



Men's Health Network
P. O. Box 75972
Washington, D.C. 20013
202-543-MHN-1 (6461)
Fax 202-543-2727

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Maryland Comes Together to Promote Men's Health

Elected officials and Health Professionals Discuss the Silent Men's Health Crisis at the Maryland Symposium on Men's Health Hosted

BALTIMORE, November 1, 2006 – Tim Bishop, Former Strength and Conditioning Coach for the Baltimore Orioles, Congressmen Elijah Cummings and Secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene S. Anthony McCann team up with Men's Health Network in an effort to educate people on the predominately silent crisis effecting the health and well-being of men at the Maryland Men's Health Symposium. The event, being held at the Tremont Grand Meeting Facility, brings together representatives from all areas of men's health to discuss the rapidly deteriorating state of men's health in Maryland.

Due to a lack of awareness, poor health education, and culturally induced behavior patterns in their work and personal lives, men's health and well being are deteriorating. Since the 1920's, the life expectancy of men has dropped dramatically in comparison with that of women. In Maryland women's life expectancy is 80.2 while men's is only 75. Over the last 30 years, the ratio of male mortality over female mortality has increased in every age category.

In conjunction with the symposium, Men's Health Network is releasing *The State of Men's Health: Maryland* which discusses in detail, the disparities of men's health in Maryland and can be found at www.menshealthnetwork.org/states/MD.pdf.

"Nationwide we are facing an emergency in health care, and it is one that can be avoided", said Scott Williams, Director, Professional Relations & Public Policy, Men's Health Network. "Here in Maryland men die at a higher rate than the national average from some of the major causes of death including heart attack, cancer, respiratory disease and diabetes."

The Maryland Symposium on Men's Health is part of a series of state symposia on men's health held around the country to educate health professionals and the public-at-large about significant men's health issues. The symposium brings together local, regional, and state public health department officials, state policy leaders, patient and medical associations/organizations, elected officials, and healthcare professionals and leaders as they deal with the challenges of our current healthcare system.

Learn more about the Maryland Symposium or other men's health initiatives by visiting www.menshealthnetwork.org.

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Men's Health Network (MHN) is a non-profit educational organization comprised of physicians, researchers, public health workers, individuals and other health professionals