

HOW SAFE ARE OUR ROADS?

Annual data report on the impact of drunk driving on road safety in the metropolitan Washington region in 2023

December 2024



HOW SAFE ARE OUR ROADS? ANNUAL DATA REPORT ON THE IMPACT OF DRUNK DRIVING ON ROAD SAFETY IN THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON REGION IN 2023

Prepared for the Washington Regional Alcohol Program by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments.

December 2024

ABOUT WRAP

Founded in 1982, the nonprofit [501(c)(3)] Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) is an award-winning public-private partnership working to prevent drunk driving and underage drinking in the Washington-metropolitan area. Through public education, innovative health education programs and advocacy, WRAP is credited with helping to keep the annual percentage of metro-Washington traffic deaths involving alcohol-impaired driving historically lower than the national average. WRAP, however, may best be known to area residents via the organization's popular free safe ride service to prevent drunk driving, SoberRide®.

ABOUT COG

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) is an independent, nonprofit association that brings area leaders together to address major regional issues in the District of Columbia, suburban Maryland, and Northern Virginia. COG's membership is comprised of 300 elected officials from 24 local governments, the Maryland and Virginia state legislatures, and U.S. Congress.

CREDITS

Cover photo caption: "Maryland Governor Wes Moore on November 21, 2023 in Annapolis, Maryland helping to memorialize the state's victims of drunk driving while calling for safety during the holiday season as part of the Maryland Highway Safety Office's annual "Maryland Remembers" ceremony (for which WRAP serves as project director)." Photo courtesy of Maryland Governor's Office.

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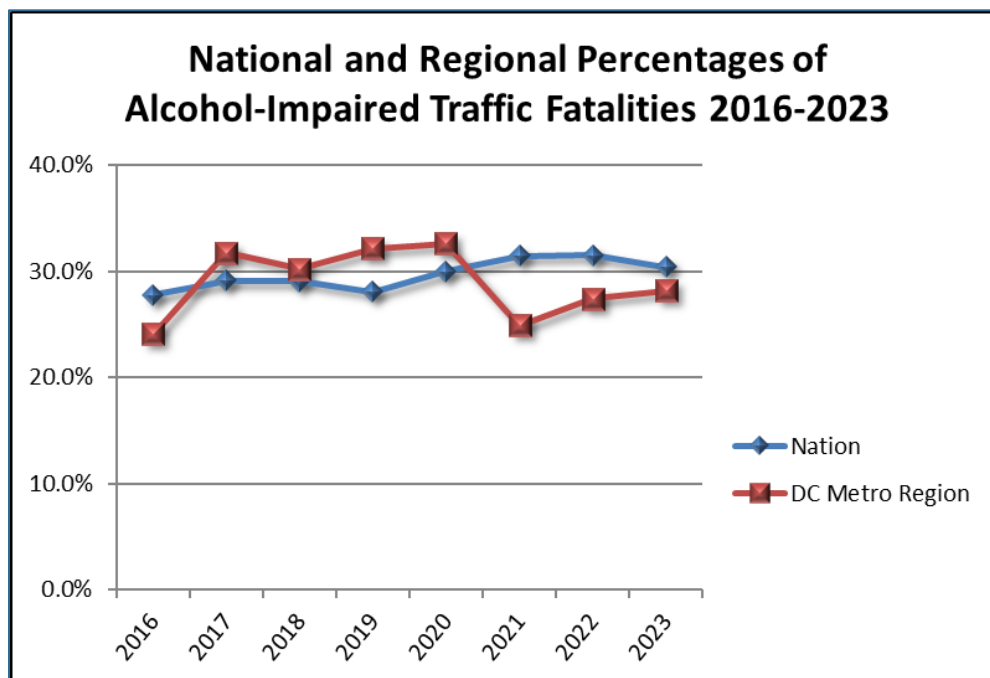
A LOOK AT REGIONAL AND NATIONAL FIGURES

The metropolitan Washington region experienced a decrease in alcohol and/or drug-impaired fatalities, crashes, arrests, and injuries in 2023.

Regional alcohol and/or drug-impaired traffic fatalities increased by 4.17 percent of total crash fatalities in the region in 2023 from 2022, compared to an increase of 12.94 percent in 2022 from 2021. In 2023, alcohol-impaired fatalities accounted for 28.17 percent of the total crash fatalities. Nationally, alcohol-impaired fatality rates decreased 7.65 percent in 2023 from 2022, and the percentage of alcohol-impaired fatalities of the total national crash fatalities decreased in 2023 to 30.4 percent as compared to 31.5 percent in 2022.¹

Jurisdictions differ in collection and categorization methods for alcohol-impaired driving, therefore, some of the data in this report may include both alcohol and alcohol/drug-impaired driving numbers. These regional totals include U.S. Park Police data.

Figure 1. National & Regional Percentages of Alcohol-Impaired Traffic Fatalities, 2016-2023



¹ For additional information, see [NHTSA Overview of Motor Vehicle Traffic Crashes in 2023](#).

Figure 2. Regional Totals of Alcohol-Related Traffic Injuries, Crashes, & Arrests, 2016-2023

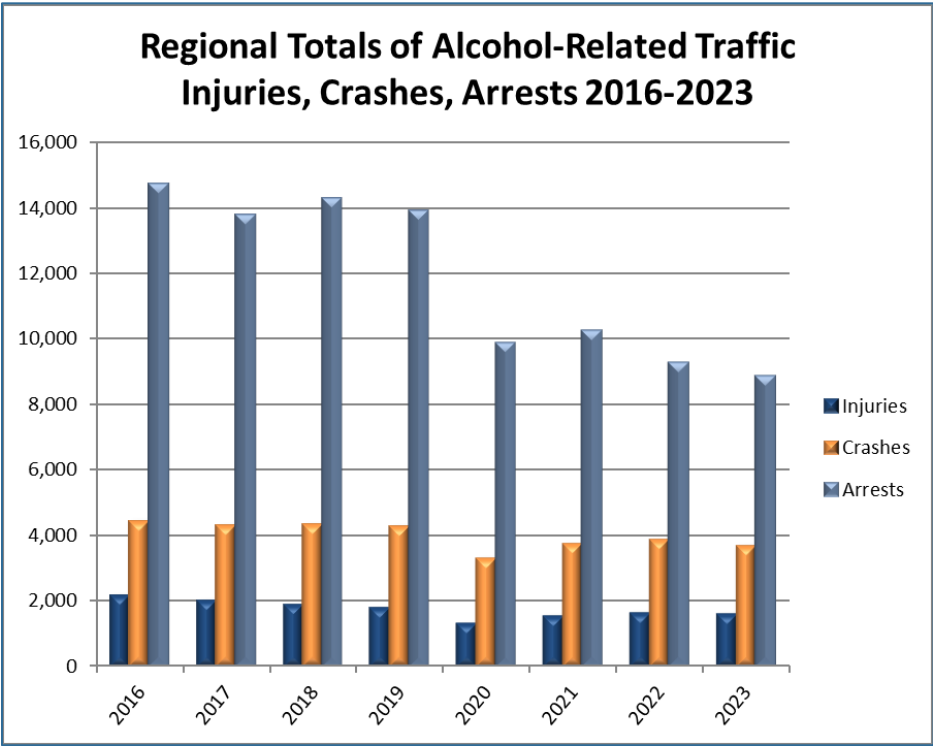
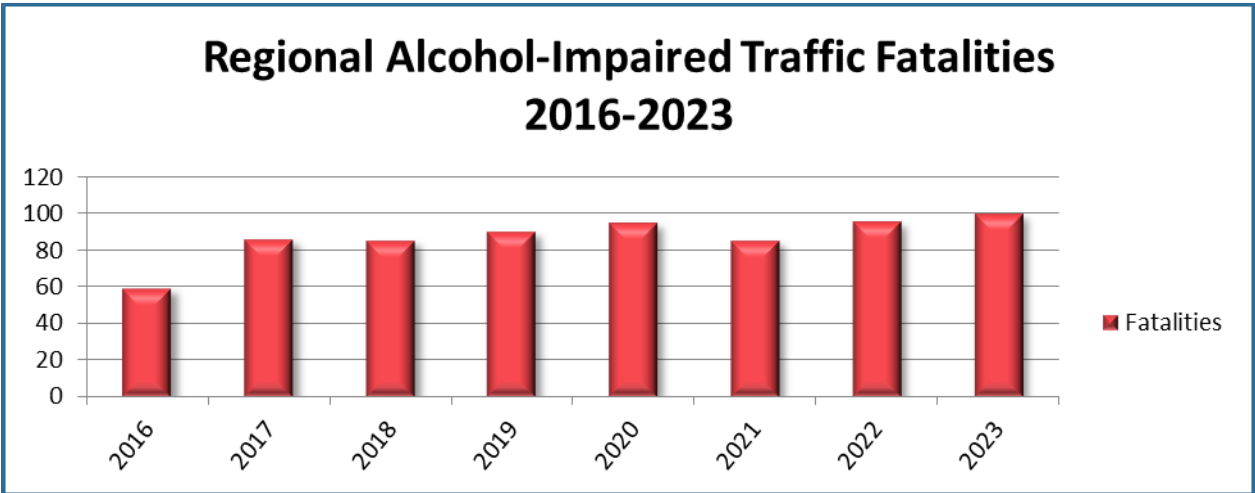


Figure 3. Regional Alcohol-Impaired Traffic Fatalities, 2016-2023



HOW SAFE ARE OUR ROADS? 2024 REPORT

OVERVIEW

Findings in the 2024 report (2023 data) include:

FATALITIES: Regional (DC Metro region and National Parks) alcohol and/or drug-impaired traffic fatalities **increased** by 4.17 percent between 2022 and 2023 (from 96 to 100 such fatalities).

- The total average number of regional alcohol and/or drug-impaired traffic fatalities over the last five years (2019-2023) is 93.
- Two of the last five years have had equal to or less than the average of alcohol and/or drug-impaired traffic fatalities.
- Of the metropolitan Washington region's 355 total traffic fatalities for 2023, 100 (or 28.17%) were due to drivers who were alcohol and/or drug-impaired (Blood Alcohol Concentration [BAC] = .08+).

INJURIES: DC Metro regional alcohol and/or drug-related traffic injuries **decreased** 2.58 percent between 2022 and 2023 (from 1,631 to 1,589 such injuries).²

- The average number of DC Metro regional alcohol and/or drug-impaired related traffic injuries over the last five years (2019-2023) is 1,594.
- Three of the last five years have had less alcohol and/or drug-impaired traffic injuries than the average.

CRASHES: DC Metro regional traffic crashes attributed to alcohol and/or drugs **decreased** 5.09 percent between 2022 and 2023 (from 3,853 to 3,657 such crashes).³

- The average number of DC Metro regional alcohol and/or drug-impaired related traffic crashes over the last five years (2019-2023) is 3,739.
- Three of the last five years have had less alcohol and/or drug-impaired traffic crashes than the average.

ARRESTS: Regional (DC Metro region and National Parks) arrests for either driving under the influence (DUI) or driving while impaired (DWI) **decreased 4.39** percent between 2022 and 2023 (from 9,295 to 8,887 such arrests).

- The average number of regional alcohol and/or drug-impaired related arrests over the last five years (2019-2023) is 10,446.
- Four of the last five years have had less alcohol and/or drug-impaired traffic arrests than the average.

² Alcohol and/or drug-related injury data from U.S. Park Police was unavailable for 2023.

³ Alcohol and/or drug-related crash data from U.S. Park Police was unavailable for 2023.

Background

Data compiled in this report comes from national, state, and local sources including the U.S. Census Bureau, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), U.S. Park Police, Metropolitan Police Department, District of Columbia Department of Transportation, Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles, Maryland National Study Center for Trauma and Emergency Medical Systems, and local police departments of each jurisdiction.

Jurisdictional data in this report does not always include State Police data. The State Police in Maryland and Virginia are charged with enforcing traffic laws on state highways and interstate expressways; inclusion of this data would likely increase the number of incidents in all categories. It is possible that some jurisdictional data may include State Police figures because local police often respond to highway incidents when State Police are unavailable. In some jurisdictions, the data reported was provided by the state, and most likely include state police data.

SUB-REGIONAL TRENDS

Figure 4. Alcohol-Related Change Per Year: Northern Virginia

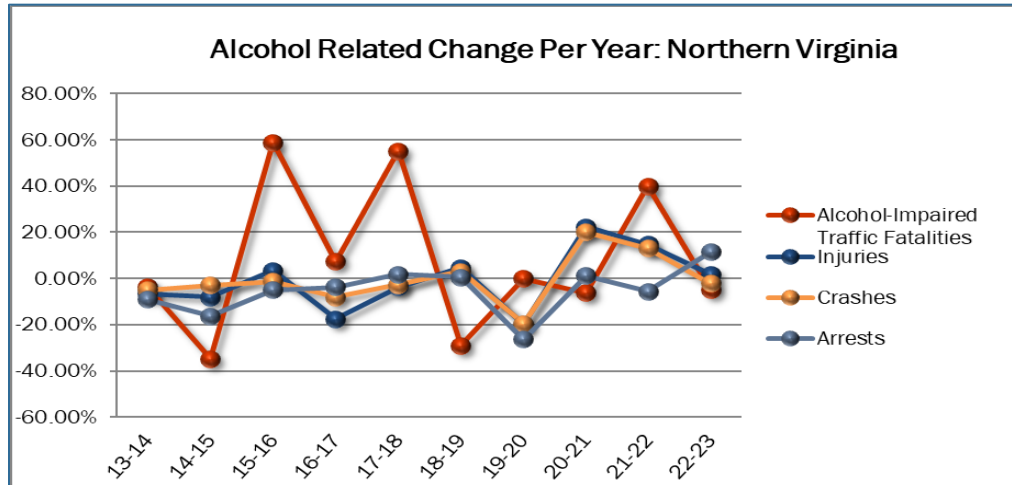


Figure 5. Alcohol-Related Change Per Year: Suburban Maryland

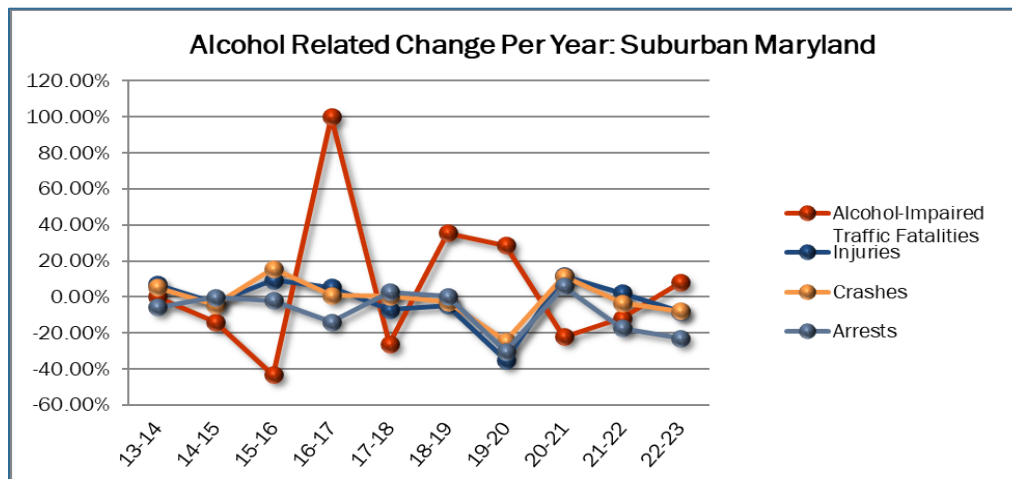
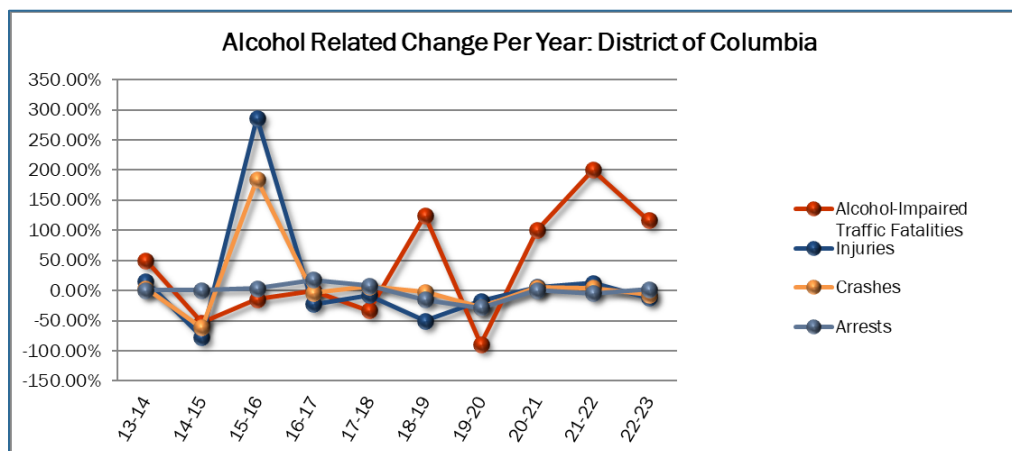


Figure 6. Alcohol-Related Change Per Year: District of Columbia



TOTAL TRAFFIC FATALITIES

Total Traffic Fatalities by Jurisdiction, 2016-2023									
Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Percent Change 2022-2023
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA									
Washington	28	33	36	27	37	40	35	52	48.57%
MARYLAND									
Montgomery County	42	33	34	37	46	43	48	45	-6.25%
Prince George's County	78	99	103	112	110	129	121	142	17.36%
MD Regional Total	120	132	137	149	156	172	169	187	10.65%
VIRGINIA									
Arlington County	1	5	2	6	4	4	4	7	75.00%
Fairfax County	36	35	47	45	37	50	66	42	-36.36%
Loudoun County	12	22	11	13	12	8	16	16	0.00%
Prince William County	30	22	24	14	18	32	30	29	-3.33%
City of Alexandria	4	4	5	5	7	7	5	1	-80.00%
City of Fairfax	4	0	2	2	1	1	2	0	-100%
City of Falls Church	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
City of Manassas	0	2	4	1	1	1	2	6	200%
City of Manassas Park	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0.00%
Northern Virginia Total	87	90	95	86	80	104	125	101	-19.20%
DC Metro Regional Total	235	255	268	262	273	316	329	340	3.34%
National Parks in Region	10	16	13	18	18	25	21	15	-28.57%
Regional Total Adjusted	245	271	281	280	291	341	350	355	1.43%
National	37,806	37,473	36,835	36,355	38,824	43,230	42,721 ⁴	40,901	-4.26%

⁴ The national traffic fatality number for 2022 was changed from 42,514 to 42,721 in the [NHTSA Overview of Motor Vehicle Traffic Crashes in 2023](#).

ALCOHOL-IMPAIRED TRAFFIC FATALITIES

Alcohol-Impaired Traffic Fatalities by Jurisdiction with BAC=.08+, 2016-2023									
Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Percent Change 2022-2023
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA									
Washington	6	6	4	9	1	2	6	13	116.67%
MARYLAND									
Montgomery County	4	8	7	10	16	8	11	19	72.73%
Prince George's County	17	34	24	32	38	34	26	21	-19.23%
MD Regional Total	21	42	31	42	54	42	37	40	8.11%
VIRGINIA									
Arlington County	0	2	1	2	1	0	3	6	100.00%
Fairfax County	12	12	18	17	18	17	22	17	-22.73%
Loudoun County	4	7	7	5	7	2	3	3	0.00%
Prince William County	9	6	14	6	3	10	11	10	-9.09%
City of Alexandria	1	1	3	2	2	1	1	0	-100%
City of Fairfax	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	-100%
City of Falls Church	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
City of Manassas	0	1	2	0	1	0	1	4	300%
City of Manassas Park	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Northern Virginia Total	27	29	45	32	32	30	42	40	-4.76%
DC Metro Regional Total	54	77	80	83	87	74	85	93	9.41%
National Parks in Region	5	9	5	7	8	11	11	7	-36.36%
Regional Total Adjusted	59	86	85	90	95	85	96	100	4.17%
National	10,497	10,908	10,710	10,196	11,718	13,617	13,458 ⁵	12,429	-7.65%

⁵ The national alcohol-related traffic fatality number for 2022 was changed from 13,524 to 13,458 in the [NHTSA Overview of Motor Vehicle Traffic Crashes in 2023](#).

TOTAL TRAFFIC INJURIES

Total Traffic Injuries by Jurisdiction, 2016-2023									
Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Percent Change 2022-2023
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA									
Washington	3,878	3,612	3,437	2,403	2,027	2,635	3,057	3,010	-1.54%
MARYLAND									
Montgomery County	7,045	7,000	6,753	6,453	4,252	4,696	5,104	5,556	8.86%
Prince George's County	7,715	7,787	7,351	7,285	5,168	5,803	5,576	5,892	5.67%
MD Regional Total	14,760	14,787	14,104	13,738	9,420	10,499	10,680	11,448	7.19%
VIRGINIA									
Arlington County	1,048	1,036	998	1,125	590	734	826	840	1.69%
Fairfax County	7,564	6,418	6,000	6,032	3,733	4,613	4,973	5,760	15.83%
Loudoun County	2,289	2,081	2,299	2,079	1,317	1,523	1,746	1,844	5.61%
Prince William County	2,785	2,652	2,811	2,899	1,889	2,771	2,900	3,196	10.21%
City of Alexandria	721	576	699	673	420	466	494	495	0.20%
City of Fairfax	294	242	147	164	92	103	153	199	30.07%
City of Falls Church	133	177	154	150	92	147	156	250	60.26%
City of Manassas	773	711	756	541	480	462	541	722	33.46%
City of Manassas Park	60	26	63	36	31	54	97	81	-16.49%
Northern Virginia Total	15,667	13,919	13,927	13,699	8,644	10,873	11,886	13,387	12.63%
DC Metro Region Total	34,305	32,318	31,468	29,840	20,091	24,007	25,623	27,845	8.67%
National Parks in Region	532	492	496	496	195	437	465	497	6.88%
Regional Total Adjusted	34,837	32,810	31,964	30,336	20,286	24,444	26,088	28,342	8.64%

ALCOHOL-RELATED TRAFFIC INJURIES

Alcohol-Related Traffic Injuries by Jurisdiction with BAC=.01+, 2016-2023									
Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Percent Change 2022-2023
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA									
Washington	228	176	163	81	67	71	80	70	-12.50%
MARYLAND									
Montgomery County	401	492	423	357	263	245	344	279	-18.90%
Prince George's County	492	448	451	476	277	358	272	287	5.51%
MD Regional Total	893	940	874	833	540	603	616	566	-8.12%
VIRGINIA									
Arlington County	91	94	79	89	53	71	103	104	0.97%
Fairfax County	459	331	290	329	270	329	383	391	2.09%
Loudoun County	144	117	133	124	107	97	165	139	-15.76%
Prince William County	182	163	181	187	147	226	187	217	16.04%
City of Alexandria	53	53	48	44	35	34	35	44	25.71%
City of Fairfax	12	17	7	6	8	8	12	10	-16.67%
City of Falls Church	11	11	7	10	8	10	8	15	87.50%
City of Manassas	38	33	35	33	27	36	32	28	-12.50%
City of Manassas Park	9	5	13	9	11	4	10	5	-50.00%
Northern Virginia Total	999	824	793	831	666	815	935	953	1.93%
DC Metro Region Total	2,120	1,940	1,830	1,745	1,273	1,489	1,631	1,589	-2.58%
National Parks in Region	33	46	33	32	25	33	N/A	N/A	N/A
Regional Total Adjusted	2,153	1,986	1,863	1,777	1,298	1,522	N/A	N/A	N/A

TOTAL TRAFFIC CRASHES

Total Traffic Crashes by Jurisdiction, 2016-2023									
Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Percent Change 2022-2023
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA									
Washington	25,850	25,712	25,818	26,823	18,311	21,617	21,722	22,174	2.08%
MARYLAND									
Montgomery County	14,160	14,239	14,231	13,843	9,728	11,183	12,212	13,003	6.48%
Prince George's County	17,185	18,297	19,562	20,516	17,134	19,952	19,723	20,493	3.90%
MD Regional Total	31,345	32,536	33,793	34,359	26,862	31,135	31,935	33,496	4.89%
VIRGINIA									
Arlington County	2,711	2,508	2,535	2,558	1,516	1,773	2,042	2,075	1.62%
Fairfax County	13,781	13,631	13,368	13,301	8,735	9,958	11,571	12,537	8.35%
Loudoun County	4,921	4,875	5,149	4,951	3,421	4,051	4,604	4,772	3.65%
Prince William County	5,564	5,540	5,757	5,880	4,416	5,668	6,025	6,265	3.98%
City of Alexandria	1,736	1,441	1,566	1,499	957	1,096	1,163	1,092	-6.10%
City of Fairfax	565	596	417	528	325	440	437	537	22.88%
City of Falls Church	144	121	130	121	80	87	85	125	47.06%
City of Manassas	633	573	607	438	412	318	355	478	34.65%
City of Manassas Park	97	55	71	80	64	93	101	95	-5.94%
Northern Virginia Total	30,152	29,340	29,600	29,356	19,926	23,484	26,383	27,976	6.04%
DC Metro Region Total	87,347	87,588	89,211	90,538	65,099	76,236	80,040	83,646	4.51%
National Parks in Region	4,049	3,486	1,600	1,462	1,018	2,639	3,436	3,876	12.81%
Regional Total Adjusted	91,396	91,074	90,811	92,000	66,117	78,875	83,476	87,522	4.85%

ALCOHOL-RELATED TRAFFIC CRASHES

Total Alcohol-Related Traffic Crashes by Jurisdiction with a BAC=.01+, 2016-2023									
Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Percent Change 2022-2023
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA									
Washington	740	710	756	735	529	557	579	541	-6.56%
MARYLAND									
Montgomery County	905	954	881	827	651	710	787	632	-19.70%
Prince George's County	1,116	1,085	1,166	1,163	850	963	830	860	3.61%
MD Regional Total	2021	2,039	2,047	1,990	1,501	1,673	1,617	1,492	-7.73%
VIRGINIA									
Arlington County	199	203	162	192	121	172	192	192	0.00%
Fairfax County	701	621	580	589	496	545	650	653	0.46%
Loudoun County	259	227	251	244	181	220	283	247	-12.72%
Prince William County	305	296	333	343	284	400	384	394	2.60%
City of Alexandria	94	83	88	87	68	69	84	72	-14.29%
City of Fairfax	19	26	10	15	16	21	18	18	0.00%
City of Falls Church	12	10	4	8	8	7	7	12	71.43%
City of Manassas	30	33	35	27	31	21	27	29	7.41%
City of Manassas Park	19	9	6	10	14	9	12	7	-41.67%
Northern Virginia Total	1,638	1,508	1,469	1,515	1,219	1,464	1,657	1,624	-1.99%
DC Metro Region Total	4,399	4,257	4,272	4,240	3,249	3,694	3,853	3,657	-5.09%
National Parks in Region	33	54	63	33	43	45	N/A	N/A	N/A
Regional Total Adjusted	4,432	4,311	4,335	4,273	3,292	3,739	N/A	N/A	N/A

TOTAL TRAFFIC ARRESTS

Total Traffic Arrests by Jurisdiction, 2016-2023									
Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Percent Change 2022-2023
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA									
Washington	4,283	5,193	6,496	7,007	3,826	3,576	3,192	3,140	-1.63%
MARYLAND									
Montgomery County	75,837	67,828	66,117	55,373	29,719	26,254	20,935	19,247	-8.06%
Prince George's County	86,853	84,187	80,483	81,528	50,560	47,320	42,306	34,453	-18.56%
MD Regional Total	162,690	152,015	146,600	136,901	80,279	73,574	63,241	53,700	-15.09%
VIRGINIA									
Arlington County	35,316	33,733	41,246	47,767	35,438	25,849	23,123	25,370	9.72%
Fairfax County	219,471	201,874	207,082	204,964	81,971	90,211	102,759	126,143	22.76%
Loudoun County	37,977	45,181	46,525	48,569	27,143	27,959	28,110	39,489	40.48%
Prince William County	69,599	72,511	76,587	79,470	48,089	47,448	31,090	59,873	92.58%
City of Alexandria	19,154	26,111	17,473	15,407	9,441	1,047	7,066	7,538	6.68%
City of Fairfax	8,635	8,451	7,358	7,124	2,084	2,090	2,721	3,920	44.06%
City of Falls Church	3,612	2,252	2,967	2,075	728	414	1,739	2,129	22.43%
City of Manassas	5,414	5,387	5,918	6,931	5,370	6,302	9,006	7,067	-21.53%
City of Manassas Park	3,494	3,921	3,473	4,041	2,614	2,478	2,473	2,713	9.70%
Northern Virginia Total	402,672	399,421	408,629	416,348	212,878	203,798	208,087	274,242	31.79%
DC Metro Region Total	569,645	556,629	561,725	560,256	296,983	280,948	274,520	331,082	20.60%
National Parks in Region	649	690	716	276	122	209	414	554	33.82%
Regional Total Adjusted	570,294	557,319	562,441	560,532	297,105	281,157	274,934	331,636	20.62%

ALCOHOL-RELATED TRAFFIC ARRESTS

Total Alcohol-Related Traffic Arrests by Jurisdiction, 2016-2023									
Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Percent Change 2022-2023
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA									
Washington	1,561	1,834	1,978	1,680	1,202	1,213	1,155	1,179	2.08%
MARYLAND									
Montgomery County	4,101	3,406	3,442	3,253	1,960	1,978	2,126	1,520	-28.50%
Prince George's County	2,629	2,379	2,506	2,715	2,193	2,425	1,515	1,283	-15.31%
MD Regional Total	6,730	5,785	5,948	5,968	4,153	4,403	3,641	2,803	-23.02%
VIRGINIA									
Arlington County	692	494	445	438	382	470	525	429	-18.29%
Fairfax County	2,457	2,536	2,424	2,400	1,669	1,653	1,728	1,876	8.56%
Loudoun County	671	561	709	731	435	424	531	562	5.84%
Prince William County	1,651	1,613	1,890	1,904	1,535	1,486	990	1,458	47.27%
City of Alexandria	324	397	292	263	178	230	252	115	-54.37%
City of Fairfax	62	59	51	77	33	44	32	50	56.25%
City of Falls Church	55	43	36	57	62	30	23	25	8.70%
City of Manassas	124	125	91	117	101	121	141	172	21.99%
City of Manassas Park	71	56	58	51	52	45	35	58	65.71%
Northern Virginia Total	6,107	5,884	5,996	6,038	4,447	4,503	4,257	4,745	11.46%
DC Metro Region Total	14,398	13,503	13,922	13,686	9,802	10,119	9,053	8,727	-3.60%
National Parks in Region	359	305	371	234	80	129	242	160	-33.88%
Regional Total Adjusted	14,757	13,808	14,293	13,920	9,882	10,248	9,295	8,887	-4.39%

YOUTH DATA

Alcohol-Related Crashes, Injuries, and Arrests for Persons Under 21 Years of Age by Jurisdiction, 2023												
	Fatalities	Alcohol-Related Fatalities	% of Alcohol-Related Fatalities	Crashes	Alcohol-Related Crashes	% of Alcohol-Related Crashes	Injuries	Alcohol-Related Injuries	% of Alcohol-Related Injuries	Arrests	Alcohol-Related Arrests	% of Alcohol-Related Arrests
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA												
Washington	2	0	0.00%	2,114	12	0.57%	366	3	0.82%	223	16	7.17%
MARYLAND												
Montgomery County	7	3	42.86%	3,154	47	1.49%	982	45	4.58%	1,948	39	2.00%
Prince George's County	14	3	21.43%	4,394	42	0.96%	934	20	2.14%	2,556	21	0.82%
MD Regional Total	21	6	28.57%	7,548	89	1.18%	1,916	65	3.39%	4,504	60	1.33%
VIRGINIA												
Arlington County	1	1	100%	248	14	5.65%	91	7	7.69%	974	15	1.54%
Fairfax County	5	1	20.00%	2,389	77	3.22%	692	45	6.50%	9,648	93	0.96%
Loudoun County	1	1	100%	1,102	45	4.08%	346	26	7.51%	4,573	41	0.90%
Prince William County	4	0	0.00%	1,458	56	3.84%	556	30	5.40%	6,639	69	1.04%
City of Alexandria	0	0	0.00%	146	5	3.42%	55	3	5.45%	574	6	1.05%
City of Fairfax	0	0	0.00%	118	3	2.54%	29	1	3.45%	380	1	0.26%
City of Falls Church	0	0	0.00%	30	3	10.00%	35	3	8.57%	117	1	0.85%
City of Manassas	0	0	0.00%	117	4	3.42%	119	6	5.04%	1,113	0	0.00%
City of Manassas Park	0	0	0.00%	27	1	3.70%	13	1	7.69%	390	0	0.00%
Northern Virginia Total	11	3	27.27%	5,635	208	3.69%	1,936	122	6.30%	24,408	226	0.93%
DC Metro Regional Total	34	4	11.76%	15,297	267	1.75%	4,218	139	3.30%	29,135	302	1.04%
National Parks in Region	1	1	100.00%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Regional Total Adjusted	35	5	14.29%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

METHODOLOGY

Agencies Providing Local Jurisdictional Data

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

- Metropolitan Police Department
- District Department of Transportation

MARYLAND

- National Study Center for Trauma and Emergency Medical Systems (NSC) at the University of Maryland
- Montgomery County Police Department
- Prince George's County Police Department

VIRGINIA

- Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles
- Arlington County Police Department
- Fairfax County Police Department
- Loudoun County Sheriff's Office
- Prince William County Police Department
- City of Alexandria Police Department
- City of Fairfax Police Department
- City of Falls Church Police Department
- City of Manassas Police Department
- City of Manassas Park Police Department

FEDERAL

- U.S. Park Police

Definitions of Data-Related Terms

NHTSA Alcohol-Impaired Driving Traffic Fatalities: Any fatality that occurs in motor vehicle traffic crash that involves at least one driver or a motorcycle rider (operator) with a BAC of .08 grams per deciliter or higher; This threshold does not consider the impairment status of non-occupants involved in fatal crashes, such as pedestrians or pedal cyclist.

WRAP Alcohol-Impaired Driving Traffic Fatalities: Any person who dies as result of a traffic crash involving alcohol with a BAC level .08 or higher.

WRAP Alcohol-Related Traffic Fatalities for Persons Under 21: Any person under the age of 21 who has died as result of an alcohol-related traffic crash involving a driver with a BAC level .01 or higher. This includes drivers, passengers, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

Alcohol-Related Traffic Injuries: Where any driver, passenger, bicyclist or pedestrian is listed on the police report to be injured in an alcohol-related crash where the BAC = .01 or higher.

Alcohol-Related Traffic Injuries for Persons Under 21: Any person under the age of 21 who receives injuries because of an alcohol-related crash where the BAC = .01 or higher; this includes drivers, passengers, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

Alcohol-Related Traffic Crashes: The driver, passenger, bicyclist, or pedestrian is listed on the police report as drinking before the crash with a BAC = .01 or higher. At least one driver in the crash was reported to be under the influence of alcohol and/or other drugs.

Alcohol-Related Traffic Crashes for Persons Under 21: Any person under the age of 21 who was involved in a traffic crash involving a driver with a BAC = .01 or higher. This data includes drivers, passengers, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

Drunk Driving Arrests/Citation: A general reference to those criminal cases prior to and/or after adjudication and sentencing that are called DUI, DWI, OUI, OWI or other acronyms that generally describe three types of cases:

- The driver is sufficiently impaired by alcohol, drugs or a combination of the two, and cannot drive safely, and has a BAC level of .01 or higher.
- The driver is a “Drunk Driver”, as defined by the driver being above that state’s legal limit of BAC .08.
- A driver under the age of 21 is under the influence of alcohol at a BAC level of .02 or higher.

DWI/DUI Arrests: A driver is listed on the police report as arrested for operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol with a BAC level of .01 or higher.

DWI/DUI Arrests for persons under 21: Any person/driver under the age of 21 listed on the police report as arrested for operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol with a BAC level of .01 or higher.

Data Analysis

The findings in this report are based on data collected from organizations and agencies from across the metropolitan Washington region. Data tables provide totals within the metropolitan Washington region as well as individual jurisdictions. Analysis focuses on changes in motor vehicle fatalities, injuries, crashes, and arrests. Results are reported as numbers and percentage of alcohol-related incidents to total numbers across time.

Data Limitations

It is important to note limitations that affected collection and analysis of this data, as they may limit comparability across jurisdictions and influence the level of reasonable analysis. Whenever possible, limitations are noted within the tables and figures.

It should be noted that the researchers constructing this report utilized data from the NSC at the University of Maryland, for data pertaining to crashes, injuries, and arrests. Regarding the alcohol-related crash and injury data, the variable identifies a driver or pedestrian under the influence of alcohol, drugs, both, or none. Within the NSC data reported, researchers analyzed drivers reported as under the influence of *alcohol or both*, to capture alcohol-related crashes and injuries. That variable is created using several others on the report (such as driver condition, BAC, etc.) so it does not specify only those with BAC 0.01+, and comparisons to previous year's data should be made with caution. In addition, because this report tracks just two jurisdictions in Maryland, regional totals could also be affected.

Additionally, there is no standardization for data definitions, collection, or recording within the metropolitan Washington region. Each agency has its own system of data collection, coding, and management. In addition, the range and type of data collected may not be consistent across jurisdictions. The data reported and analyzed in this report reflect data as reported by contact agencies. Independent verification of data to ensure accuracy is not within the scope of this report.

Information on data collection and management systems and changes within jurisdictions was not solicited. In addition, changes in laws or judicial priorities may result in increased attention to specific data (e.g., blood alcohol level in driver fatalities related to stricter server laws). In some cases, this may result in missing data or data that appears inconsistent when examined against the same values for previous years. It is beyond the scope of this report to identify data methodology or priority changes for each jurisdiction.

Data on alcohol-related driver involvement in motor vehicle fatalities, injuries, crashes, and arrests was requested for alcohol-related (BAC= .01+) only, however, due to differences between jurisdictions in reporting on impaired data, some cases may involve drug use.

The number of incidents, total and related to alcohol impairment, is very small for some jurisdictions. Due to the small numbers, jurisdictional analysis might easily misrepresent the problem. For example, an increase of one alcohol-related fatality would have little impact in a jurisdiction that saw 50 alcohol-related fatalities the previous year but would appear to represent a significant change in a small jurisdiction with only one or two alcohol-related fatalities the previous year.

Data are reported and analyzed by absolute numbers only. At this time, information that would allow identification of comparable rates is unavailable. It is assumed that people involved in motor vehicle

crashes and arrests may live within or outside the metropolitan Washington region. Collection of data on driver or passenger residence versus jurisdiction of crash is beyond the scope of this report. Calculating rates based on the metropolitan Washington region's population or number of licensed drivers would not accurately represent the problem since drivers may be from outside the jurisdiction.

Data on people under the age of 21 years is collected in an inconsistent manner among jurisdictions. Caution must be used in evaluation of this data due to varied definitions and missing data.

Each chart displays two regional total numbers. The first, "DC Regional Total" is the total of the District of Columbia, the Maryland region, and the Northern Virginia region. The second regional number, "Regional Total Adjusted," includes data from the U.S. Park Police, which may not be available some years.

Credits

The How Safe Are Our Roads? Report was prepared for the Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG). COG works with WRAP and other partners to compile the data and develop the report.



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