

Vital Signs 6 & 7

Changes and Explanations

Housing and Community Development

Housing Conditions

Indicator:

Percent of residential properties that are vacant and abandoned at year's end

Explanation:

Previous years Vital Signs used a file from the Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development called "Open Notice". The file included data for various aspects of Baltimore housing including vacancies and housing violations. Open Notice is no longer maintained as of 2006 by the data provider; however, the city has not stopped tracking the indicator and was provided in an individual file for 2006-2007. It is currently unclear if the increase in vacant and abandoned residential properties from 2005 to 2006 is due to actual changes or due to the changes in collection of data.

Indicator:

Percent of residential properties with other types of housing violations (other than vacant) at year's end

Explanation:

Previous years Vital Signs used a file from the Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development called "Open Notice". The file included data for various aspects of Baltimore housing including vacancies and housing violations. Open Notice is no longer maintained as of 2006 by the data provider; however, the city has not stopped tracking the indicator and was provided in an individual file for 2006-2007. It is currently unclear if the decrease in violations from 2005 to 2006 is due to actual changes or due to the changes in collection of data.

Children and Family Health, Safety and Well-being

Safe Homes and Families

Indicator:

Percent of children ages 0-6 years old with elevated blood lead levels out of all children ages 0-6 who were tested for presence of lead

Explanation:

Data for previous Vital Signs was only available at the zip code level in order to comply with confidentiality laws protecting the identity of patients. Starting in 2006, data was made available at the census tract level. Census tract data was aggregated to the CSA level to be reported in Vital Signs 6 & 7.

Workforce and Economic Development

Successful Business and successful small businesses

Indicator:

Total retail sales in \$ thousands

Explanation:

Previous Vital Signs used data provided by Dun & Bradstreet but was not available for the current version. Data reported in Vital Signs 6 & 7 is provided by InfoUSA at the CSA level. Prior data from Dun & Bradstreet was only reported at the zip code level.

Indicator:

Total businesses as of the 4th quarter of year

Explanation:

Previous Vital Signs used data provided by Dun & Bradstreet but was not available for the current version. Data reported in Vital Signs 6 & 7 is provided by InfoUSA at the CSA level. Prior data from Dun & Bradstreet was only reported at the zip code level.

Indicator:

Percent of all businesses more than four years old as of the fourth quarter of given year

Explanation:

Previous Vital Signs used data provided by Dun & Bradstreet but was not available for the current version. Data reported in Vital Signs 6 & 7 is provided by InfoUSA. As a result this indicator has been removed as InfoUSA does not track this information.

Indicator:

Percent of all businesses that have fifty employees or less that are over four years old

Explanation:

Previous Vital Signs used data provided by Dun & Bradstreet but was not available for the current version. Data reported in Vital Signs 6 & 7 is provided by InfoUSA. As a result this indicator has been removed as InfoUSA does not track the age of a business. The data source does track number of employers and the indicator has been replaced with the number of businesses that have less than fifty employees, number of businesses with fifty to one-hundred employees, and total employees.

Indicator:

Total number of employees

Explanation:

This is a new indicator added as a result of change in data source from Dun & Bradstreet to InfoUSA.

Indicator:

Number of businesses with less than 50 employees

Explanation:

This is a new indicator added as a result of change in data source from Dun & Bradstreet to InfoUSA.

Indicator:

Number of businesses with 51-100 employees

Explanation:

This is a new indicator added as a result of change in data source from Dun & Bradstreet to InfoUSA.

Urban Environment and Transit

*Clean Air***Indicator:**

“Code Red” days – Number of days ozone levels exceeded federal standards for ozone exposure for one hour

Explanation:

As of 2006 the Maryland Department of the Environment no longer tracks “Code Red” days as exceeding exposure for one hour. The new definition is the number of days ozone levels exceed federal standards for ozone exposure for eight hours.

Education and Youth

*High School Performance***Indicator:**

Maryland School Assessment (MSA) Test Scores for 10th grade

Explanation:

As of 2005, Maryland School Assessments are no longer given to 10th grade students. The exam, which was divided into Math and Reading sections, has been replaced by the Maryland High School Assessments (HSA) given to all students from grades 9-12. The HSA is divided into four parts: Algebra, Biology, English, and Government. Each part of the exam is given to students after they have completed the required classes in order to pass that particular exam. Any student entering a public school as of 2005 must meet the requirements for the HSA in order to graduate.

Indicator:

Maryland High School Assessment (HSA) test scores

Explanation:

This indicator has been added to Vital Signs 6 & 7 as a result of the discontinuation of the Maryland School Assessment given to individuals in the 10th grade. This indicator reflects the number of passing HSA scores for each exam out of all students that took that exam that year. Students are allowed to retake the same exam multiple times in the same year if that student fails. Instances where a student takes an exam multiple times and passes by the end of the year are only considered as one test taker when calculating the percentage of students who passed. Therefore the number reported does not capture the number of times a student may be taking an exam before passing nor the number of different exams they choose to take. It only captures if the student passes that exam before the end of the school year. Data reported by BNIA-JFI is slightly different than that of other sources as multiple occurrences of the same student taking the same exam are removed from the analysis in order to more accurately capture the amount of students passing. Data for this indicator is provided by the Baltimore City Public School System.