

The Campaign

The 1outta5 Campaign is a statewide initiative to ensure access to care for Maryland citizens who live with mental illness so that every individual has the opportunity to achieve his or her potential in life. ***Our primary legislative priorities in 2010 are the State Budget and increasing the Alcohol Tax to prevent reductions in service access for those in need.***

The Need

- 1 in 5 Americans live with a diagnosable mental disorder in a given year (over 1 million Marylanders).
- 6 percent, or 1 in 17, have a serious mental illness (over 300,000 Marylanders).
- Many of the 1 in 5 individuals remain unable to get the care they need.

The national economic crisis and state budget cuts are eroding access to care.

- Demand for mental health services has increased by 7-8% in Maryland for 2 years in a row.
- Yet budget shortfalls have reduced the mental health budget by \$56 million or 7%.
- More problems are on the way as Maryland prepares to trim \$2 billion in spending this year.
- Community mental health agencies are closing programs and laying off hundreds of staff.

Cutting community services means Maryland taxpayers will pay more.

- Cutting community care increases hospital and emergency room use.
- Serving an individual in a State hospital costs ***more than 4 times as much*** as community services.

Who We Are

The Campaign is led by the Maryland Mental Health Coalition, a statewide consortium of organizations and individuals representing consumers, advocates, family members, service providers and mental health professionals who are united in our mission to ensure equal opportunity for Marylanders living with mental illness and access to effective treatment promoting resiliency and recovery for all.

What A Dime Buys

The 1outta5 Campaign supports a dime a drink increase in the state alcohol tax to prevent further service reduction in the coming year. Funding realized from the alcohol tax will be used to fund health care for uninsured Marylanders and services for individuals with mental illnesses, developmental disabilities and substance use disorders.

- Maryland's alcohol tax is among the lowest in the nation. The tax on distilled spirits has not been raised since 1955. Maryland's tax on beer and wine was last raised in 1972.
- A September 2009 Gonzalez poll found that 83% of Marylanders favor an increase in the state alcohol tax to fund services for people with disabilities and addiction treatment services.
- A November 2009 report released by the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health concluded that a dime a drink increase in Maryland's alcohol tax would generate \$214.4 million in new revenue for urgently needed human services and decrease alcohol consumption by 4.8 percent, reducing drinking-related State costs by \$249 million.