

CALVERT COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

P.O. Box 1158
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Health Officer



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STATE OF MARYLAND

www.calverthealth.org

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Calvert County is a predominantly rural county with a population of approximately 90,000 people. It has one of the highest growth rates of all Maryland counties (20.43% according to USA.com).

Calvert County Health Department (CCHD) is a hybrid state-county agency devoted to addressing unmet public health needs and maintaining public health safety for those who reside, work and visit Calvert County. As an agent of both the state of Maryland and county government, it provides local public health services under the direction of the Health Officer. Programs run by CCHD range from emergency preparedness to addressing the opioid epidemic with a full range of behavioral health care.

Calvert County is firmly in the grip of the opioid epidemic. According to the Maryland Department of Health there were 19 fatal overdoses in Calvert County in 2017, 10 involving heroin and 11 involving fentanyl. The number of overall fatal overdoses remained the same from the same period in 2016, with a higher number involving fentanyl than in 2016. In terms of overall overdoses (fatal and non-fatal) data collected by Calvert County Sheriff's Office, there has been almost a doubling of overdoses (from 98 in 2016 to 183 in 2017), with the CCSO showing 33 deaths in calendar year 2017. The relatively low number of fatalities compared to an increasing number of non-fatal overdoses is thought to be representative of increased naloxone use in the county. The number of heroin overdoses was expected to rise in the wake of more stringent restrictions on prescription opioids, causing those already addicted to opioids to move to cheaper and more easily available alternatives.

Calvert County is addressing the opioid epidemic in a multi-faceted approach that includes education, prevention, and treatment. In terms of prevention and education, Calvert County Health Department, Behavioral Health (CCBH), has offered numerous community based educational forums and provided educational material to physicians, teachers, coaches, parents, inmates and the community at large. Over 2000 community members have been trained on naloxone, including all public school nurses and student advisor staff. CalvertHealth, the local hospital, has implemented an opioid safe Emergency Department, resulting in a 40% decrease in opioid administration.

Medication assisted recovery is available throughout the county and in the detention center. CCBH has implemented a Rapid Response Recovery Team to quickly link those in need to available resources. CCHD's Healthy Beginnings program assists pregnant women with Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) enter recovery and have healthy babies. The estimated savings for the healthcare system is over \$4 million to date. Calvert County is the first county in Maryland to offer fully integrated behavioral health services (addressing both substance use and mental health) throughout the Calvert County Public School system.

Calvert County has an active and rich partnership between law enforcement, community and treatment professionals.

24- Hour Helplines 410-535-1121 / 301-855-1075

Person with a hearing impairment – Call Maryland Relay Service at 1-800-735-2258

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Calvert County is fully committed to doing whatever it takes to address the opioid epidemic.