

# MARYLAND FORWARD

## Governor's Forum on Safety and Security



**January 13, 2011**  
**U.S. Naval Academy Navy – Marine Corps Memorial Stadium**

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## Purpose of the Forum

On January 13, 2011, Governor Martin O'Malley convened the *Maryland Forward* Forum on Safety and Security at the U.S. Naval Academy Navy – Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. A diverse group of over 200 leaders from every region of the State participated, including local law enforcement, private sector, academic, and local, state, and federal government representatives. Dozens of new ideas were proposed and many of the issues discussed will help shape the O'Malley-Brown Administration's public safety policy agenda in its second term. This report summarizes those discussions and recommendations.

The forum had 9 breakout sessions:

- 5 regional breakout sessions, convening local and state law enforcement and private sector representatives, focused on reducing violent crime, information sharing, and technology;
- 3 homeland security breakout sessions, convening local first responders, medical professionals, and private sector representatives, focused on health and medical preparedness, emergency management, and intelligence sharing and technology;
- 1 victims' services breakout session, convening victims' advocates, counseling services, and law enforcement, focused on streamlining and improving victims' outreach and services.

## Introduction



Maryland has ranked among the nation's ten most violent states for over ten years<sup>1</sup>. At the same time, Maryland has consistently ranked near the top in the income levels and educational achievements of its residents<sup>2</sup>. Put simply, the rate of violent crime<sup>3</sup> works against our collective goal of a healthy, productive Maryland. While recent years have seen significant progress in reducing violence, there is still work to be done.

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census, Statistical Abstract of the United States; FBI Uniform Crime Reports, 1995-2007

<sup>2</sup> Education Week, Newsweek, and College Board have all ranked Maryland's public schools best in the nation.  
<http://marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE>

<sup>3</sup> The Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Reports, defines violent crime as murder, aggravated assault, rape, and robbery.

Furthermore, given Maryland's dense population and proximity to the national capital region, it is especially critical that the State possess nation-leading homeland security preparedness infrastructure and response capability to protect citizens from various natural and man-made threats and hazards.

The O'Malley-Brown Administration believes that public safety is the greatest responsibility of government at every level, and has focused its efforts and resources to ensure that State government plays a significant role in Maryland's fight against violent crime. In order to assess the State's progress in improving public safety, Governor O'Malley convened *Maryland Forward* Forum on Safety and Security to solicit feedback from local law enforcement, homeland security experts, and victim's advocates on what more the State can do to improve its efforts to keep Maryland safe. Forum participants discussed how to leverage state and local partnerships, improve information sharing, and better leverage 21<sup>st</sup> century technology to continue moving the state forward in its efforts to reduce crime and improve our security preparedness.

### **Governor's Strategic Policy Goals on Safety and Security**

The Governor's strategic policy goals towards safety and security are as follows:

- IV. Reduce Violent Crime by 20 percent by the End of 2012
- V. Reduce Violent Crimes Committed against Women and Children by 25 percent by the End of 2012
- VI. Make Maryland the National Leader in Homeland Security Preparedness by the End of 2012

### **Framing Questions and Themes**

Each breakout session was framed by relevant portions of the following questions:

1. What are the top 3 actions that the State should take to:
  - a. Hold violent offenders accountable?
  - b. Increase security integration via information sharing and technology?
  - c. Advance treatment and prevention programs?
  - d. Improve emergency management?
  - e. Leverage intelligence networks and technology?
2. What existing programs, policies and laws are most effective? What programs are not effective, and should they be eliminated or reformed?
3. What new resources can the State leverage? What opportunities for resources or partnerships are being missed or should be developed?
4. What are some innovative ideas on how the State could be restructured to operate more efficiently with respect to reducing violent crime or security integration?

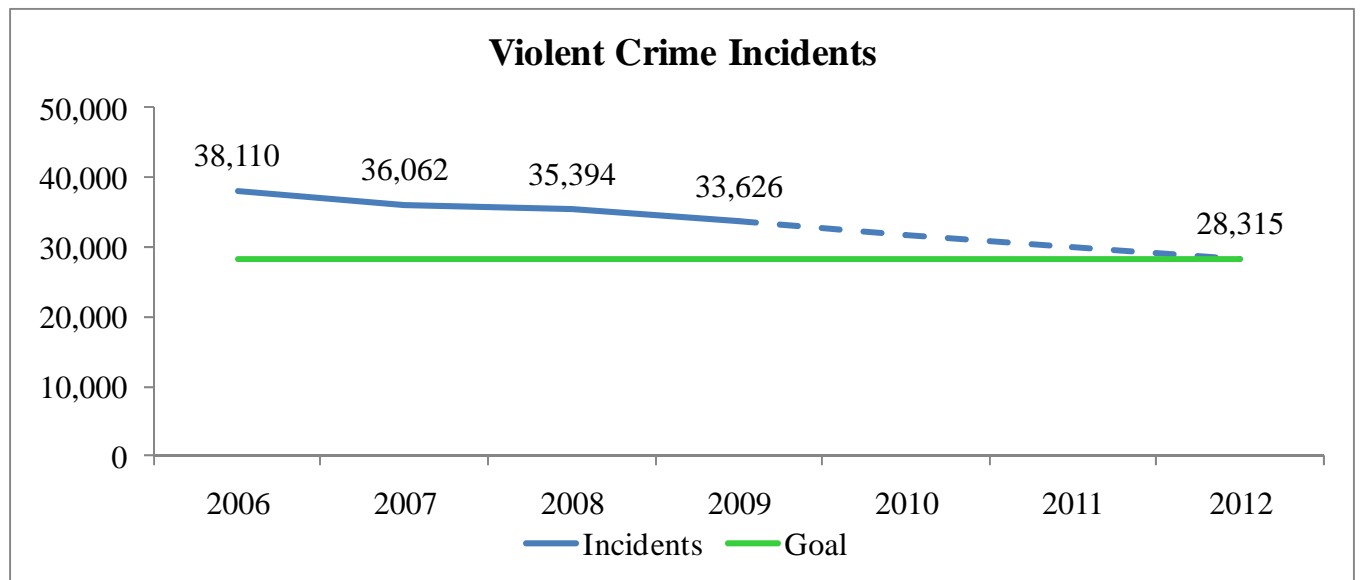
## Goal IV: Reduce Violent Crime by 20 Percent by 2012

Reducing violent crime by 20 percent by 2012 is one of the Administration's 15 policy goals. The key strategies driving goal attainment are:

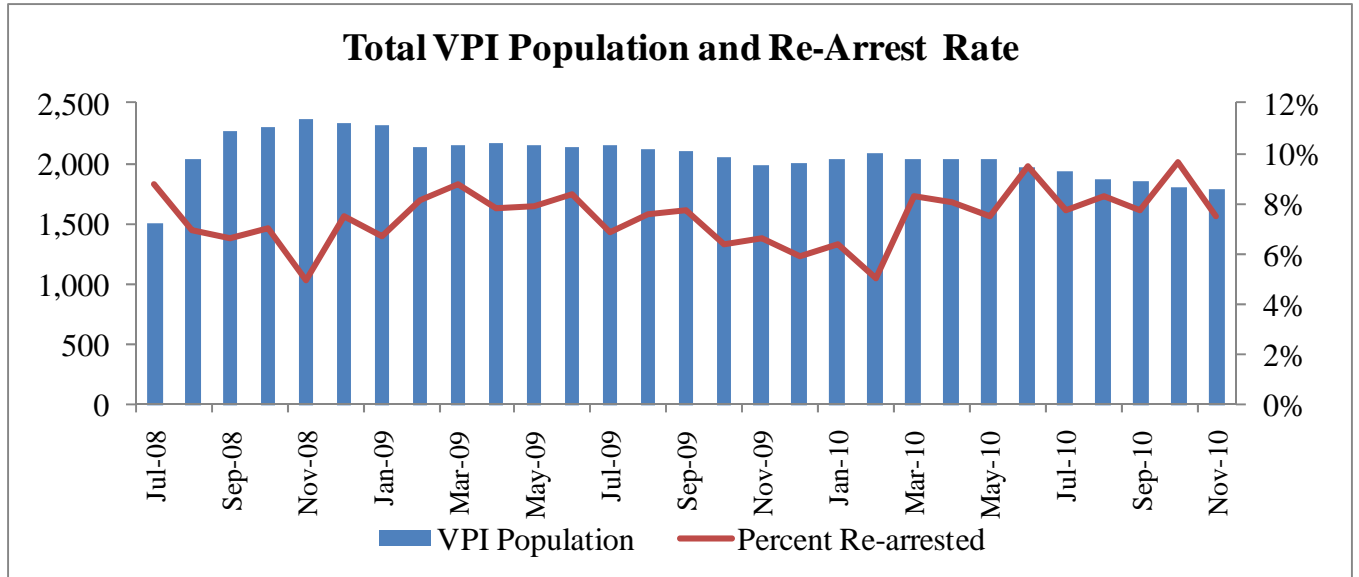
- Identifying high risk offenders, holding them accountable, and improving outcomes through effective re-entry services
- Enhancing warrant service to remove violent offenders from the streets
- Maximizing the use of DNA samples to convict the guilty and exonerate the innocent
- Expanding efforts to reduce illegal gun use and possession
- Modernizing crime fighting and information sharing by maximizing the use of the best available technology.

Maryland has made progress towards its violent crime reduction goal, including:

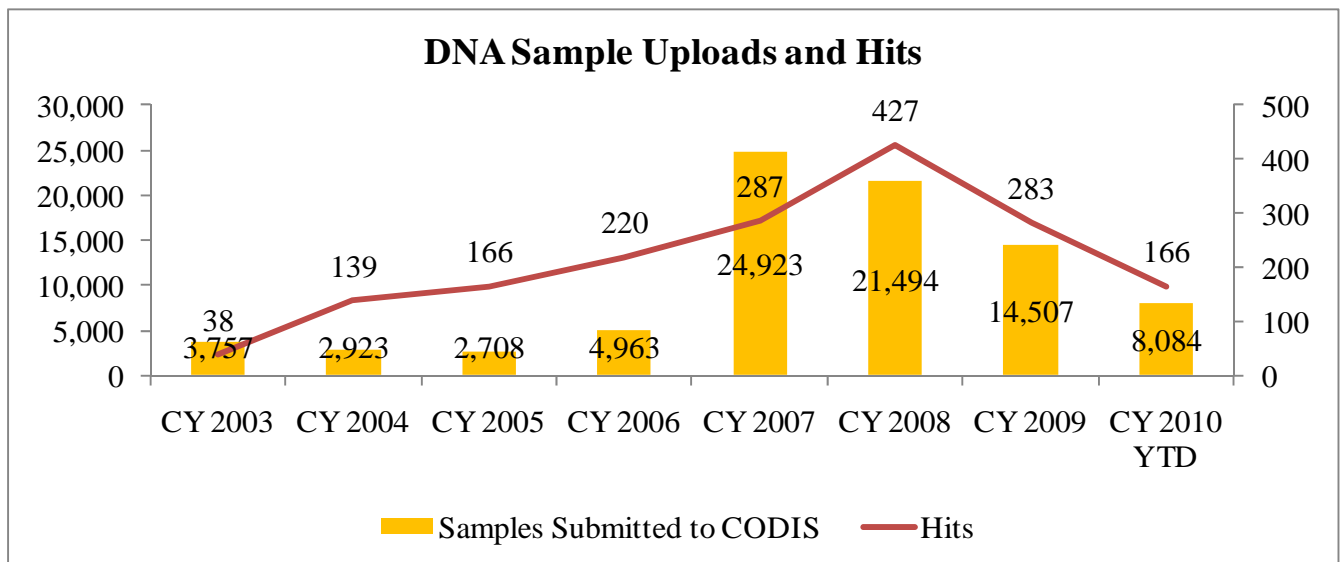
- **Crime Reductions.** Between 2008 and 2009, there was a 5 percent reduction in overall violent crime. Maryland is on target to reduce violent crime by 20 percent by 2012, with 25 percent of the goal already attained as of CY 2009. Furthermore, violent crime rates (per 100,000 residents) fell to their lowest levels since 1975, when modern crime reporting began.



- **Violence Prevention Initiative.** To help combat violent crime, the State established the Violence Prevention Initiative for adults and juveniles. This nationally recognized model identifies the most violent and at-risk offenders and has a zero-tolerance policy for any violations. Today, there are over 2,000 VPI offenders statewide, supervised by highly trained agents with caseloads at 30 offenders or less.



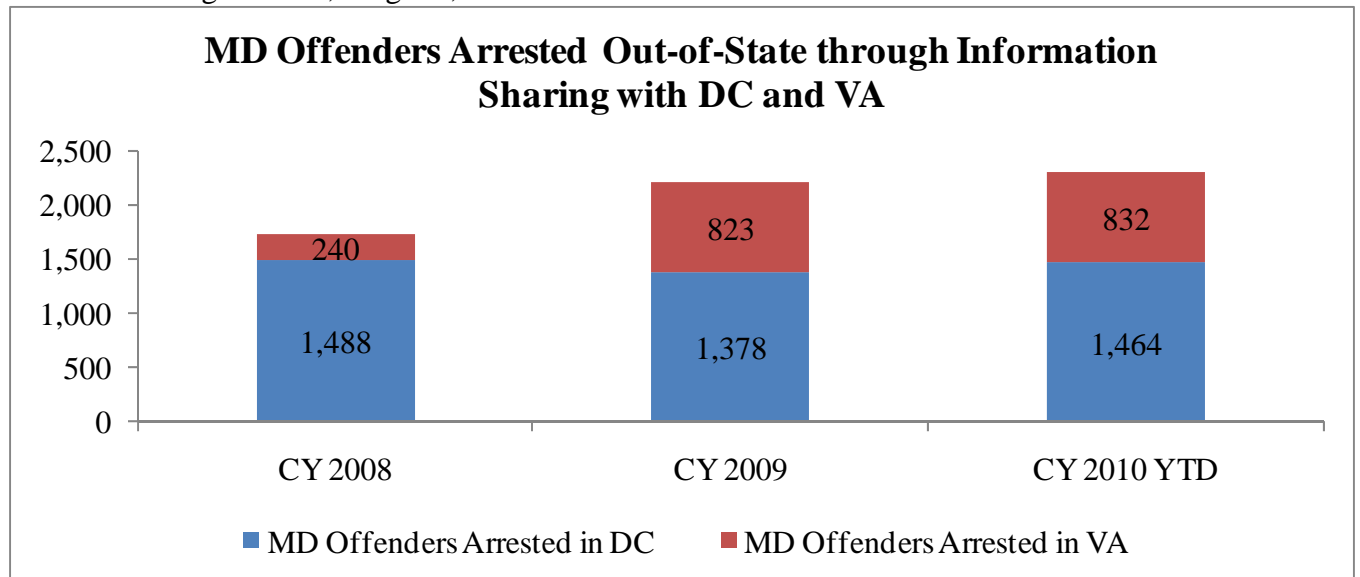
- Closing the DNA Backlog.** In 2007, over 24,000 DNA samples required by law to be collected from violent offenders had not been collected. DPSCS completely closed the backlog, analyzed all samples, and submitted them to the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS), which matches offender’s DNA profiles with evidence from crimes; this led to a 308 percent increase in samples submitted compared with the previous 4 years, as well a 106 percent increase in positive ‘hits’ on DNA evidence.



- Law Enforcement Dashboard.** Working with federal, state and local Partners, the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services established the Maryland Law Enforcement Dashboard, which consolidates critical criminal information from 12 state agencies—including 85 databases—onto a single, easy to use platform, allowing individuals in the field to look up information quickly when it used to take hours. Today, it is used by 16,000 eligible law

enforcement personnel in over 100 criminal justice agencies and receives an average of 34,000 hits per day.

- **Information Sharing with Other States.** Since the O'Malley-Brown Administration took office, the Maryland Division of Parole and Probation (DPP) has worked to expand information sharing with other states, including sharing arrest notification on supervisees between Maryland and Washington D.C., Virginia, and New York.



### **Recommendations to Reduce Violent Crime**

The following are recommendations that were presented and discussed by stakeholders at the Governor's Forum on Safety and Security that relate to the State's goal of reducing violent crime:

#### *Holding Offenders Accountable*

- DPP should work with State's Attorneys and other stakeholders to better educate the judiciary about the VPI program to ensure standard and consistent application of VPI standards to VPI offenders.
- The State should work with treatment providers and counties to expand evidence-based treatment (EBT) programs statewide. Several examples of successful programs were offered, including:
  - The Family Justice Center in Montgomery County
  - Truancy Program in Baltimore City.
  - Day Reporting for offenders receiving drug treatment in Washington County
- DPP, the Courts, and State's Attorneys should work to expedite trials to quickly move dangerous offenders through the court system, which helps reduce gang activity in detention centers and reduces costs. Participants recommend the use of videoconferencing at local and state detention centers to expedite hearings and attorney/client conferences.
- The State should work with the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, veterans groups and treatment providers to identify offenders who are veterans earlier and link them to veterans' services.

### *Improving Warrant Service*

- The State and Courts should work to expedite warrant service, including electronic warrants from the courts and using digital copies of warrants (such as .pdf files) instead of paper copies.
- The State should consider legislation that would allow local law enforcement to serve warrants across county lines
- DPP should create a process to notify local law enforcement of VPI warrants.
- Local law enforcement should be allowed to use any computer to complete charging documents for the courts, instead of only a State computer as is currently the case.

### *Modernizing Crime Fighting and Improving Information Sharing*

- The State should expand the usage of FastID<sup>4</sup> devices that are currently being tested. Participants indicated that there is significant interest in these devices.
- The State should assist with the creation of a regional forensic lab system to expedite the processing of forensic evidence, especially with regard to cyber crime equipment.
- The State should centralize the License Plate Reader (LPR) network and continue expansion of LPRs throughout the state.
- The State should expand the usage of the LINX system, which is currently in use in the National Capital Region (NCR), to other jurisdictions. One suggestion is to survey which law enforcements currently use LINX and then use a single contract to roll the system out statewide. The Office of Homeland Security noted that once CAD/RMS is rolled-out statewide, LINX will be able to tap into the network and expand information sharing.
- Several jurisdictions noted that GOCCP should provide additional CompStat-on-demand training, especially with new sheriffs taking office in several jurisdictions.



### *New Strategies, Legislations, or Policies*

- The State should pursue just-cause eviction legislation that would hold landlords accountable for a pattern of criminal activity at properties and prevent tenants who complain about crime from being evicted for their complaints.

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<sup>4</sup> Fast ID is a portable, easy to use fingerprint device that connects to law enforcement databases to quickly and accurately identify an individual, especially in cases where someone is known by multiple aliases or is uncooperative with law enforcement.

- The State should copy federal standard of a right to a jury trial only when sentence is 6 months or more. Currently, defendants can plead a jury trial in cases where the max sentence is less than 90 days.
- The State should sponsor legislation requiring the tracking of Schedule 2 narcotics<sup>5</sup>, which has previously failed in the Maryland General Assembly<sup>6</sup>. This would allow local law enforcement as well as state partners to identify offenders who are accessing multiple doctors/pharmacies to illegally acquire narcotics.

### **Goal V: Reduce Violence against Women and Children by 25 Percent by 2012**

Reducing Violent Crime against Women and Children by 2012 is one of the Administration's 15 policy goals. The key strategies driving goal attainment are:

- Identifying offenders at high risk for violence against women and children and improve outcomes through enhanced monitoring and law enforcement strategies
- Implementing best practices for placement and provision of services to youth under supervision by the juvenile system
- Achieving child safety-related "Place Matters" goals and implement additional victims support and prevention programming to improve outcomes for youth and women in the State human resources system
- Leveraging technology, like GPS monitoring, the DNA database, and polygraph, to improve information sharing among child-serving agencies, law enforcement agencies, and victims.

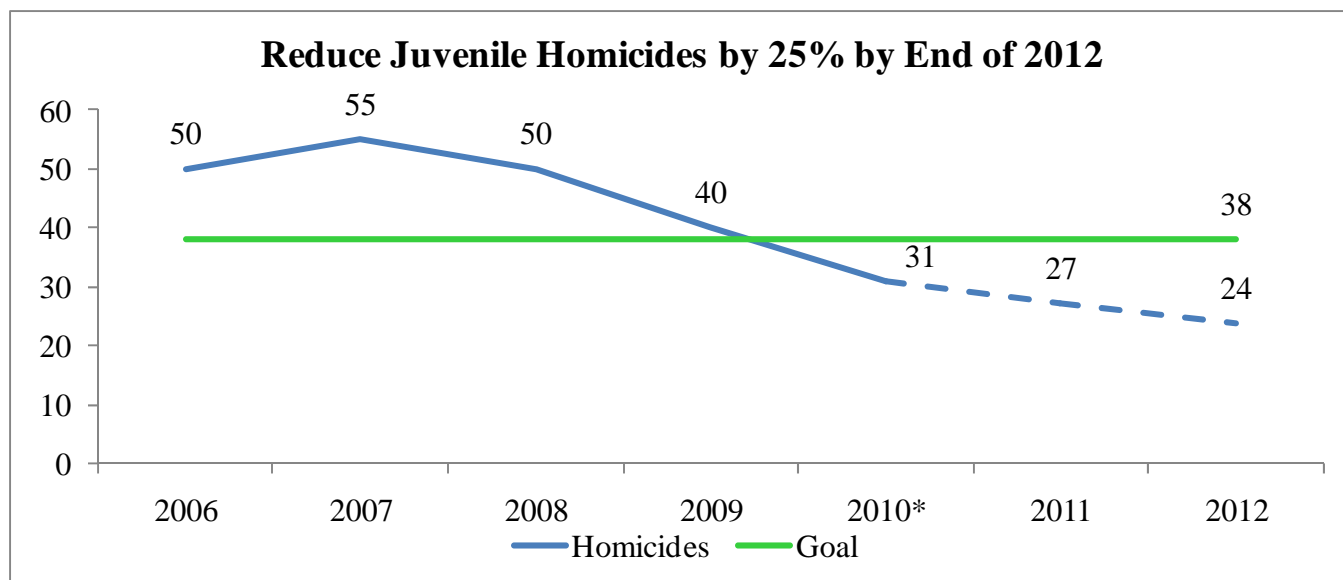
Maryland has made progress towards its goal to reduce violence against women and children, including:

- **Reducing Juvenile Homicides.** To date, Maryland is ahead of target in its effort to reduce juvenile homicides, with 128 percent of the goal attained.

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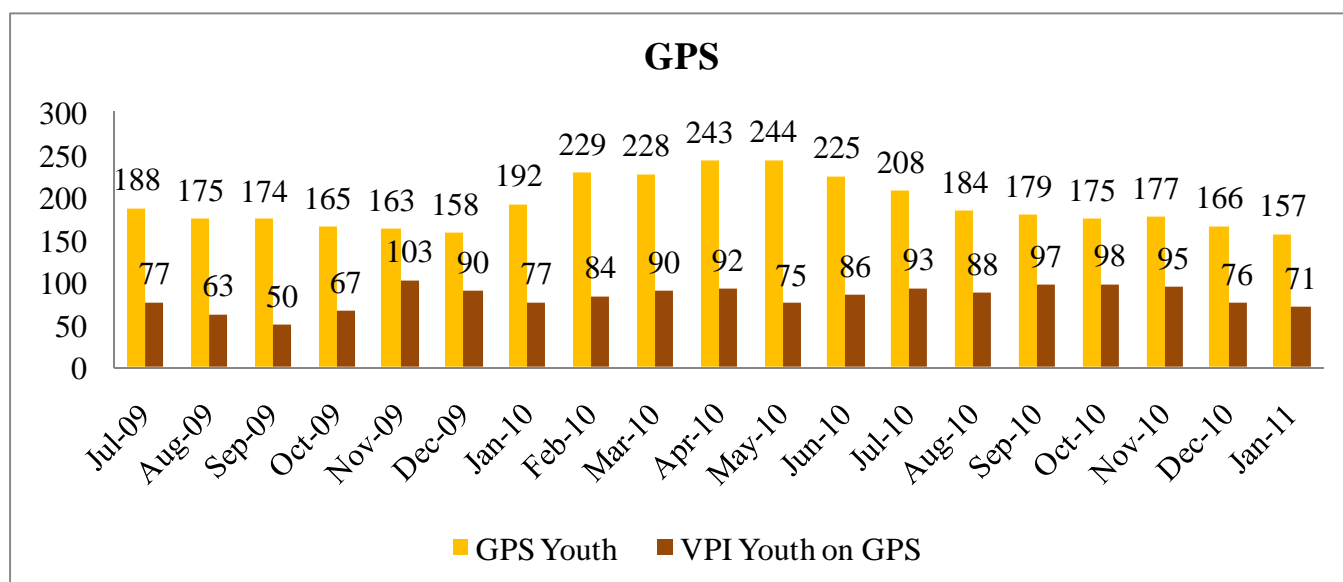
<sup>5</sup> Several other states, including Delaware and Virginia, have passed similar legislation, and it is a national priority of the Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy Gil Kerliowske.

<sup>6</sup> See HB 918, 2010 General Assembly Session



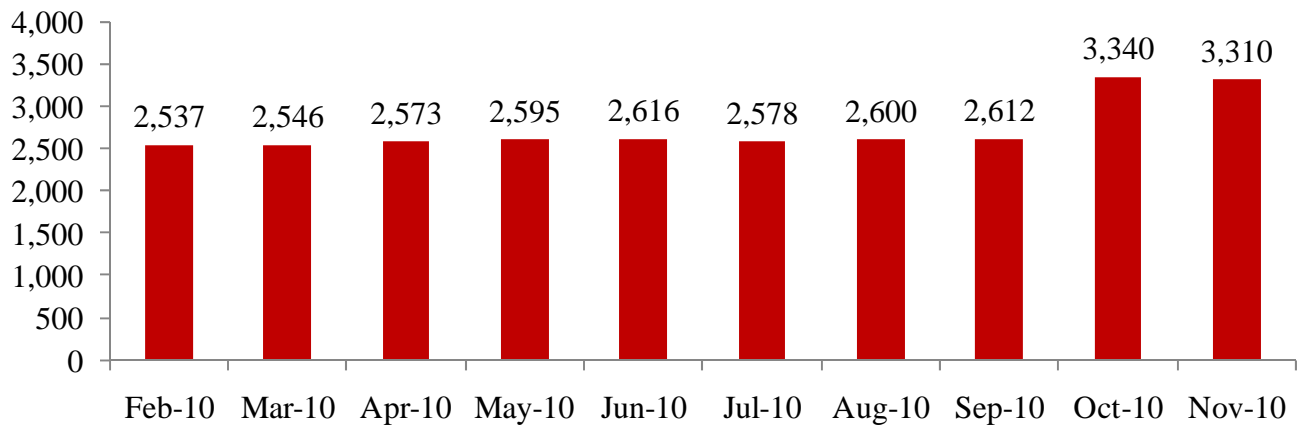
\*2010 data is preliminary.

- Juvenile GPS monitoring.** The Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) expanded GPS monitoring for youth, especially those under VPI supervision, to complement monitoring efforts and keep supervised youth accountable. This effort also helps save taxpayer dollars: it costs \$8.00 per day for GPS supervision, while placing the youth in a detention center costs \$467 per day.



- Developed a Domestic Violence Supervision Policy.** DPP created a new domestic violence supervision policy at DPP to help protect victims and identify offenders at risk for committing domestic violence.

### Individuals Under DPP Domestic Violence Supervision, February - November 2010



### Recommendations to Reduce Violence against Women and Children

The following are recommendations that were presented and discussed by stakeholders at the Governor's Forum on Safety and Security that relate to the State's goal of reducing violent crime against women and children:

*Identify offenders at high risk for violence against women and children and improve outcomes through enhanced monitoring and law enforcement strategies*

- The State should expand the War Room concept to help identify offenders at an early age and work with DJS and local law enforcement to expand intervention and diversion programs once identification is made.
- DPP and DJS should automatically share probation conditions with each other for cases where youth are supervised under both systems.

*Implement best practices for placement and provision of services to youth under supervision by the juvenile system*

- The State should replicate the truancy program in Baltimore City and Anne Arundel statewide. In addition, the state should provide additional resources for this and similar diversion programs.
- The State should expand additional treatment beds for DJS youth in state, and work to localize beds so juvenile offenders are treated as close to home as possible.

- Several counties in the Eastern Shore noted that juvenile drug courts, while a promising model, had not proven successful due to a lack of funding and coordination. Counties argued that the model should be eliminated or reformed.

*Leverage technology, like GPS monitoring, the DNA database, and polygraph, to improve information sharing among child-serving agencies, law enforcement agencies, and victims.*

- The State should replicate the Lethality Line concept used in Baltimore City, where police use specific questions on domestic violence calls to determine if it is a lethal situation. This allows police to monitor repeat offenders and provide victim's services more immediately.



*New Strategies, Legislations, or Policies*

- The State should help sponsor legislation that would add additional penalties for violent crimes witnessed by a child.

## **Goal VI: Make Maryland the National Leader in Homeland Security Preparedness by 2012**

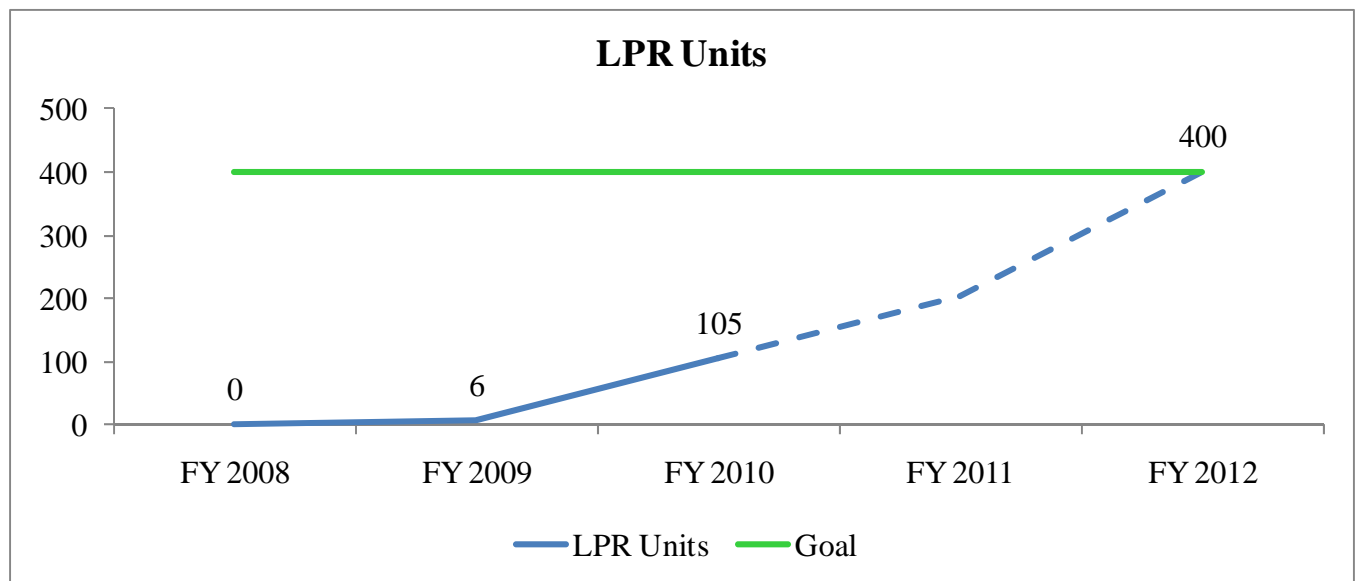
Making Maryland the National Leader in Homeland Security Preparedness by 2012 is one of the Administration's 15 policy goals. The key strategies driving goal attainment are

- Develop an interoperable communications and information technology infrastructure;
- Develop an information sharing structure that addresses local and regional issues and that feeds data into Regional Information Centers and MCAC;
- Ensure that every metropolitan region has Type 1 HAZMAT and Explosive Device Response Teams;
- Develop a system of coordination to facilitate the acquisition of universally compatible first responder protective equipment;
- Maximize participation from hospitals and pharmacies in Maryland's bio-surveillance systems;
- Develop a system for site visits and use a unified statewide critical infrastructure database;
- Develop a single statewide exercise and training strategy;

- Develop a robust CCTV system that monitors key public resources and critical facilities;
- Enhance Maryland's medical technology and information sharing infrastructure;
- Update and draft, where necessary, Maryland's Hazards plans;
- Inventory all publicly owned back-up power resources; and
- Fully harden Maryland's maritime facilities, rail, bridges, roads, and tunnels.

Maryland has made progress towards its goal of becoming a national leader in homeland security preparedness, including:

- **ESSENCE.** Between 2005 and 2010, the State increased from 15 to 46 the acute care hospitals that participate in ESSENCE, an electronic bio-surveillance program that tracks hospital emergency room visits and other important public health information and serves as an early warning for disease outbreaks. Furthermore, more than 300 retail pharmacies are reporting over-the-counter pharmaceutical purchases through ESSENCE, a 100 percent increase over the number of participating pharmacies in 2009.
- **Bomb Squad Equipment.** Maryland has equipped its local and State bomb squad with cutting-edge equipment, including bomb robots and enhanced vehicle-borne and person-borne Improvised Explosive Device render safe tools. The State has also identified, purchased, and trained all officers in the five largest State law enforcement agencies on a single, uniform package of personal protective equipment, including a chemical suit, air mask, and gloves.
- **License Plate Readers.** Approximately 200 License Plate Readers (LPRs) are now operating and are beginning to be networked throughout the State. LPRs provide law enforcement officials with information that can be matched against stolen vehicles or wanted person's databases.



- **Interoperable Communications.** After a decade of uncoordinated efforts and diffuse management of interoperability efforts, the State formally begun the process to create this interoperable communications network that will allow first responders, law enforcement, and other emergency management agencies to communicate with each other.

- **Closed-Circuit TV.** More than 8,400 CCTV cameras are now providing video coverage for state facilities and critical infrastructure. The State created a standardized format for video feeds that has tripled the number of live cameras available for online public viewing from 45 in 2009 to 142. Video feeds from 30 traffic cameras have been successfully transmitted to handheld PDAs for use by first responders.

## **Recommendations to Improve Homeland Security Preparedness**

The following are recommendations that were presented and discussed by stakeholders at the Governor's Forum on Safety and Security:

### *Medical Preparedness and Bio-Surveillance*

- The State should begin to integrate additional data feeds into ESSENCE, including mental health data and data from schools.
- The State should work to expand bandwidth and IT infrastructure to stakeholders to ensure that incident information is available to all stakeholders in a timely manner.
- The State's planning, response, and evaluation exercises should work to better identify untapped resources and utilize them under the theme of "borderless" response. For example, the State should work to identify military reservists, retired veteran and medical professionals, and similar resources that could be activated in the case of an emergency.

### *Emergency Management*

- The State should formalize the role of the State Fire Marshall as the coordinating agency for cross-jurisdictional bomb response support and mutual aid during multiple concurrent bomb events.
- MDE should explore the possibility of adopting a similar structure to the State Fire Marshall's structure for bomb response in the area of HAZMAT response including formalizing mutual aid agreements and institutionalizing information sharing.
- MSP and the State Fire Marshall should explore the possibility of creating agreements to pool resources for bomb dogs and utilize explosive sniffing K9's as effectively as possible.
- The State should consider how to best fund the existing 9-1-1 network, given that the proliferation of non-hardwired devices may negatively impact the State's ability to upgrade its 9-1-1 system to the next generation.

### *Technology and Intelligence*

- The State should better engage with non-emergency management sectors regarding interoperability; for example, linking hospitals, schools, and universities into the current interoperability structure
- The State should prioritize CCTV access for first responders and ensure that all first responders have access to CCTV feeds from multiple jurisdictions. If necessary, the state should work with counties to ensure that formal agreements are made that ensure CCTV access.

### *New Strategies, Legislations, or Policies*

- The State should pursue legislation that would hardwire schools as back-up command centers.

