WRAP Washington Regional Alcohol Program

How Safe Are Our Roads?

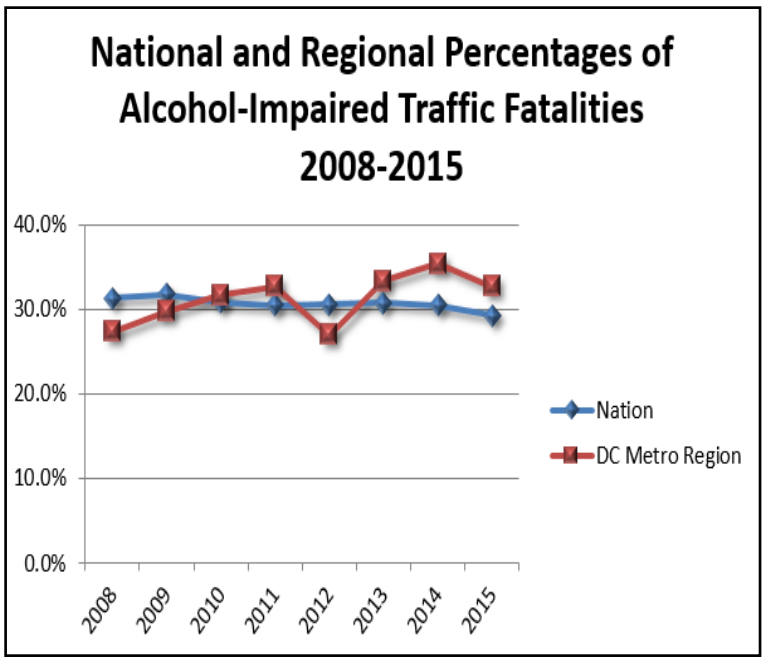
2016 Checkpoint Strikeforce campaign poster celebrating real area cab drivers as being "Beautiful" designated sober drivers.

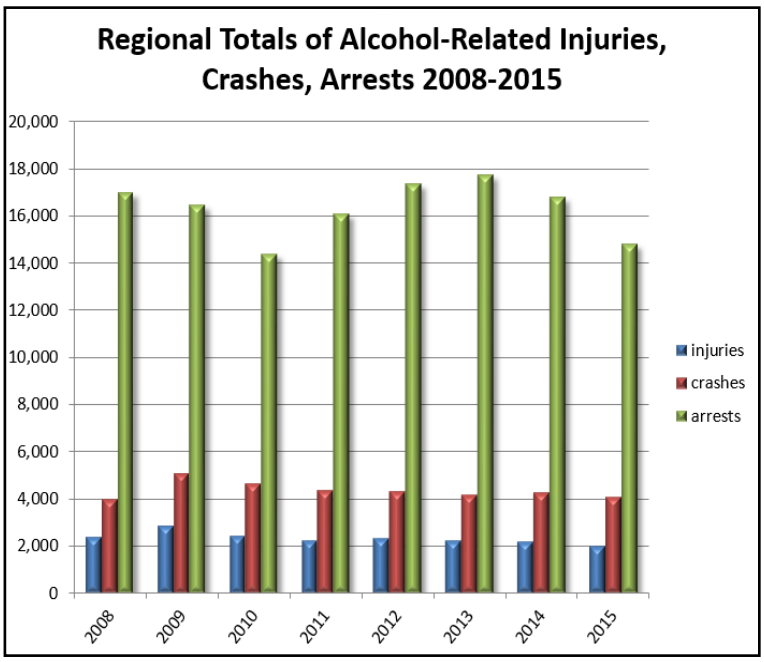
Annual Data Report on the Impact of Drunk Driving on Road Safety in the Washington D.C. Metropolitan Region

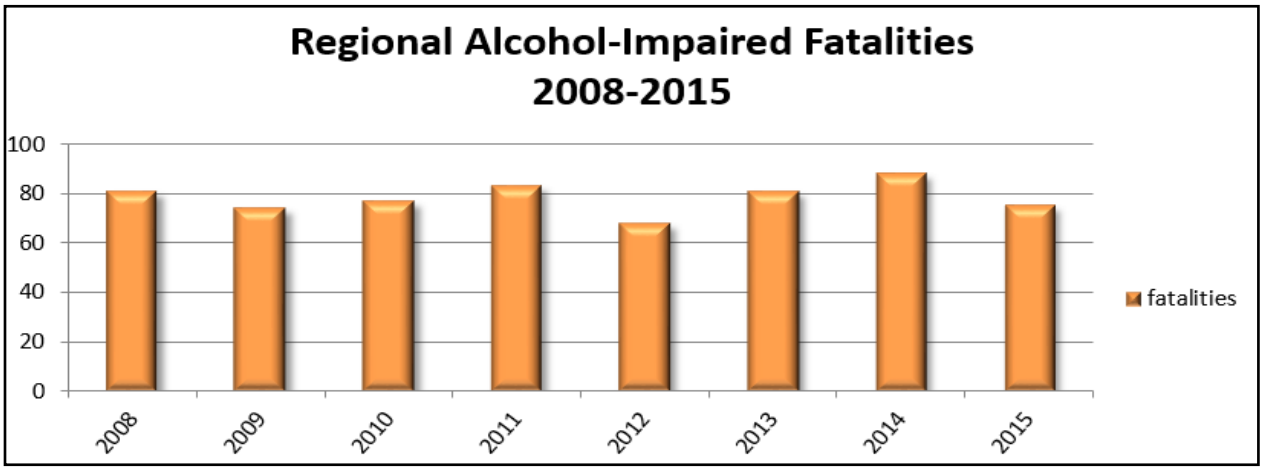
January 2017

Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments

A Look at Regional and National Figures







The Metropolitan Washington Region has experienced a decrease in alcohol and/or drug-related traffic arrests and a decrease in alcohol and/or drug-related fatalities, crashes, injuries, and arrests.

Regional alcohol and/or drug-impaired traffic fatalities have decreased to 32.75% of total crash fatalities in the region in 2015, compared with 35.4% due to alcohol and/or drug impairment in 2014. Nationally, alcohol-impaired fatality rates stand at 29%.

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.

How Safe Are Our Roads? 2016 Overview

Findings in the 2016 report include:

FATALITIES: Local alcohol and/or drug-impaired traffic fatalities **decreased** by 14.7% between 2014 and 2015 (from 88 to 75 such fatalities).*

CRASHES: Area traffic crashes attributed to alcohol and/or drugs **decreased** by 3.84% between 2014 and 2015 (from 4,217 to 4,055 such crashes).

INJURIES: Regional alcohol and/or drug-related traffic injuries **decreased** by 8.9% between 2014 and 2015 (from 2,157 to 1,963 such injuries).

ARRESTS: Local arrests for either driving under the influence (DUI) or driving while impaired (DWI) **decreased** by 7.8% between 2014 and 2015 (from 16,054 to 14,801 such arrests).

Of the Washington Metropolitan area's 229 total traffic fatalities for 2015, **75 or 32.75%** of these roadway deaths were due to drivers who were alcohol and/or drug-impaired (BAC = .08+).*

National statistics (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, NHTSA) show that 29% of total U.S. vehicular fatalities in 2015 were reported as alcohol impaired (BAC = .08+).

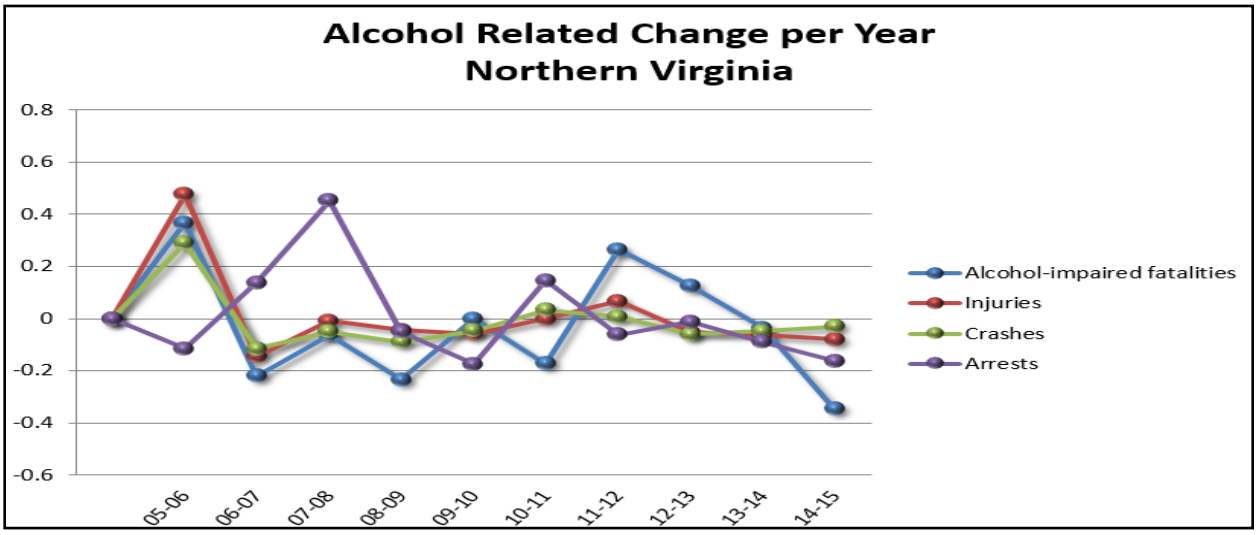
* U.S. National Park Service data is included in these numbers.

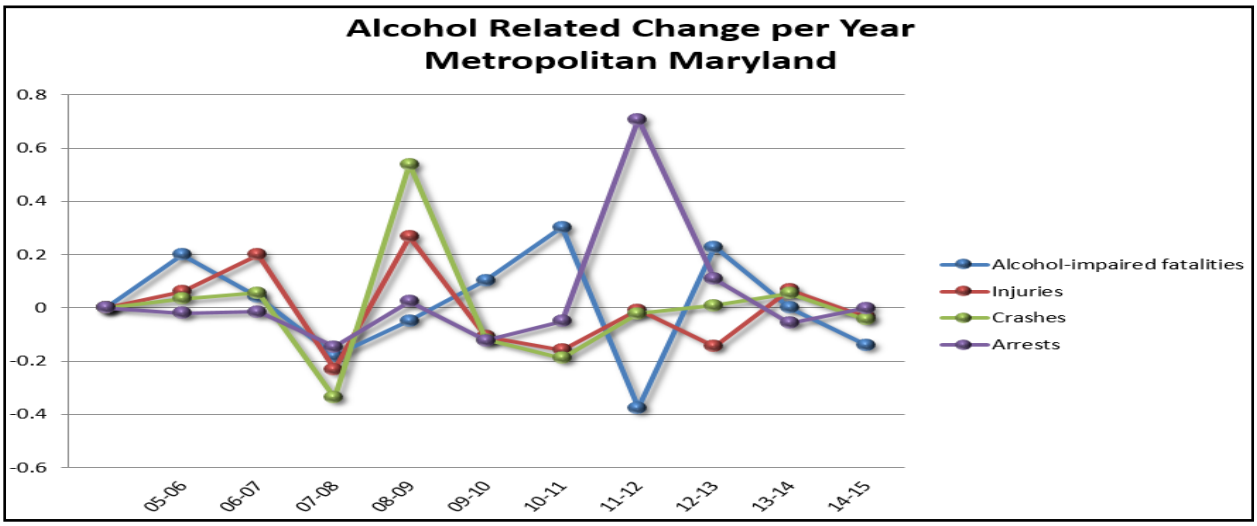
Background

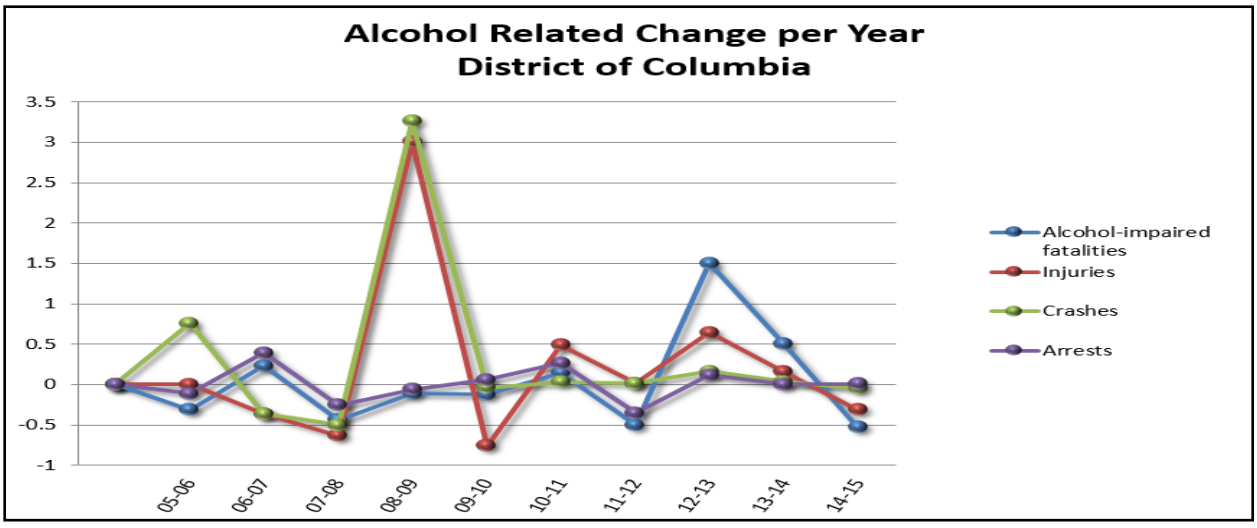
Data compiled in this report comes from national, state, and local sources including the U.S. Census Bureau, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), U.S. National Park Service (NPS), Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (VA DMV), Maryland National Study Center for Trauma and Emergency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

Parts of this report do not include NPS. 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 were provided by the state, and most likely include state police data.

Sub-Regional Trends







* Data provided by Data provided by MPD, VA DMV, MD NSC

Total Traffic Fatalities

Total Traffic Fatalities 2008-2015									
Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	**2015**	Percent Change 2014-2015
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA									
Washington	34	29	24	27	15	29	26	**26**	0.00%
MARYLAND									
Montgomery County	51	39	47	40	37	41	40	**47**	17.50%
Prince George's County	130	98	92	105	83	87	98	**95**	-3.06%
MD Regional Total	181	137	139	145	120	128	138	**142**	2.90%
VIRGINIA									
Arlington County	8	6	6	6	4	6	5	**5**	0.00%
Fairfax County	29	37	35	45	46	40	32	**30**	-6.25%
Loudoun County	11	13	12	11	17	13	12	**11**	-8.33%
Prince William County	25	16	23	15	19	19	23	**11**	-52.17%
City of Alexandria	4	1	2	3	4	3	0	**4**	400.00%
City of Fairfax	0	2	0	1	5	2	0	**0**	0.00%
City of Falls Church	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	**0**	-100.00%
City of Manassas	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	**0**	0.00%
City of Manassas Park	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	**0**	0.00%
Northern Virginia Total	77	79	80	82	96	83	73	**61**	-16.44%
DC Metro Regional Total	292	245	243	254	231	240	237	**229**	-3.38%
National	37,423	33,883	32,885	32,367	33,782	32,719	32,675	**35,092**	7.40%

* Data provided by MPD, VA DMV, MD NSC

Alcohol-Impaired Traffic Fatalities

Alcohol-Impaired Traffic Fatalities by Jurisdiction with BAC=.08+ 2008-2015									
Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	**2015**	Percent Change 2014-2015
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA									
Washington	9	11	7	8	4	10	15	**7**	-53.33%
MARYLAND									
Montgomery County	13	11	13	20	10	12	11	**10**	-9.09%
Prince George's County	28	28	30	36	25	31	32	**27**	-15.63%
MD Regional Total	41	39	43	56	35	43	43	**37**	-13.95%
VIRGINIA									
Arlington County	5	1	1	0	1	1	2	**2**	0.00%
Fairfax County	12	11	8	9	8	18	12	**9**	-25.00%
Loudoun County	5	4	3	4	5	4	6	**2**	-66.67%
Prince William County	7	5	11	3	10	4	5	**2**	-60.00%
City of Alexandria	1	1	0	1	2	0	0	**2**	200.00%
City of Fairfax	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	**0**	0.00%
City of Falls Church	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	**0**	-100.00%
City of Manassas	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	**0**	0.00%
City of Manassas Park	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	**0**	0.00%
Northern Virginia Total	30	23	23	19	27	27	26	17	-34.62%
DC Metro Region Total	**80**	**73**	**73**	83	66	80	84	61	-27.38%
National Parks in Region	1	1	4	0	3	1	4	**14**	250.00%
Regional Total Adjusted	**81**	**74**	**77**	83	69	81	88	75	-14.77%
National	11,711	10,759	10,136	9,878	10,336	10,076	9,967	**10,265**	2.99%

* Data provided by MPD, VA DMV, MD NSC, NPS

Total Traffic Injuries

Total Traffic Injuries by Jurisdiction 2008-2015									
Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	**2015**	Percent Change 2014-2015
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA									
Washington	4,578	4,676	4,473	5,812	6,515	6,929	7,474	**7,986**	6.85%
MARYLAND									
Montgomery County	6,624	6,758	6,510	6,095	6,051	5,417	6,196	**6,365**	2.73%
Prince George's County	7,099	6,786	6,084	6,422	6,411	6,532	6,549	**6,746**	3.01%
MD Regional Total	13,723	13,544	12,594	12,517	12,462	11,949	12,745	**13,111**	2.87%
VIRGINIA									
Arlington County	1,288	1,227	1,007	1,005	1,252	1,090	1,094	**978**	-10.60%
Fairfax County	7,964	7,590	7,600	7,767	8,185	7,608	7,649	**7,677**	0.37%
Loudoun County	1,717	1,681	1,764	1,869	1,837	1,917	2,123	**2,143**	0.94%
Prince William County	2,717	2,614	2,741	2,826	2,763	3,030	2,915	**2,747**	-5.76%
City of Alexandria	1,492	816	614	601	609	681	757	**731**	-3.43%
City of Fairfax	201	169	178	205	243	227	440	**338**	-23.18%
City of Falls Church	141	264	193	183	232	132	241	**160**	-33.61%
City of Manassas	270	327	328	447	612	560	646	**626**	-3.10%
City of Manassas Park	20	17	26	24	24	41	29	**48**	65.52%
Northern Virginia Total	15,810	14,705	14,451	14,927	15,757	15,286	15,894	**15,448**	-2.81%
DC Metro Region Total	34,111	32,925	31,518	33,256	34,734	34,164	36,113	**36,545**	1.20%
National Parks in Region	669	731	826	555	541	570	N/A	**603**	N/A

* Data provided by MPD, VA DMV, MD NSC

Alcohol-Related Traffic Injuries

Alcohol-related Traffic Injuries by Jurisdiction with BAC=.01+ 2008-2015									
Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	**2015**	Percent Change 2014-2015
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA									
Washington	96	385	92	137	139	228	263	**180**	-31.56%
MARYLAND									
Montgomery County	405	497	488	379	393	316	343	**366**	6.71%
Prince George's County	572	741	617	551	530	474	501	**451**	-9.98%
MD Regional Total	977	1,238	1,105	930	923	790	844	**817**	-3.20%
VIRGINIA									
Arlington County	146	94	78	71	117	117	78	**84**	7.69%
Fairfax County	573	561	610	573	594	524	476	**442**	-7.14%
Loudoun County	140	142	140	149	133	115	150	**128**	-14.67%
Prince William County	263	260	203	216	203	223	204	**182**	-10.78%
City of Alexandria	89	65	48	50	66	71	60	**52**	-13.33%
City of Fairfax	8	13	6	15	14	17	26	**25**	-3.85%
City of Falls Church	2	11	3	6	16	6	4	**10**	150.00%
City of Manassas	15	35	25	29	43	49	47	**41**	-12.77%
City of Manassas Park	1	1	1	3	0	1	5	**2**	-60.00%
Northern Virginia Total	1,237	1,182	1,114	1,112	1,186	1,123	1,050	**966**	-8.00%
DC Metro Region Total	2,310	2,805	2,311	2,179	2,248	2,141	2,157	**1,963**	-8.99%
National Parks in Region	42	38	62	41	51	51	N/A	**N/A**	N/A

* Data provided by MPD, VA DMV, MD NSC

Total Traffic Crashes

Total Traffic Crashes By Jurisdiction 2008-2015									
Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	**2015**	Percent Change 2014-2015
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA									
Washington	16,147	16,841	16,739	18,002	18,276	19,482	21,752	**24,193**	11.22%
MARYLAND									
Montgomery County	11,925	12,311	11,536	11,093	10,562	10,825	12,279	**13,006**	5.92%
Prince George's County	14,289	13,777	13,013	12818	12,049	12,580	13,355	**14,758**	10.51%
MD Regional Total	26,214	26,088	24,549	23,911	22,611	23,405	25,634	**27,764**	8.31%
VIRGINIA									
Arlington County	2,596	2,205	2,192	2,494	2,469	2,463	2,469	**2,483**	0.57%
Fairfax County	16,318	14,233	13,726	14,580	14,500	13,675	13,680	**14,024**	2.51%
Loudoun County	3,828	3,501	3,798	4,066	4,164	4,186	4,281	**4,824**	12.68%
Prince William County	5,520	5,148	4,984	5,221	5,265	5,671	5,856	**5,660**	-3.35%
City of Alexandria	1,868	1,395	1,594	1,631	1,711	1,695	1,777	**1,912**	7.60%
City of Fairfax	616	678	655	650	648	615	700	**561**	-19.86%
City of Falls Church	177	249	190	180	154	83	165	**169**	2.42%
City of Manassas	622	547	590	594	610	567	568	**595**	4.75%
City of Manassas Park	65	42	40	73	63	66	71	**81**	14.08%
Northern Virginia Total	31,610	27,998	27,769	29,489	29,584	29,021	29,567	**30,309**	2.51%
DC Metro Region Total	57,824	54,086	52,318	53,400	70,471	71,908	76,953	82,266	6.90%
National Parks in Region	2,568	2,874	2,762	2,811	2,644	1,281	4,164	**4,621**	10.98%
Regional Total Adjusted	60,392	56,960	55,080	56,211	73,115	73,189	81,117	86,887	7.11%

* Data provided by MPD, VA DMV, MD NSC, NPS

Alcohol-Related Traffic Crashes

Alcohol-Related Traffic Crashes By Jurisdiction with a BAC=.01+ 2008-2015									
Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	**2015**	Percent Change 2014-2015
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA									
Washington	132	562	542	558	564	657	682	**647**	-5.13%
MARYLAND									
Montgomery County	690	1,055	891	749	737	690	807	**815**	0.99%
Prince George's County	905	1,398	1,271	1,006	980	1,041	1,017	**933**	-8.26%
MD Regional Total	1,595	2,453	2,162	1,755	1,717	1,731	1,824	**1,748**	-4.17%
VIRGINIA									
Arlington County	248	200	213	218	242	232	235	**218**	-7.23%
Fairfax County	1,029	951	919	903	910	829	740	**708**	-4.32%
Loudoun County	248	211	210	230	239	213	236	**222**	-5.93%
Prince William County	410	379	319	344	337	337	319	**332**	4.08%
City of Alexandria	104	99	102	110	97	111	99	**99**	0.00%
City of Fairfax	26	36	32	38	27	26	35	**29**	-17.14%
City of Falls Church	7	11	6	10	12	4	9	**8**	-11.11%
City of Manassas	47	43	32	36	34	44	35	**40**	14.29%
City of Manassas Park	6	2	8	12	16	3	3	**4**	33.33%
Northern Virginia Total	2,125	1,932	1,841	1,901	1,914	1,799	1,711	**1,660**	-2.98%
DC Metro Region Total	3,852	4,947	4,545	4,214	4,195	4,095	4,217	4,055	-3.84%
National Parks in Region	94	88	92	101	94	51	N/A	**N/A**	N/A

* Data provided by MPD, VA DMV, MD NSC

Alcohol-Related Traffic Arrests

Total Alcohol Related Traffic Arrests by Jurisdiction 2008-2015									
Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	**2015**	Percent Change 2014-2015
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA									
Washington	1,655	1,555	1,648	2,081	1,340	1,498	1,501	**1,508**	0.47%
MARYLAND									
Montgomery County	2,689	2,903	2,647	2,247	3,892	3,983	3,723	**3,973**	6.72%
Prince George's County	1,832	1,725	1,416	1,609	2,688	3,314	3,153	**2,894**	-8.21%
MD Regional Total	4,521	4,628	4,063	3,856	6,580	7,297	6,876	**6,867**	-0.13%
VIRGINIA									
Arlington County	833	693	609	789	963	850	874	**742**	-15.10%
Fairfax County	4,362	4,057	3,407	3,887	3,343	3,628	3,116	**2,387**	-23.40%
Loudoun County	1,175	1,133	939	847	845	828	733	**667**	-9.00%
Prince William County	2,811	2,699	2,394	2,856	2,745	2,493	2,372	**1,941**	-18.17%
City of Alexandria	559	501	348	412	360	378	372	**349**	-6.18%
City of Fairfax	182	175	187	202	175	155	107	**78**	-27.10%
City of Falls Church	66	90	72	121	113	110	103	**78**	-24.27%
City of Manassas	110	171	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	**138**	N/A
City of Manassas Park	60	124	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	**46**	N/A
Northern Virginia Total	10,158	9,643	7,956	9,114	8,544	8,442	7,677	**6,426**	-16.30%
DC Metro Region Total	16,334	15,826	13,667	15,051	16,464	17,237	16,054	14,801	-7.80%
National Parks in Region	614	593	689	1,027	877	487	740	**N/A**	N/A
Regional Total Adjusted	16,948	16,419	14,356	16,078	17,341	17,724	16,794	N/A	N/A

* Data provided by MPD, VA DMV, MD NSC

Youth Data

Alcohol-Related Crashes, Injuries, and Arrests for Persons Under 21 Years of Age By Region, 2015												
	Fatalities	Alcohol-Related Fatalities	**Percentage of Alcohol-Related Fatalities**	Crashes	Alcohol-Related Crashes	**Percentage of Alcohol-Related Crashes**	Injuries	Alcohol-Related Injuries	**Percentage of Alcohol-Related Injuries**	Arrests	Alcohol-Related Arrests	**Percentage of Alcohol-Related Arrests**
District of Columbia												
Washington	1	1	**100.00%**	4,445	43	**0.97%**	882	15	**1.70%**	N/A	N/A	**N/A**
Maryland												
Montgomery County	10	2	**20.00%**	2,751	33	**1.20%**	996	46	**4.62%**	5,517	124	**2.25%**
Prince George's County	11	2	**18.18%**	3,363	38	**1.13%**	1,122	59	**5.26%**	7,231	75	**1.04%**
MD Regional Total	21	4	**19.05%**	6,114	71	**1.16%**	2,118	105	**4.96%**	12,748	199	**1.56%**
Virginia												
Arlington County	0	0	**0.00%**	230	16	**6.96%**	71	0	**0.00%**	1,910	0	**0.00%**
Fairfax County	3	0	**0.00%**	2,621	98	**3.74%**	1,029	61	**5.93%**	12,294	164	**1.33%**
Loudoun County	2	0	**0.00%**	1,033	39	**3.78%**	382	18	**4.71%**	3,844	46	**1.20%**
Prince William County	1	0	**0.00%**	1,316	50	**3.80%**	461	19	**4.12%**	8,174	122	**1.49%**
City of Alexandria	0	0	**0.00%**	206	7	**3.40%**	70	4	**5.71%**	14	2	**14.29%**
City of Fairfax	0	0	**0.00%**	132	3	**2.27%**	50	1	**2.00%**	666	1	**0.15%**
City of Falls Church	0	0	**0.00%**	28	0	**0.00%**	14	0	**0.00%**	171	4	**2.34%**
City of Manassas	0	0	**0.00%**	138	7	**5.07%**	120	8	**6.67%**	666	12	**1.80%**
City of Manassas Park	0	0	**0.00%**	22	0	**5.07%**	4	0	**0.00%**	279	2	**0.72%**
Northern Virginia Total	6	0	**0.00%**	5,726	220	**3.84%**	2,201	111	**5.04%**	28,018	353	**1.26%**
DC Metro Regional Total	28	5	**17.86%**	16,285	334	**2.05%**	5,201	231	**4.44%**	40,766	552	**1.35%**

* Data provided by MPD, VA DMV, MD NSC

Methodology

Following is a listing of the agencies providing local jurisdictional data:

District of Columbia:
Metropolitan Police Department (MPD)

State of Maryland:
MD National Study Center for Trauma and Emergency Medical Systems (MD NSC)
Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD)
Prince George's County Police Department (PGPD)

Virginia:
Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (VA DMV)
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. National Park Service (NPS)

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 year 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 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 Washington Metro region. Data tables provide totals within the Washington Metro 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 National Study Center for Trauma and EMS (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 Washington Metro 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 Washington Metro region. Collection of data on driver or passenger residence versus jurisdiction of accident is beyond the scope of this report. Calculating rates based on the Washington Metro 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.

Many charts display 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 United States Park Police. Because the Park Police information has only been recently collected, it is shown separately and the two regional totals are shown so that comparisons with previous years can be done.