

# Vital Signs 9 Executive Summary

The *Vital Signs* report provides outcomes indicators that "take the pulse" of Baltimore neighborhoods by measuring progress towards the goals of: strong neighborhoods; good quality of life; and a thriving, vital city. The goal of this effort is for neighborhood residents, organizations, and others to use data and the *Vital Signs* report strategically and effectively to foster new ways of thinking about improving our City, neighborhoods, and government over time.

BNIA-JFI's work is important to community organizations working to improve their areas, nonprofit groups considering new programs, foundations and corporations targeting their investments, city agencies improving their services, or policy makers considering new courses of action. *Vital Signs*, which provides access to accurate and reliable data and indicators, is important for understanding and planning for the future of our city and its neighborhoods.

The geographic level at which data is provided is important to understand. Wherever possible, *Vital Signs* uses Community Statistical Areas (CSAs) as the geographic level for which data is provided. CSAs are clusters of neighborhoods and are organized around Census Tract boundaries, which are consistent statistical boundaries. Neighborhood lines often do not fall along CSA boundaries, but CSAs are representations of the conditions occurring within those particular neighborhoods. The CSAs were originally created by the Baltimore City Department of Planning.

In *Vital Signs 9*, BNIA-JFI tracks over 80 indicators in an effort to show how Baltimore City has changed since the release of the first edition of *Vital Signs* in 2002.

The indicators and data in *Vital Signs* are organized into nine sections, each of which corresponds to an issue or an area that is central to quality of life in Baltimore City. The full report details findings from all of the indicators in each of the nine sections. The following is a summary of the major findings from *Vital Signs 9*.

*Community Statistical Areas (CSAs)*



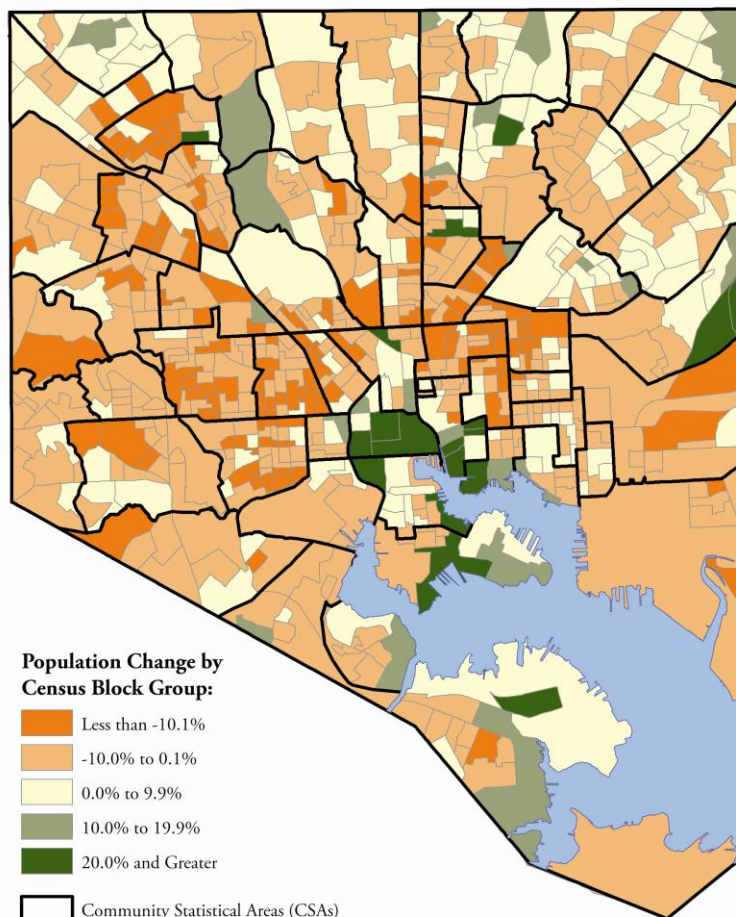
## Population

Baltimore City's population declined by 2.4% from 651,154 in 2000 to 635,311 in 2009.<sup>1</sup> While CSAs such as Greenmount East (-16.5%), Sandtown-Winchester (-11.2%), and Midway/Coldstream (-10.2%) lost residents, other CSAs such as Downtown/Seton Hill (16.6%), Fells Point (8.1%), and South Baltimore (7.0%) experienced population growth.

## Housing and Community Development

- The median sales price of homes sold in Baltimore City decreased by \$5,000 or approximately 3.3% from \$150,000 in 2008 to \$145,000 in 2009.
- From 2000 to 2009, home prices in Baltimore City have increased by nearly 123%.
- From 2008 to 2009, the median sales price of homes sold in Baltimore City declined in 51 of the 55 CSAs. The greatest decreases in sales price were in Penn North/Reservoir Hill (-59.2%), Sandtown-Winchester/Harlem Park (-53.9%), and Claremont/Armistead (-45.8%).
- From 2008 to 2009 the number of homes sold in Baltimore City decreased by 28.2%. In 2008, there were 6,733 homes sold and in 2009, there were 4,834 homes sold in Baltimore City.
- The number of Baltimore City homes in mortgage foreclosure filings increased by 60% from 3,909 in 2008 to 6,263 homes in 2009.
- In 2009, the number of Baltimore City homes receiving a foreclosure filing has nearly doubled from the level experienced in 2005.
- In 2009, slightly more than 3.0% of the City's residential properties had received a foreclosure filing. The highest rates of properties receiving filings were located in Penn North/Reservoir Hill (5.5%), Patterson Park North and East (4.8%), and Madison/East End (4.6%).

*Baltimore City Population Change, 2000-2009*

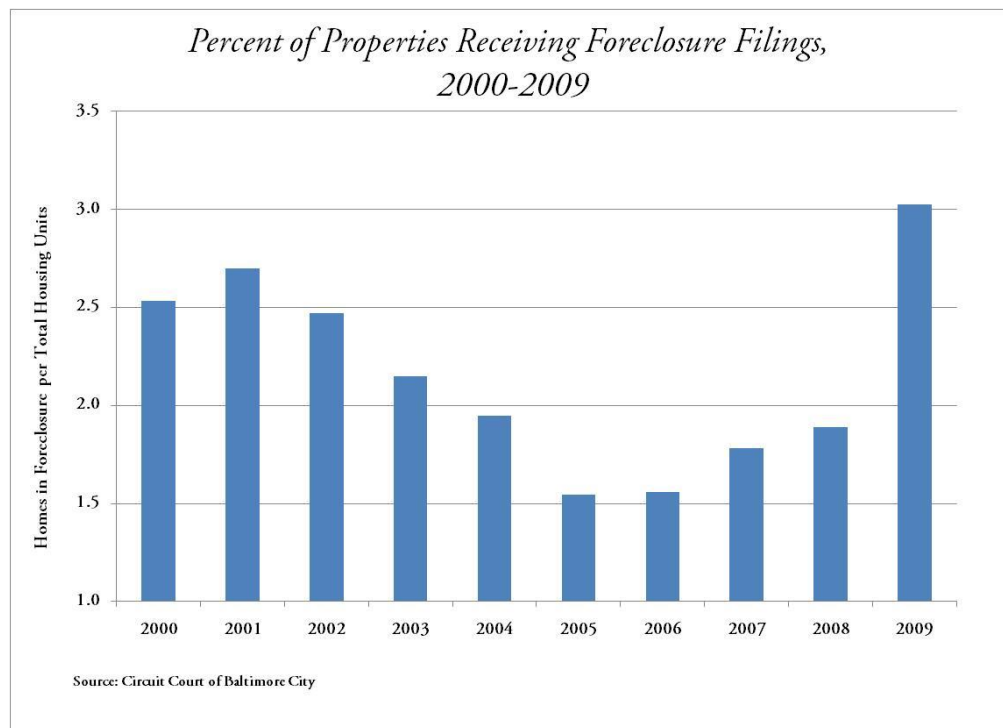


Sources: U.S. Census and Claritas

<sup>1</sup> BNIA-JFI compared the 2000 Census population and 2009 Claritas population data to examine the change in population at the City and CSA level.

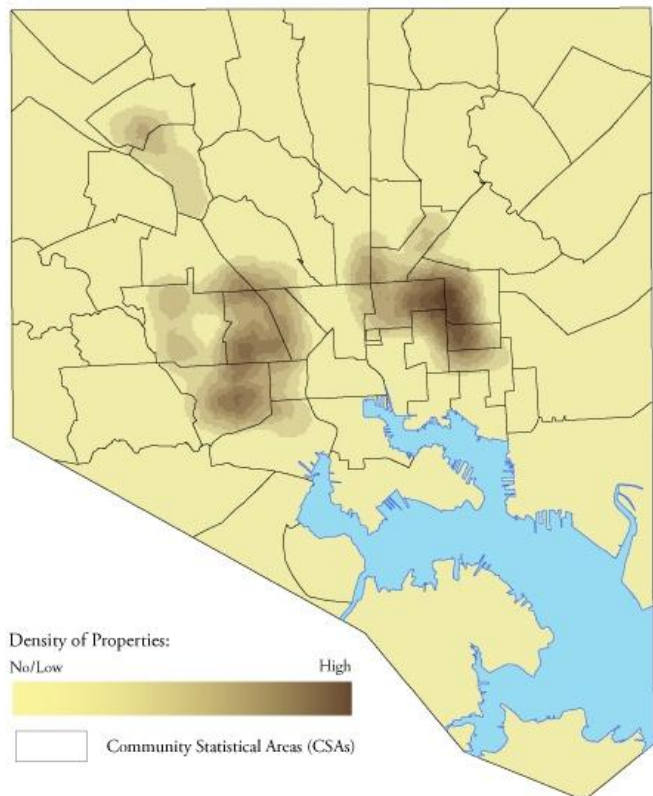
- In all 55 CSAs, the percentage of properties that had received a foreclosure filing increased from 2008 to 2009.

- The percentage of properties that are vacant and abandoned in Baltimore City has increased slightly from slightly less than 8.0% in 2008 to 8.1% in 2009. In 2009, there were almost 16,400 vacant and abandoned properties in the City.



- In 2009, eight of the 55 CSAs in Baltimore City had at least one in five properties that were vacant and abandoned. These CSAs were: Perkins/Middle East (48.9%), Greenmount East (38.5%), Upton/Druid Heights (35.8%), Sandtown-Winchester/Harlem Park (32.1%), Clifton-Berea (27.1%), Madison/East End (24.5%), Southwest Baltimore (23.8%), and Poppleton/The Terraces/Hollins Market (20.7%).
- The percentage of vacant and abandoned residential properties in Baltimore City has increased from 5.3% in 2001 to 7.9% in 2009. This is an increase of 5,325 vacant and abandoned properties.

*Density of Vacant Properties, 2009*

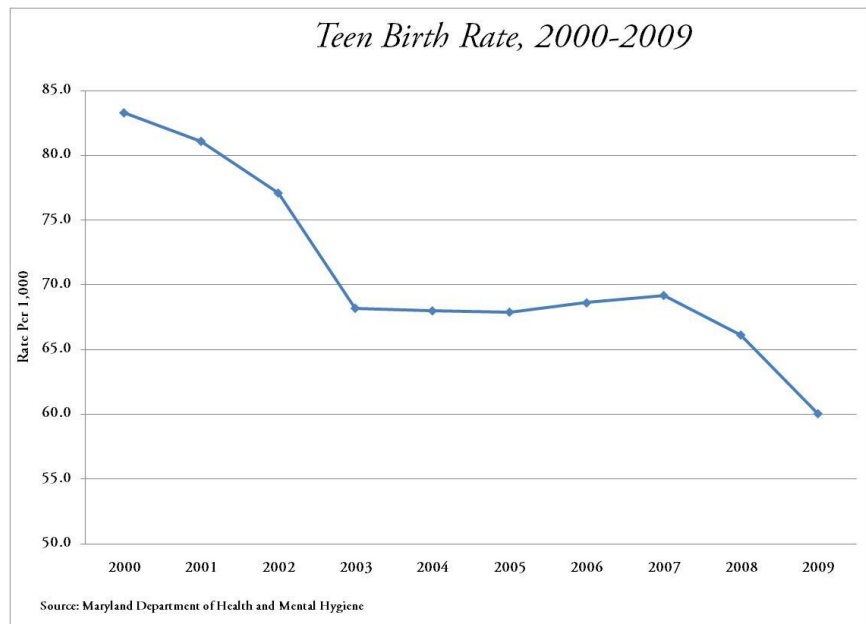


Source: Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development

## Children and Family Health and Well-Being

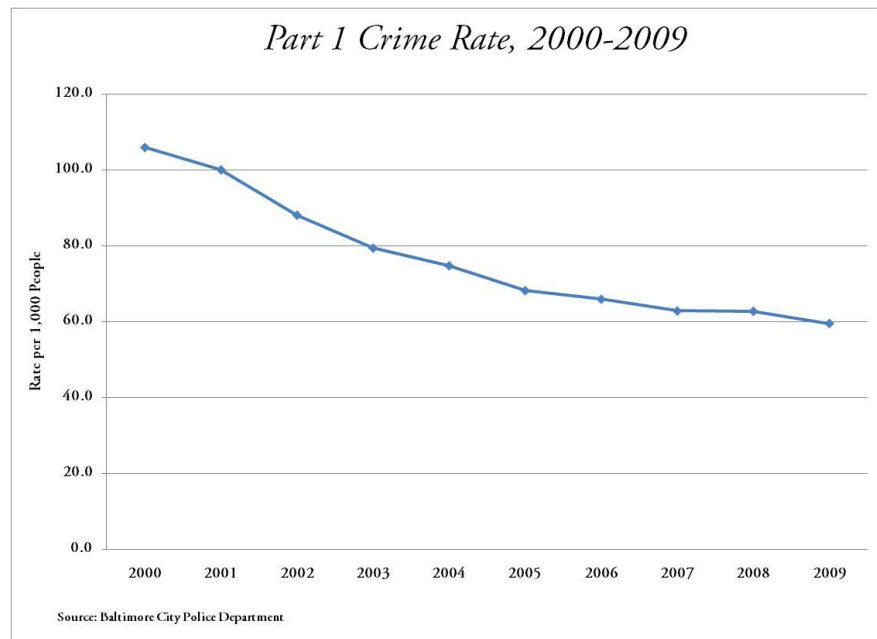
- From 2000 to 2009, the percentage of children who were tested for the presence of lead in their blood and were found to have elevated blood levels had decreased by 10.4 percentage points from 12.2% in 2000 to 1.8% in 2009.

- From 2000 to 2009, the median household income of Baltimore City residents increased by 28.9% from \$30,078 to \$38,772.
- From 2008 to 2009, the median household income of Baltimore City residents decreased by 3.8% from \$40,313 to \$38,772.
- The teen birth rate in Baltimore City has declined from 83.3 in 2000 to 60.1 per 1,000 teens giving birth in 2009.
- In Baltimore City, the percentage of persons with vaccine-preventable diseases has decreased from 13.4% in 2000 to 1.6% in 2009.



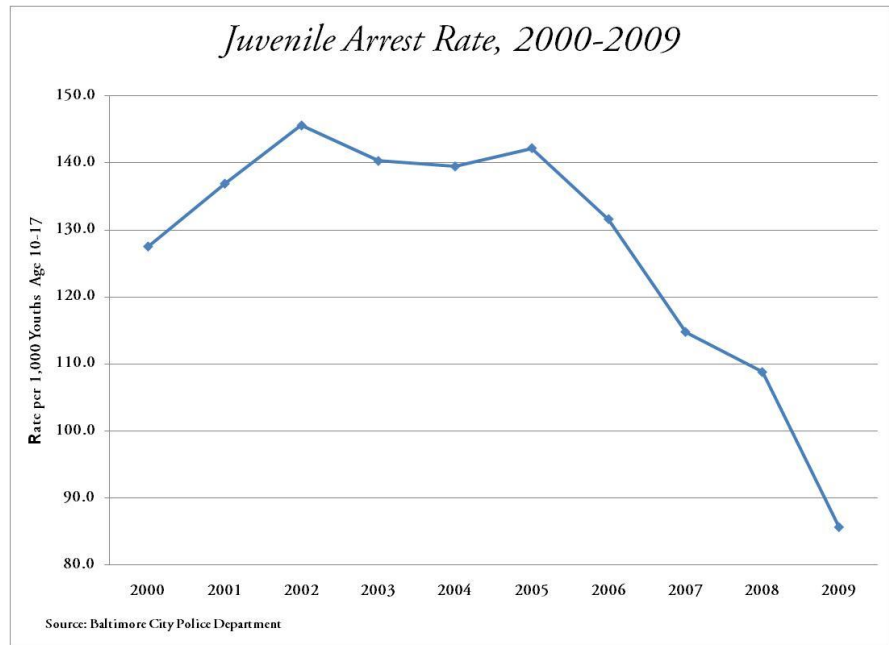
## Crime and Safety

- The Part 1 crime rate in Baltimore City has declined from 106.0 offenses per 1,000 persons in 2000 to 59.6 offenses per 1,000 persons in 2009. The CSAs that have experienced the greatest decreases in Part 1 crime have been Downtown/Seton Hill, Midtown, and Perkins/Middle East.
- The violent crime rate for Baltimore City from 2000 to 2009 has decreased. The City's violent crime rate fell from 26.2 violent offenses per 1,000 persons in 2000 to 15.3 violent offenses per 1,000 persons in 2009. The greatest decreases in violent crimes were in Downtown/Seton Hill, Perkins/Middle East, and Patterson Park North and East.
- The juvenile arrest rate per 1,000 youths has decreased by slightly less than 42 arrests per 1,000 youths in Baltimore City from 127.5 juvenile arrests per 1,000 juveniles in 2000 to 85.7 in 2009.





- While overall juvenile crimes decreased, the rate of juvenile arrests for violent offenses has increased from 2000 (10.7 juveniles arrested per 1,000 juveniles) to 2009 (16.7 juveniles arrested per 1,000 juveniles).
- The rate of juveniles arrested for drug-related offenses has decreased from 2000 (39.3 offenses per 1,000 juveniles) to 2009 (32.1 offenses per 1,000 juveniles).



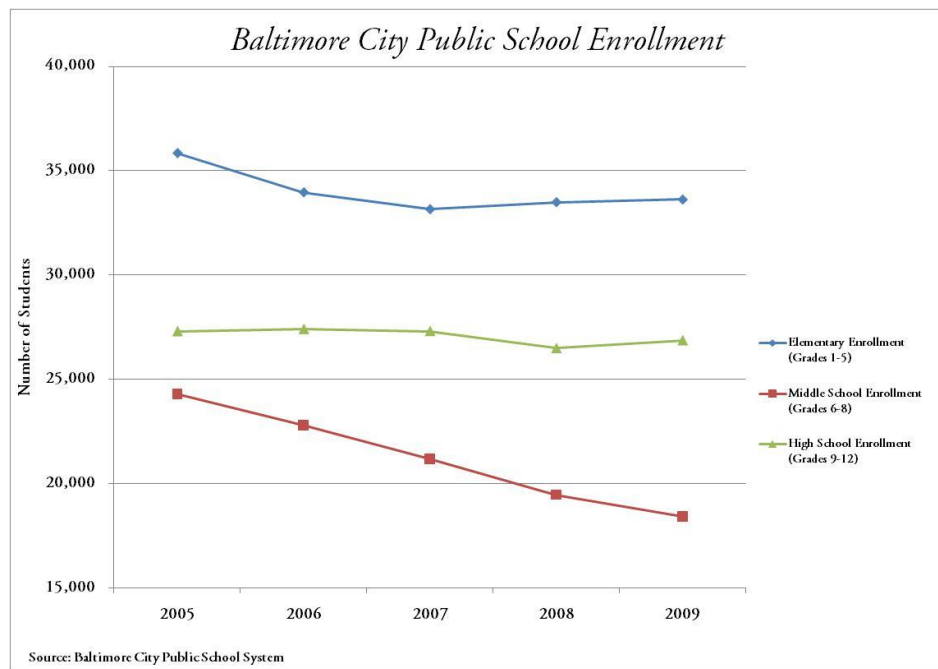
## Workforce and Economic Development

- From 2000 to 2009, there was a slight improvement in the number of persons (aged 25 and above) that have a high school diploma (29.4% to 30.6%).
- The percentage of City residents with at least some college education (aged 25 and above) increased from 45.1% in 2000 to 53.4% in 2009.
- In 2009, there were approximately 293,500 persons employed by businesses in Baltimore City. These persons include both City residents and persons who live outside of Baltimore City. This is a decrease of more than 10,600 persons employed or 3.5% from 2008.

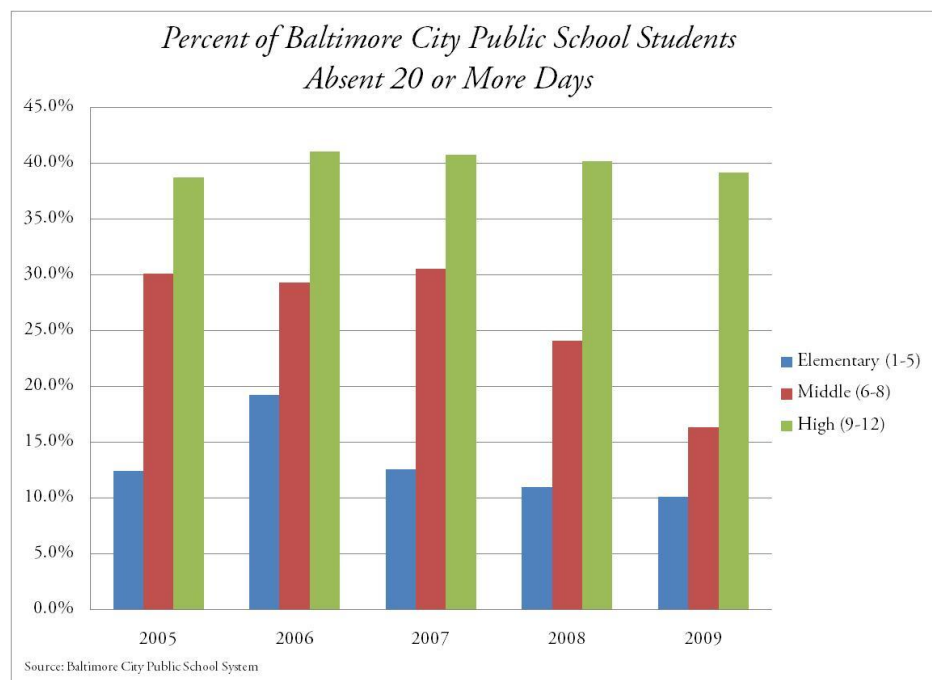
## Education and Youth

- The majority of students that attend Baltimore City Schools are African American (87.8%). While both the percentage of African American and white students has declined from 2005, the percentage of Hispanic students has increased from 1.8% in 2005 to 3.0% in 2009. It is important to note that according to the 2009 American Community Survey, 25% of the children aged 5 to 17 are white, but are only 8% of the total enrollment in public school. We believe that these are a majority of the students attending private schools in Baltimore City.
- The percentage of students in grades nine through 12 in Baltimore City who withdrew from school before completion has experienced a significant decline from 10.2% in 2005 to 5.9% in 2009.

- Since 2005, the percentage of students that withdraw before completion declined in 51 of the 55 CSAs. The decline in the percentage of students that withdraw was greatest in Jonestown/Oldtown (-12.0%), Poppleton/The Terraces/Hollins Market (-11.5%), Southwest Baltimore (-11.5%), and Washington Village (-10.4%).



- The high school completion rate has increased by nearly eight percentage points from 73.4% in 2005 to 81.4% in 2009.
- In 2009, almost 3,400 elementary school students were chronically absent. The percentage of elementary school students that were chronically absent decreased from 11.0% in 2008 to 10.1% in 2009. The CSAs with the greatest percentage of chronically absent elementary students were Perkins/Middle East (17.1%), Morrell Park/Violetville (14.3%), Greenmount East (14.2%), and Madison/East End (14.2%).
- In 2009, slightly more than 3,000 middle school students were chronically absent. The percentage of middle school students that were chronically absent decreased from 24.1% in 2008 to 16.3% in 2009.



There were 16 CSAs in 2009 where more than one out of every five middle school students were chronically absent with the greatest percentage of chronically absent middle school students residing in Upton/Druid Heights (33.5%).

- In 2009, slightly more than 10,500 high school students were chronically absent. The percentage of high school students that were chronically absent decreased slightly from 40.2% in 2008 to 39.2% in 2009. In

2009, there were 25 CSAs where at least 40% of the high school students missed at least 20 school days and there were three CSAs where at least one out of every two high school students missed 20 or more school days.

- The percentage of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students that scored as being Advanced/Proficient in their Maryland School Assessment math exam in 2009 was 78.3%. This was an increase of almost 22 percentage points from 2005.
- In 2009, 76.9% of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders scored as Advanced/Proficient in their reading exam. This is an increase of nearly 16 percentage points from 2005.
- In 2009, slightly less than three fourths (75.0%) of the 5<sup>th</sup> graders in Baltimore City scored as Advanced/Proficient in their math MSA exam. This is an increase of over 26 percentage points from 2005.
- Over eighty two percent (82.4%) of the 5<sup>th</sup> graders scored as Advanced/Proficient in their reading exam in 2009. The percentage of students who tested as being Advanced/Proficient in their reading exam increased by 26 percentage points from 2005 to 2009.
- The percentage of 8<sup>th</sup> graders who score as Advanced/Proficient in their math MSA exam increased from 28.8% in 2008 to 40.0% in 2009. The percentage of students testing as being Advanced/Proficient has increased by over 20 percentage points from 2005 to 2009.
- In 2009, 61.8% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders scored as Advanced/Proficient in their reading exam. This is an increase of 12 percentage points from 2008 and an increase of 21 percentage points from 2005.