

CITY OF BALTIMORE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Health Department Releases Quarterly Overdose Report

BALTIMORE, MD- (July 24, 2008)- The Baltimore City Health Department is releasing a report on the number and type of drug overdoses in the first quarter of 2008. The report is based on autopsy reports by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner of the State of Maryland. The report finds that 43 city residents died of intoxication to drugs of abuse or alcohol in the first quarter of 2008.

"While the number of deaths in the first quarter has declined from prior quarters, it is far too early to call it a trend," said Dr. Joshua M. Sharfstein, Commissioner of Health. "We are continuing to develop new strategies on overdose prevention, and we will continue to release quarterly surveillance reports."

The report is available online at <http://baltimorehealth.org>

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