

CITY OF BALTIMORE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Baltimore City Health Department Releases 2008 Health Status Report
and Neighborhood Health Profiles**

BALTIMORE, MD – (October 15, 2008) – The Baltimore City Health Department is releasing two major reports on the health of city residents: the 2008 Health Status Report and a set of Neighborhood Health Profiles covering 55 community statistical areas in the city.

The 2008 Health Status Report is a comprehensive compilation of available data on the health of Baltimore residents. It includes information from local, state, and federal sources, and covers such issues as mortality, birth outcomes, HIV/AIDS, tobacco use, overdose deaths, and obesity. The Report shows improvement over the past decade in 18 out of 28 key measures of health in the city.

Each of the 55 Neighborhood Health Profiles provides basic demographic information, life expectancy, causes of death, birth outcomes, and rates of lead poisoning in the geographic area. The goals of the Profiles are to provide information to communities about their own health and to guide public health policy. The Profiles demonstrate substantial variation in health problems and outcomes across the city.

“Knowledge is the key to progress on health,” said Dr. Joshua M. Sharfstein, Commissioner of Health. “These reports will open all of our eyes to the progress we’ve made and to the challenges still confronting Baltimore.”

“These reports fill important data gaps in our knowledge of the city’s health,” said Dr. Caroline Fichtenberg, the Health Department’s Chief Epidemiologist. “They show how the city as a whole has fared over the past decade in comparison to the state as a whole as well as how health needs vary by neighborhoods across the city.”

The 2008 Health Status Report was put together by the Health Department’s Office of Epidemiology and Planning. The Profiles were developed by the Health Department’s Office of Epidemiology and Planning in collaboration with Sommer Scholars from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. The Profiles are being circulated to neighborhood associations registered with the city.

Both reports are online at <http://www.baltimorehealth.org>.

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