# Addressing Disparities in Baltimore's Pediatric Immunization Coverage

National Immunization Conference
March 2005

John R. Lamoureux, MPH
Baltimore City Health Department



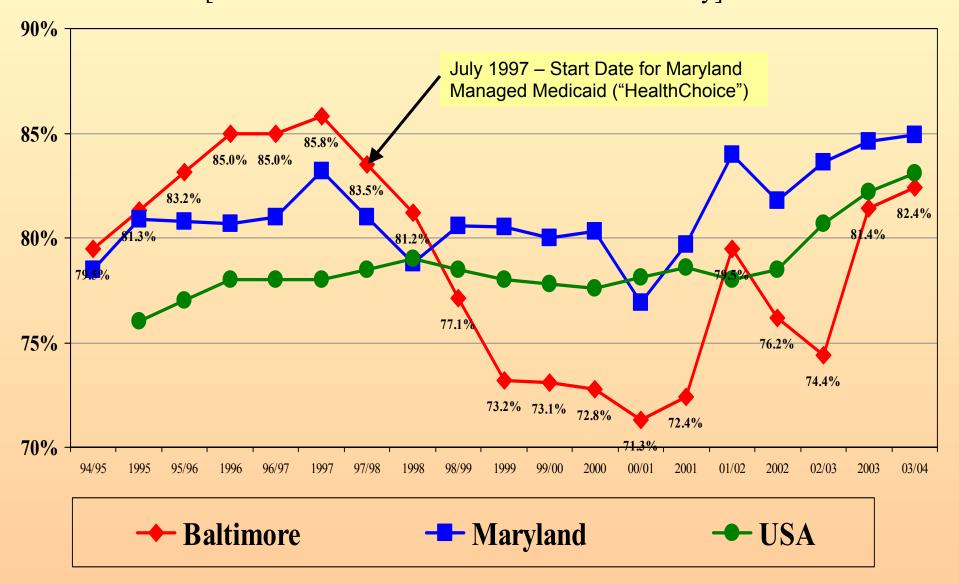


#### Objectives

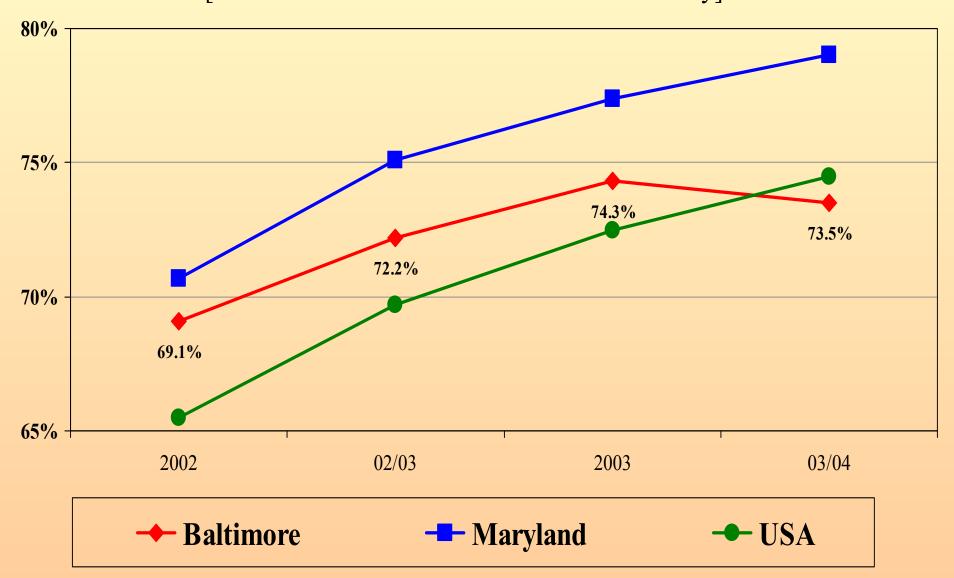
 Identify communities (populations, neighborhoods) at highest risk for under immunization

 Overview of what the Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) does to improve childhood immunization coverage rates for these high risk communities

# Baltimore City DT/P/aP4:Polio3:MMR1 ("4:3:1") Vaccine Coverage for 19-35 Month Olds [Ref: CDC/NIP National Immunization Survey]

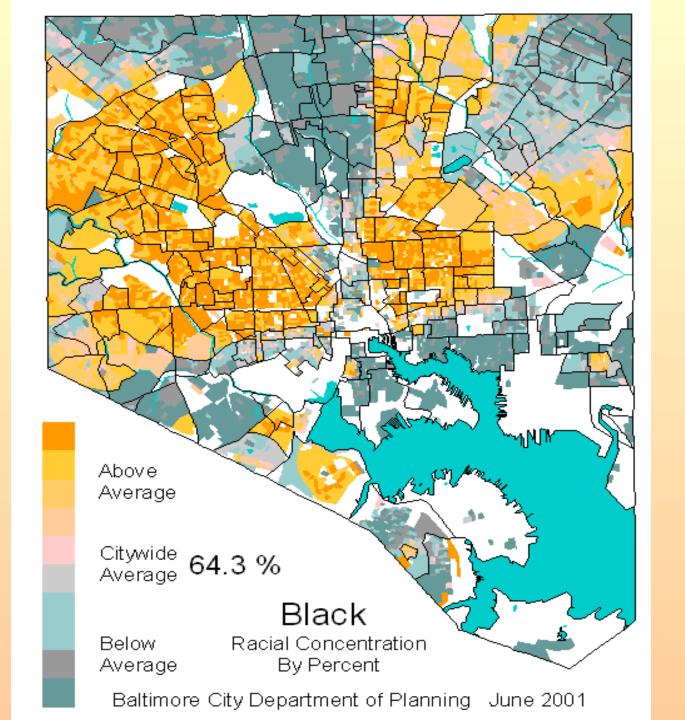


Baltimore City "4:3:1:3:3:1" Vaccine Series Coverage for 19-35 Month Olds [Ref: CDC/NIP National Immunization Survey]

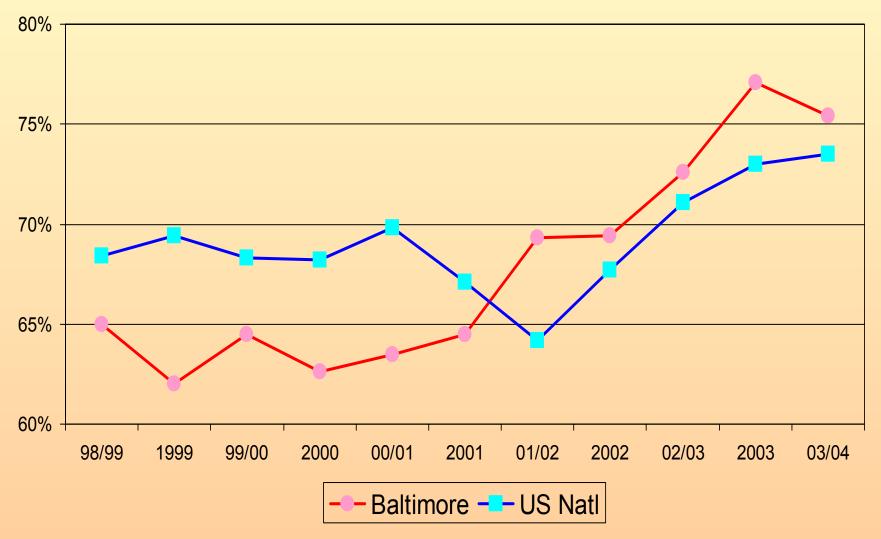


#### Baltimore City Demographics - 1

- Total Population (Est 2005) 627,500
- Est 2005 Population Under Age 18 Yrs 154,650
- Est 2005 Population Under Age 5 Yrs 39,560
- Total 2000 Population 651,154
  - African-American 64.3%
  - White 31.6%
- Population Under Age 18 Yrs (2000)
  - African-American 121,996 (75.6%)
  - White 32,918 (20.4%)
  - Hispanic 3,021 (2%)
  - Asian 1,245
  - American Indian 576
  - Other or Multiple Races 1,597

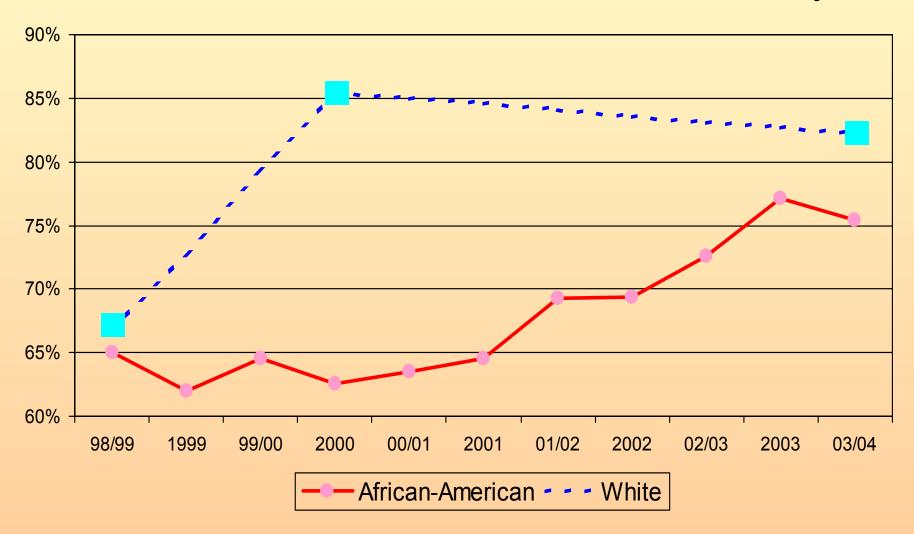


#### "4:3:1" Immunization Coverage Among African-Americans, Baltimore City vs US National



Source: CDC/NIP National Immunization Survey

"4:3:1" Immunization Coverage Between African-Americans and Whites, Baltimore City



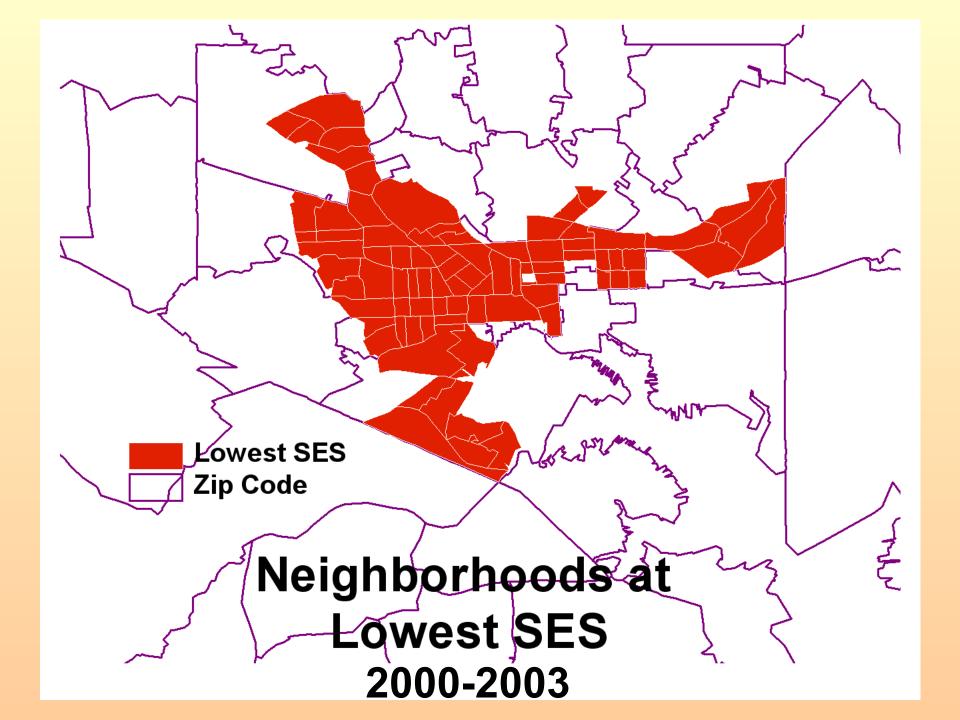
Source: CDC/NIP National Immunization Survey

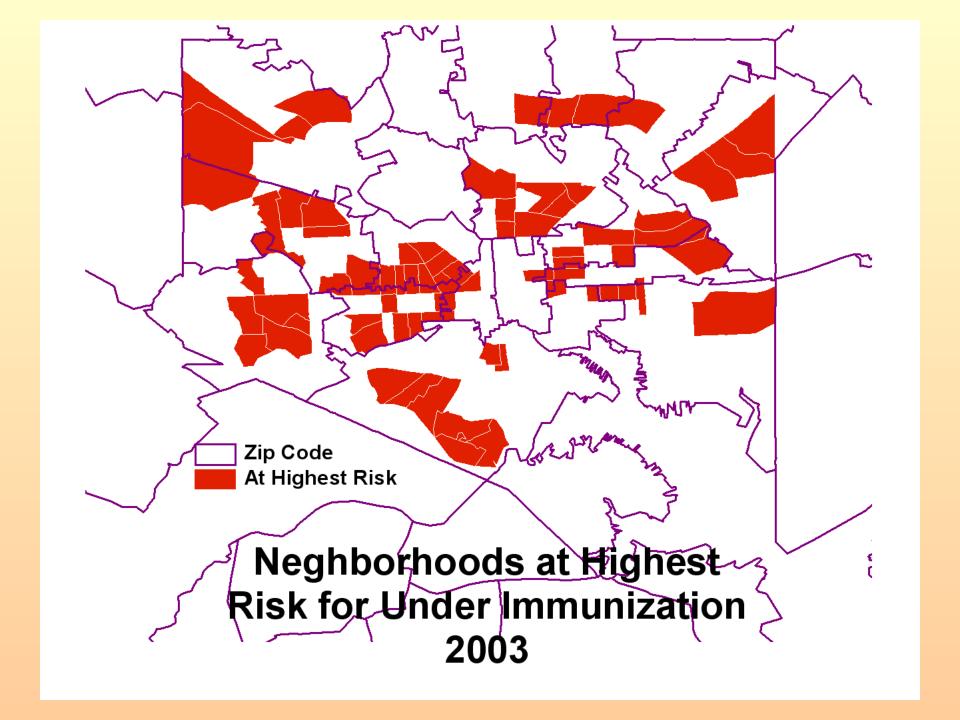
Improving immunization coverage in Baltimore's high risk populations involves much more than race / ethnicity

Socio-economic status (SES) including poverty, unemployment, low education levels, unstable families, poor utilization of (beyond access to) healthcare & other disenfranchisements is a predictor of, but not necessarily causal to low immunization coverage

#### Baltimore City Demographics - 2

- Estimated Population Under Age 18 Yrs Living at:
  - Below Poverty 31%
  - Below 200% Poverty 57% ---> Maryland MCHIP Eligible
  - Living in Neighborhoods where 20%+ of the Population is Below Poverty 55%
- No Full Time, Year-Round Parental Employment in Households with:
  - Children Under 18 23%
  - Children Under Age 6 Yrs 24.5%
- Children / Adolescents Living in Single-Parent Households 59%
- Children / Adolescents Living with a Household Head who is a High School Drop Out - 30%
- Adolescents Age 16 19 Yrs Who Are High School Drop Outs 21%
- Pct of 2003 Births where the Mother did not receive Early (1st Trimester) Pre-Natal Care (one marker to the "Utilization" of Health Care) - 25.1%





### Baltimore City Health Department Pediatric Immunization Services - 1

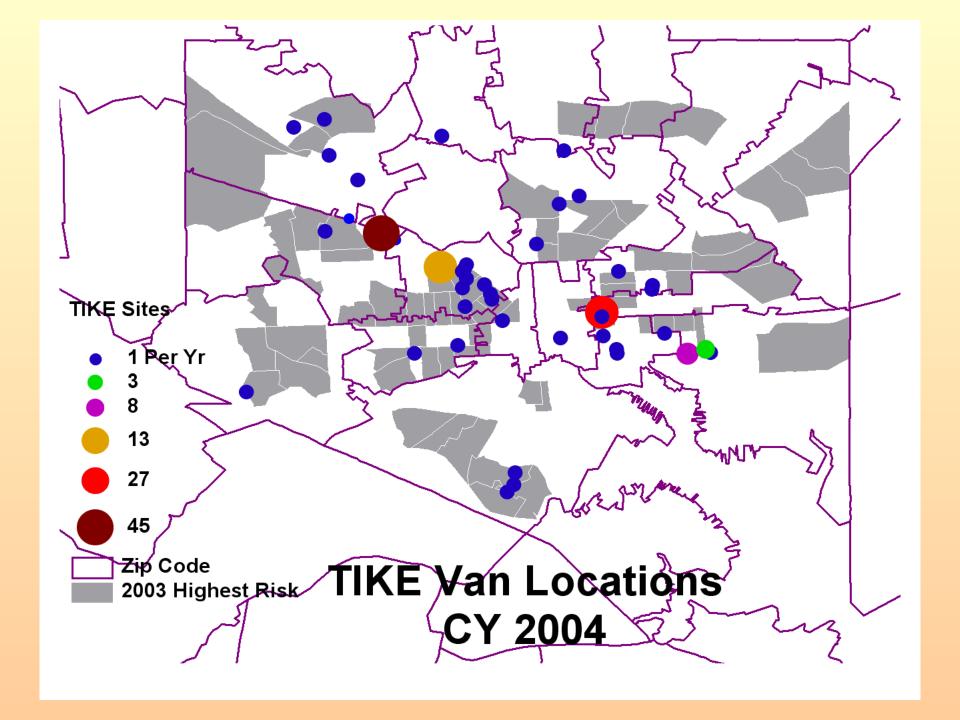
BCHD's Immunization Program provides an array of services that highlights the importance of vaccinations as part of a continuum of well child care, including:

- Administration of vaccinations through the TIKE Van
- Public health awareness campaigns
- Healthcare provider continuing education
- Improvement of relations, goodwill, between BCHD and local healthcare providers, MCOs & medical insurers, public service agencies, and the general public

#### T.I.K.E. Van

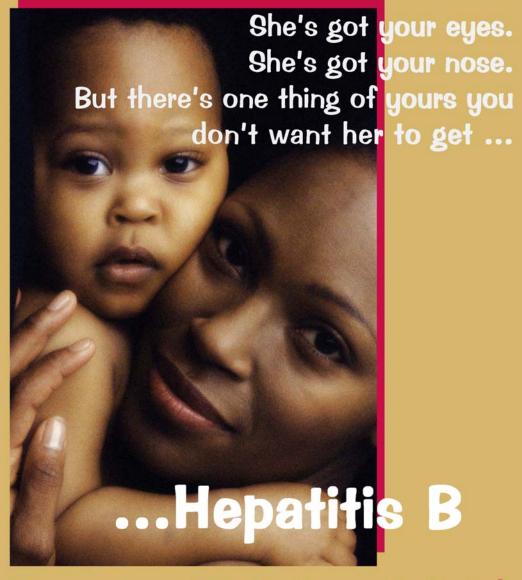


- Neighborhood vaccinations from a mobile clinic
- CY 2004 Total: 133 clinics at 42 locations
- CY 03 / 04 Total: 1,450 patient encounters of which 26% where under 6 years old
- TIKE administered 1.3% of the City's under 6 year old vaccinations (03 / 04)



#### **Public Health Awareness**

- The Message
  - Use already tested, culturally competent materials developed from outside sources
  - Create our own
- The Media
  - Telephone inquiries from the public
  - Community health fairs
  - Radio talk shows
  - Newspaper
  - Internet web site
  - Bus / Mass Transit (MTA) billboards
  - "Blast" faxes < - NEW</li>
  - Distribute materials in Clinic waiting rooms < - Proposed</li>
  - Distribute materials to high risk neighborhoods
     Proposed



You can prevent it. Be Sure... Be Tested.





Maintain User Accounts

BIRP User's Manual

Terms & Conditions

Software Downloads

**BIRP Report Forms** 

Recommended Vaccine Schedules

Vaccine Information Statements (VIS)

Maryland Pre-School & Student (K-12) Vaccine Requirements

**VAERS Reporting** 

Other References

BCHD "TIKE" Van Schedule

Childhood Vaccination Coverage in Baltimore

Vaccine Preventible Disease in Baltimore

Contact BIRP

BIRP Stats

Maryland Vaccines for Children (VFC) Newsletter Maryland ImmuNET Newsletter



Baltimore's Immunization Registry Program

**BIRP Log-In** 

A Family Member Of



http://www.birp.net

# Baltimore City Health Department Pediatric Immunization Services - 2

- BCHD WIC collaboration
- BCHD outreach services to children / families not UTD with their age-appropriate vaccinations
- Help ensure compliance with Maryland state vaccination requirements in public and private / parochial schools, licensed day-care, and "Head Start" programs. NB: Trickle-down effect increases (?) younger siblings' coverage rate
- Encourage Maryland EPSDT & VFC, and managed care HEDIS field audits (and the financial incentives / disincentives that are tied to vaccination coverage)
- Immunization Registry (BIRP)

## Baltimore City Health Department Pediatric Immunization Services - 3

- Participate in student projects as well as university based health services research
- Integrate the message (and practice) of pediatric immunizations into a wider array of BCHD community based outreach programs that:
  - target infant mortality and low birth weight (e.g.; "Healthy Start" + "Success By 6"®)
  - increase enrollment into MCHIP & "Health Choice" (e.g.; "Health Care Access")
- Continue to advocate for a stronger & more stable public & primary health care financing. For example; "Maryland Citizen's Health Initiative," <a href="http://www.healthcareforall.com">http://www.healthcareforall.com</a>

#### Closing the Gap

- 20% 25% of Baltimore's under 3 year olds remain not UTD for their age appropriate vaccinations - > the "80 20" rule.
- It's questionable whether or not the current array of BCHD vaccination services can significantly reduce the number of those that remain under immunized
- The solution may be to place a greater emphasis on targeting individual families & neighborhoods with BIRP generated reminder / recall, closer collaboration with local African-American congregations, intensive "face to face" (consolidated healthcare) outreach, et al
- A small but significant amount of improvement in coverage can be achieved by working with healthcare providers' to simultaneously administer DTaP4-Polio3-MMR1-HIB4-VZV1-CPnu4 at age 12-15 months

#### For Additional Information

John R. Lamoureux, MPH
Bureau of Child Health & Immunization
Division of Maternal & Child Health
Baltimore City Health Department

4 S Frederick St Flr 3
Baltimore MD 21202
(Tel) 410-545-3048
john.lamoureux@baltimorecity.gov