

Drug Early Warning System

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Working Together to Identify Emerging Drug Trends in Maryland

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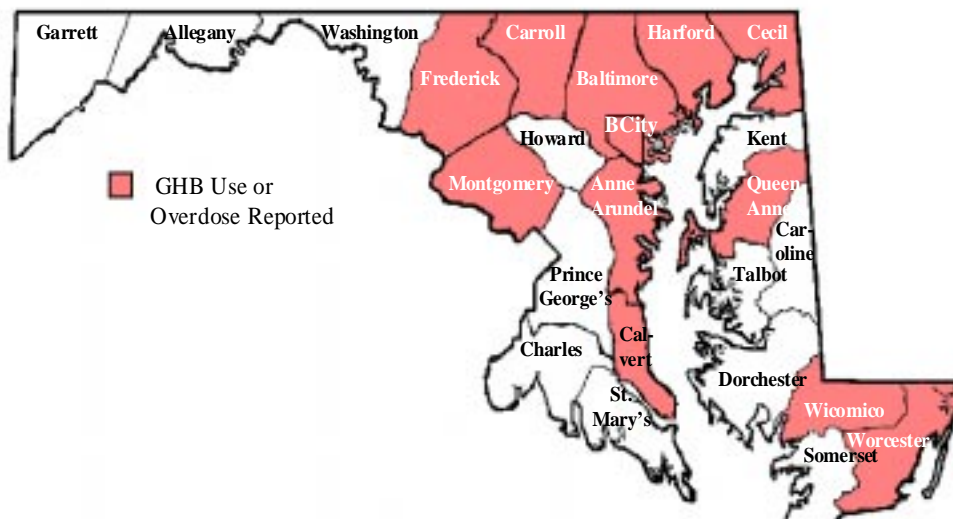
Reports Indicate that GHB/GBL Use Is Spreading Throughout Central Maryland

GHB and GBL are depressants believed to break down social inhibitions, enhance sexual experiences, and produce euphoria in users. GHB/GBL use was initially reported in 1998 in two counties with active rave scenes (Frederick and Queen Anne's), but now is reported throughout Central Maryland. In addition, there were 23 overdoses reported to the Maryland Poison Center in 1999. The map below indicates the 12 jurisdictions in which GHB/GBL use has been reported by Drug Scan contacts or the Maryland Poison Center. (For additional information on GHB, see the April 1999 *DEWS Alert* and *CESAR FAX* Vol. 9, Issue 6.)

Nationally, GHB/GBL are responsible for more than 58 deaths and 5,700 overdoses since 1990. GHB is a federally scheduled substance and is illegal in 26 states. Maryland's Drug Rape Bill (HB 180) before the 2000 General Assembly would make it a misdemeanor to administer a drug such as GHB to someone without their knowledge and with the intent of committing a crime. The bill passed the House 135 to 0 in February and is, as of the date of this fax, still pending in the Senate.

Reports of GHB Use or Overdose in Maryland Counties, 1998-1999

(Based on 228 Maryland Drug Scan interviews conducted in Fall 1998 and Summer 1999 and data from the Maryland Poison Center.)



SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from data from Drug Early Warning System (DEWS) at the Center for Substance Abuse Research (CESAR), University of Maryland at College Park. For more information, contact Erin Artigiani at (301) 403-8329 or at erin@cesar.umd.edu

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