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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Health Department Releases 2011 Neighborhood Health Profiles

BALTIMORE, MD (December 9, 2011) – The Baltimore City Health Department today released the 2011 Neighborhood Health Profiles, a series of reports that look at demographic and major health outcome data for each of 55 Community Statistical Areas (CSAs) in the city of Baltimore.

“Collectively, these reports show us that within the city, there are many Baltimores,” said Commissioner of Health Dr. Oxiris Barbot. “There are no ‘one-size-fits-all’ approaches to improving health. Rather, we anticipate that this work will culminate in communities prioritizing the most pressing health issues they want to take on for action.”

The Department last issued Neighborhood Health Profiles in 2008, which confirmed a 20-year life expectancy gap between city neighborhoods less than 5 miles apart. The 2011 Neighborhood Health Profiles build on the 2008 Profiles by looking at the underlying factors that affect health in each neighborhood CSA—the social determinants of health. The social determinants of health are the conditions in which residents live, learn, work, and play, and include factors like access to healthy food, healthy housing, quality schools, and safe places to be active. Residents are presented with data on lung cancer mortality, for example, as well as data on tobacco retail density.

The 2011 Profiles also include, for the first time, data on deaths that could have been avoided if all Baltimore communities had the same opportunity at health. The reports indicate more than half the deaths in 25% of city neighborhoods were avoidable.

“Put succinctly, people are dying unnecessarily every day, oftentimes because of factors attributable to where they live, work, learn and play,” Dr. Barbot said.

The 2011 Profiles will allow the Baltimore City Health Department, residents and others to not only identify priority health issues, but also to identify underlying conditions that perpetuate poor health outcomes. The Department will present the 2011 Profiles at a series of community meetings and will work with community groups to prioritize their needs and lead health improvement projects around the priority areas outlined in [Healthy Baltimore 2015](#), the city’s health policy agenda.

“The Neighborhood Health Profiles will be an invaluable tool in advancing public health in the City of Baltimore, said the Rev. S. Todd Yeary, Senior Pastor of Douglas Memorial Community Church and Principal with Community Churches for Community Development. “These statistical insights will enable us to be more precise in the allocation of collective resources as we address the health care needs of our fellow citizens, wherever they may live.”

The reports and additional resources, including a map of all 55 CSAs, are online at <http://www.baltimorehealth.org/dataresearch.html>.

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