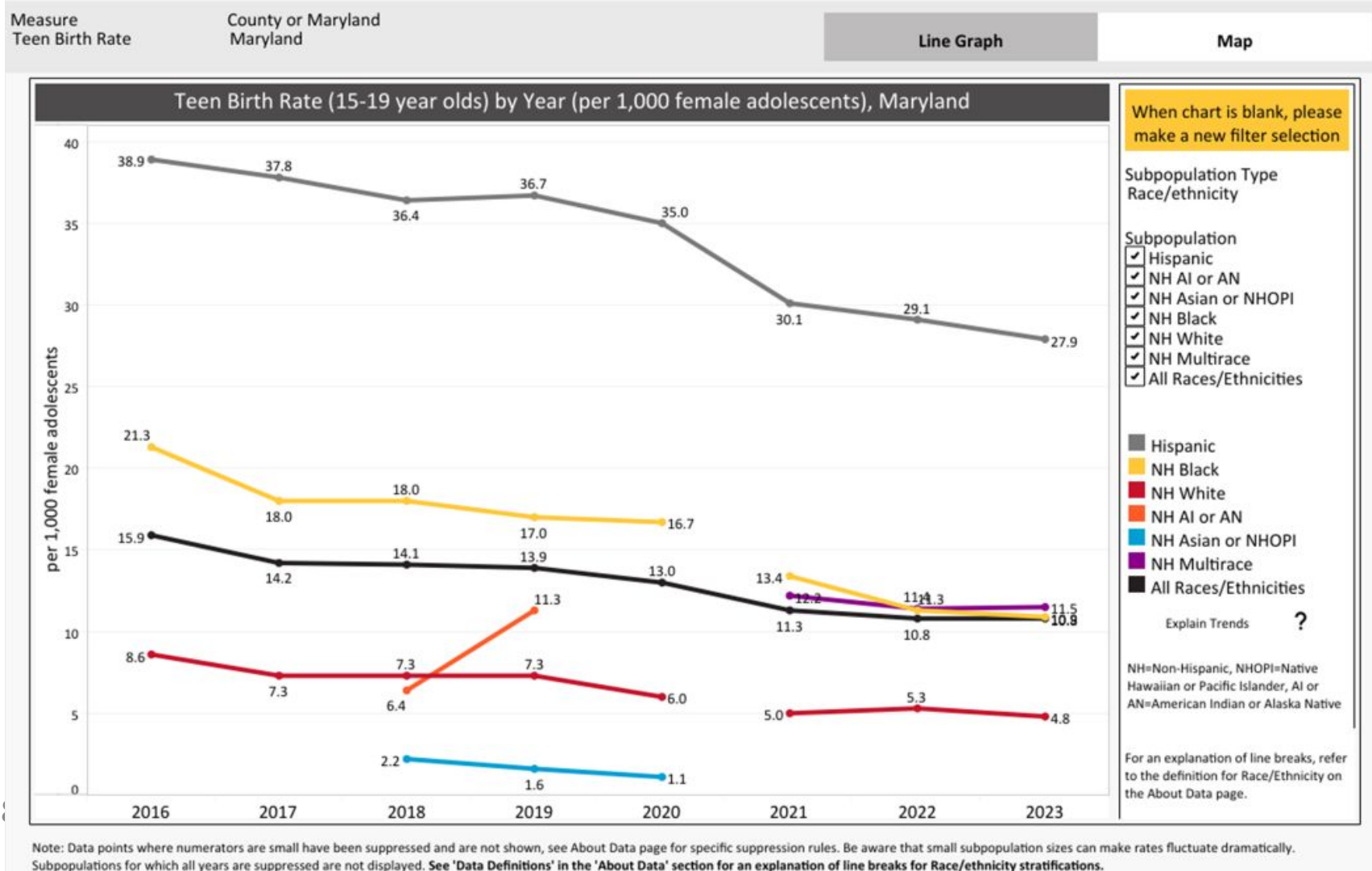
- 3x more likely to be forced into sexual intercourse
- 2x more likely to experience dating violence



## Emotional Toll

- 7 in 10 report persistent sadness or hopelessness
- 20.9% attempted suicide in the last year (nearly 2x the rate of their hetero peers)

# Outcomes Disparities: Pregnancy



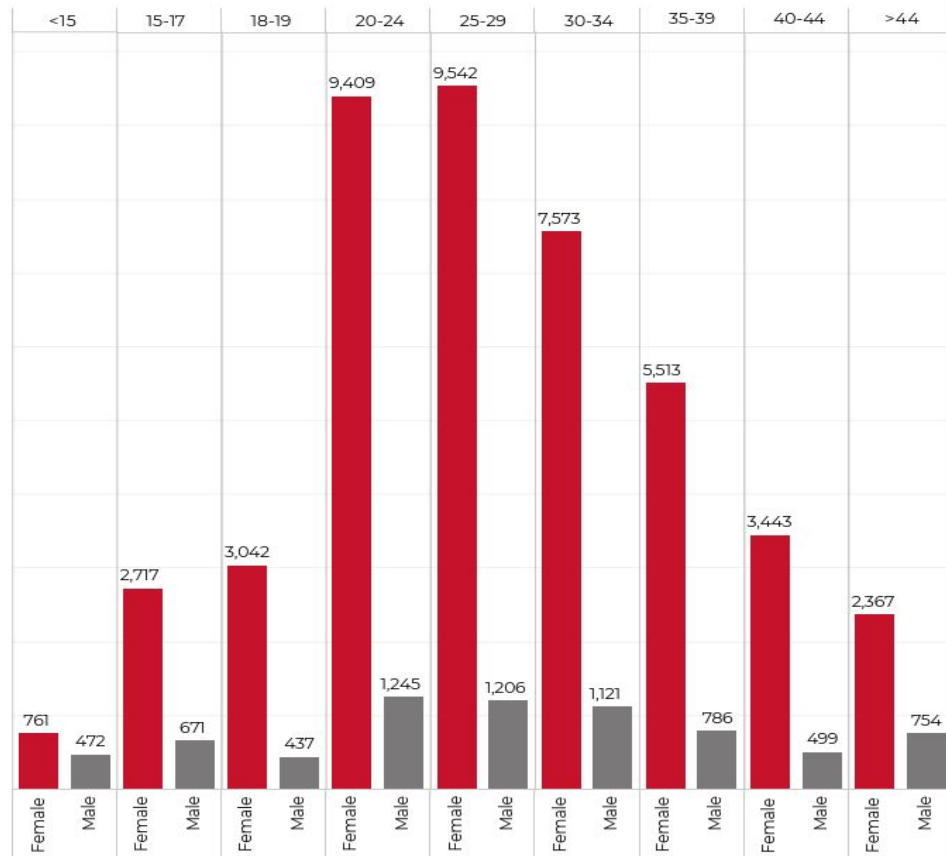


# Adolescent Title X Visits

Patient Count by Age Group and Sex

State Fiscal Year  
SFY25

Subrecipient  
All



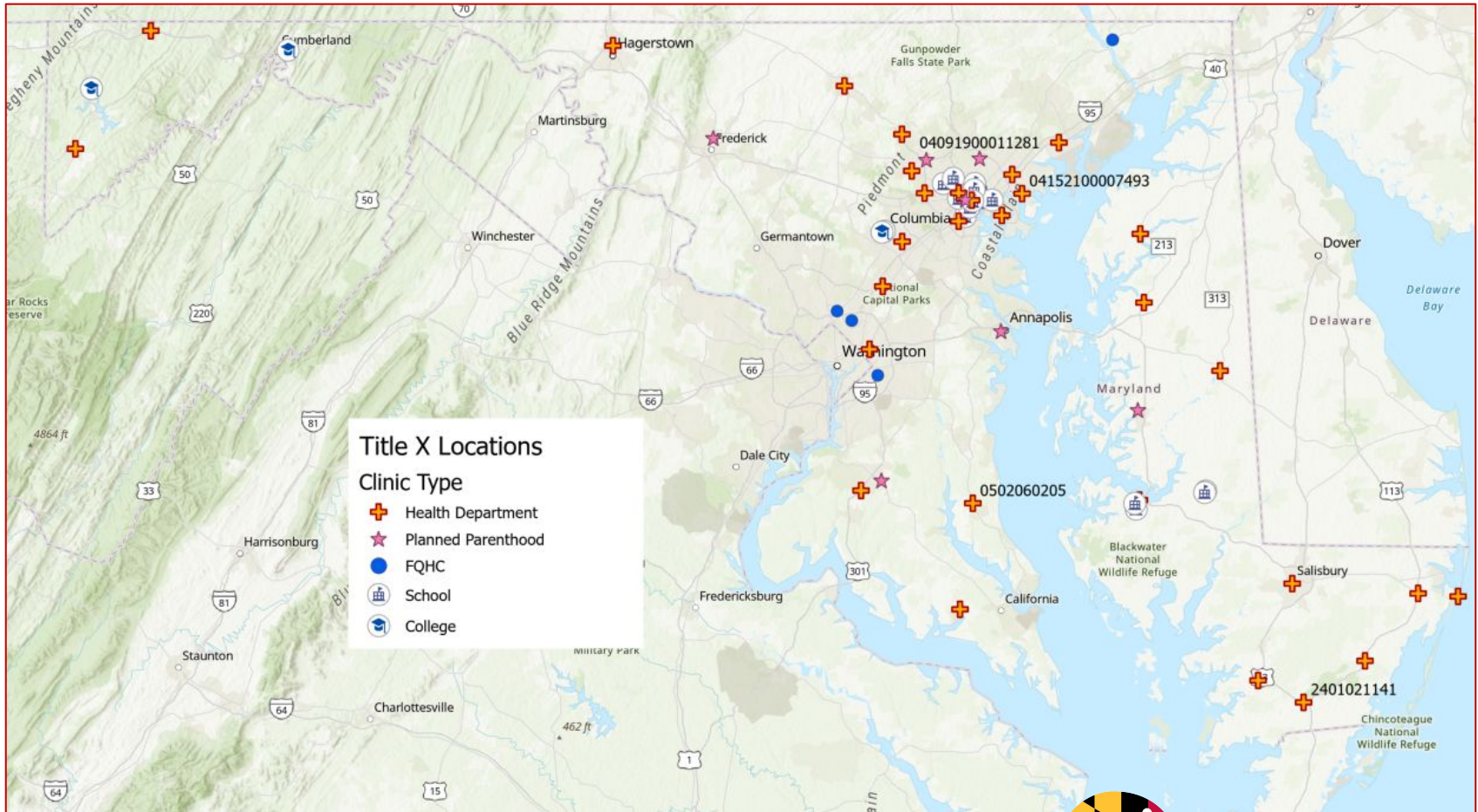
Number of Patients by Sex

Female 44,368

Male 7,193

Grand Total 51,561

# Maryland Family Planning Program



# Barriers to Care & Systems Gaps

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- Confidentiality
  - Minor consent to SRH services in Maryland is 12 years old
  - Breach of confidentiality can occur via explanation of benefits or pharmacies
  - Concern about confidentiality or stigma can prevent health-seeking behaviors
- Administrative Hurdles
  - Insurance enrollment: minors can enroll in Maryland Medicaid Family Planning Program
  - Knowledge of insurance and free and low-cost options (Title X)
- Social Determinants
  - Limited public transportation

# Opportunities

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- Current initiatives
  - Over the Counter Birth Control
  - Presumptive eligibility for Medicaid
- Potential Partnerships
  - PREP Funds – seeking partners who support justice-involved youth
  - Reproductive health referrals for justice-involved youth
  - Title V Maternal and Child Health Block Grant: LHDs can apply for funds for positive youth development programs

## *Contact Information*

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