

Drunk and Drugged Driving Statistics

by Juveniles and Young Adults

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

A Report to the Maryland General Assembly

The Maryland Department of Transportation

Motor Vehicle Administration

MSAR # 1181

December 2022

The Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administration (MDOT MVA) offers this report in response to language contained in Senate Bill 371, Chapter 55, Acts of 1991. The language states:

- (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 Maryland State Police (MSP) Chemical Testing for Alcohol Unit provides the MDOT MVA with an annual summary of statewide DWI arrests related to violations of TR § 21-902.¹ The most recent information provided by the MSP indicates that 463 drivers under the age of 21 were arrested in Calendar Year 2021. The following chart provides data on the number of arrests pursuant to TR § 21-902 that were made of drivers under the age of 21 for the past five calendar years:

TR § 21-902	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Total Number of Drivers Under 21 Years of Age	181,035	177,285	190,095	190,004	187,445	182,052	172,538
Arrests of drivers under 21 for Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol and/or Drugs, TR § 21-902	463	521	535	532	661	711	716
Percentage of Total Drivers Under 21 that were arrested for § 21-902	0.26%	0.29%	0.28%	0.28%	0.35%	0.39%	0.41%

¹ Prior to CY2018, the Drunk and Drugged Driving Statistics by Juveniles and Young Adults report has cited data from the District Court of Maryland’s annual (fiscal years) summary of citations written to drivers under 21 for violations of TR § 21-902. The Court no longer produces this summary therefore this report utilizes MSP arrest data.

With the increasing volume of traffic that has followed removal of pandemic restrictions, the MDOT MVA has continued to build upon existing communication, education, and enforcement efforts geared to strengthening 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 Driver Licensing System	Maryland law requires that an alcohol restriction be 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 Driver Licensing System.
The Maryland Driver Education Program	All novice drivers must complete a comprehensive driver education curriculum that includes classroom instruction and behind the wheel training. 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) licenses and certifies driving schools and instructors that provide the Maryland Certified Driver Education Program, and approves Motorcycle Safety Training Centers, 3-Hour Alcohol & Drug Education Program Providers, and Driver Improvement Program Providers, including those that provide the Young Driver Improvement Program. The DISD also develops and approves all educational curricula used by these programs.
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.	MDOT MVA's DISD manages updates to the Maryland Driver's Manual. The Maryland Driver's Manual can be found at: https://mva.maryland.gov/Documents/DL-002.pdf
The Rookie Driver Safety Program	The Rookie Driver Safety Program promotes active involvement by parents and other driver coaches in the education, training, and monitoring of new, young drivers and calls on parents and others to	The MDOT MVA's Driver Safety Division coordinates the Rookie Driver Safety Program and collects information on current young driver safety research and best practices to promote safe driving in Maryland.

	discourage drinking and/or using drugs and driving. A Rookie Driver - Coach Driving Agreement is included in the Rookie Driver & Coach Practice Guide (RD-06), helps parents and young drivers establish safe driving rules, as well as consequences for alcohol or drug use and driving.	
The Maryland Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP)	The SHSP was updated for 2021-2025. The SHSP uses action steps to track progress of reducing crashes and fatalities related to impaired driving. Young drivers and high-risk drivers continue to be target groups in the plan. The SHSP implements effective strategies and countermeasures to combat impaired driving across the state through public education, outreach, and enforcement of Maryland’s impaired driving laws. To support the SHSP goals, the MHSO provides highway safety grants to state agencies, local governments, law enforcement, and other organizations to implement statewide, regional, and local impaired driving prevention programs.	The MDOT MVA's Maryland Highway Safety Office (MHSO) is responsible for leadership and coordination of the State's overall highway safety program and for administering federal funding for behavioral traffic safety projects.
Community Outreach and Education	The MDOT MVA supported numerous community and high school-based initiatives to help prevent drunk and drugged driving. These activities included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Washington Regional Alcohol Program’s “Alcohol Awareness for Students.” • MADD’s Power of Youth presentations, handbooks, and collateral materials. • Calvert County’s Drive Square driving simulator at local high schools during graduation season, to highlight the dangers of driving impaired. 	The MHSO funds and supports local and regional initiatives through its Partnerships, Resources and Outreach (PRO) Section, and Law Enforcement Liaisons (LELs). PROs work with partners and grantees to develop outreach programs that support Maryland’s SHSP. Hands-on demonstrations, educational interactive tools, and simulators are part of the outreach team’s support for local safety events. Partners may request resources through the new website. https://zerodeathsmd.gov/resources/community-outreach/

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other local prevention strategies and enforcement details such as alcohol vendor trainings and compliance checks. • Supporting a Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) State Coordinator Position. 	
<p>Maryland Safe Teen Driving Coalition</p>	<p>The Maryland Safe Teen Driving Coalition is a multidisciplinary working group that focuses on young driver safety issues including impaired driving. The coalition works with medical practitioners, school administrators, safety professionals, and law enforcement to raise awareness of key young driver safety issues through outreach and public education.</p>	<p>The Maryland Safe Teen Driving Coalition is hosted by the American Academy of Pediatrics, Maryland Chapter and includes members from driving schools, nonprofit safety organizations, local school and law enforcement agency representatives, and MDOT MVA staff.</p>
<p>Maryland Ignition Interlock and Driver Wellness Programs</p>	<p>MDOT MVA's Driver Wellness & Safety Division (DWSD) operates the Ignition Interlock Program and manages the medical review and license reinstatement provisions of Maryland's impaired driving laws. These laws include special provisions for drivers under the age of 21 who commit alcohol violations. DWSD also refers drivers to substance abuse evaluation, education, and treatment programs, where appropriate.</p>	<p>MDOT MVA's DWSD is responsible for administering the Ignition Interlock Program, managing the reinstatement of revoked drivers, and medical review of drivers whose conditions may pose a threat to highway safety. The MDOT MVA coordinates with the Maryland Department of Health, Behavioral Health Administration for the referral of drivers to licensed and accredited substance abuse education and treatment providers.</p>