

# SNAPSHOT OF THE GBRICS REGION

The Greater Baltimore Regional Integrated Crisis System (GBRICS) Partnership will expand and strengthen behavioral health crisis services across four jurisdictions: Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Carroll County, and Howard County. **The region represents a significant portion of Maryland residents:**



A combined population of  
**1.94 MILLION  
RESIDENTS,**  
30% of the state's population



More than **58,000**  
**ANNUAL VISITS**  
to hospital Emergency  
Departments (ED) with  
behavioral health as a  
primary diagnosis, 45% of  
statewide totals.

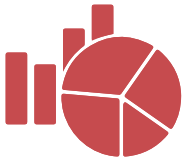


Nearly **11,500**  
**MOBILE CRISIS**  
responses, which is only 20%  
of estimated need.

## KEY INITIATIVES

GBRICS will build upon existing crisis services to better coordinate crisis response and strengthen capacity. **It will focus on three key initiatives:**

- 1.** Establish a regional, comprehensive call center that can dispatch services more quickly.
- 2.** Increase mobile crisis team capacity in the region to 55,000–60,000 annual visits, a 230% expansion of existing teams.
- 3.** Partner with existing outpatient behavioral health providers to provide same day virtual or walk-in services for psychiatry, counseling, substance use treatment, and other stabilization services.



# Snapshot of County/City Residents and Crisis Services within the Public Behavioral Health System

## BALTIMORE CITY

**Population:** 593,490

**Racial/Ethnic Makeup:**  
63% Black, 28% White,  
6% Hispanic, 3% Asian

**Immigrant Pop:**  
8% foreign born

**Disability Status:**  
12% under age 65

**Poverty Rate:** 20%

**Land Area:** 81 square miles

**Baltimore City** provides adult crisis response services through Baltimore Crisis Response, Inc. (BCRI). They offer 24/7 coverage and operate 6.4 mobile crisis teams daily on average. BCRI also operates a crisis stabilization center with 21 beds. In addition to BCRI, there is the Tuerk House Stabilization Center that operates 30 crisis beds for those experiencing a substance use crisis such as an overdose. Baltimore Child and Adolescent Response System (BCARS) is the youth crisis services provider for the City, working to promote family preservation, stabilize a child placement, and providing mobile crisis response within the school system and to youth in foster care.

Baltimore City's population has tremendous need, with an estimated 73,213 crisis episodes a year. The incidence of behavioral health ED visits, behavioral health 911 calls, and overdoses are all higher than other GBRICS jurisdictions. There is a greater concentration of poverty and historic racial inequities as well. GBRICS plans to fund a five-fold increase in the number of mobile crisis teams to meet this need.

## BALTIMORE COUNTY

**Population:** 827,370

**Racial/Ethnic Makeup:**  
56% White, 30% Black  
6% Hispanic, 6% Asian

**Immigrant Pop:**  
13% foreign born

**Disability Status:**  
8% under age 65

**Poverty Rate:** 9%

**Land Area:** 598 square miles

**Baltimore County** provides crisis response through Affiliated Sante' Group (ASG). They operate a co-responder model where mobile crisis teams partner with the Baltimore County Police Department. This model allows for six daily mobile crisis teams on average and 24/7 coverage. In FY22, the number of teams will increase to nine. In addition to mobile crisis, ASG provides urgent care, in-home intervention teams, a 24/7 hotline, and an expansion in FY22 to include ASG clinicians at the Baltimore County 911 Call Center. There is one mental health residential crisis center program with 20 beds but no residential crisis programs focused on substance use disorders (SUD).

Baltimore County has the largest population and land area of all the GBRICS jurisdictions. Its geography borders Baltimore City on three sides makes coverage challenging. There is a significant need for crisis response in Baltimore County's population, with an estimated 43,207 crisis episodes a year. GBRICS plans to fund a three-fold increase in the number of mobile crisis teams to address this need.



## SNAPSHOT OF COUNTY/CITY RESIDENTS AND CRISIS SERVICES WITHIN THE PUBLIC BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEM

### CARROLL COUNTY

**Population:** 168,447

**Racial/Ethnic Makeup:**  
88% White, 4% Black,  
4% Hispanic, 2% Asian

**Immigrant Pop:**  
4% foreign born

**Disability Status:**  
8% under age 65

**Poverty Rate:** 5%

**Land Area:** 448 square miles

**Carroll County** provides crisis response and operates their hotline through Affiliated Sante Group. Carroll County crisis response uses a model that dispatches a clinician and a peer recovery support specialist. Sante currently has two mobile crisis teams and provides 14 hours of coverage daily, none overnight. There are two community facilities focused on substance use disorders in the County: Mountain Manor is a six-bed behavioral health triage center and Shoemaker Center is a residential treatment center.

Carroll County is the most rural and sparsely populated GBRICS jurisdiction. This population has an estimated 3,751 crisis episodes a year. GBRICS plans to add one additional mobile crisis team to address these needs.

### HOWARD COUNTY

**Population:** 325,690

**Racial/Ethnic Makeup:**  
50% White, 20% Black  
20% Asian, 7% Hispanic

**Immigrant Pop:**  
21% foreign born

**Disability Status:**  
5% under age 65

**Poverty Rate:** 5%

**Land Area:** 251 square miles

**Howard County** currently provides crisis response through Grassroots, Inc. They operate a 24/7 crisis hotline and three mobile crisis teams daily from 8am to 11pm. They do not provide coverage overnight but partner closely with 911 and the Howard County Police Department. Grassroots also has a specialized team that responds to calls in schools. Grassroots operates an eight-bed substance use disorder crisis stabilization center, and two organizations provide mental health crisis stabilization (WayStation and Safe Journey).

Howard County has a high proportion of foreign born and limited English-speaking residents. The population has an estimated 7,675 crisis episodes a year. GBRICS plans to increase mobile crisis team capacity by 50% to address these needs.