

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

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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 (MDOT) Motor Vehicle Administration (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 Maryland State Police (MSP) Chemical Testing for Alcohol Unit provides the MVA with an annual summary of statewide DWI arrests related to violations of TR § 21-902.^{1[1]} The most recent information provided by the MSP indicates that 438 drivers under the age of 21 were arrested in Calendar Year (CY) 2023. The following chart provides data on the number of arrests for TR § 21-902 that were made of drivers under the age of 21 for the past eight (8) calendar years:

TR § 21-902	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Number of Drivers Under 21 Years of Age	172,538	182,052	187,445	190,004	190,095	177,285	181,035	170,636	174,239
Arrests of drivers under 21 for Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol and/or Drugs, TR § 21-902	716	711	661	532	535	521	463	412	438
Percentage of Total Drivers Under 21 that were arrested for § 21-902	0.41%	0.39%	0.35%	0.28%	0.28%	0.29%	0.26%	0.24%	0.25%

Note: The total number of drivers does not include Learner’s Permits. While drivers with a Learner’s Permit have significant driving restrictions and are assumed to be on the road less than their fully licensed counterparts, nevertheless they are on the roads and are at risk. If Learner’s Permit drivers were included in these figures, the percent arrested, or rate, would be lower. For example, as of early 2023, there were 92,725 drivers (under 21 years of age) with a Learner’s Permit in Maryland. If added to the total drivers above (2023), there would be 266,964 potential drivers under 21 on Maryland roads, and the arrest rate would be 0.16%

^{2[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.

Activities undertaken by the 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 Licenses 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 Permits and Driver 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, including open container and implied consent for drug and alcohol testing. The manual stresses not to drink and drive and 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 discourage drinking and/or using drugs and driving. An overview of Maryland's Zero Tolerance Law is provided, in addition to ramifications of DUI and DWI charges. A Rookie Driver - Coach Driving Agreement is included in the Rookie Driver & Coach Practice Guide (RD-006), to help parents and young drivers establish safe driving rules, as well as the consequences for alcohol or drug use and driving.	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. The Rookie Driver Program, including online driver test tutorials and Rookie Driver Manual can be found at: https://mva.maryland.gov/drivers/Pages/rookie-driver-licensing-system.aspx

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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: • DUI simulators at high schools in St. Mary's and Calvert County high schools prior to the graduation season. • The Washington Regional Alcohol Program delivered "Alcohol Awareness for Students" presentations to Montgomery and Prince George's County HS. • Calvert County's prom and graduation messaging at event/ceremony locations, targeting teens to not drive while impaired, and distribution of underage drinking awareness information to parents and students at school events; and • Other local prevention strategies and enforcement details such as alcohol vendor trainings and compliance checks. • Partnering with MADD's Power of Youth Program at various high school events throughout the State. • MHSO participated in numerous safety-focused events at high schools throughout the State and utilized DUI Goggles to demonstrate the visual effects of impairment.	The MHSO funds and supports local and regional initiatives through its Community Engagement (CE) Section and Law Enforcement Liaisons (LEs). CE managers work with partners and grantees to develop outreach programs that support Maryland's SHSP. This year the CE Team partnered with Impact Teen Drivers (ITD) to help promote safe teen driving in Maryland through its train the trainer program for first responders, educators, law enforcement and health professionals. Hands-on demonstrations, educational and 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/ The MHSO Younger Driver Program Manager uses a multi-disciplinary approach to host a minimum of two hybrid young driver focus area meetings annually. Best practices, data trends and new teen driving programs are the focus of these meetings.
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 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.	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. The Coalition is currently inactive.
The Maryland Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP)	The 2021-2025 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. Maryland's Impaired Driving Prevention Strategic Plan has goals and strategies aligned with the State's SHSP. 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. MHSO partners with the State Highway Administration to oversee the strategies in the SHSP.

Effort	Description	Responsible Party
Maryland Ignition Interlock and Driver Wellness Programs	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.	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.