

**Drunk and Drugged Driving Statistics
by Juveniles and Young Adults**

SB 371/Ch. 55(6), 1991

December 2025

Maryland Department of Transportation

This report is written in response to language contained in Senate Bill 371, Section 6, Chapter 55, Acts of Maryland 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 Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) with an annual summary of statewide driving while impaired (DWI) arrests associated with violations of Transportation Article § 21-902.^[1] According to the most recent data from the MSP, 412 drivers under the age of 21 were arrested in calendar year (CY) 2024 for violations of this statute. The chart below presents the number of DWI arrests involving drivers under the age of 21 for the past six calendar years, as reported by the MSP Chemical Testing for Alcohol Unit.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total Number of Drivers Under 21 Years of Age	190,095	177,285	181,035	170,636	174,239	196,957
Arrests of drivers under 21 for Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol and/or Drugs, TR § 21-902	535	521	463	412	438	412
Percentage of Total Drivers Under 21 that were arrested for § 21-902	0.28%	0.29%	0.26%	0.24%	0.25%	0.21%

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.

Activities undertaken by the MDOT MVA, often working in concerts with several other State and local agencies and community groups, are outlined below:

Maryland's Graduated Driver Licensing System

Description
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.
Responsible Party
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

Description
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.
Responsible Party
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 Drivers's Education Program is currently being updated and will be released in early 2026.

The Maryland Driver's Manual

Description
The Maryland Driver's Manual provides a comprehensive overview of the state's impaired driving laws, including open container regulations and the implied consent requirements for drug and alcohol testing. It strongly emphasizes the importance of never driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs and includes detailed information regarding underage drinking. The manual also outlines the penalties and sanctions associated with violations, noting that Maryland law prohibits drivers under the age of 21 from operating a vehicle with any measurable amount of alcohol in their system.
Responsible Party
The 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 manual is available in 17 languages.

The Rookie Driver Safety Program

Description
The Rookie Driver Safety Program encourages active participation by parents and other driver coaches in the education, training, and supervision of new and young drivers. It emphasizes the importance of discouraging alcohol or drug use in combination with driving and includes an overview of Maryland's Zero Tolerance Law, as well as the potential consequences of DUI and DWI offenses. The program also provides a Rookie Driver–Coach Driving Agreement, included in the Rookie Driver & Coach Practice Guide (RD-006), to help parents and young drivers establish safe driving expectations and define the consequences of impaired driving.
Responsible Party
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 The Rookie Driver Manual is currently being updated.

Community Outreach and Education

Description

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. The Chesapeake Regional Safety Council hosted 4 Mock Crashes at Maryland high schools this year.
- 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.

The MHSO participated in numerous safety-focused events at high schools throughout the State and utilized DUI Goggles to demonstrate the visual effects of impairment.

Responsible Party

The MHSO funds and supports local and regional initiatives through its Community Engagement (CE) Section and Law Enforcement Liaisons (LELs). CE managers work with partners and grantees to develop outreach programs that support Maryland's SHSP. This year, the CE Team worked with Frederick County State's Attorney's Office and delivered monthly presentations to teens who are part of the youth offenders program. 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

Description

The Maryland Safe Teen Driving Coalition is a multidisciplinary working group that focuses on young driver safety issues, including impaired driving. The coalition collaborates with medical practitioners, school administrators, safety professionals, and law enforcement to raise awareness of key safety issues affecting young drivers through outreach and public education.

Responsible Party

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 schools, law enforcement agency representatives, and MDOT MVA staff. The Coalition is currently inactive.

The Maryland Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP)

Description

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 remain 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.

Responsible Party

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. The 2026-2030 SHSP will be published in January 2026. The new plan will follow the Safe System Approach and incorporate new strategies and action steps designed to reduce fatalities and serious injuries on Maryland's roadways.

Maryland Ignition Interlock and Driver Wellness Programs

Description

The 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. The DWSD also refers drivers to substance abuse evaluation, education, and treatment programs, where appropriate.

Responsible Party

The MDOT MVA's DWSD is responsible for administering the Ignition Interlock Program, managing the reinstatement of revoked drivers, and conducting medical reviews 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