

WASHINGTON REGIONAL ALCOHOL PROGRAM SAFETY UPDATE

Kurt Erickson
President and CEO
Washington Regional Alcohol Program

Transportation Planning Board
May 20, 2020



Presentation Topics

- Overview of the Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP)
- Key findings from the latest “How Safe Are Our Roads” annual report
- Recommendations to reduce drunk driving in our region



Washington Regional Alcohol Program

- WRAP is a coalition that uses education, innovative programs, and targeted advocacy to end alcohol-impaired driving and underage drinking in the Washington, D.C. metro area
- We are a non-profit formed in 1982
- We operate SoberRide - a free safe ride service since 1991
- We have a 27-year partnership with the COG board to develop and publish the annual “How Safe Are Our Roads” report (provided in the mailout)



How Safe Are Our Roads - 2019: Overview

- Excerpts from page 3 of the report

*“**Fatalities:** Local alcohol and/or drug-impaired traffic fatalities decreased by 1.16% between 2017 and 2018 (from 86 to 85 such fatalities).”*

*“**Crashes:** Area traffic crashes attributed to alcohol and/or drugs increased 0.56% between 2017 and 2018 (from 4,311 to 4,335 such crashes).”*

*“**Injuries:** Regional alcohol and/or drug-related traffic injuries decreased 6.19% between 2017 and 2018 (from 1,986 to 1,863 such injuries).”*

*“**Arrests:** Local arrests for either driving under the influence (DUI) or driving while impaired (DWI) increased 3.51% between 2017 and 2018 (from 13,808 to 14,293 such arrests).”*



How Safe Are Our Roads - 2019: Overview

- Excerpt from page 4 of the report

*“Of the metropolitan Washington area’s 281 total traffic fatalities for 2018, 85 (or **30%**) of these roadway deaths were due to drivers who were alcohol and/or drug-impaired (Blood Alcohol Concentration [BAC] = .08+).*

*National statistics (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, NHTSA) show that **29%** of total U.S. vehicular fatalities in 2018 were reported as alcohol impaired (BAC = .08+).”*



Total Traffic Fatalities

Total Traffic Fatalities 2011 – 2018									
Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Percent Change 2017-2018
District of Columbia									
Washington	26	89	29	26	26	28	33	36	9.09%
Maryland									
Montgomery County	40	37	41	40	47	42	33	34	3.03%
Prince George's County	105	83	87	98	95	78	99	103	4.04%
Maryland Regional Total	145	120	128	138	142	120	132	137	3.79%
Virginia									
Arlington County	6	4	6	5	5	1	5	2	-60.00%
Fairfax County	45	46	40	32	30	36	35	47	34.29%
Loudoun County	11	17	13	12	11	12	22	11	-50.00%
Prince William County	15	19	19	23	11	30	22	24	9.09%
City of Alexandria	3	4	3	0	4	4	4	5	25.00%
City of Fairfax	1	5	2	0	0	4	0	2	100.00%
City of Falls Church	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0.00%
City of Manassas	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	4	100.00%
City of Manassas Park	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Northern Virginia Total	82	96	83	73	61	87	90	95	5.56%
DC Metro Regional Total	254	231	240	237	229	235	255	268	5.12%
National Parks in Region	N/A	N/A	3	N/A	17	10	16	13	-18.75%
Regional Total Adjusted	N/A	N/A	243	N/A	246	245	271	281	3.69%
National	32,479	33,782	32,893	32,774	35,484	37,806	37,473	36,560	-2.44%



Alcohol Impaired Traffic Fatalities

Alcohol-Impaired Traffic Fatalities by Jurisdiction with BAC=.08+ 2011-2018									
Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Percent Change 2017-2018
District of Columbia									
Washington	8	4	10	15	7	6	6	4	-33.33%
Maryland									
Montgomery County	20	10	12	11	10	4	8	7	-12.50%
Prince George's County	36	25	31	32	27	17	34	24	-29.41%
Maryland Regional Total	56	35	44	43	37	21	42	31	-26.19%
Virginia									
Arlington County	0	1	1	2	2	0	2	1	-50.00%
Fairfax County	9	8	18	12	9	12	12	18	50.00%
Loudoun County	4	5	4	6	2	4	7	7	0.00%
Prince William County	3	10	4	5	2	9	6	14	133.33%
City of Alexandria	1	2	0	0	2	1	1	3	200.00%
City of Fairfax	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0.00%
City of Falls Church	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0.00%
City of Manassas	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	100.00%
City of Manassas Park	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Northern Virginia Total	19	27	27	26	17	27	29	45	55.17%
DC Metro Regional Total	83	66	80	84	61	54	77	80	3.90%
National Parks in Region	0	3	1	4	14	5	9	5	-44.44%
Regional Total Adjusted	83	69	81	88	75	59	86	80	-1.16%
National	9,878	10,336	10,076	9,967	10,320	10,497	10,908	10,511	-3.64%



Alcohol-Related Traffic Injuries

Alcohol-Related Traffic Injuries by Jurisdiction with BAC=.01+ 2011-2018									
Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Percent Change 2017-2018
District of Columbia									
Washington	137	139	228	263	59	228	176	163	-7.39%
Maryland									
Montgomery County	379	393	316	343	366	401	492	423	-14.02%
Prince George's County	551	530	474	501	451	492	448	451	0.67%
Maryland Regional Total	930	923	790	844	817	893	940	874	-7.02%
Virginia									
Arlington County	71	117	117	78	84	91	94	79	-15.96%
Fairfax County	573	594	524	476	442	459	331	290	-12.39%
Loudoun County	149	133	115	150	128	144	117	133	13.68%
Prince William County	216	203	223	204	182	182	163	181	11.04%
City of Alexandria	50	66	71	60	52	53	53	48	-9.43%
City of Fairfax	15	14	17	26	25	12	17	7	-58.82%
City of Falls Church	6	16	6	4	10	11	11	7	-36.36%
City of Manassas	29	43	49	47	41	38	33	35	6.06%
City of Manassas Park	3	0	1	5	2	9	5	13	160.00%
Northern Virginia Total	1,112	1,186	1,123	1,050	966	999	824	793	-3.76%
DC Metro Regional Total	2,179	2,248	2,141	2,157	1,842	2,120	1,940	1,830	-5.67%
National Parks in Region	41	51	51	N/A	N/A	33	46	33	-28.26%
Regional Total Adjusted	2,220	2,299	2,192	N/A	N/A	2,153	1,986	1,863	-6.19%



Alcohol-Related Traffic Crashes

Alcohol-related Traffic Crashes by Jurisdiction with a BAC=.01+ 2011-2018									
Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Percent Change 2017-2018
District of Columbia									
Washington	558	564	657	682	260	740	710	756	6.48%
Maryland									
Montgomery County	749	737	690	807	815	905	954	881	-7.65%
Prince George's County	1,006	980	1,041	1,017	933	1,116	1,085	1,166	7.47%
Maryland Regional Total	1,755	1,717	1,731	1,824	1,748	2021	2,039	2,047	0.39%
Virginia									
Arlington County	218	242	232	235	218	199	203	162	-20.20%
Fairfax County	903	910	829	740	708	701	621	580	-6.60%
Loudoun County	230	239	213	236	222	259	227	251	10.57%
Prince William County	344	337	337	319	332	305	296	333	12.50%
City of Alexandria	110	97	111	99	99	94	83	88	6.02%
City of Fairfax	38	27	26	35	29	19	26	10	-61.54%
City of Falls Church	10	12	4	9	8	12	10	4	-60.00%
City of Manassas	36	34	44	35	40	30	33	35	6.06%
City of Manassas Park	12	16	3	3	4	19	9	6	-33.33%
Northern Virginia Total	1,901	1,914	1,799	1,711	1,660	1,638	1,508	1,469	-2.59%
DC Metro Regional Total	4,214	4,195	4,095	4,217	3,668	4,399	4,257	4,272	0.35%
National Parks in Region	101	94	51	N/A	N/A	33	54	63	16.67%
Regional Total Adjusted	4,315	4,289	4,146	N/A	N/A	4,432	4,311	4,335	0.56%



Alcohol-Related Traffic Arrests

Total Alcohol Related Traffic Arrests by Jurisdiction 2011-2018									
Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Percent Change 2017-2018
District of Columbia									
Washington	2,081	1,340	1,498	1,501	1,508	1,561	1,834	1,978	7.85%
Maryland									
Montgomery County	2,247	3,892	3,983	3,723	3,973	4,101	3,406	3,442	1.06%
Prince George's County	1,609	2,688	3,314	3,153	2,894	2,629	2,379	2,506	5.34%
Maryland Regional Total	3,856	6,580	7,297	6,876	6,867	6,730	5,785	5,948	2.82%
Virginia									
Arlington County	789	963	850	874	742	692	494	445	-9.92%
Fairfax County	3,887	3,343	3,628	3,116	2,387	2,457	2,536	2,424	-4.42%
Loudoun County	847	845	828	733	667	671	561	709	26.38%
Prince William County	2,856	2,745	2,493	2,372	1,941	1,651	1,613	1,890	17.17%
City of Alexandria	412	360	378	372	349	324	397	292	-26.45%
City of Fairfax	202	175	155	107	78	62	59	51	-13.56%
City of Falls Church	121	113	110	103	78	55	43	36	-16.28%
City of Manassas	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	138	124	125	91	-27.20%
City of Manassas Park	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	46	71	56	58	3.57%
Northern Virginia Total	9,114	8,544	8,442	7,677	6,426	6,107	5,884	5,996	1.90%
DC Metro Regional Total	15,051	16,464	17,237	16,054	14,801	14,398	13,503	13,922	3.10%
National Parks in Region	1,027	877	487	740	N/A	359	305	371	21.64%
Regional Total Adjusted	789	963	850	874	742	692	494	445	-9.92%



Recommendations

- **Double-Down on What Works**
 - Sobriety checkpoints
 - Technology including ignition interlocks
- **Buckle-Up**
 - Including enacting primary seatbelt legislation in Virginia
- **Increase Testing**
 - Mandatory for all drivers in fatal crashes (2020 Maryland bill)
 - Oral fluids pilot program (2020 Maryland bill)
- **Embrace Technology**
 - Ignition interlocks
 - Passive (inc. Maryland and Virginia's Driver Alcohol Detection System for Safety / DADSS programs)
 - New / emerging technologies task force (2020 Maryland bill)



Recommendations

- **Alternative to DUI**
 - SoberRide (District of Columbia / Maryland / Virginia)
 - Rideshare
 - WMATA / Metro (inc. restoration of weekend / evening hours of service)
- **Enforcement**
 - Fully staff, support and prioritize DUI enforcement
 - “Traffic safety IS public safety!”



Kurt Erickson

President and CEO

Washington Regional Alcohol Program

(703) 625-3203

kurt@wrap.org

