

LIBRARIES, 1989

Twenty-four public library systems include 195 public libraries and 29 bookmobiles, with total collections of 12.5 million items. School library media centers are located in 1,502 elementary, middle and secondary schools, with total collections of nearly 16.4 million items. Sixty-three college and university libraries have collections numbering 12.4 million items.

The Maryland State Library Network serves over 400 libraries throughout the State, primarily through interlibrary loan of materials and information. The Network is composed of the State Library Resource Center (Enoch Pratt Free Library, Central Building in Baltimore City); three Regional Library Resource Centers (Eastern Shore, Southern Maryland, Western Maryland); four academic libraries that lend specialized materials and information; and more than 125 libraries that fill interlibrary loan requests from their collections. Libraries and their users locate needed items through the statewide union catalog, MICROCAT/ULPM, which describes holdings of 100 libraries on microfiche and in electronic formats.

Maryland residents are eligible to register with and borrow materials from any public library in the State. Information and materials found through the Network may be transferred electronically, sent by delivery truck, or mailed to the local library, at no charge to the user.

MEDICAL CARE, 1990

Personnel licensed to practice in the State: 40,581 physicians; 41,683 registered nurses; 9,351 practical nurses; 3,728 dentists; 1,854 dental hygienists; 1,083 dietitians; and 898 professional counselors. Licensed facilities: 87 hospitals; 5 emergency (shock trauma) centers; 225 nursing homes (comprehensive care); 32 alcoholic intermediate care facilities; 72 domiciliary care homes; 10 residential treatment centers for emotionally disturbed youth; 8 mental retardation centers; 26 adult day care centers; 1,559 developmental disabilities community program facilities; 254 outpatient drug and alcohol abuse centers; 242 rehabilitation facilities; 152 mental health outpatient community programs; 110 home health agencies; 85 medical test units; 50 end-stage renal dialysis units; 47 ambulatory surgical centers; 23 health maintenance organizations; 18 hospice programs; 5 portable X-ray machines; 2 therapeutic adolescent group homes; and one unaffiliated birthing center.

Maryland medical institutions have long been recognized as vital contributors to medical research and discovery since the College of Medicine (now part of the University of Maryland System) was chartered in 1807 and pioneered in preventive medicine. As early as 1853, a researcher at that

institution advanced the diagnosis of cancer by identifying malignant cells with a microscope. The Johns Hopkins Hospital, founded in 1889, has revolutionized medical education. Physicians there opened the first school of public health; standardized surgical techniques for specific procedures; initiated the use of rubber gloves and nerve-blocking anesthesia; discovered vitamins A, B, and D; and, more recently, catalogued genetic traits. University Hospital in Baltimore opened the nation's first shock trauma unit in 1961. The Shock Trauma Center has developed lifesaving methods of trauma management; it remains in the forefront as the hub of the State's emergency medical services system, admitting over 3,000 critically injured or ill patients per year.

The National Institutes of Health in Bethesda carry on this innovative research tradition, as does the National Cancer Institute's Laboratory of Tumor Cell Biology in Bethesda where trailblazing AIDS research is underway.

Maryland also is the site of the world's first institution of dental education, the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery, which opened in Baltimore in 1840. The College is now the School of Dentistry at the University of Maryland at Baltimore.

The Maryland Medical Care Programs enable persons below certain income levels to receive medically necessary services through enrollment in the Medical Assistance, Pharmacy Assistance, and Prenatal Assistance programs, which reimburse participating health care professionals and facilities. In 1988, the Medical Assistance Program (Medicaid), funded jointly by the State and federal governments, averaged monthly enrollments of 340,000 persons, or 7.5% of the State's population. The State-funded Pharmacy Assistance Program averaged monthly enrollments of 16,659 persons who were not eligible for Medicaid and could not afford prescriptions and other pharmaceuticals. Through the State-funded Prenatal Assistance Program, 1,250 low-income pregnant women under 21 years of age received prenatal medical care.

Local health departments administer and enforce State and local health laws and regulations in each county and Baltimore City. They also offer basic public health services to citizens on a sliding fee scale based on ability to pay, in facilities provided by the local jurisdiction. Services emphasize preventive care tailored to a community's needs and may include maternity care and family planning; immunizations and child health; AIDS testing, education, and counseling; mental health support; drug and alcohol abuse counseling; home health care; geriatric programs; monitoring for environmental health hazards; rabies and communicable disease programs; health education; and migrant and refugee health services.