

HOW SAFE ARE OUR ROADS?

Annual data report on the impact of drunk driving on road safety in the metropolitan Washington region in 2024

December 2025



HOW SAFE ARE OUR ROADS? ANNUAL DATA REPORT ON THE IMPACT OF DRUNK DRIVING ON ROAD SAFETY IN THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON REGION IN 2024

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

December 2025

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

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CREDITS

Cover photo: Metropolitan Police Department (DC) Assistant Chief Carlos Heraud on March 13, 2025 in Washington, D.C. helping to launch WRAP's 2025 St. Patrick's Day SoberRide® campaign.

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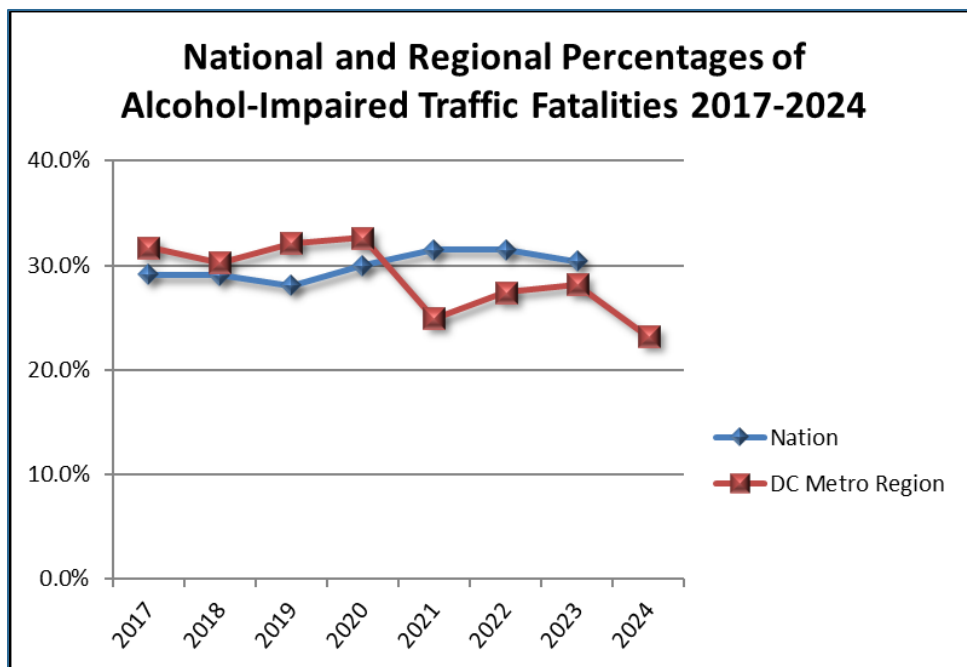
A LOOK AT REGIONAL AND NATIONAL FIGURES

The metropolitan Washington region experienced a decrease in alcohol and/or drug-impaired fatalities and arrests and increase in alcohol and/or drug-impaired injuries and crashes in 2024.

Regional alcohol and/or drug-impaired traffic fatalities decreased by 26 percent of total crash fatalities in the region in 2024 from 2023, compared to an increase of 4.17 percent in 2023 from 2022. In 2024, alcohol-impaired fatalities accounted for 23.2 percent of the total crash fatalities.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 when available.

Figure 1. National & Regional Percentages of Alcohol-Impaired Traffic Fatalities, 2017-2024



¹ As of the date of publication, national alcohol-impaired fatality rates for 2024 are not available. This report will be updated when that data is available. Figure 1 will be updated to include the 2024 national alcohol-impaired fatality rates when available.

Figure 2. Regional Totals of Alcohol-Related Traffic Injuries, Crashes, & Arrests, 2017-2024

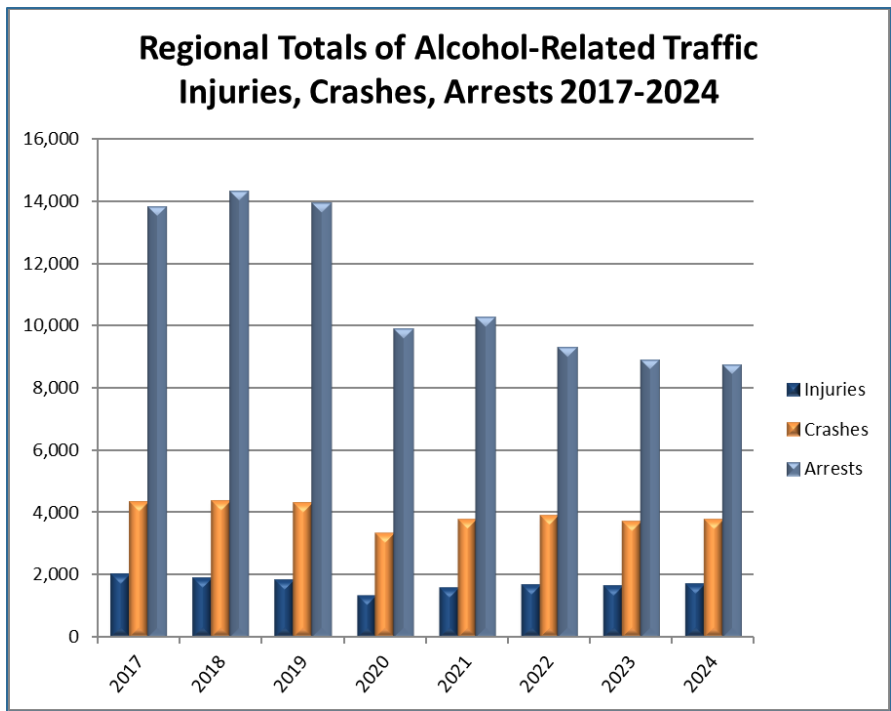
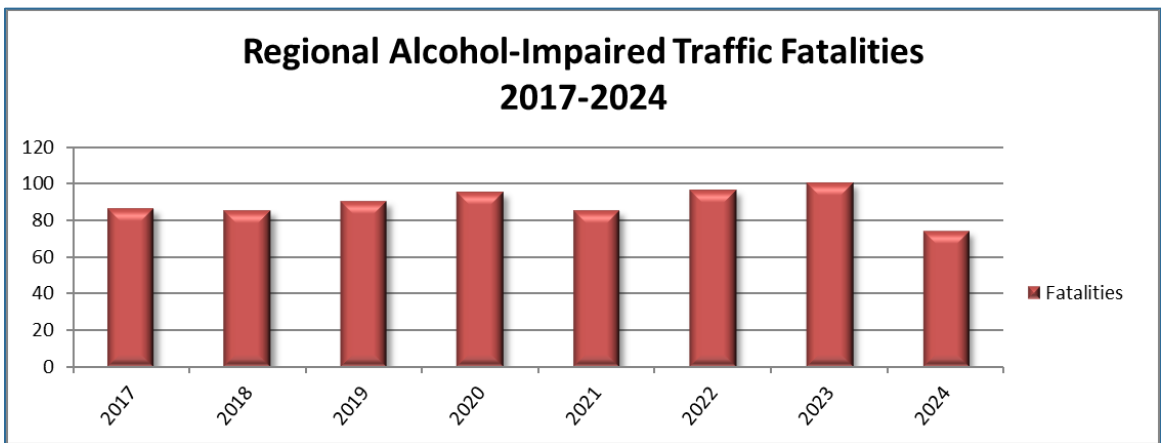


Figure 3. Regional Alcohol-Impaired Traffic Fatalities, 2017-2024



HOW SAFE ARE OUR ROADS? 2025 REPORT OVERVIEW

Findings in the 2025 report (2024 data) include:

FATALITIES: Regional (DC Metro region and National Parks) alcohol and/or drug-impaired traffic fatalities **decreased** by 26 percent between 2023 and 2024 (from 100 to 74 such fatalities).

- The total average number of regional alcohol and/or drug-impaired traffic fatalities over the last five years (2020-2024) is 90.
- 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 319 total traffic fatalities for 2024, 74 (or 23.20%) were due to drivers who were alcohol and/or drug-impaired (Blood Alcohol Concentration [BAC] = .08+).²

INJURIES: DC Metro regional alcohol and/or drug-related traffic injuries **increased** 3.78 percent between 2023 and 2024 (from 1,589 to 1,649 such injuries).³

- The average number of DC Metro regional alcohol and/or drug-impaired related traffic injuries over the last five years (2020-2021) is 1,526.
- Two 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 **increased** 2.02 percent between 2023 and 2024 (from 3,657 to 3,731 such crashes).⁴

- The average number of DC Metro regional alcohol and/or drug-impaired related traffic crashes over the last five years (2020-2024) is 3,637.
- One of the last five years have had less alcohol and/or drug-impaired traffic crashes than the average.

ARRESTS: DC Metro regional arrests for either driving under the influence (DUI) or driving while impaired (DWI) **decreased** 0.19 percent between 2023 and 2024 (from 8,727 to 8,710 such arrests).⁵

- The average number of DC Metro regional alcohol and/or drug-impaired related arrests over the last five years (2020-2024) is 9,282.
- Three of the last five years have had less alcohol and/or drug-impaired traffic arrests than the average.

² As of the date of publication, national alcohol-impaired fatality rates for 2024 are still not available. This report will be updated to show national traffic fatalities due to drivers who were alcohol and/or drug impaired when that data is available.

³ Alcohol and/or drug-related injury data from U.S. Park Police was unavailable for 2024.

⁴ Alcohol and/or drug-related crash data from U.S. Park Police was unavailable for 2024.

⁵ Alcohol and/or drug-related arrest data from U.S. Park Police was unavailable for 2024.

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

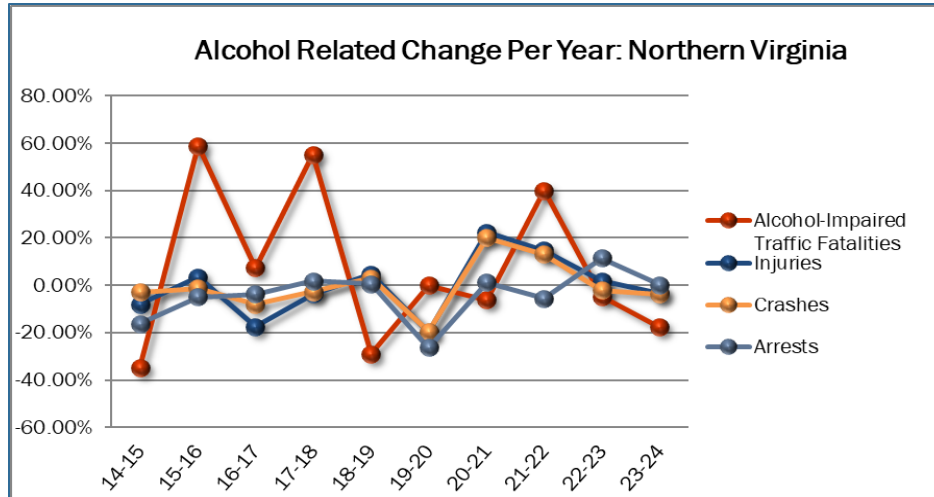


Figure 5. Alcohol-Related Change Per Year: Suburban Maryland

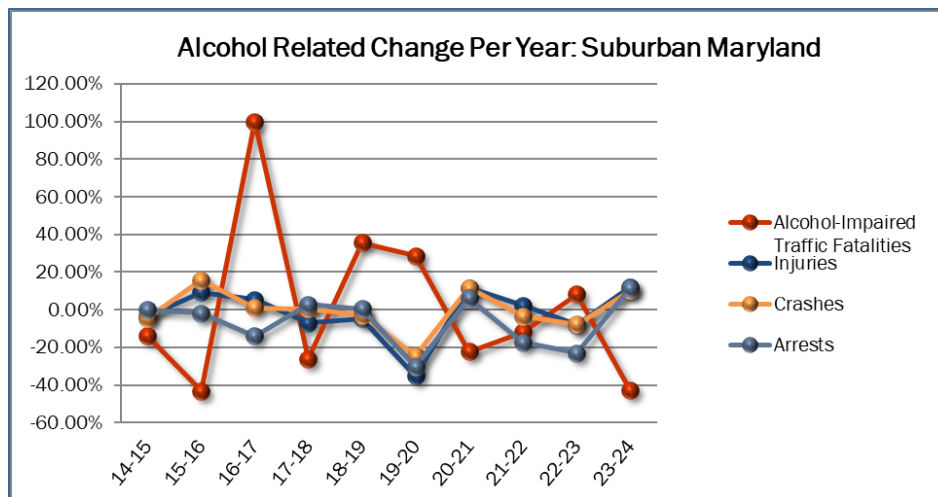
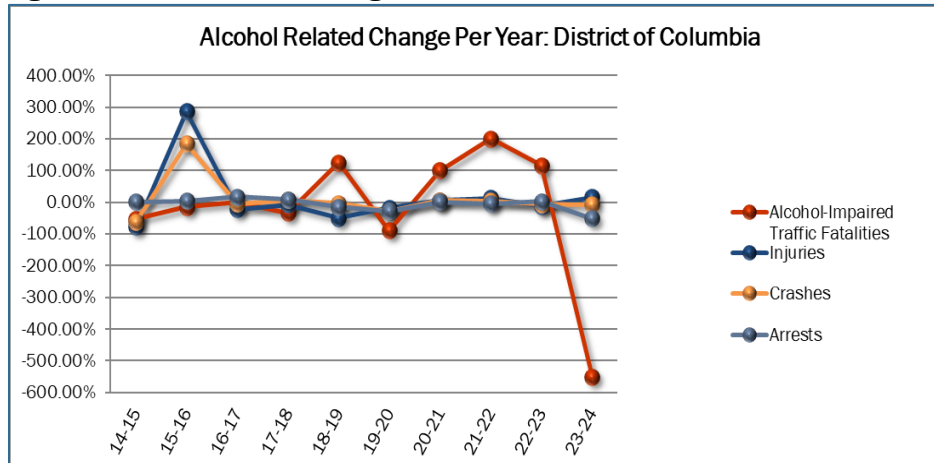


Figure 6. Alcohol-Related Change Per Year: District of Columbia



TOTAL TRAFFIC FATALITIES

Total Traffic Fatalities by Jurisdiction, 2017-2024									
Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Percent Change 2023-2024
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA									
Washington	33	36	27	37	40	35	52	52	0.00%
MARYLAND									
Montgomery County	33	34	37	46	43	48	45	49	8.89%
Prince George's County	99	103	112	110	129	121	142	95	-33.10%
MD Regional Total	132	137	149	156	172	169	187	144	-22.99%
VIRGINIA									
Arlington County	5	2	6	4	4	4	7	2	-71.43%
Fairfax County	35	47	45	37	50	66	42	55	30.95%
Loudoun County	22	11	13	12	8	16	16	13	-18.75%
Prince William County	22	24	14	18	32	30	29	30	3.45%
City of Alexandria	4	5	5	7	7	5	1	6	500.00%
City of Fairfax	0	2	2	1	1	2	0	0	0.00%
City of Falls Church	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	N/A ⁶
City of Manassas	2	4	1	1	1	2	6	0	-100.00%
City of Manassas Park	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0.00%
Northern Virginia Total	90	95	86	80	104	125	101	107	5.94%
DC Metro Regional Total	255	268	262	273	316	329	340	303	-10.88%
National Parks in Region	16	13	18	18	25	21	15	16	6.67%
Regional Total Adjusted	271	281	280	291	341	350	355	319	-10.14%
National	37,473	36,835	36,355	38,824	43,230	42,721	40,901	N/A ⁷	N/A

⁶ Percentage difference cannot be calculated because the 2023 value was zero.

⁷ As of the date of publication, national traffic fatality rates for 2024 are not available. This report will be updated to show national traffic fatalities when that data is available.

ALCOHOL-IMPAIRED TRAFFIC FATALITIES

Alcohol-Impaired Traffic Fatalities by Jurisdiction with BAC=.08+, 2017-2024									
Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Percent Change 2023-2024
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA									
Washington	6	4	9	1	2	6	13	2	-84.62%
MARYLAND									
Montgomery County	8	7	10	16	8	11	19	12	-36.84%
Prince George's County	34	24	32	38	34	26	21	16	-23.81%
MD Regional Total	42	31	42	54	42	37	40	28	-30.00%
VIRGINIA									
Arlington County	2	1	2	1	0	3	6	1	-83.33%
Fairfax County	12	18	17	18	17	22	17	17	0.00%
Loudoun County	7	7	5	7	2	3	3	5	66.67%
Prince William County	6	14	6	3	10	11	10	11	10.00%
City of Alexandria	1	3	2	2	1	1	0	0	0.00%
City of Fairfax	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0.00%
City of Falls Church	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
City of Manassas	1	2	0	1	0	1	4	0	-100.00%
City of Manassas Park	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Northern Virginia Total	29	45	32	32	30	42	40	34	-15.00%
DC Metro Regional Total	77	80	83	87	74	85	93	64	-31.18%
National Parks in Region	9	5	7	8	11	11	7	10	42.86%
Regional Total Adjusted	86	85	90	95	85	96	100	74	-26.00%
National	10,908	10,710	10,196	11,718	13,617	13,458	12,429	N/A ⁸	N/A

⁸ As of the date of publication, national alcohol-impaired fatality rates for 2024 are not available. This report will be updated to show national traffic fatalities due to drivers who were alcohol and/or drug impaired when that data is available.

TOTAL TRAFFIC INJURIES

Total Traffic Injuries by Jurisdiction, 2017-2024									
Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Percent Change 2023-2024
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA									
Washington	3,612	3,437	2,403	2,027	2,635	3,057	3,010	2,816	-6.45%
MARYLAND									
Montgomery County	7,000	6,753	6,453	4,252	4,696	5,104	5,556	5,511	-0.81%
Prince George's County	7,787	7,351	7,285	5,168	5,803	5,576	5,892	6,187	5.01%
MD Regional Total	14,787	14,104	13,738	9,420	10,499	10,680	11,448	11,698	2.18%
VIRGINIA									
Arlington County	1,036	998	1,125	590	734	826	840	737	-12.26%
Fairfax County	6,418	6,000	6,032	3,733	4,613	4,973	5,760	5,525	-4.08%
Loudoun County	2,081	2,299	2,079	1,317	1,523	1,746	1,844	1,929	4.61%
Prince William County	2,652	2,811	2,899	1,889	2,771	2,900	3,196	3,431	7.35%
City of Alexandria	576	699	673	420	466	494	495	552	11.52%
City of Fairfax	242	147	164	92	103	153	199	144	-27.64%
City of Falls Church	177	154	150	92	147	156	250	192	-23.20%
City of Manassas	711	756	541	480	462	541	722	1,069	48.06%
City of Manassas Park	26	63	36	31	54	97	81	78	-3.70%
Northern Virginia Total	13,919	13,927	13,699	8,644	10,873	11,886	13,387	13,657	2.02%
DC Metro Region Total	32,318	31,468	29,840	20,091	24,007	25,623	27,845	28,171	1.17%
National Parks in Region	492	496	496	195	437	465	497	N/A	N/A
Regional Total Adjusted	32,810	31,964	30,336	20,286	24,444	26,088	28,342	N/A	N/A

ALCOHOL-RELATED TRAFFIC INJURIES

Alcohol-Related Traffic Injuries by Jurisdiction with BAC=.01+, 2017-2024									
Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Percent Change 2023-2024
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA									
Washington	176	163	81	67	71	80	70	83	18.57%
MARYLAND									
Montgomery County	492	423	357	263	245	344	279	319	14.34%
Prince George's County	448	451	476	277	358	272	287	324	12.89%
MD Regional Total	940	874	833	540	603	616	566	643	13.60%
VIRGINIA									
Arlington County	94	79	89	53	71	103	104	76	-26.92%
Fairfax County	331	290	329	270	329	383	391	358	-8.44%
Loudoun County	117	133	124	107	97	165	139	126	-9.35%
Prince William County	163	181	187	147	226	187	217	236	8.76%
City of Alexandria	53	48	44	35	34	35	44	40	-9.09%
City of Fairfax	17	7	6	8	8	12	10	4	-60.00%
City of Falls Church	11	7	10	8	10	8	15	6	-60.00%
City of Manassas	33	35	33	27	36	32	28	71	153.57%
City of Manassas Park	5	13	9	11	4	10	5	6	20.00%
Northern Virginia Total	824	793	831	666	815	935	953	923	-3.15%
DC Metro Region Total	1,940	1,830	1,745	1,273	1,489	1,631	1,589	1,649	3.78%
National Parks in Region	46	33	32	25	33	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Regional Total Adjusted	1,986	1,863	1,777	1,298	1,522	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

TOTAL TRAFFIC CRASHES

Total Traffic Crashes by Jurisdiction, 2017-2024									
Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Percent Change 2023-2024
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA									
Washington	25,712	25,818	26,823	18,311	21,617	21,722	22,174	20,947	-5.53%
MARYLAND									
Montgomery County	14,239	14,231	13,843	9,728	11,183	12,212	13,003	12,886	-0.90%
Prince George's County	18,297	19,562	20,516	17,134	19,952	19,723	20,493	19,969	-2.56%
MD Regional Total	32,536	33,793	34,359	26,862	31,135	31,935	33,496	32,855	-1.91%
VIRGINIA									
Arlington County	2,508	2,535	2,558	1,516	1,773	2,042	2,075	2,035	-1.93%
Fairfax County	13,631	13,368	13,301	8,735	9,958	11,571	12,537	12,626	0.71%
Loudoun County	4,875	5,149	4,951	3,421	4,051	4,604	4,772	4,906	2.81%
Prince William County	5,540	5,757	5,880	4,416	5,668	6,025	6,265	6,332	1.07%
City of Alexandria	1,441	1,566	1,499	957	1,096	1,163	1,092	1,123	2.84%
City of Fairfax	596	417	528	325	440	437	537	542	0.93%
City of Falls Church	121	130	121	80	87	85	125	98	-21.60%
City of Manassas	573	607	438	412	318	355	478	674	41.00%
City of Manassas Park	55	71	80	64	93	101	95	94	-1.05%
Northern Virginia Total	29,340	29,600	29,356	19,926	23,484	26,383	27,976	28,430	1.62%
DC Metro Region Total	87,588	89,211	90,538	65,099	76,236	80,040	83,646	82,232	-1.69%
National Parks in Region	3,486	1,600	1,462	1,018	2,639	3,436	3,876	N/A	N/A
Regional Total Adjusted	91,074	90,811	92,000	66,117	78,875	83,476	87,522	N/A	N/A

ALCOHOL-RELATED TRAFFIC CRASHES

Total Alcohol-Related Traffic Crashes by Jurisdiction with a BAC=.01+, 2017-2024									
Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Percent Change 2023-2024
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA									
Washington	710	756	735	529	557	579	541	501	-7.39%
MARYLAND									
Montgomery County	954	881	827	651	710	787	632	735	16.30%
Prince George's County	1,085	1,166	1,163	850	963	830	860	928	7.91%
MD Regional Total	2,039	2,047	1,990	1,501	1,673	1,617	1,492	1,663	11.46%
VIRGINIA									
Arlington County	203	162	192	121	172	192	192	152	-20.83%
Fairfax County	621	580	589	496	545	650	653	617	-5.51%
Loudoun County	227	251	244	181	220	283	247	254	2.83%
Prince William County	296	333	343	284	400	384	394	400	1.52%
City of Alexandria	83	88	87	68	69	84	72	71	-1.39%
City of Fairfax	26	10	15	16	21	18	18	18	0.00%
City of Falls Church	10	4	8	8	7	7	12	3	-75.00%
City of Manassas	33	35	27	31	21	27	29	42	44.83%
City of Manassas Park	9	6	10	14	9	12	7	10	42.86%
Northern Virginia Total	1,508	1,469	1,515	1,219	1,464	1,657	1,624	1,567	-3.51%
DC Metro Region Total	4,257	4,272	4,240	3,249	3,694	3,853	3,657	3,731	2.02%
National Parks in Region	54	63	33	43	45	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Regional Total Adjusted	4,311	4,335	4,273	3,292	3,739	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

TOTAL TRAFFIC ARRESTS

Total Traffic Arrests by Jurisdiction, 2017-2024									
Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Percent Change 2023-2024
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA									
Washington	5,193	6,496	7,007	3,826	3,576	3,192	3,140	4,481	42.71%
MARYLAND									
Montgomery County	67,828	66,117	55,373	29,719	26,254	20,935	19,247	22,425	16.51%
Prince George's County	84,187	80,483	81,528	50,560	47,320	42,306	34,453	39,306	14.09%
MD Regional Total	152,015	146,600	136,901	80,279	73,574	63,241	53,700	61,731	14.96%
VIRGINIA									
Arlington County	33,733	41,246	47,767	35,438	25,849	23,123	25,370	23,178	-8.64%
Fairfax County	201,874	207,082	204,964	81,971	90,211	102,759	126,143	138,142	9.51%
Loudoun County	45,181	46,525	48,569	27,143	27,959	28,110	39,489	35,650	-9.72%
Prince William County	72,511	76,587	79,470	48,089	47,448	31,090	59,873	64,436	7.62%
City of Alexandria	26,111	17,473	15,407	9,441	1,047	7,066	7,538	8,981	19.14%
City of Fairfax	8,451	7,358	7,124	2,084	2,090	2,721	3,920	3,745	-4.46%
City of Falls Church	2,252	2,967	2,075	728	414	1,739	2,129	2,338	9.82%
City of Manassas	5,387	5,918	6,931	5,370	6,302	9,006	7,067	5,408	-23.48%
City of Manassas Park	3,921	3,473	4,041	2,614	2,478	2,473	2,713	4,498	65.79%
Northern Virginia Total	399,421	408,629	416,348	212,878	203,798	208,087	274,242	286,376	4.42%
DC Metro Region Total	556,629	561,725	560,256	296,983	280,948	274,520	331,082	352,588	6.50%
National Parks in Region	690	716	276	122	209	414	554	N/A	N/A
Regional Total Adjusted	557,319	562,441	560,532	297,105	281,157	274,934	331,636	N/A	N/A

ALCOHOL-RELATED TRAFFIC ARRESTS

Total Alcohol-Related Traffic Arrests by Jurisdiction, 2017-2024									
Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Percent Change 2023-2024
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA									
Washington	1,834	1,978	1,680	1,202	1,213	1,155	1,179	781	-33.76%
MARYLAND									
Montgomery County	3,406	3,442	3,253	1,960	1,978	2,126	1,520	1,642	8.03%
Prince George's County	2,379	2,506	2,715	2,193	2,425	1,515	1,283	1,529	19.17%
MD Regional Total	5,785	5,948	5,968	4,153	4,403	3,641	2,803	3,171	13.13%
VIRGINIA									
Arlington County	494	445	438	382	470	525	429	394	-8.16%
Fairfax County	2,536	2,424	2,400	1,669	1,653	1,728	1,876	1,893	0.91%
Loudoun County	561	709	731	435	424	531	562	636	13.17%
Prince William County	1,613	1,890	1,904	1,535	1,486	990	1,458	1,364	-6.45%
City of Alexandria	397	292	263	178	230	252	115	173	50.43%
City of Fairfax	59	51	77	33	44	32	50	56	12.00%
City of Falls Church	43	36	57	62	30	23	25	25	0.00%
City of Manassas	125	91	117	101	121	141	172	142	-17.44%
City of Manassas Park	56	58	51	52	45	35	58	75	29.31%
Northern Virginia Total	5,884	5,996	6,038	4,447	4,503	4,257	4,745	4,758	0.27%
DC Metro Region Total	13,503	13,922	13,686	9,802	10,119	9,053	8,727	8,710	-0.19%
National Parks in Region	305	371	234	80	129	242	160	N/A	N/A
Regional Total Adjusted	13,808	14,293	13,920	9,882	10,248	9,295	8,887	N/A	N/A

YOUTH DATA

Alcohol-Related Crashes, Injuries, and Arrests for Persons Under 21 Years of Age by Jurisdiction, 2024												
	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	10	0	0.00%	2,036	5	0.25%	326	0	0.00%	214	8	3.74%
MARYLAND												
Montgomery County	7	2	28.57%	2,968	41	1.38%	906	62	6.84%	2,286	47	2.06%
Prince George's County	10	2	20.00%	4,209	28	0.67%	961	43	4.47%	3,015	28	0.93%
MD Regional Total	17	4	23.53%	7,177	69	0.96%	1,867	105	5.62%	5,301	75	1.41%
VIRGINIA												
Arlington County	1	1	100.00%	275	11	4.00%	76	4	5.26%	1,076	10	0.93%
Fairfax County	7	3	42.86%	2,431	75	3.09%	696	40	5.75%	10,368	101	0.97%
Loudoun County	4	1	25.00%	1,115	40	3.59%	356	15	4.21%	4,181	46	1.10%
Prince William County	5	1	20.00%	1,450	50	3.45%	583	43	7.38%	7,648	78	1.02%
City of Alexandria	2	0	0.00%	150	7	4.67%	66	6	9.09%	640	5	0.78%
City of Fairfax	0	0	0.00%	121	1	0.83%	17	0	0.00%	395	2	0.51%
City of Falls Church	0	0	0.00%	28	0	0.00%	38	0	0.00%	163	1	0.61%
City of Manassas	0	0	0.00%	186	10	5.38%	188	13	6.91%	889	1	0.11%
City of Manassas Park	0	0	0.00%	20	1	5.00%	13	1	7.69%	563	1	0.18%
Northern Virginia Total	19	6	31.58%	5,776	195	3.38%	2,033	122	6.00%	25,923	245	0.95%
DC Metro Regional Total	46	10	21.74%	14,989	269	1.79%	4,226	227	5.37%	31,438	328	1.04%
National Parks in Region	0	0	0.00%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Regional Total Adjusted	46	10	21.74%	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.