

Maryland Needs A Plan To Reduce Suicide

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In his excellent essay on criminal justice, ([Maryland's Public Safety System Is Broken](#) 2/22/22), Wes Moore notes, as have many others, that the homicide rate in Maryland is dreadful and unacceptable. He is right.

But in recent times, the suicide rate in Maryland has been higher than the homicide rate. According to the CDC, from 2011 through 2020 there have been 5164 homicides and 5977 suicides. During this decade, there have also been 4569 drug overdose deaths. Together, then, there have been over 10,000 "deaths of despair", as suicide and overdoses are frequently called.

The obvious implication is that in addition to addressing the inadequacies of the criminal justice system, Maryland needs to address the inadequacies of its response to mental and substance use disorders. Hopefully, candidates for state office, including Mr. Moore, will make improving our behavioral health system a top priority.

Michael B. Friedman, LMSW
Adjunct Associate Professor Columbia University School of Social Work

Paul A. Nestadt, MD