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# **DUI INCIDENTS DECREASE IN** **GREATER WASHINGTON**

## ***LOCAL ALCOHOL-IMPAIRED TRAFFIC DEATHS, INJURIES & CRASHES DECREASE FOLLOWING PREVIOUS YEAR INCREASES IN EACH***

**Washington, DC, Feb. 20–** The number of drunk driving deaths, injuries, crashes and arrests all decreased in the Washington-metropolitan area in 2015 according to a report released today by the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP).

In 2015, Greater Washington recorded 75 alcohol and or drug-impaired traffic fatalities – a more than 14-percent decrease in such deaths from the previous year. The number of local impaired driving injuries and crashes also decreased and by nearly nine-percent and nearly four-percent, respectively.

Those findings are contained in WRAP's 24<sup>th</sup>-annual "How Safe are Our Roads? Annual Data Report on the Impact of Drunk Driving on Road Safety in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Region." The report was prepared by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) and released by the Falls Church, Virginia-based alcohol-education group.

***"While the report's numbers reverse recent year trends relative to local DUI deaths, injuries and crashes, the fact that we're still annually arresting nearly 15,000 persons for drunk driving in Greater Washington, alone, should give us all pause,"*** said WRAP's President Kurt Erickson.

Findings in the released report include:

- **FATALITIES:** Local alcohol and or drug-related traffic deaths **decreased** between 2014 and 2015 and by 14.7% (and from 88 to 75 such deaths).
- **CRASHES:** Area traffic crashes attributed to alcohol and or drugs **decreased** by 3.84% between 2014 and 2015 (and from 4,217 to 4,055 such crashes).
- **INJURIES:** Local alcohol and or drug-related traffic injuries also **decreased** by 8.9% between 2014 and 2015 (and 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 (and from 16,054 to 14,801 such arrests).

Of the Washington-metropolitan area's 229 total traffic fatalities in 2015, nearly a third (32.7%) of these roadway deaths were alcohol and or drug-related (.08+ BAC). Comparatively, 2015 national statistics (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) show that 29% of total U.S. vehicular fatalities in 2015 were reported as alcohol / drug related (.08+ BAC).

Founded in 1982, the nonprofit [501(c)(3)] Washington Regional Alcohol Program is a coalition of diverse interests using effective education, innovative programs, and targeted advocacy to end alcohol-impaired driving and underage drinking in the Washington, D.C. metro area. Through public education, innovative health education programs and advocacy, WRAP is credited with keeping the metro-Washington area's alcohol-related traffic deaths historically lower than the national average. WRAP, however, may best be known to area residents via the organization's popular free cab ride service to prevent drunk driving, SoberRide®.

For more information, visit WRAP's web site at [www.wrap.org](http://www.wrap.org).

WRAP's 2016 "How Safe Are Our Roads?" report can be found as a PDF file at:

<http://wrap.org/pdfs/2016SafeRoadsDataReport.pdf>

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