

A Report to the Maryland General Assembly

Regarding

Drunk and Drugged Driving Statistics by Juveniles
and Young Adults

(Senate Bill 371, Chapter 55, Acts of 1991)

The Maryland Department of Transportation
Motor Vehicle Administration

December 2017

Drunk and Drugged Driving Statistics by Juveniles and Young Adults (Senate Bill 371, Chapter 55, Acts of 1991)

This report is written in response to language contained in Senate Bill 371, Section 6, Chapter 55, Acts of 1991, which calls on the Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administration (MDOT MVA) to:

- (1) *Regularly compile and analyze statistics on drunk and drugged driving by juveniles and young adults;*
- (2) *Work with the Department of Juvenile Services, the Administrative Office of the Courts, the Maryland State Police, and other law enforcement agencies to monitor the effects of Chapter 254 of the Acts of 1988 and Chapters 438 and 551 of the Acts of 1989 (requiring the imposition of an alcohol restriction on the license of a driver under the age of 21), and Chapter 284 of the Acts of 1989 (“administrative per se” law) on juvenile and young adult offenders;*
- (3) *Annually report, subject to § 2-1312 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly regarding the information collected under paragraphs (1) and (2) of this section; and*
- (4) *Publicize recent legislative enactments concerning drunk and drugged driving by juveniles and young adults.”*

The District Court provides the MDOT MVA with an annual summary of citations written to drivers under 21 for violations of TR § 21-902. The most recent information provided by the Court indicates that 1,956 citations for violations of TR § 21-902 were issued to drivers under 21, statewide, in FY 2017. The following chart provides data on the number of citations for TR § 21-902 that were issued to drivers under the age of 21 for the past five fiscal years:

TR § 21-902	FY 2017	FY 2016	FY 2015	FY 2014	FY 2013
Total Number of Drivers Under 21 Years of Age	188,857	187,453	114,243	175,276	180,262
Citations Written for Drivers Under 21 for Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol and/or Drugs, TR § 21-902	1,956	1,783	2,184	2,423	2,032
Percentage of Total Drivers Under 21 that received citations for § 21-902 *	1.04%	0.95%	1.91%	1.38%	1.13%

* Assumption, these percentages assume that an individual driver received only one citation during any fiscal year. Currently, there are no statistics illustrating whether any individual driver received more than one citation for TR § 21-902 in any fiscal year.

The MDOT MVA initiated new activities, while continuing to build upon on-going efforts, to strengthen public awareness on the hazards and consequences of drinking and driving. Activities undertaken by the MDOT MVA, often working in concert with several other state and local agencies and community groups, are outlined in the following chart:

Effort	Description	Responsible Party
Maryland's Graduated Licensing System law (Chapter 483, Acts of 1998)	An alcohol restriction is imposed on each Learner's Permit, Provisional License, and full Driver's License issued to an individual under the age of 21. Violations of this restriction result in suspension or revocation of the underage driver's driving privileges.	The MDOT MVA's Driver Services Division manages the Driver Licensing System, which is used to issue Learner's Permits and Driver's Licenses. The MDOT MVA Administrative Adjudication Division is responsible for administering sanctions for violations of the underage alcohol restriction and other provisions of the Maryland Graduated Licensing System.
The Maryland Driver Education Program	All novice drivers must complete a comprehensive driver education curriculum. The curriculum includes a unit that focuses on Maryland's drunk and drugged driving laws, acquainting all with details on the various laws and their penalties.	The MDOT MVA's Driver Instructional Services Division (DISD) coordinates the approval and licensing of all businesses and individuals responsible for the delivery of the Maryland Driver Education, Motorcycle Safety, 3-Hour Alcohol & Drug, and Driver Improvement Programs. The DISD also coordinates the development and implementation of all educational curriculums used by the MDOT MVA, including the Rookie Driver Safety Program.
The Maryland Driver's Manual	The Maryland Driver's Manual details Maryland's drunk driving laws, stressing not to drink and drive. The Manual includes specific information on underage drinking. The manual also emphasizes the penalties and sanctions under Maryland's law, which prohibits a driver under the age of 21 from driving with any alcohol in the driver's blood (TR §16-113 (b) & (j)).	MDOT MVA's DISD manages updates to the Maryland Driver's Manual.
The Rookie Driver Safety Program	The Rookie Driver Safety Program promotes active involvement by parents and other driver coaches in driver education and calls on parents and others to discourage drinking and driving, or using drugs and driving. A Rookie Driver - Coach Driving Agreement is included in the revised Driver & Coach Practice Guide (RD-06), which outlines rules and privileges for vehicle use and encourages parents to establish sanctions for alcohol or drug use and driving.	The MDOT MVA's Central Operations and Safety Programs Division (COSP) manages the Rookie Driver Safety Program and collects information on research and best practices on Maryland driver safety issues.
The Maryland Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP)	Impaired driving is a critical emphasis area in Maryland's SHSP. The Impaired Driving Emphasis Area Team is dedicated to identifying and implementing effective strategies and countermeasures to combat impaired driving across the state. The SHSP also includes targeted messages to young drivers, focused on the dangers of impaired driving.	The MDOT MVA's Maryland Highway Safety Office (MHSO) is responsible for leadership and coordination of the State's overall highway safety program. The MHSO supports many highway safety activities, administers a highway safety grant program in which federal traffic safety funds are provided to state agencies, local governments, and other organizations to implement statewide and local impaired and drugged driving programs.

Effort	Description	Responsible Party
The Partnership Resources and Outreach (PRO) Section	<p>On a regional level, MDOT is involved in numerous community and high school-based drinking and drugged driving program initiatives. They include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Driving simulators and outreach efforts funded by State Farm Insurance Company throughout Maryland; • Baltimore County's "After Prom" project; • MIEMSS' "Every 15 Minutes" – statewide & Carroll County's "Every 15 Minutes"; • MADD's "Power of Parents"; • Washington Regional Alcohol Program's "Alcohol Awareness for Students"; and • Anne Arundel County's "Project Prom". <p>In addition, prevention strategies and enforcement details such as party dispersals, alcohol vendor trainings and compliance checks and "Cops in Shops" are implemented in various jurisdictions.</p>	The MHSO funds and supports local and regional initiatives through the Partnership Resources and Outreach (PRO) Section. The PRO Managers distribute print and social media materials statewide.
Maryland Safe Teen Driving Coalition	The Maryland Safe Teen Driving Coalition is a multidisciplinary working group that focuses on young driver safety issues including impaired driving. The coalition has worked with medical practitioners, school administrators, safety professionals and law enforcement to raise awareness of key young driver safety issues through outreach and public education.	The Maryland Safe Teen Driving Coalition is hosted by the American Academy of Pediatrics, Maryland Chapter.
Maryland's Drunk Driving Reduction Acts of 2011 and 2016	<p>MDOT MVA's Driver Wellness & Safety Division (DW&SD) supports and implements the Ignition Interlock, Medical Review and License Reinstatement provisions of Maryland's impaired driving laws. Key provisions of these two bills include, in addition to other penalties and sanctions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory suspensions or ignition interlock participation for alcohol offenses committed by individuals who are under the age of twenty-one; • Increased mandatory suspensions periods for individuals with blood alcohol concentration test refusals and test results of .08 or more; and • Mandatory ignition interlock participation for certain convictions. 	The MDOT MVA's DW&SD is responsible for administering the Ignition Interlock Program, the reinstatement of revoked drivers, and medical review of drivers who may pose a threat to highway safety, and may refer drivers to re-education programs.