How Safe Are Our Roads?

Annual Data Report on the Impact of Drunk Driving on Road Safety in the Washington D.C. Metropolitan Region

November, 2004

Washington Regional Alcohol Program

WRAP WASHINGTON REGIONAL ALCOHOL PROGRAM

Prepared by

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Institute for Community Health

The Institute for Community Health
in the School of Public & International Affairs

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

How Safe Are Our Roads?

Annual Data Report on the Impact of Drunk Driving on Road Safety in the Washington D.C. Metropolitan Region

November, 2004

Washington Regional Alcohol Program
1420 Spring Hill Road, Suite 210
McLean, VA 22102
(703) 893-0461
www.wrap.org

Prepared by

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Institute for Community Health
200 Architecture Annex
Blacksburg, VA 24061
(540) 231-2451
www.spia.vt.edu/ich

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street, NE
Washington D.C. 20002
(202) 962-3200
www.mwcog.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Efforts are underway nationwide to curb alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes, injuries and fatalities. The DC Metro Region is no exception. The Washington Regional Alcohol Program has once again commissioned *How Safe Are Our Roads?* to provide insight into the progress made in 2003. Data is presented on traffic related fatalities, crashes, and injuries and jurisdictional efforts to decrease the impact of alcohol. A link between local impaired driving initiative efforts and frequency of alcohol-related motor vehicle incidents, however, is not appreciated in this data.

2003 Overall

- In the DC Metro Region, there was a decline in overall motor vehicle fatalities and injuries from 2002 (-4.4% and -28.9%) but an increase in alcohol-related fatalities and injuries (13.0% and 14.3%).
- The DC Metro Region saw a decline in arrests for drunk driving (-10.8%) in 2003. Alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes decreased 1.4% from 2002.
- Alcohol-related motor vehicle fatalities, crashes, and injuries increased significantly from 2002 in the District of Columbia (278% fatalities; 143% crashes; 170% injuries).

2003 Traffic Fatalities

- In the past year, DC Metro Region alcohol-related fatalities increased 13% while total motor vehicle fatalities decreased 4.4%.
- In 2003, 33% of all motor vehicle fatalities in the DC Metro Region were alcohol-related.
- Nationally, motor vehicle fatalities, both total and alcohol-related, have decreased from 2002 reported levels (-0.8% and -2.9%).
- The DC Metro Region has a lower percentage of alcohol-related motor vehicle fatalities than the nation (33.1% in Region; 39.9% nationally).
- The District of Columbia reports a 34% increase in all motor vehicle fatalities since 2002; an alarming 278% increase in those alcohol-related.
- Alcohol-related fatalities constituted 1/2 of all motor vehicle fatalities in the District of Columbia in 2003.
- The Montgomery and Prince George's counties in Maryland saw a decrease in total and alcohol-related fatalities (-18.9% and -17.4%) since 2002.

2003 Traffic Crashes

- The District of Columbia reports a significant increase in the number of alcohol-related crashes from 2001 to 2003 (143%).
- Compared to all crashes, the percentage of alcohol-related crashes in the DC Metro Region has been constant at close to 6% for the past four years.

2003 Traffic Injuries

- The DC Metro Region saw increases in alcohol-related traffic injuries at a rate more than double the national average in 2003.
- Total DC Metro Region motor vehicle injuries dropped 28.9% in 2003; however, the number related to alcohol increased 14.3% since 2002.
- The percentage of crash injuries related to alcohol in the District of Columbia has increased significantly since 2001. One percent of motor vehicle accident injuries in 2001 were related to alcohol crashes; in 2003 the percentage rose to 12.1%.
- The number of alcohol-related traffic injuries in the District of Columbia increased 170.4% from 2002.

2003 Alcohol-related Traffic Arrests

- Arrests for alcohol-related driving offenses decreased 10.8% in 2003 in the DC Metro Region compared to 2002.
- The District of Columbia accounted for the largest percentage increase in alcohol-related traffic arrests (14.7%). Associated with this increase in arrests, however, were sharply rising motor vehicle fatalities, injuries, and crashes due to alcohol use.
- Alcohol-related traffic arrests in Prince George's County, Maryland, decreased 58.8% from 2002. However, decreases in alcohol-related traffic fatalities, injuries and crashes are seen as well.
- Northern Virginia reported an increase of 5% in alcohol-related traffic arrests from 2002.

Impact on Our Youth

- In 2003, 7.4% of all alcohol-related motor vehicle fatalities and 12% of injuries occurred in people under the age of 21 years.
- Alcohol-related fatalities represented 12.9% of all traffic fatalities for persons under the age of 21. This includes youth who were of driving age, passengers, and pedestrians.
- Youth under the age of 21 years were involved in 15.1% of all alcohol-related traffic crashes in 2003.

A National and State Perspective

Traffic safety continues to be a concern from local jurisdictions to the national level. Alcohol-related crashes, injuries, and fatalities are so designated if at least one driver or non-occupant (pedestrian or cyclist) involved is determined to have a Blood Alcohol Concentration of 0.01 g/dl or higher. Concerted efforts at the local, state, and national levels continued to reduce the incidence of alcohol-related injuries and fatalities in 2003. However, there is still a great deal need for improvement.

Fatalities

"On average in 2003, a person died every 12 minutes in a motor vehicle crash."

National Center for Statistics & Analysis

- Motor vehicle crashes continue to be the leading cause of death for persons between the ages of 2 and 33 years.
- Traffic fatalities in alcohol-related crashes fell nationally by 2.9% in 2003 (17,524 in 2002 to 17,013 in 2003).
- Of children (ages 0-14 years) killed in motor vehicle crashes, 21% were alcohol-related in 2003 nationally.
- In 2003, safety belts were used in only 25% of alcohol-related driver fatalities. In comparison, 56% of drivers in non-alcohol-related driver fatalities wore safety belts.
- Approximately 1,240 fatalities occurred in alcohol-related crashes in which the driver had at least one previous DWI conviction (7% of all alcohol-related fatalities).
- Since 1975, traffic fatalities have decreased 4% in the nation. Virginia decreased 5%; Maryland 3%; and the District of Columbia 4%.

"Forty percent of all traffic fatalities in 2003 were alcohol-related."

National Center for Statistics & Analysis

- In Maryland, motor vehicle accident fatalities dropped 1.8% in 2003 compared to 2002.
- In Virginia, fatalities due to motor vehicle crashes increased overall by 3.1% in the past year. Fatalities in alcohol-related crashes decreased 4.7%.

Crashes, Injuries and Arrests

"Alcohol was present in more than 14% of motor vehicle crashes resulting in injuries in 2003."

National Center for Statistics & Analysis

- The economic cost of motor vehicle crashes nationally was estimated at $230.6 billion in the year 2000.
- Alcohol was involved in 7% of all traffic crashes in 2003 nationally.
- The number of person injured in motor vehicle crashes in 2003 dropped by 1.3% across the nation compared to2002.
- On average, however, one person was injured in alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes every 2 minutes in 2003.
- In the United States, 993 people of every 100,000 were injured in 2003.
- In 2002, approximately one in every 130 licensed drivers in the United States was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- In 2003, Virginia saw a 4.8% increase in motor vehicle crashes.

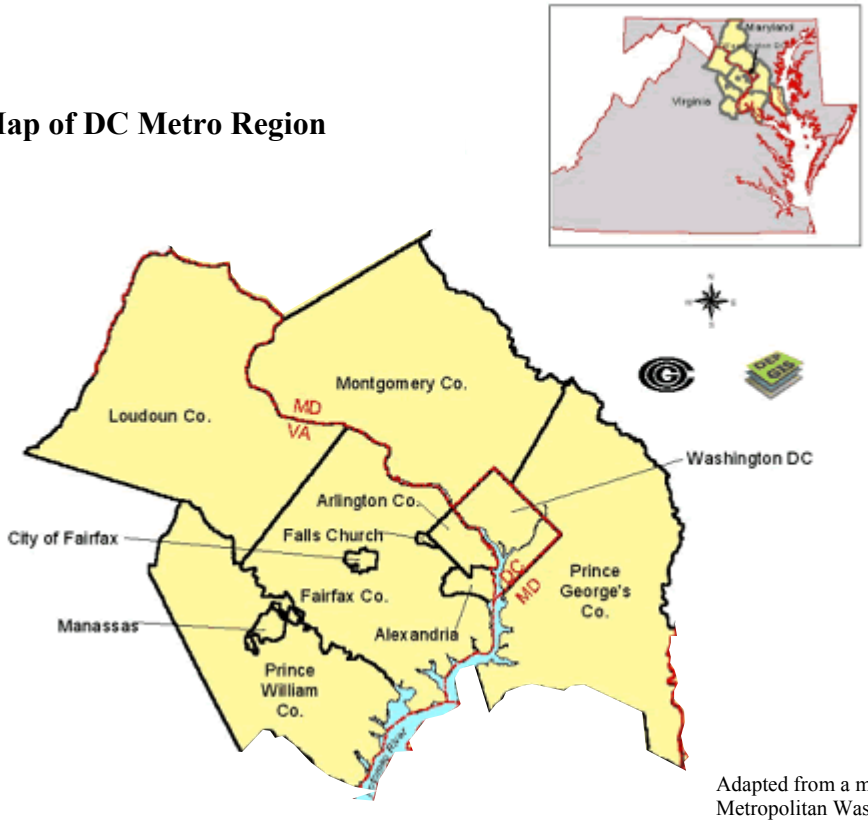
Alcohol and drug use continues to significantly impact the safety of our roads. This data, provided by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles, demonstrates the continued scope of the problem.

THE WASHINGTON D.C. METROPOLITAN REGION

For the purposes of this report, the Washington D.C. Metropolitan Region consists of 12 jurisdictions identified in this report as the DC Metro Region.

- District of Columbia
- Maryland Counties
  - Prince George's County
  - Montgomery County
- Northern Virginia
  - Arlington County
  - Fairfax County
  - Loudoun County
  - Prince William County
  - City of Alexandria
  - City of Fairfax
  - City of Falls Church
  - City of Manassas
  - City of Manassas Park

Figure 1: Map of DC Metro Region



Adapted from a map created by Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, Washington, DC on July 14, 1999.

METHODOLOGY

Data Sources
Data compiled in this report comes from national, state and local sources. Secondary sources include the U.S. Census Bureau 2000 Census, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), and Virginia Department of Transportation. Primary data was collected from the local police departments of each jurisdiction. Following is a listing of the agencies providing local jurisdictional data.

- District of Columbia: Metropolitan Police Department
- Maryland
  - State of Maryland: Maryland State Police
  - Prince George's County Police Department
  - Montgomery County Department of Police
- Virginia
  - State of Virginia: Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles, 2003 Crash Facts
  - 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

Data Analysis
The findings in this report are based on data collected from organizations and agencies from across the DC Metro Region. Data tables provide totals within the DC Metro 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 involved incidents to total numbers across time.

Data Limitations
It is important to note limitations and other factors 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 is important, however, that the reader keep the following in mind:

- There is no standardization for data definitions, collection, or recording within the DC Metro Region. Each agency has its own system of data collection, coding, and management and the range and type of data collected is not 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 impaired driver involvement in motor vehicle fatalities, injuries, crashes and arrests was requested for alcohol-impairment only. Therefore, data are assumed to reflect only alcohol impairment and is reported in this way.
- The number of incidents, total and related to alcohol impairment, is very small for some jurisdictions. While individual jurisdictional data are provided in the tables, analysis was done at the DC Metro Regional level and sublevels of the District of Columbia, Maryland counties (Prince George's and Montgomery) and Northern Virginia when appropriate. 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 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.
- 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 DC Metro Region. Collection of data on driver or passenger residence versus jurisdiction of accident is beyond the scope of this report. Calculating rates based on the DC Metro Region's population or number of licensed drivers would not accurately represent the problem since drivers may be from outside the jurisdiction.
- Data reported by the National Parks and Metro Transit System was included in the 2002 report for the first time. Data from these jurisdictions was not available for this report.

POPULATION CENSUS DATA

Population data has been obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau Population Division. Jurisdictional population figures are provided as of July 1 of each year reported.

The DC Metro Region's population rose 1.2% over the past year. This rise is consistent with national and state increases (1.0% nationally; 1.1% Maryland, 1.3% Virginia). The jurisdictions seeing the largest increases in population were Loudoun (8.7%) and Prince William (4.4%) counties in Virginia. The most central areas of the DC Metro Region (the District of Columbia, Arlington County, City of Alexandria, and City of Falls Church) saw decreasing populations of 0.6% to 1.1%. This is consistent with national patterns of decreasing inner city populations and increasing suburban populations.

The impact of changing population on motor vehicle crashes and arrests is not clear from the data obtained for this report. While residential population is decreasing slightly in the central area, the location of employers and social venues continues to drive daily commutes. Growth of employment in the suburban regions, opening of suburban shopping and eating venues, and expansion of commuter options via bus or rail may significantly impact the movement of people in the region. Evaluation of the impact of these components on regional volume of motor vehicle traffic is beyond the scope of this report.

Table 1: Total Estimated Population by Jurisdiction, as of July, 2000-2003

	2000	2001	2002	2003	Percentage Change 2002-2003	Percentage Change 2000-2003
District of Columbia	**571,437**	**572,716**	**569,157**	**563,384**	**-1.0%**	**-1.4%**
Maryland						
State Total	5,311,531	5,383,377	5,450,525	5,508,909	1.1%	3.7%
Montgomery County	877,781	894,449	908,831	918,881	1.1%	4.7%
Prince George's County	803,649	818,119	829,372	838,716	1.1%	4.4%
MD Regional Total	**1,681,430**	**1,712,568**	**1,738,203**	**1,757,597**	**1.1%**	**4.5%**
Virginia						
State Total	7,104,033	7,185,522	7,273,572	7,365,284	1.3%	3.7%
Arlington County	189,323	189,661	189,090	187,873	-0.6%	-0.8%
Fairfax County	975,304	987,030	994,121	1,000,405	0.6%	2.6%
Loudoun County	173,940	190,134	204,042	221,746	8.7%	27.5%
Prince William County	283,837	298,135	311,630	325,324	4.4%	14.6%
City of Alexandria	127,147	130,403	129,938	128,923	-0.8%	1.4%
City of Fairfax	21,581	21,853	21,905	22,031	0.6%	2.1%
City of Falls Church	10,439	10,561	10,602	10,485	-1.1%	0.4%
City of Manassas	35,392	35,887	36,726	37,166	1.2%	5.0%
City of Manassas Park	10,333	10,757	10,924	10,990	0.6%	6.4%
Northern Virginia Total	**1,827,296**	**1,874,421**	**1,908,978**	**1,944,943**	**1.9%**	**6.4%**
DC Metro Regional Total	**4,080,163**	**4,159,705**	**4,216,338**	**4,265,924**	**1.2%**	**4.6%**
National	**282,192,162**	**185,102,075**	**287,941,220**	**290,788,976**	**1.0%**	**3.0%**

Data Source: Annual Estimates of the population for Counties: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2003. Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau.

District of Columbia: CO-EST2003-01-11 Virginia: CO-EST2003-01-51

Maryland: CO-EST2003-10-24 National: NST-EST200-01

Retrieved from: http://www.census.gov/popest/counties/tables.

TRAFFIC FATALITIES

National Comparison

Nationally, overall traffic fatalities decreased over the past year. The good news is that the percentage of fatalities in alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes saw an even larger decrease in the nation. Five-hundred and eleven fewer people died in 2003 from alcohol-related crashes than in 2002 despite a 1% increase in the population.

Alcohol-related fatalities decreased 2.9% while all traffic fatalities decreased only 0.8% in 2003 compared with 2002. This resulted in a decrease in the percentage of traffic fatalities that related to alcohol impairment. In 2002, 40.7% of all traffic fatalities involved alcohol; in 2003 that dropped to 39.9%. While these numbers may seem small, they represent movement in the right direction.

State Comparisons

Maryland
Maryland saw a decrease in overall traffic fatalities from 2002 to 2003. Alcohol-related fatalities, however, increased in the state. This represents an increase in the percentage of alcohol-related fatalities. This increasing percentage of fatalities related to alcohol is opposite the national trend. Comparing 2003 to 2002, alcohol-related traffic fatalities increased 1.8% across the state. With a drop of 1.8% in total traffic fatalities during the same period, Maryland saw the percentage of motor vehicle fatalities reported to be alcohol-related increase from 41.8% in 2002 to 43.3% in 2003.

Virginia
The Commonwealth of Virginia saw an overall increase in traffic fatalities in 2003. Fatalities related to alcohol, however, decreased significantly more than the nation as a whole. The percentage of fatalities that were alcohol-related also dropped, continuing to remain lower than the national percentage. Comparing 2003 to 2002, alcohol-related traffic fatalities decreased and total fatalities increased (-4.7% alcohol-related; 3.1% all fatalities). The percentage of all traffic fatalities reported to be alcohol-related decreased from 41.5% in 2002 to 38.3% in 2003.

DC Metro Region

Despite some gains in selected areas of the region, the use of alcohol continues to be a significant factor in motor vehicle accident fatalities. The DC Metro Region has seen an increase in motor vehicle accident fatalities, overall and related to alcohol, in the past seven years.

The percentage of traffic fatalities in the DC Metro Region related to alcohol continues to rise.

In the DC Metro Region, alcohol-related traffic fatalities increased 13.0% in 2003 compared to 2002. Total traffic fatalities decreased 4.4% in that same period. The DC Metro Region had an increased percentage of motor vehicle fatalities related to alcohol in the past year. In 2002, 28.0% of traffic fatalities were related to alcohol; 33.1% in 2003.

Alcohol-related fatalities have increased 18.4% since 1996 in the DC Metro Region. Total motor vehicle related fatalities increased 17.1% during that same seven year period. The percentage of traffic fatalities related to alcohol has increased even more significantly in the past five years. In 1998, there were 307 deaths with 78 related to alcohol use (25.4%). In 2003, there were 369 fatalities, 122 related to alcohol use (33.1%).

Regional Jurisdictions

District of Columbia

The District of Columbia saw large increases in motor vehicle fatalities in 2003. This was most significant in the numbers of fatalities related to alcohol. Over the past few years there has been a change in assessment of driver fatalities at the scene. The impact of this change on identification of alcohol-related crashes is unknown.

Over 50% of all traffic fatalities in the District of Columbia were related to alcohol use in 2003.

In the District of Columbia, alcohol-related traffic fatalities increased 277.8% between 2002 and 2003. More than 50% of all traffic fatalities were related to alcohol use in 2003 compared with approximately 20% in previous years. Total traffic fatalities increased 34.0% in the past year. Since 1996, alcohol-related fatalities have increased 325.0%, however, total traffic fatalities have increased a comparatively low 3.1%.

Montgomery and Prince George's Counties, Maryland

The Maryland region of interest fared much better than the state as a whole. Traffic fatalities, both total and alcohol-related, decreased in 2003. This decrease was significantly greater than that seen in the nation, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia, and the DC Metro Region as a whole.

Prince George's County has seen significant decreases in alcohol-related fatalities while Montgomery County has seen increases.

In the Montgomery and Prince George's counties, alcohol-related traffic fatalities decreased 17.4% in 2003 compared to 2002. The 2003 percentage of fatalities related to alcohol (22.1%) has decreased each year for the past four years and is nearly ½ that of the nation. All motor vehicle fatalities decreased 18.9% from 2002 to 2003. Since 1996, alcohol-related traffic fatalities decreased 33.3%, however, total traffic fatalities have increased 6.8% since 1996.

Montgomery County has seen increases in alcohol-related fatalities of 9.1% from 2002 to 2003 and 71.4% from 1996 to 2003. At the same time, Prince George's County has had significant decreases in alcohol-related fatalities (-25.7% 2002 to 2003; -48.0% 1996 to 2003). Total motor vehicle fatalities decreased in both counties compared with 2002, however, more in Montgomery (-29.6%) than in Prince George's (-13.5%).

Northern Virginia

Northern Virginia has a motor vehicle fatality profile similar to the Commonwealth as a whole. Total and alcohol-related motor vehicle fatalities have decreased at the same rate and the percentage of fatalities related to alcohol is nearly identical.

The percentage of fatalities that are alcohol-related decreased in Northern Virginia.

The Northern Virginia area has seen alcohol-related traffic fatalities decrease 5.7% in 2003 compared with 2002. The percentage of fatalities related to alcohol (38.5% in 2003) has dropped slightly from a high of 42.7% in 2002. Total motor vehicle fatalities increased 4.8% in the past year. Since 1996, however, alcohol-related and total traffic fatalities have increased (31.6% alcohol-related; 46.1% total fatalities).

Table 2: Alcohol-related Traffic Fatalities by Jurisdiction, 1996-2003

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Percentage Change 2002-2003	Percentage Change 1996-2003^
District of Columbia	**8**	**10**	**16**	**14**	**9**	**14**	**9**	**34**	**277.8%**	**325.0%**
Maryland										
State Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	276	281	1.8%	-
Montgomery County	7	17	8	12	13	18	11	12	9.1%	71.4%
Prince George's County	50	29	26	25	27	28	35	26	-25.7%	-48.0%
MD Regional Total	**57**	**46**	**34**	**37**	**40**	**46**	**46**	**38**	**-17.4%**	**-33.3%**
Virginia										
State Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	379	361	-4.7%	-
Arlington County	3	5	1	2	9	5	7	2	-71.4%	-33.3%
Fairfax County	16	17	13	20	23	18	25	29	16.0%	81.3%
Loudoun County	7	5	7	1	2	4	9	9	0.0%	28.6%
Prince William County	9	10	5	7	9	16	10	8	-20.0%	-11.1%
City of Alexandria	1	0	2	1	2	3	2	0	-200.0%	-100.0%
City of Fairfax	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.0%	100.0%
City of Falls Church	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	-100.0%
City of Manassas	-	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0.0%	-
City of Manassas Park	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	-
Northern Virginia Total	**38***	**37**	**28**	**31**	**46**	**46**	**53**	**50**	**-5.7%**	**31.6%**
DC Metro Regional Total	**103***	**93**	**78**	**82**	**95**	**106**	**108**	**122**	**13.0%**	**18.4%**
National	-	-	-	-	-	-	**17,524**	**17,013**	**-2.9%**	-

^ Percentage change not calculated for all jurisdictions due to missing data elements.

* Data for the cities of Manassas and Manassas Park not included in regional totals.

Source for National and state data: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation

Source for local data: Jurisdictional contacts, see specific contact in Methodology

Table 3: Total Traffic Fatalities by Jurisdiction, 1996-2003

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Percentage Change 2002-2003	Percentage Change 1996-2003^
District of Columbia	**65**	**63**	**59**	**46**	**50**	**72**	**50**	**67**	**34.0%**	**3.1%**
Maryland										
State Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	661	649	-1.8%	-
Montgomery County	49	55	46	49	58	59	71	50	-29.6%	2.0%
Prince George's County	112	85	111	79	91	128	141	122	-13.5%	8.9%
MD Regional Total	**161**	**140**	**157**	**128**	**149**	**187**	**212**	**172**	**-18.9%**	**6.8%**
Virginia										
State Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	914	942	3.1%	-
Arlington County	10	7	3	8	14	9	12	7	-41.7%	-30.0%
Fairfax County	42	59	45	49	70	53	64	62	-3.1%	47.6%
Loudoun County	17	13	21	11	9	15	16	24	50.0%	41.2%
Prince William County	14	32	19	24	27	31	23	32	39.1%	128.6%
City of Alexandria	2	2	3	4	5	5	6	2	-66.7%	0.0%
City of Fairfax	2	1	0	0	0	1	1	2	100.0%	0.0%
City of Falls Church	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	-100.0%	-100.0%
City of Manassas	-	0	0	1	1	2	1	1	0.0%	-
City of Manassas Park	-	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0.0%	-
Northern Virginia Total	**89***	**114**	**91**	**98**	**126**	**117**	**124**	**130**	**4.8%**	**46.1%**
DC Metro Regional Total	**315***	**317**	**307**	**272**	**325**	**376**	**386**	**369**	**-4.4%**	**17.1%**
National	-	-	-	-	-	-	**43,005**	**42,643**	**-0.8%**	-

^ Percentage change not calculated for all jurisdictions due to missing data elements.

* Data for the cities of Manassas and Manassas Park not included in regional totals.

Source for National and state data: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation

Source for local data: Jurisdictional contacts, see specific contact in Methodology

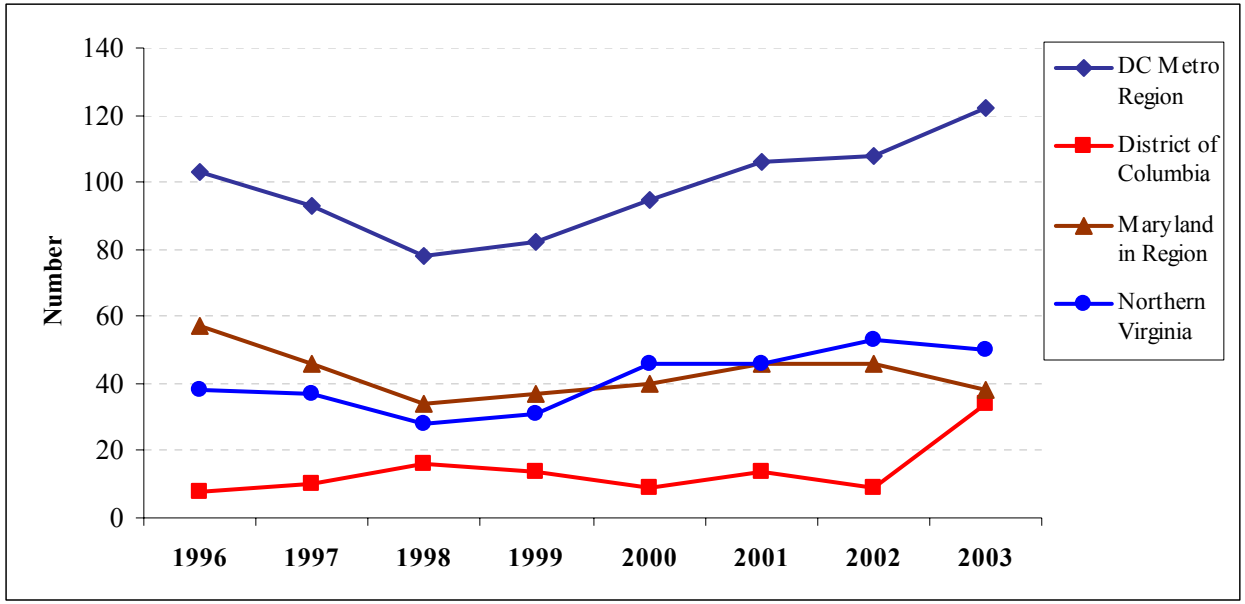


Figure 2: Number of Alcohol-related Traffic Fatalities Over Time, By Region, 1996-2003

Figure 3: Total Number of Motor Vehicle Fatalities Over Time, By Region, 1996-2003

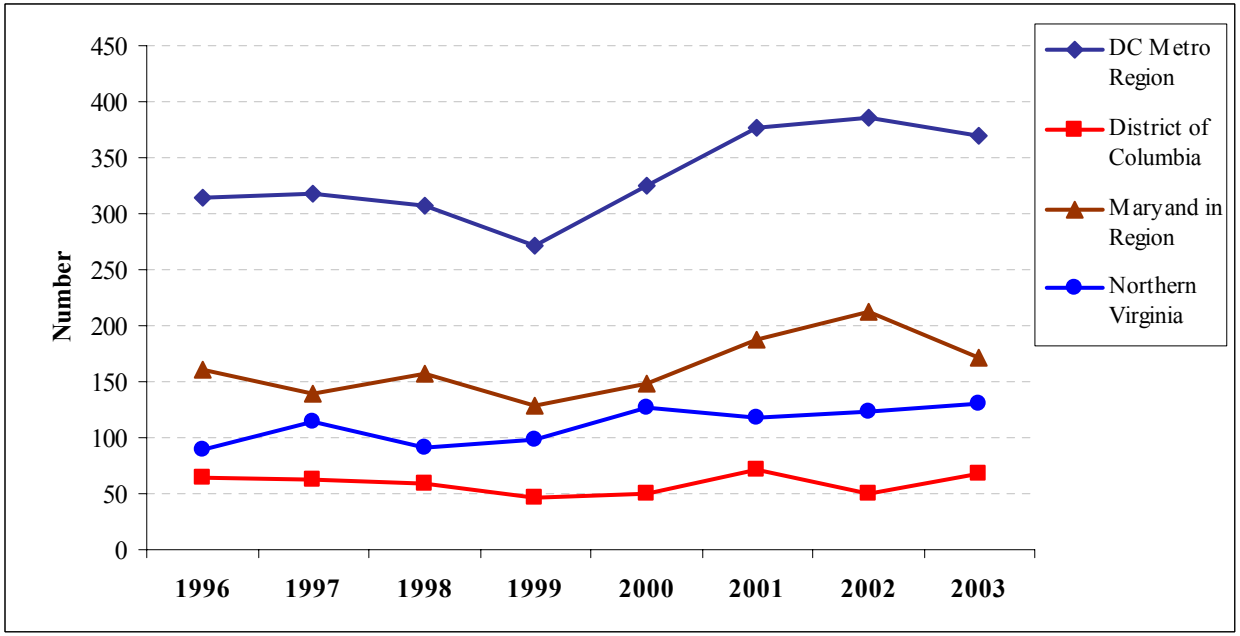


Table 4: Percentage of All Traffic Fatalities that were Alcohol-related by Jurisdiction, 1996-2003

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
District of Columbia	**12.3%**	**15.9%**	**27.1%**	**30.4%**	**18.0%**	**19.4%**	**18.0%**	**50.7%**
Maryland								
State Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	41.8%	43.3%
Montgomery County	14.3%	30.9%	17.4%	24.5%	22.4%	30.5%	15.5%	24.0%
Prince George's County	44.6%	34.1%	23.4%	31.6%	29.7%	21.9%	24.8%	21.3%
MD Regional Total	**35.4%**	**32.9%**	**21.7%**	**28.9%**	**26.8%**	**24.6%**	**21.7%**	**22.1%**
Virginia								
State Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	41.5%	38.3%
Arlington County	30.0%	71.4%	33.3%	25.0%	64.3%	55.6%	58.3%	28.6%
Fairfax County	38.1%	28.8%	28.9%	40.8%	32.9%	34.0%	39.1%	46.8%
Loudoun County	41.2%	38.5%	33.3%	9.1%	22.2%	26.7%	56.3%	37.5%
Prince William County	64.3%	31.3%	26.3%	29.2%	33.3%	51.6%	43.5%	25.0%
City of Alexandria	50.0%	0.0%	66.7%	25.0%	40.0%	60.0%	33.3%	0.0%
City of Fairfax	50.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
City of Falls Church	50.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
City of Manassas	-	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
City of Manassas Park	-	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Northern Virginia Total	**42.7%^**	**32.5%**	**30.8%**	**31.6%**	**36.5%**	**39.3%**	**42.7%**	**38.5%**
DC Metro Regional Total	**32.7%^**	**29.3%**	**25.4%**	**30.1%**	**29.2%**	**28.2%**	**28.0%**	**33.1%**
National	-	-	-	-	-	-	**40.7%**	**39.9%**

^ Data for the cities of Manassas and Manassas Park not included in regional totals.

Source for National and state data: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation

Source for local data: Jurisdictional contacts, see specific contact in Methodology

Figure 4: Percentage of Total Fatalities Due to Crashes Involving Impaired Drivers Over Time, By Region, 1996-2003

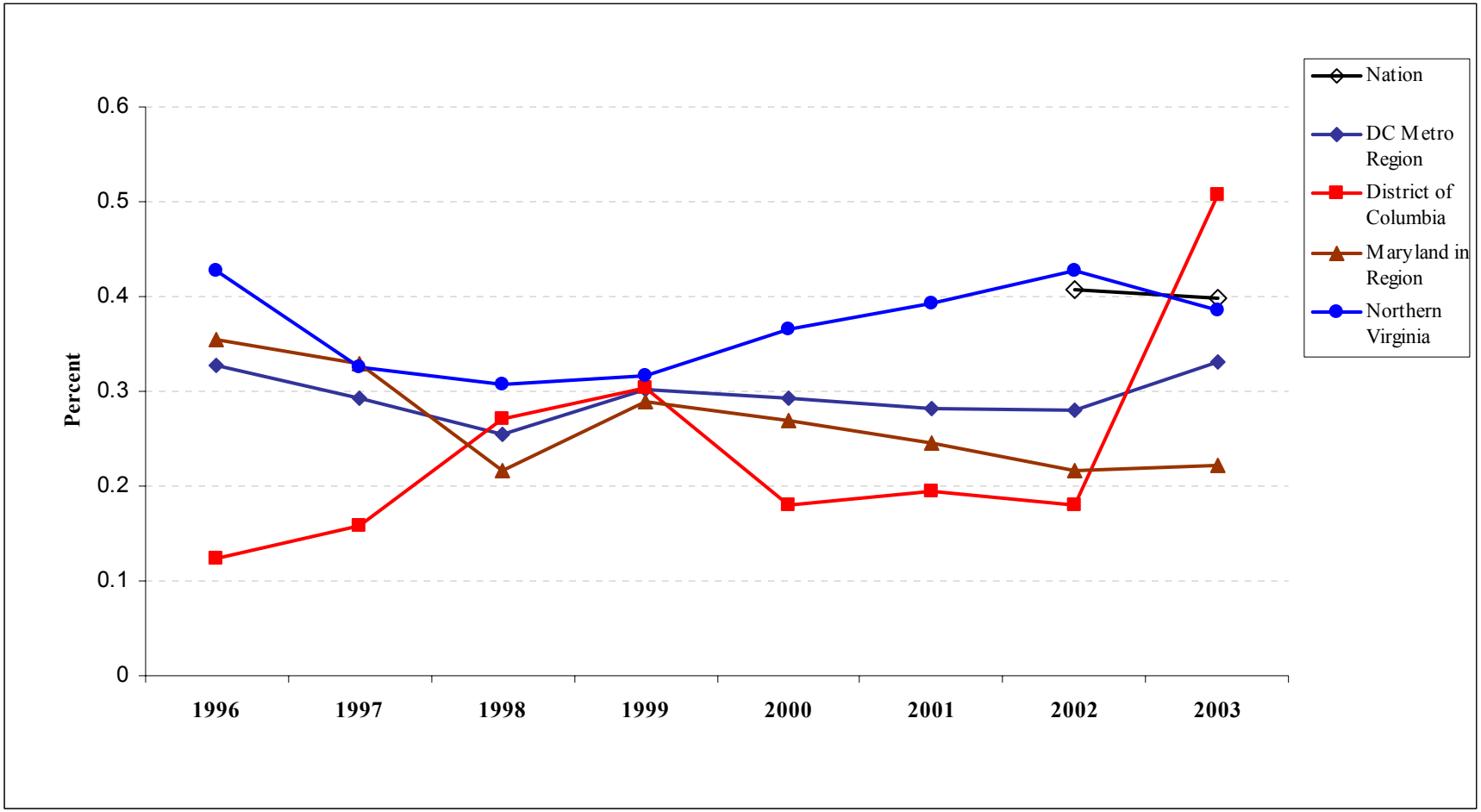


Table 5A: SNAPSHOT! Motor Vehicle Fatalities in 2003

	Total Fatalities	Alcohol-related Fatalities	Percentage of Total Fatalities that were Alcohol-related	Percentage Change Alcohol-related Fatalities, 2002-2003
District of Columbia	**67**	**34**	**50.7%**	**277.8%**
Maryland				
State Total	649	281	43.3%	1.8%
Montgomery County	50	12	24.0%	9.1%
Prince George's County	122	26	21.3%	-25.7%
MD Regional Total	**172**	**38**	**22.1%**	**-17.4%**
Virginia				
State Total	942	361	38.3%	-4.7%
Arlington County	7	2	28.6%	-71.4%
Fairfax County	62	29	46.8%	16.0%
Loudoun County	24	9	37.5%	0.0%
Prince William County	32	8	25.0%	-20.0%
City of Alexandria	2	0	0.0%	-200.0%
City of Fairfax	2	2	100.0%	0.0%
City of Falls Church	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
City of Manassas	1	0	0.0%	0.0%
City of Manassas Park	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
Northern Virginia Total	**130**	**50**	**38.5%**	**-5.7%**
DC Metro Regional Total	**369**	**122**	**33.1%**	**13.0%**
National	**42,643**	**17,013**	**39.9%**	**-2.9%**

Source for National and state data: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation

Source for local data: Jurisdictional contacts, see specific contact in Methodology

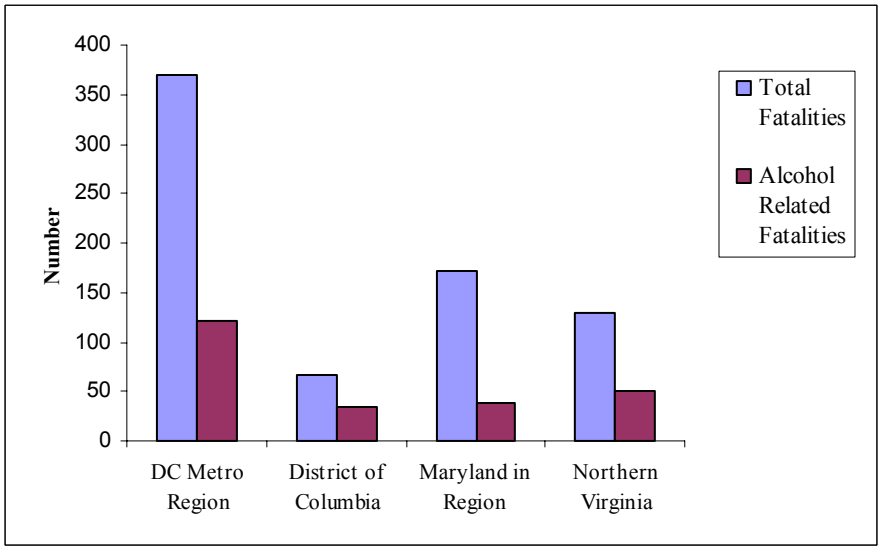


Figure 5A.1: SNAPSHOT! Number of Total and Alcohol-related Motor Vehicle Fatalities, By Region, 2003

Figure 5A.2: SNAPSHOT! Percentage of Fatalities: Alcohol-related and Change 2002-2003

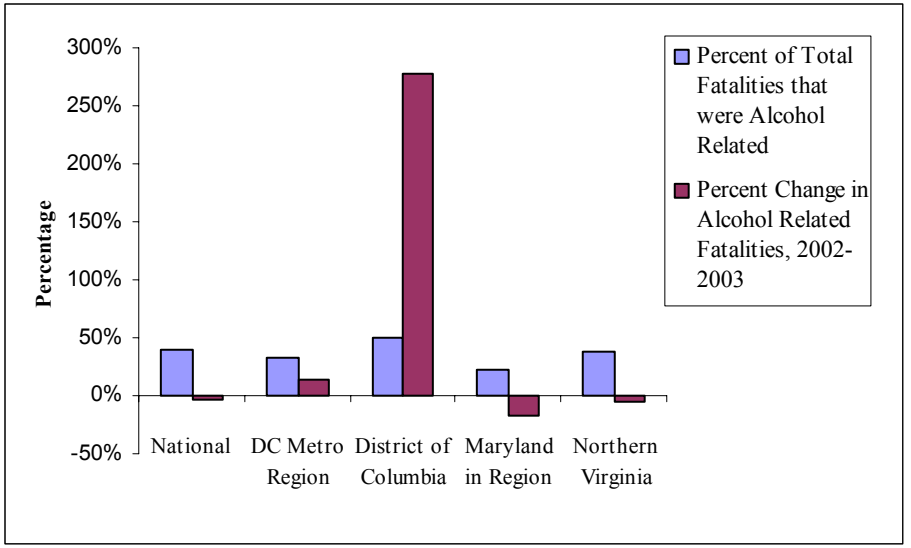


Table 5B: SNAPSHOT! Motor Vehicle Fatalities for Persons Under 21 Years of Age by Jurisdiction, 2003

	Total Juvenile Fatalities	Alcohol-related Fatalities	Percentage of Total Juvenile Fatalities that were Alcohol-related	Percentage Change Alcohol-related Juvenile Fatalities, 2002-2003	Percentage of Alcohol-related Fatalities, All Ages
District of Columbia	**21**	**1**	**4.8%**	**0.0%**	**2.9%**
Maryland					
Montgomery County	3*	1*			
Prince George's County	29#	4#			
MD Regional Total	**32**	**5**	**15.6%**	**25.0%**	**13.2%**
Virginia					
Arlington County	0	0			
Fairfax County	12	1			
Loudoun County	1	0			
Prince William County	3	2			
City of Alexandria	0	0			
City of Fairfax	1	0			
City of Falls Church	0	0			
City of Manassas	-	0			
City of Manassas Park	0	0			
Northern Virginia Total	**17^**	**3**	**17.6%**	**-78.6%**	**6.0%**
DC Metro Regional Total	**70^**	**9**	**12.9%**	**-52.6%**	**7.4%**

^ Regional totals do not include jurisdictions with missing data.

* Montgomery County data for persons under the age of 21 years determined to be driver and "at fault" for accident

Prince George's County data represents persons under the age of 24 years

Source: Jurisdictional contacts, see specific contact in Methodology

NOTE: Data on persons under the age of 21 years is not consistently recorded or maintained within and between jurisdictions. Caution must be used in drawing conclusions regarding changes in behavior based on this data.

TRAFFIC CRASHES

DC Metro Region

The number of alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes continues to increase in the DC Metro Region. While the percentage of crashes involving alcohol is relatively low, these crashes lead to injury and death at a much higher rate than overall crashes.

Alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes in the DC Metro Region have increased 46% since 1997.

There were 90,895 motor vehicle crashes in the DC Metro Region in 2003; 5,474 as a result of alcohol impairment. Alcohol-related crashes decreased 1.4% in 2003 compared to 2002, excluding data from the District of Columbia due to missing data in 2002. The percentage of alcohol-related crashes dropped from 7.2% in 2002 to 6.0% in 2003. Total traffic crashes increased 7.2% during the same period.

The number of reported alcohol-related traffic crashes in the DC Metro Region has grown each year since 1997. The incidence of alcohol-related crashes increased an alarming 46% from 1997 to 2003. The percentage of alcohol-related crashes to total crashes in 1997 was 6.5%. This is higher than the percentage in 2003 (6.0%) due to a 58.2% increase in overall traffic crashes in that same period.

Motor vehicle crashes related to impaired driving in the DC Metro Region increased 18.9% between 1996 and 2003. Overall, traffic crashes increased 56.1% during that time. In 1996, there was a reported spike in alcohol-related crashes resulting in a high of 7.9% of crashes being related to impairment. Note that data for the District of Columbia is missing for all years except 2001 and 2003.

"Alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes involving alcohol are significantly more likely to result in injury or fatality than those that don't."

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Regional Jurisdictions

District of Columbia

The District of Columbia has seen the highest growth in motor vehicle crashes in the DC Metro Region, both with and without alcohol involvement. Despite this, the percentage of crashes that involve alcohol is the lowest in the region.

In the District of Columbia, alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes **increased 143%** over the past two years.

Alcohol-related crashes rose an alarming 143% over the past two years (287 in 2001; 698 in 2003). Total crashes increased 24.4% in the same two years. The percentage of crashes that are alcohol-related was significantly lower than the rest of the DC Metro Region at 3.1% in 2003.

Montgomery and Prince George's Counties, Maryland

Following several years of increasing numbers of alcohol-related crashes, Montgomery and Prince George's counties saw a slight decrease in the number and percentage in 2003. These counties, however, have the highest percentage of crashes related to alcohol within the DC Metro Region.

There was a 1.1% decrease in the number of alcohol-related crashes in 2003 compared to 2002. The percentage of crashes involving alcohol was 7.3%, the highest in the DC Metro Region. Overall crashes increased minimally (0.2%).

Prince George's County saw decreased numbers of alcohol-related crashes in 2003 while Montgomery County saw increases.

Alcohol-related crashes decreased in the past year in Prince George's County by 5.6% while Montgomery County saw increases of 4.9%. At the same time, overall traffic crashes increased in Prince George's County (1.7%) and decreased in Montgomery County (-1.7%). Montgomery County has seen an increase in the percentage of crashes related to alcohol (5.1% in 2001 to 7.5% in 2003). Prince George's County has decreased from 8.1% in 2001 to 7.3 % in 2003.

The Maryland counties in the DC Metro Region have seen a decrease in the number of alcohol-related crashes (13.3%) since 1996. The percentage of crashes related to alcohol has also decreased from a high in 1996 of 8.8% to 7.3% in 2003. The number of total motor vehicle crashes increased 4.1% in 2003 compared to 1996. While both counties saw a decrease in alcohol-related crashes during this time, Prince George's County represented the entire increase in total crashes.

Northern Virginia

2003 saw improvement in the number of reported alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes at a time when the number of overall crashes increased. In the past year, this area experienced the greatest percentage decrease of alcohol-related crashes in the DC Metro Region. A lower percentage of crashes in Northern Virginia involve alcohol than in the Commonwealth as a whole.

From 2000 to 2002, the number of alcohol-related crashes in Northern Virginia grew at nearly twice the rate of total crashes. This was reversed in 2003.

There was an overall decrease in the incidence of alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes of 1.6% in 2003 compared to 2002. The percentage of crashes related to alcohol was down; 6.7% in 2003 compared to 7.0% in 2002. Total traffic crashes increased 2.8% in the past year.

The number of alcohol-related crashes in Northern Virginia rose 25.6% from 1996 to 2003. In the same time period, total crashes rose 30.1%. The percentage of crashes that were related to alcohol was at a low of 6.4% in 2000. Since 2000, however, the number of alcohol-related crashes has grown at nearly twice the rate of growth of all crashes (13.3% alcohol-related; 7.2% total crashes).

Table 6: Alcohol-related Traffic Crashes by Jurisdiction, 1996-2003

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Percentage Change 2002-2003	Percentage Change 1996-2003
District of Columbia	-	-	-	-	-	**287**	-	**698**	**143.2%**[#]	-
Maryland										
Montgomery County	1,131	809	775	926	899	720	963	1,010	4.9%	**-10.7%**
Prince George's County	1,449	962	1,003	876	1,011	1,305	1,299	1,226	-5.6%	**-15.4%**
MD Regional Total	**2,580**	**1,771**	**1,778**	**1,802**	**1,910**	**2,025**	**2,262**	**2,236**	**-1.1%**	**-13.3%**
Virginia										
Arlington County	305	281	272	307	339	352	358	324	-9.5%	6.2%
Fairfax County	994	967	969	1,073	1,057	1,233	1,250	1,243	-0.6%	25.1%
Loudoun County	172	137	156	166	166	222	259	246	-5.0%	43.0%
Prince William County	346	358	356	380	430	415	443	462	4.3%	33.5%
City of Alexandria	161	152	140	127	136	124	130	124	-4.6%	-23.0%
City of Fairfax	27	29	50	36	40	52	51	59	15.7%	118.5%
City of Falls Church	17	12	18	18	21	12	13	19	46.2%	11.8%
City of Manassas	-	34	44	48	41	50	65	51	-21.5%	-
City of Manassas Park	-	8	15	19	12	12	12	12	0.0%	-
Northern Virginia Total	**2,022***	**1,978**	**2,020**	**2,171**	**2,242**	**2,472**	**2,581**	**2,540**	**-1.6%**	**25.6%**
DC Metro Regional Total	**4,602***	**3,749***	**3,798***	**3,976***	**4,152***	**4,784**	**4,843***	**5,474**	**-1.4%^**	**18.9%**

***** Regional totals do not include jurisdictions with missing data.

[#] District of Columbia percentage change 2001-2003

^ DC Metro Region percentage change 2002-2003 does not include District of Columbia crashes due to missing data for 2002.

Source: Jurisdictional contacts, see specific contact in Methodology

Table 7: Total Traffic Crashes by Jurisdiction, 1996-2003

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Percentage Change 2002-2003	Percentage Change 1996-2003
District of Columbia	-	**16,300**	-	-	-	**18,261**	**17,734**	**22,722**	**28.1%**	**39.4%**[#]
Maryland										
Montgomery County	13,548	13,015	12,811	12,779	13,356	14,220	13,784	13,553	-1.7%	0.0%
Prince George's County	15,695	14,792	14,430	14,226	15,332	16,023	16,602	16,885	1.7%	7.6%
MD Regional Total	**29,243**	**27,807**	**27,241**	**27,005**	**28,688**	**30,243**	**30,386**	**30,438**	**0.2%**	**4.1%**
Virginia										
Arlington County	3,492	3,409	3,324	3,378	3,457	3,434	3,740	3,532	-5.6%	1.1%
Fairfax County	15,513	15,453	16,476	17,913	19,082	19,636	18,866	19,040	0.9%	22.7%
Loudoun County	2,003	1,933	2,168	2,685	3,034	3,697	3,725	5,286	41.9%	163.9%
Prince William County	4,643	4,541	4,595	4,895	5,310	5,883	5,899	5,230	-11.3%	12.6%
City of Alexandria	2,511	2,517	2,397	2,319	2,282	2,118	2,306	2,188	-5.1%	-12.9%
City of Fairfax	567	733	756	713	840	953	928	1,125	21.2%	98.4%
City of Falls Church	270	291	265	309	316	267	268	245	-8.6%	-9.3%
City of Manassas	-	668	733	689	787	902	846	813	-3.9%	-
City of Manassas Park	-	86	88	181	87	124	118	276	133.9%	-
Northern Virginia Total	**28,999***	**29,631**	**30,802**	**33,082**	**35,195**	**37,014**	**36,696**	**37,735**	**2.8%**	**30.1%**
DC Metro Regional Total	**58,242***	**73,738**	**58,043***	**60,087***	**63,883***	**85,518**	**84,816**	**90,895**	**7.2%**	**56.1%**

* Regional totals do not include jurisdictions with missing data.

[#] District of Columbia percentage change 1997-2003.

Source: Jurisdictional contacts, see specific contact in Methodology

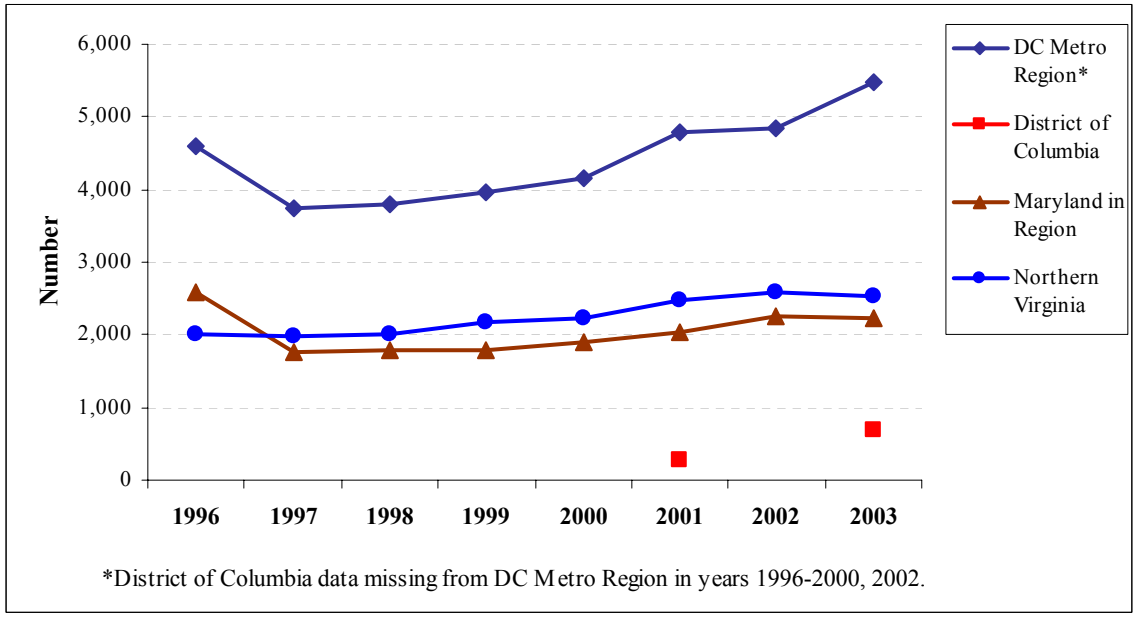


Figure 6: Number of Alcohol-related Traffic Crashes Over Time, By Region, 1996-2003

Figure 7: Total Number of Motor Vehicle Crashes Over Time, By Region, 1996-2003

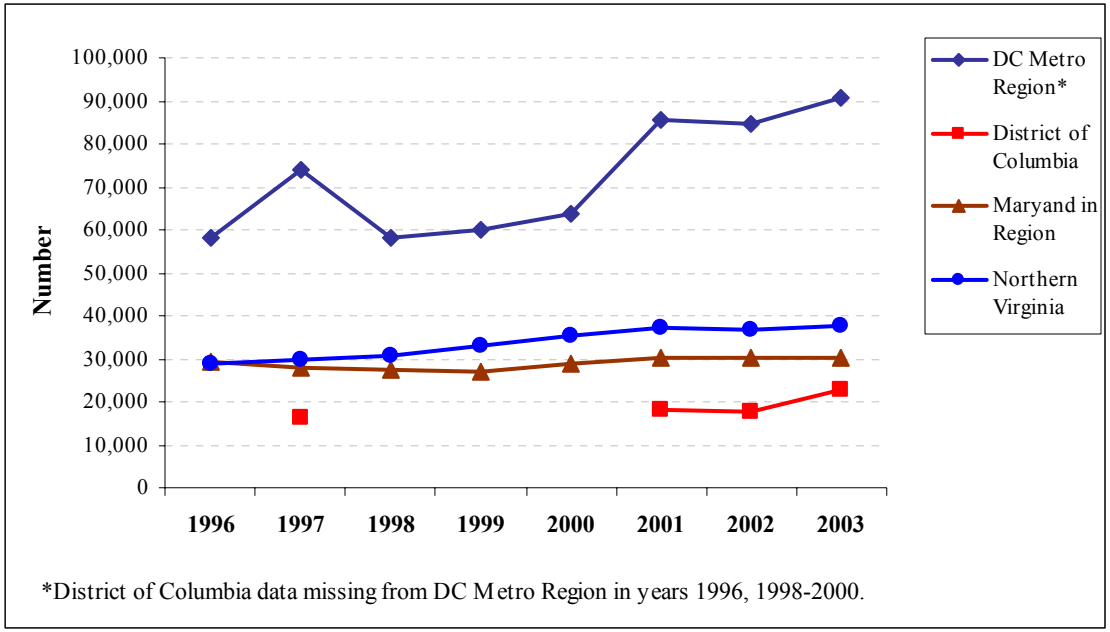


Table 8: Percentage of all Traffic Crashes that were Alcohol-related, 1996-2003

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
District of Columbia	-	-	-	-	-	**1.6%**	-	**3.1%**
Maryland								
Montgomery County	8.3%	6.2%	6.0%	7.2%	6.7%	5.1%	7.0%	7.5%
Prince George's County	9.2%	6.5%	7.0%	6.2%	6.6%	8.1%	7.8%	7.3%
MD Regional Total	**8.8%**	**6.4%**	**6.5%**	**6.7%**	**6.7%**	**6.7%**	**7.4%**	**7.3%**
Virginia								
Arlington County	8.7%	8.2%	8.2%	9.1%	9.8%	10.3%	9.6%	9.2%
Fairfax County	6.4%	6.3%	5.9%	6.0%	5.5%	6.3%	6.6%	6.5%
Loudoun County	8.6%	7.1%	7.2%	6.2%	5.5%	6.0%	7.0%	4.7%
Prince William County	7.5%	7.9%	7.7%	7.8%	8.1%	7.1%	7.5%	8.8%
City of Alexandria	6.4%	6.0%	5.8%	5.5%	6.0%	5.9%	5.6%	5.7%
City of Fairfax	4.8%	4.0%	6.6%	5.0%	4.8%	5.5%	5.5%	5.2%
City of Falls Church	6.3%	4.1%	6.8%	5.8%	6.6%	4.5%	4.9%	7.8%
City of Manassas	-	5.1%	6.0%	7.0%	5.2%	5.5%	7.7%	6.3%
City of Manassas Park	-	9.3%	17.0%	10.5%	13.8%	9.7%	10.2%	4.3%
Northern Virginia Total	**7.0%^**	**6.7%**	**6.6%**	**6.6%**	**6.4%**	**6.7%**	**7.0%**	**6.7%**
DC Metro Regional Total	**7.9%^**	**6.5%***	**6.5%**	**6.6%**	**6.5%**	**5.6%**	**7.2%***	**6.0%**

* Percentage calculated excludes District of Columbia total crashes due to missing data on alcohol-related crashes for that jurisdiction.

Source: Jurisdictional contacts, see specific contact in Methodology

Figure 8: Percentage of Total Crashes Due to Crashes Involving Impaired Drivers Over Time, By Region, 1996-2003

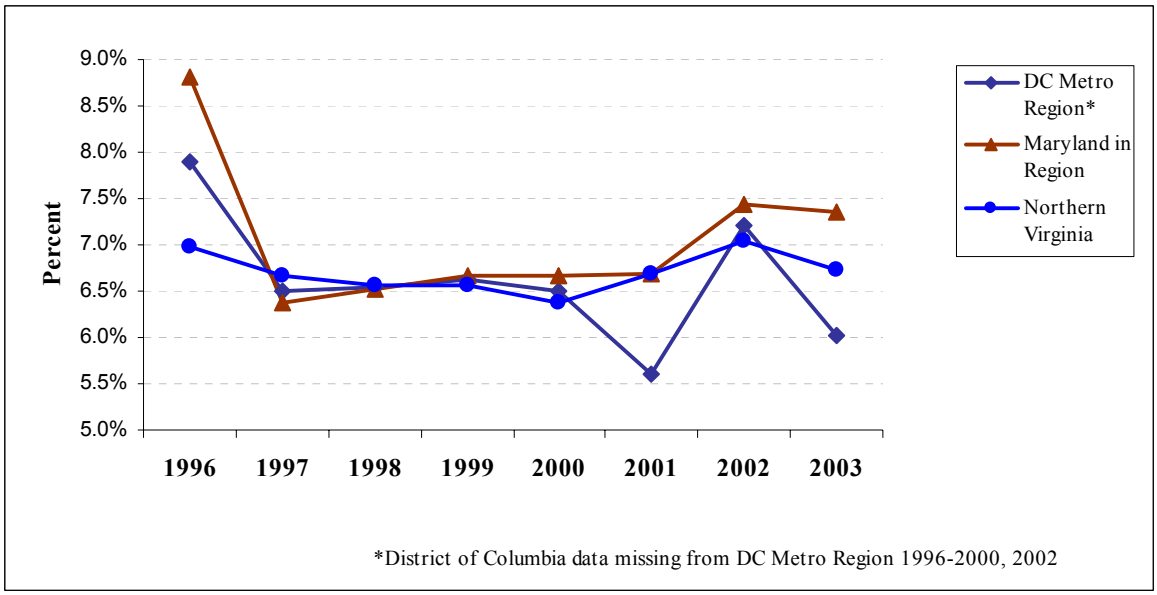


Table 9: SNAPSHOT! Motor Vehicle Crashes in 2003

	Total Crashes	Alcohol-related Crashes	Percentage of Total Crashes that were Alcohol-related	Percentage Change Alcohol-related Crashes, 2002-2003
District of Columbia	**22,722**	**698**	**3.1%**	**143.2%**
Maryland				
Montgomery County	13,553	1,010	7.5%	4.9%
Prince George's County	16,885	1,226	7.3%	-5.6%
MD Regional Total	**30,438**	**2,236**	**7.3%**	**-1.1%**
Virginia				
Arlington County	3,532	324	9.2%	-9.5%
Fairfax County	19,040	1,243	6.5%	-0.6%
Loudoun County	5,286	246	4.7%	-5.0%
Prince William County	5,230	462	8.8%	4.3%
City of Alexandria	2,188	124	5.7%	-4.6%
City of Fairfax	1,125	59	5.2%	15.7%
City of Falls Church	245	19	7.8%	46.2%
City of Manassas	813	51	6.3%	-21.5%
City of Manassas Park	276	12	4.3%	0.0%
Northern Virginia Total	**37,735**	**2,540**	**6.7%**	**-1.6%**
DC Metro Regional Total	**90,895**	**5,474**	**6.0%**	**-1.4%***

* DC Metro Region percentage change 2002-2003 does not include District of Columbia crashes due to missing data for 2002.

Source: Jurisdictional contacts, see specific contact in Methodology

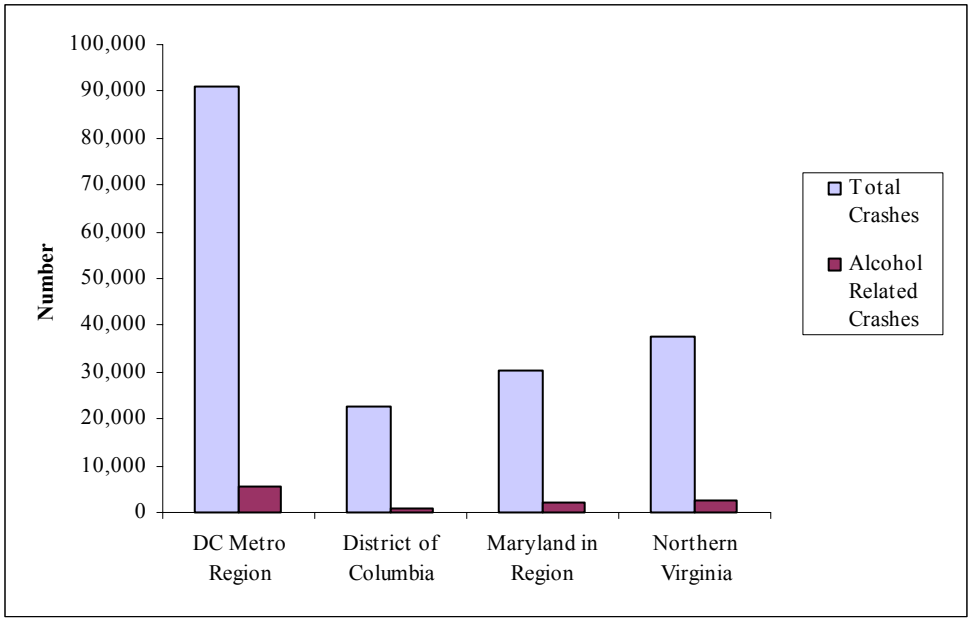
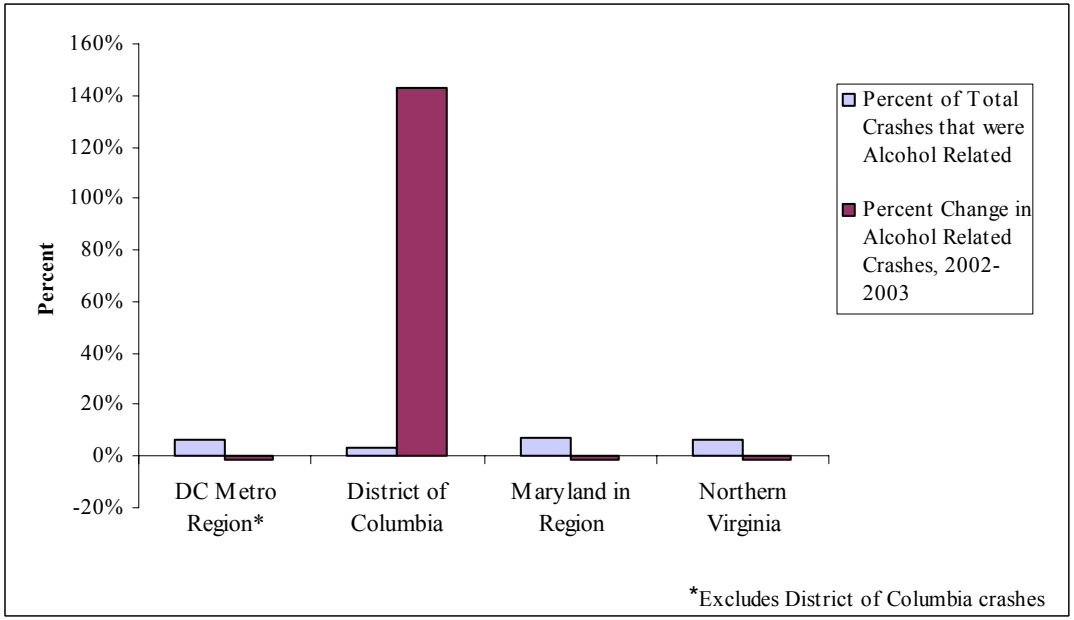


Figure 9A: SNAPSHOT! Number of Total and Alcohol-related Motor Vehicle Crashes, By Region, 2003

Figure 9B: SNAPSHOT! Percentage of Crashes: Alcohol-related and Change 2002-2003



TRAFFIC INJURIES

Nationally, 14.3% of all motor vehicle injuries are due to crashes involving alcohol use. The number of injuries from these crashes increased 6.6% from 2002 to 2003. As a reference, injuries from all crashes decreased 0.2% during the same time period.

DC Metro Region

Overall, there has been a decrease in the number of people injured in motor vehicle crashes in the DC Metro Region. Unfortunately, there has not been a similar decrease in the number of alcohol-related injuries. The 2003 increase in alcohol-related traffic injuries in the DC Metro Region is more than double the nation. The percentage of overall injuries related to alcohol use is on the rise. All but one jurisdiction in the DC Metro Region has seen an increase in the percentage of alcohol-related injuries compared with overall traffic injuries since 2000.

The percentage of injuries related to alcohol in the DC Metro Region has more than doubled since 2001.

The number of reported alcohol-related injuries in 2003 rose 14.3% compared to 2002. The percentage of traffic injuries related to alcohol impairment is up significantly to 11.8%. Total traffic injuries decreased by 28.9% in the past year.

Injuries from alcohol-related crashes have risen each year for the past three years. Alcohol-related injuries rose 18.1% 1999 to 2003. However, they have risen 44% since 2001, the first year of reporting for the District of Columbia. During this three year period, the percentage of injuries that are related to alcohol rose from 5.6% in 2001 to 11.8% in 2003. The total number of motor vehicle injuries decreased during these same time periods (-13.0% 1999-2003; -37.2% 2001-2003).

Regional Jurisdictions

District of Columbia

The District of Columbia is experiencing the largest increases in alcohol-related traffic injuries in the DC Metro Region. There is a significant increase in the number and percentage of injuries related to alcohol use. This is consistent with the large increase in alcohol-related traffic fatalities.

Alcohol-related traffic injuries rose 170.4% in 2003 compared with 2002. The percentage of injuries now related to alcohol is 12.1% compared to 3.8% in 2002. The number of total injuries decreased by 16.0% this past year.

The percentage of alcohol-related injuries to total traffic injuries in the District of Columbia has risen from 1% in 2001 to 12% in 2003.

There has been a continued, significant increase in alcohol-related motor vehicle injuries since first reported in 2001. From 2001 to 2003, there was a 526% increase with an increase of 132% 2001-2002 and 170% 2002-2003. The percentage of injuries related to alcohol-impaired driving has progressively increased (1.0% 2001; 3.8% 2002; 12.1% 2003). Fueling this sharp increase in percentage of alcohol-related injuries is the drop in overall traffic injuries of 48.7% 2001 to 2003.

Montgomery and Prince George's Counties, Maryland

Montgomery and Prince George's counties saw increases in alcohol-related injuries leading to a sharp increase in the percentage linked to impaired driving. Although still the lowest percentage in the DC Metro Region, these counties are quickly catching up.

Alcohol-related motor vehicle injuries increased 11.5% in the past year; however, overall injuries decreased 24.0% (2002 to 2003). The percentage of injuries related to alcohol increased from 6.7% to 9.8%.

Alcohol-related injuries in the Maryland counties increased in 2003; overall traffic injuries decreased.

Since 1999, the area has seen decreased injuries due to alcohol-related crashes (-7.6%) but the decrease in overall injuries is much greater (-18.2%). The percentage of injuries related to alcohol was high in 1999 at 8.7%, decreased to a low in 2001 of 5.5%, but has increased each year since then. At 9.8%, 2003 represents the highest percentage of alcohol-related injuries of the years represented in this report.

Northern Virginia

Northern Virginia has seen relatively little change in the number of alcohol-related motor vehicle injuries since 1999, however, total injuries has dropped significantly. This resulted in an increasing percentage of traffic injuries related to alcohol use. Northern Virginia's percentage, while the highest in the DC Metro Region, is lower than the Nation.

Northern Virginia has the highest percentage of traffic injuries related to alcohol in the DC Metro Region.

Alcohol-related traffic injuries in Northern Virginia decreased 3.4% in 2003 compared with 2002. The percentage of all injuries related to alcohol, however, increased from 9.1% in 2002 to 14.1% in 2003. Total motor vehicle injuries fell 37.7% during this period.

There was a 5.9% increase in alcohol-related injuries between 1999 and 2003. Total injuries fell by a much greater amount in 2003 compared with 1999 (34.7%). The percentage of injuries related to alcohol jumped from 8.0% in 2000 and 2001 to 14.1% in 2003.

Table 10: Alcohol-related Traffic Injuries by Jurisdiction, 1999-2003

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Percentage Change 2002-2003	Percentage Change 1999-2003
District of Columbia	-	-	**92**	**213**	**576**	**170.4%**	**526.1%**[#]
Maryland							
Montgomery County	637	463	292	377	660	75.1%	3.6%
Prince George's County	876	660	586	877	738	-15.8%	-15.8%
MD Regional Total	**1,513**	**1,123**	**878**	**1,254**	**1,398**	**11.5%**	**-7.6%**
Virginia							
Arlington County	160	185	196	190	166	-12.6%	3.8%
Fairfax County	815	663	770	827	803	-2.9%	-1.5%
Loudoun County	126	112	128	171	154	-9.9%	22.2%
Prince William County	281	317	263	284	311	9.5%	10.7%
City of Alexandria	93	105	108	128	115	-10.2%	23.7%
City of Fairfax	14	23	7	31	33	6.5%	135.7%
City of Falls Church	10	10	4	8	12	50.0%	20.0%
City of Manassas	28	20	28	37	30	-18.9%	7.1%
City of Manassas Park	11	4	6	9	4	-55.6%	-63.6%
Northern Virginia Total	**1,538**	**1,439**	**1,510**	**1,685**	**1,628**	**-3.4%**	**5.9%**
DC Metro Regional Total	**3,051***	**2,562***	**2,480**	**3,152**	**3,602**	**14.3%**	**18.1%**

***** Regional totals do not include jurisdictions with missing data.

[#] District of Columbia percentage change 2001-2003.

Source: Jurisdictional contacts, see specific contact in Methodology

Table 11: Total Traffic Injuries by Jurisdiction, 1996-2003

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Percentage Change 2002-2003	Percentage Change 1999-2003
District of Columbia	-	-	-	-	-	**9,253**	**5,650**	**4,748**	**-16.0%**	**-48.7%[#]**
Maryland										
Montgomery County	9,527	8,740	8,148	8,182	8,271	5,981	8,733	8,069	-7.6%	-1.4%
Prince George's County	12,172	11,113	9,882	9,261	9,610	10,028	10,062	6,206	-38.3%	-33.0%
MD Regional Total	**21,699**	**19,853**	**18,030**	**17,443**	**17,881**	**16,009**	**18,795**	**14,275**	**-24.0%**	**-18.2%**
Virginia										
Arlington County	2,024	1,929	1,955	1,946	1,894	1,966	1,658	1,274	-23.2%	-34.5%
Fairfax County	8,261	8,333	8,523	9,117	9,405	9,865	9,657	5,134	-46.8%	-43.7%
Loudoun County	1,132	1,102	1,129	1,347	1,419	1,643	1,654	1,278	-22.7%	-5.1%
Prince William County	3,004	2,922	2,840	2,984	3,050	3,316	3,246	2,767	-14.8%	-7.3%
City of Alexandria	1,371	1,323	1,380	1,407	1,309	1,382	1,395	320	-77.1%	-77.3%
City of Fairfax	280	389	368	332	366	415	383	266	-30.5%	-19.9%
City of Falls Church	142	128	112	146	152	97	118	42	-64.4%	-71.2%
City of Manassas	-	350	365	323	345	439	390	399	2.3%	-
City of Manassas Park	-	41	20	80	52	56	45	67	48.9%	-
Northern Virginia Total	**16,214***	**16,517**	**16,692**	**17,682**	**17,992**	**19,179**	**18,546**	**11,547**	**-37.7%**	**-34.7%**
DC Metro Regional Total	**37,913***	**36,370***	**34,722***	**35,125***	**35,873***	**44,441**	**42,991**	**30,570**	**-28.9%**	**-13.0%**

* Regional totals do not include jurisdictions with missing data.

[#] District of Columbia percentage change 2001-2003

Source: Jurisdictional contacts, see specific contact in Methodology

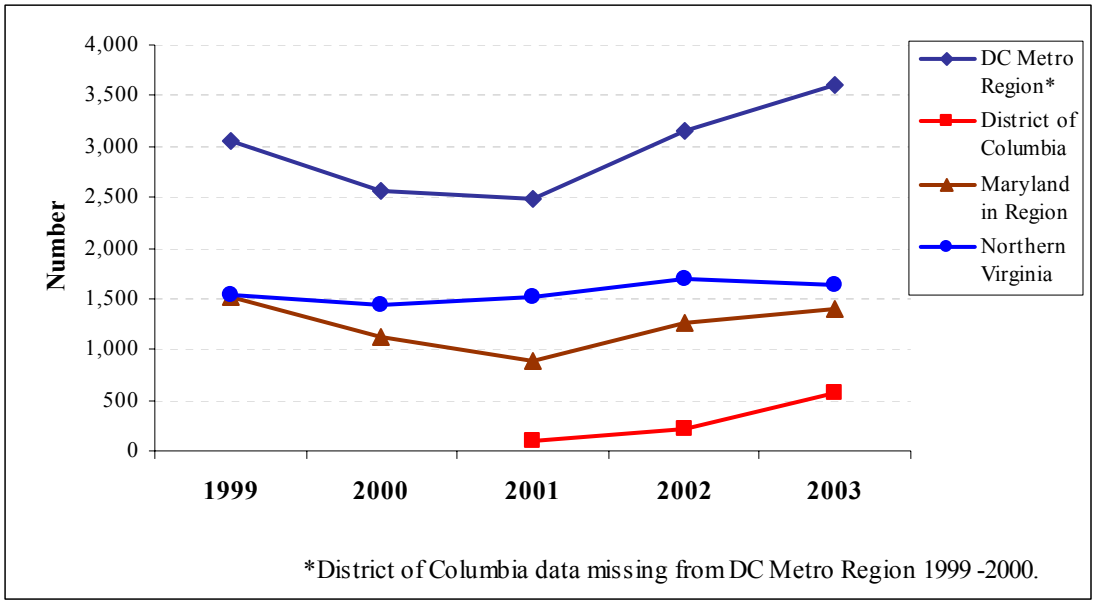


Figure 10: Number of Alcohol-related Traffic Injuries Over Time, By region, 1999-2003

Figure 11: Total Number of Motor Vehicle Injuries Over Time, By Region, 1999-2003

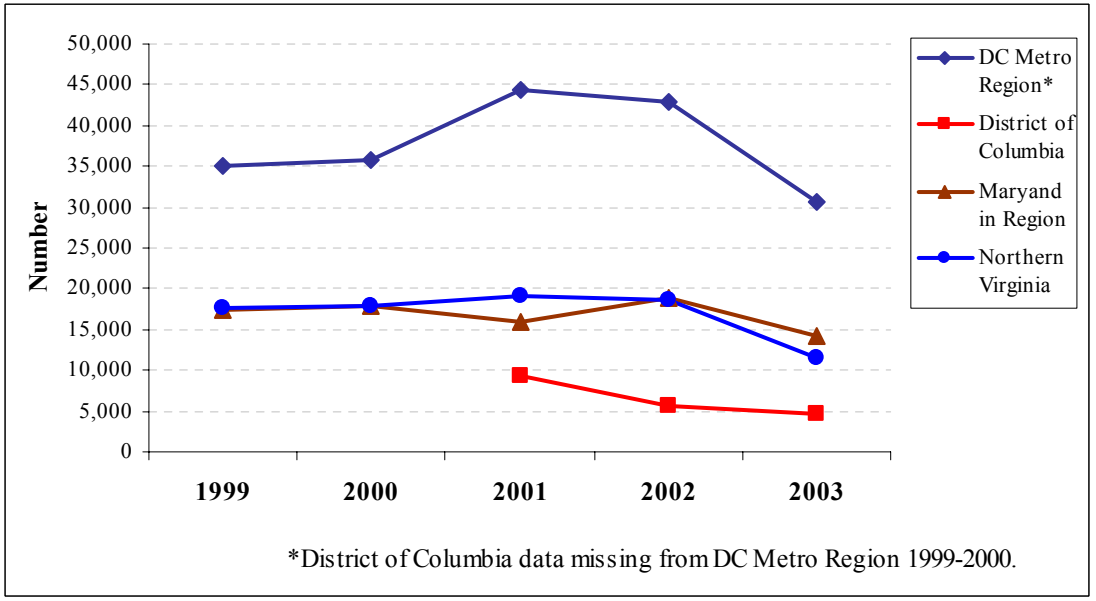


Table 12: Percentage of all Traffic Injuries that were Alcohol-related, 1999-2003

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
District of Columbia	**-**	**-**	**1.0%**	**3.8%**	**12.1%**
Maryland					
Montgomery County	7.8%	5.6%	4.9%	4.3%	8.2%
Prince George's County	9.5%	6.9%	5.8%	8.7%	11.9%
MD Regional Total	**8.7%**	**6.3%**	**5.5%**	**6.7%**	**9.8%**
Virginia					
Arlington County	8.2%	9.8%	10.0%	11.5%	13.0%
Fairfax County	8.9%	7.0%	7.8%	8.6%	15.6%
Loudoun County	9.4%	7.9%	7.8%	10.3%	12.1%
Prince William County	9.4%	10.4%	7.9%	8.7%	11.2%
City of Alexandria	6.6%	8.0%	7.8%	9.2%	35.9%
City of Fairfax	4.2%	6.3%	1.7%	8.1%	12.4%
City of Falls Church	6.8%	6.6%	4.1%	6.8%	28.6%
City of Manassas	8.7%	5.8%	6.4%	9.5%	7.5%
City of Manassas Park	13.8%	7.7%	10.7%	20.0%	6.0%
Northern Virginia Total	**8.7%**	**8.0%**	**7.9%**	**9.1%**	**14.1%**
DC Metro Regional Total	**8.7%***	**7.1%***	**5.6%**	**7.3%**	**11.8%**

* Regional totals do not include jurisdictions with missing data.

Source: Jurisdictional contacts, see specific contact in Methodology

Figure 12: Percentage of Total Injuries Due to Crashes Involving Impaired Drivers Over Time, By Region, 1999-2003

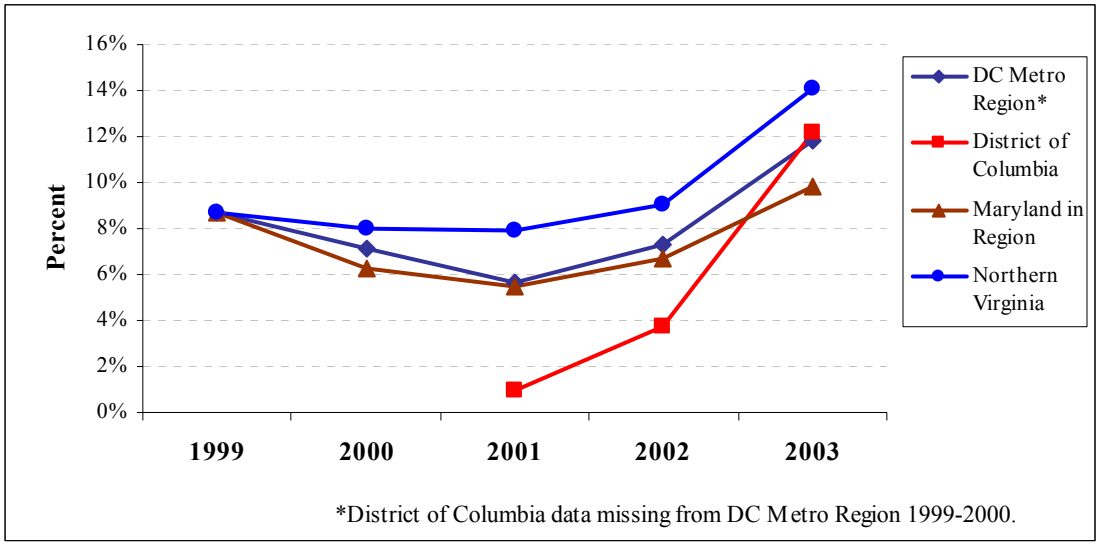


Table 13: SNAPSHOT! Motor Vehicle Injuries in 2003

	Total Injuries	Alcohol-related Injuries	Percentage of Total Injuries that were Alcohol-related	Percentage Change Alcohol-related Injuries, 2002-2003
District of Columbia	**4,748**	**576**	**12.1%**	**170.4%**
Maryland				
Montgomery County	8,069	660	8.2%	75.1%
Prince George's County	6,206	738	11.9%	-15.8%
MD Regional Total	**14,275**	**1,398**	**9.8%**	**11.5%**
Virginia				
Arlington County	1,274	166	13.0%	-12.6%
Fairfax County	5,134	803	15.6%	-2.9%
Loudoun County	1,278	154	12.1%	-9.9%
Prince William County	2,767	311	11.2%	9.5%
City of Alexandria	320	115	35.9%	-10.2%
City of Fairfax	266	33	12.4%	6.5%
City of Falls Church	42	12	28.6%	50.0%
City of Manassas	399	30	7.5%	-18.9%
City of Manassas Park	67	4	6.0%	-55.6%
Northern Virginia Total	**11,547**	**1,628**	**14.1%**	**-3.4%**
DC Metro Regional Total	**30,570**	**3,602**	**11.8%**	**14.3%**

Source: Jurisdictional contacts, see specific contact in Methodology

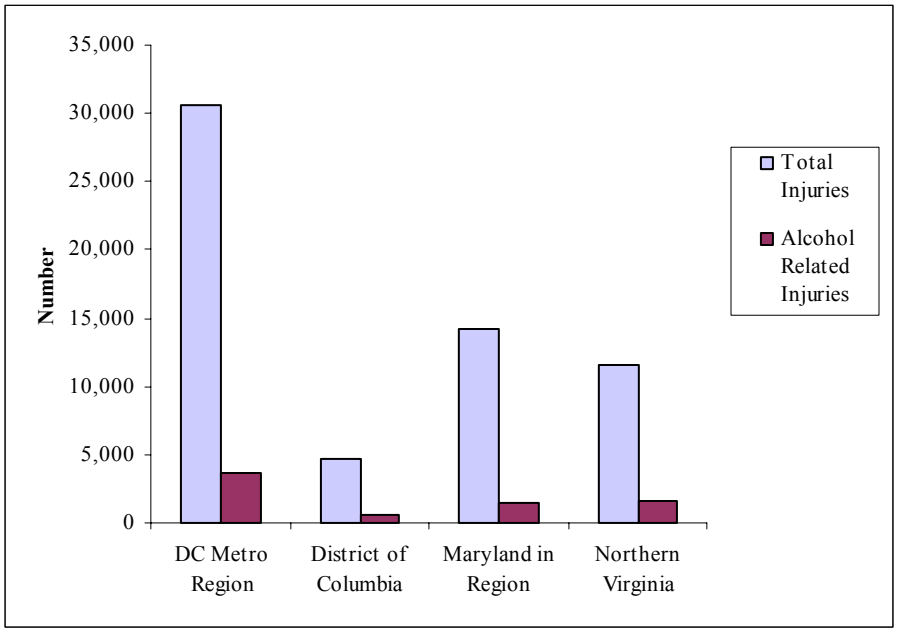
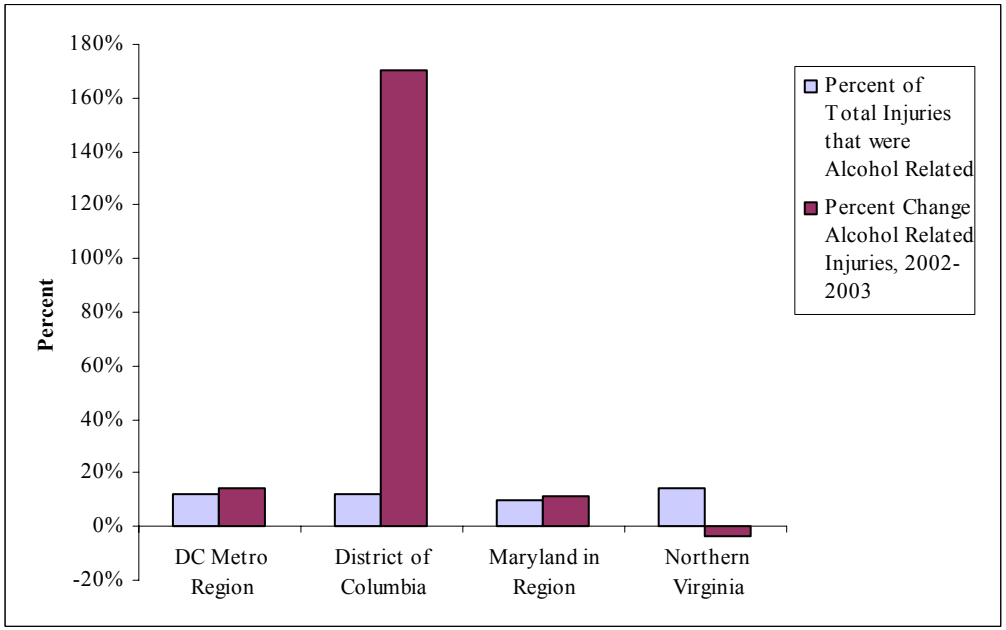


Figure 13A: SNAPSHOT! Number of Total and Alcohol-related Motor Vehicle Injuries, By Region, 2003

Figure 13B: SNAPSHOT! Percentage of Injuries: Alcohol-related and Change 2002-2003



TRAFFIC ARRESTS

DC Metro Region

Alcohol-related arrests decreased across the DC Metro Region in 2003. At the same time, there are increases in the number and percentage of fatalities and injuries related to alcohol use.

Alcohol-related driving arrests decreased 10.8% in 2003.

The DC Metro Region reported 14,042 alcohol-related driving arrests this past year. This represents a decrease of 10.8% compared with 2002. The number of arrests is the lowest since 1994 with the exception of 2001 (12,731 arrests). Arrests are down 12.7% since 1994.

The arrest of people under the age of 21 years represents only 1% of the overall arrests (148 of 14,042 arrests). Comparing only those jurisdictions reporting in both 2002 and 2003, juvenile arrests have decreased slightly from 1.4% of all arrests in 2002 to 1.2% in 2003. Caution must be used in analysis of data on juveniles due to inconsistency in definitions, and recording and maintenance of data within and between jurisdictions.

Regional Jurisdictions

District of Columbia

The District of Columbia reported the greatest increase in drunk driving arrests of all jurisdictions in the DC Metro Region, compared with 2002. Over the past ten years, however, there is an overall trend of annually decreasing alcohol-related arrests.

District of Columbia drunk driving arrests have decreased over 50% since 1994.

The District of Columbia saw an increase of 14.7% in alcohol-related traffic arrests in 2003 compared with 2002. At the same time there have been significant increases in alcohol-related fatalities (278%), injuries (170%), and crashes (143%, 2001-2003). With the exception of 2001, the number of arrests continues to decrease. Overall, there were 54.8% fewer arrests in 2003 than in 1994.

Montgomery and Prince George's Counties, Maryland
Drunk driving arrests were up over 50% in 2002 compared with 2001. In the past year, however, that gain was nearly eliminated.

A decrease in 2003 drunk driving arrests in Prince George's County followed a year of significant increase.

Montgomery and Prince George's counties saw a 32.5% decrease in alcohol-related driving arrests compared with 2002. Arrests since 1994 have decreased 5.9%. Prince George's County had a decrease in the number of reported arrests (-58.8%, 2002 to 2003) while Montgomery County saw no difference.

Northern Virginia
There has been little change in the number of alcohol-related driving arrests in Northern Virginia over the past ten years.

The Northern Virginia jurisdictions closest to the District of Columbia saw increases in arrests for drunk driving.

Northern Virginia saw a 5% increase in drunk driving arrests in the past year; a 21.9% increase from 2000 to 2003. Compared to 1994, arrests have increased 4.5%. The jurisdictions closest to the District of Columbia (Arlington, Fairfax, and Prince William counties and the City of Alexandria) saw an increase in arrests while those less central saw a decrease.

Table 14: Total Alcohol-related Driving Arrests by Jurisdiction, 1994-2003.

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Percentage Change 2002-2003	Percentage Change 1994-2003
District of Columbia	**3,784**	**3,025**	**2,854**	**2,714**	**2,350**	**1,828**	**1,850**	**1,967**	**1,492**	**1,711**	**14.7%**	**-54.8%**
Maryland												
Montgomery County	3,006	3,407	4,168	3,847	4,445	4,599	4,436	3,420	3,151	3,148	-0.1%	4.7%
Prince George's County	2,040	2,354	4,553	2,400	2,321	2,315	1,933	1,199	3,877	1,598	-58.8%	-21.7%
MD Regional Total	**5,046**	**5,761**	**8,721**	**6,247**	**6,766**	**6,914**	**6,369**	**4,619**	**7,028**	**4,746**	**-32.5%**	**-5.9%**
Virginia												
Arlington County	873	890	1,041	1,027	1,037	921	817	625	696	715	2.7%	-18.1%
Fairfax County	3,177	2,714	3,075	3,033	2,754	2,858	2,475	2,451	2,969	3,350	12.8%	5.4%
Loudoun County	512	447	360	272	220	304	386	519	816	682	-16.4%	33.2%
Prince William County	1,410	1,313	1,250	1,461	1,635	1,967	1,517	1,571	1,525	1,656	8.6%	17.4%
Alexandria City	622	528	455	420	394	346	293	343	427	476	11.5%	-23.5%
Fairfax City	605	414	386	357	325	269	208	179	244	242	-0.8%	-60.0%
Falls Church City	57	66	74	54	53	47	84	74	45	40	-11.1%	-29.8%
Manassas City	-	-	-	214	209	208	349	276	348	298	-14.4%	-
Manassas Park City	-	-	-	77	46	45	92	107	155	126	-18.7%	-
Northern Virginia Total	**7,256***	**6,372***	**6,641***	**6,915**	**6,673**	**6,965**	**6,221**	**6,145**	**7,225**	**7,585**	**5.0%**	**4.5%**
DC Metro Regional Total	**16,086***	**15,158***	**18,216***	**15,876**	**15,789**	**15,707**	**14,440**	**12,731**	**15,745**	**14,042**	**-10.8%**	**-12.7%**

***** Regional totals do not include jurisdictions with missing data.

Source: Jurisdictional contacts, see specific contact in Methodology

Figure 14: Total Alcohol-related Arrest Trends, All Ages, By Region, 1994-2003

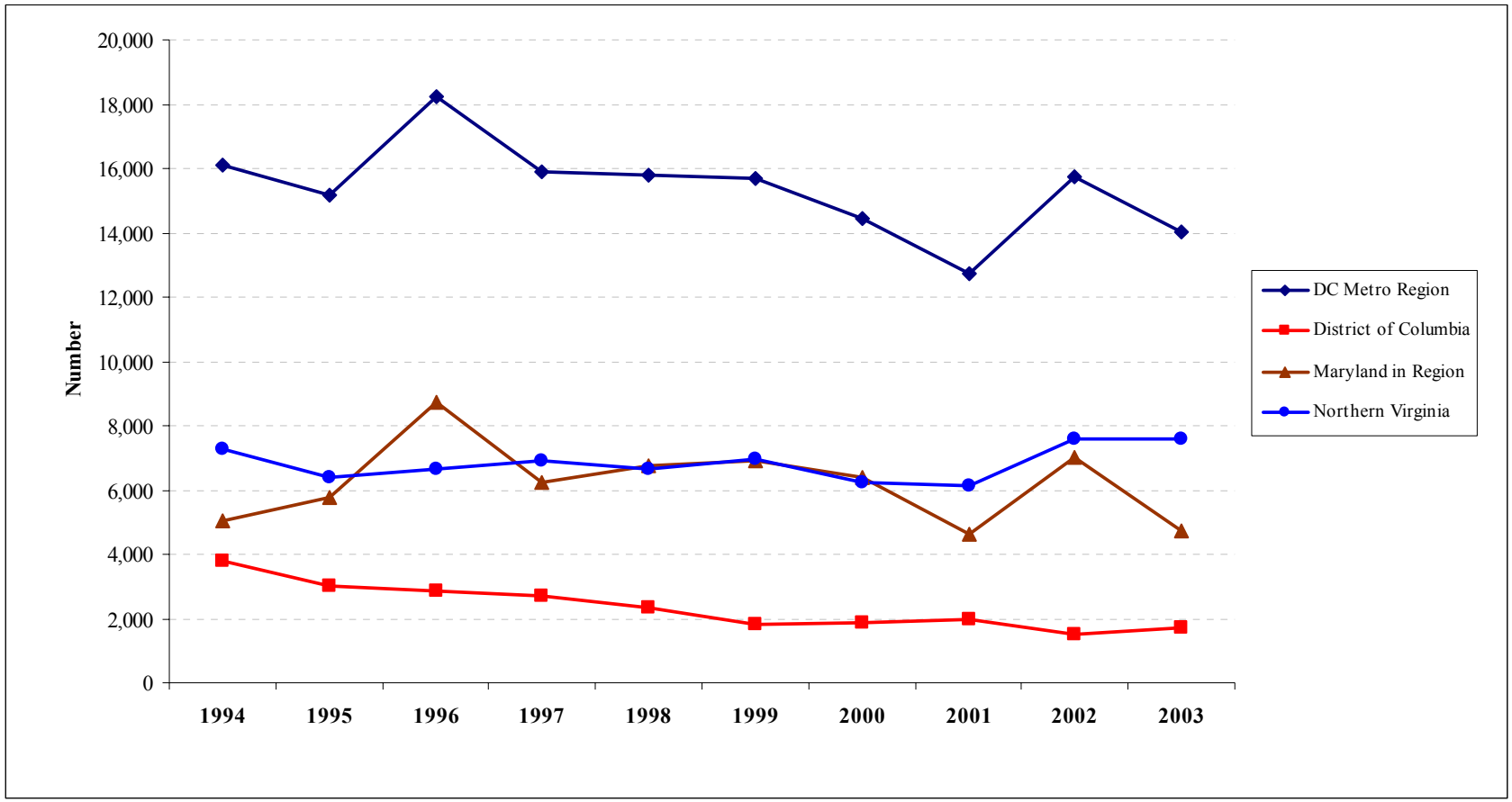


Table 15: Total Alcohol-related Driving Arrests of Juveniles and Adults by Jurisdiction, 1999-2003.

	1999			2000			2001			2002			2003		
	≤ 18 years	> 18 years	Total	≤ 18 years	> 18 years	Total	≤ 18 years	> 18 years	Total	≤ 18 years	> 18 years	Total	≤ 18 years	> 18 years	Total
District of Columbia			**1,828**			**1,850**	**34**	**1,933**	**1,967**	**8**	**1,484**	**1,492**	**23**	**1,688**	**1,711**
Maryland															
Montgomery County*			4,599	73	4,363	4,436	46	3,374	3,420	56	3,095	3,151	41	3,107	3,148
Prince George's County#			2,315	10	1,923	1,933			1,199			3,877	7	1,591	1,598
MD Regional Total			**6,914**	**83**	**6,286**	**6,369**			**4,619**			**7,028**	**48**	**4,698**	**4,746**
Virginia															
Arlington County	5	916	921	1	816	817	4	621	625	4	692	696	0	715	715
Fairfax County	58	2,800	2,858	41	2,434	2,475	32	2,419	2,451	49	2,920	2,969	54	3,296	3,350
Loudoun County	2	302	304	5	381	386	9	510	519	7	809	816	-	-	682
Prince William County	19	1,948	1,967	26	1,491	1,517	31	1,540	1,571	19	1,506	1,525	16	1,640	1,656
Alexandria City	2	344	346	1	292	293	1	342	343	8	419	427	1	475	476
Fairfax City	2	267	269	2	206	208	1	178	179	4	240	244	3	239	242
Falls Church City	0	47	47	1	83	84	2	72	74	0	45	45	1	39	40
Manassas City	2	206	208	1	348	349	3	273	278	7	341	348	2	296	298
Manassas Park City	1	44	45	1	91	92	3	104	107	2	153	155	0	126	126
Northern Virginia Total	**91**	**6,874**	**6,965**	**79**	**6,142**	**6,221**	**86**	**6,059**	**6,145**	**100**	**7,125**	**7,225**	**77**	**6,826**	**7,585**
DC Metro Regional Total^			**15,707**			**14,440**			**12,731**			**15,745**	**148**	**13,212**	**14,042**

^ DC Metro Regional totals for under and over age 18 years not included for years with missing juvenile data

* Montgomery County data for persons under the age of 21 years determined to be driver and "at fault" for accident

Prince George's County data reflects number of arrests for persons under the age of 24 years

Source: Jurisdictional contacts, see specific contact in Methodology

NOTE: Data on persons under the age of 21 years is not consistently recorded or maintained within and between jurisdictions. Caution must be used in drawing conclusions regarding changes in behavior based on this data.

IMPACT ON OUR YOUTH

People under the age of 21 years constitute 30% of the United States population. The DC Metro Region has 27.6% of its population under 21. Youth in the young driving ages, 15 to 21 years, constitute 8.6% of the U.S. and 7.6% of the DC Metro Region population.

Several jurisdictions were unable to provide data on youth for this report. Results are presented for the DC Metro Region with the reminder that not all jurisdictions are represented.

Fatalities

13% of all juvenile traffic fatalities were related to alcohol.

There was a drop in reported alcohol-related juvenile fatalities from 19 in 2002 to 9 in 2003. Juveniles made up 7.4% of all persons killed in alcohol-related motor vehicle fatalities in 2003. Nineteen percent of those killed in traffic crashes, both total and alcohol-related, were under the age of 21 years.

Juvenile alcohol-related fatalities represented 12.9% of all traffic fatalities for persons under the age of 21 in 2003. This includes youth who were of driving age, passengers, and pedestrians.

Crashes, Injuries, and Arrests

Youth under the age of 21 were involved in 15.1% of all alcohol-related crashes. This does not include data from three Northern Virginia jurisdictions.

Nearly 13% of people injured in alcohol-related traffic crashes in 2003 were under 21.

Data regarding youth injured in alcohol-related traffic crashes was unavailable from four jurisdictions. Of those reporting, 12.6% of injuries occurred in people under age 21 years.

3.4% of the population of the DC Metro Region is between the ages of 15 to 18 years. With all but one jurisdiction reporting, 1.1% of drivers arrested in 2003 for alcohol impaired driving in the Region were under the age of 18 years.

Table 16: Motor Vehicle Fatalities for Persons Under 21 Years of Age, 2002-2003

	2002			2003			Percentage Change, 2002-2003	
	Total Fatalities	Alcohol-related Fatalities	% of Total Juvenile Fatalities that were Alcohol-related	Total Fatalities	Alcohol-related Fatalities	% of Total Juvenile Fatalities that were Alcohol-related	Total Fatalities	Alcohol-related Fatalities
District of Columbia	**9**	**1**	**11.1%**	**21**	**1**	**4.8%**	**133.3%**	**0.0%**
Maryland								
Montgomery County	11*	-		3*	1*			
Prince George's County	35#	4#		29#	4#			
MD Regional Total	**46**	**4^**	**8.7%**	**32**	**5**	**15.6%**	**-30.4%**	**25.0%**
Virginia								
Arlington County	7	4		0	0			
Fairfax County	25	6		12	1			
Loudoun County	9	2		1	0			
Prince William County	10	1		3	2			
City of Alexandria	2	1		0	0			
City of Fairfax	0	0		1	-			
City of Falls Church	0	0		0	0			
City of Manassas	0	0		-	0			
City of Manassas Park	0	0		0	0			
Northern Virginia Total	**53**	**14**	**26.4%**	**17^**	**3**	**17.6%**	**-67.9%**	**-78.6%**
DC Metro Regional Total	**108**	**19^**	**17.6%**	**70^**	**9**	**12.9%**	**-35.2%**	**-52.6%**

^ Regional Totals do not include jurisdictions with missing data

* Montgomery County data for persons under the age of 21 years determined to be driver and "at fault" for accident

Prince George's County data represents persons under the age of 24 years

Source: Jurisdictional contacts, see specific contact in Methodology

NOTE: Data on persons under the age of 21 years is not consistently recorded or maintained within and between jurisdictions. Caution must be used in drawing conclusions regarding changes in behavior based on this data.

Table 17: Alcohol-related Motor Vehicle Injuries for Persons Under 21 Years of Age, 2002-2003

	2002+		2003	
	Number of Injuries	Percentage of Alcohol-related Injuries, All Ages	Number of Injuries	Percentage of Alcohol-related Injuries, All Ages
District of Columbia	**-**		**194**	**33.7%**
Maryland				
Montgomery County			70*	
Prince George's County			163#	
MD Regional Total	**172**	**13.7%**	**233**	**16.7%**
Virginia				
Arlington County			-	
Fairfax County			-	
Loudoun County			-	
Prince William County			25	
City of Alexandria			0	
City of Fairfax			2	
City of Falls Church			1	
City of Manassas			0	
City of Manassas Park			-	
Northern Virginia Total	**314**	**18.6%**	**28^**	**1.7%**
DC Metro Regional Total	**486^**	**15.4%**	**455^**	**12.6%**

+ Data from 2002 only available at regional level. Completeness of data unknown.

^ Regional Totals do not include jurisdictions with missing data

* Montgomery County data for persons under the age of 21 years determined to be driver and "at fault" for accident

Prince George's County data represents persons under the age of 24 years

Source: Jurisdictional contacts, see specific contact in Methodology

NOTE: Data on persons under the age of 21 years is not consistently recorded or maintained within and between jurisdictions. Caution must be used in drawing conclusions regarding changes in behavior based on this data.

Table 18: Alcohol-related Motor Vehicle Arrests for Persons Under 21 Years of Age By Region, 2002-2003

	2002		2003	
	Number of Arrests	Percentage of Alcohol-related Arrests, All Ages	Number of Arrests	Percentage of Alcohol-related Arrests, All Ages
District of Columbia	**8**	**0.5%**	**23**	**1.3%**
Maryland				
Montgomery County	56*		41*	
Prince George's County	-		7[#]	
MD Regional Total	**56^**	**1.8%**	**48**	**1.0%**
Virginia				
Arlington County	4		0	
Fairfax County	49		54	
Loudoun County	7		-	
Prince William County	19		16	
City of Alexandria	8		1	
City of Fairfax	4		3	
City of Falls Church	0		1	
City of Manassas	7		2	
City of Manassas Park	2		0	
Northern Virginia Total	**100**	**1.4%**	**77^**	**1.0%**
DC Metro Regional Total	**164^**	**1.0%**	**148^**	**1.1%**

^ Regional Totals do not include jurisdictions with missing data

* Montgomery County data for persons under the age of 21 years determined to be driver and "at fault" for accident

[#] Prince George's County data represents persons under the age of 24 years

Source: Jurisdictional contacts, see specific contact in Methodology

NOTE: Data on persons under the age of 21 years is not consistently recorded or maintained within and between jurisdictions. Caution must be used in drawing conclusions regarding changes in behavior based on this data.

Table 19A: SNAPSHOT! Motor Vehicle Fatalities for Persons Under 21 Years of Age by Jurisdiction, 2003

	Total Juvenile Fatalities	Alcohol-related Fatalities	Percentage of Total Juvenile Fatalities that were Alcohol-related	Percentage Change Alcohol-related Juvenile Fatalities, 2002-2003	Percentage of Alcohol-related Fatalities, All Ages
District of Columbia	**21**	**1**	**4.8%**	**0.0%**	**2.9%**
Maryland					
Montgomery County	3*	1*			
Prince George's County	29#	4#			
MD Regional Total	**32**	**5**	**15.6%**	**25.0%**	**13.2%**
Virginia					
Arlington County	0	0			
Fairfax County	12	1			
Loudoun County	1	0			
Prince William County	3	2			
City of Alexandria	0	0			
City of Fairfax	1	0			
City of Falls Church	0	0			
City of Manassas	-	0			
City of Manassas Park	0	0			
Northern Virginia Total	**17^**	**3**	**17.6%**	**-78.6%**	**6.0%**
DC Metro Regional Total	**70^**	**9**	**12.9%**	**-52.6%**	**7.4%**

^ Regional totals do not include jurisdictions with missing data.

* Montgomery County data for persons under the age of 21 years determined to be driver and "at fault" for accident

Prince George's County data represents persons under the age of 24 years

Source: Jurisdictional contacts, see specific contact in Methodology

NOTE: Data on persons under the age of 21 years is not consistently recorded or maintained within and between jurisdictions. Caution must be used in drawing conclusions regarding changes in behavior based on this data.

Table 19B: SNAPSHOT! Alcohol-related Crashes, Injuries, and Arrests for Persons Under 21 Years of Age, 2003

	Crashes	Percentage of Alcohol-related Crashes, All Ages	Injuries	Percentage of Alcohol-related Injuries, All Ages	Arrests	Percentage of Alcohol-related Arrests, All Ages
District of Columbia	**412**		**194**		**23**	
Maryland						
Montgomery County	105*		70*		41*	
Prince George's County	97[#]		163[#]		7[#]	
MD Regional Total	**202**		**233**		**48**	
Virginia						
Arlington County	-		-		0	
Fairfax County	154		-		54	
Loudoun County	-		-		-	
Prince William County	45		25		16	
City of Alexandria	1		0		1	
City of Fairfax	6		2		3	
City of Falls Church	5		1		1	
City of Manassas	0		0		2	
City of Manassas Park	-		-		0	
Northern Virginia Total	**211^**		**28^**		**77^**	
DC Metro Regional Total	**825^**	**15.1%**	**455^**	**12.6%**	**148^**	**1.1%**

^ Regional totals do not include jurisdictions with missing data.

* Montgomery County data for persons under the age of 21 years determined to be driver and "at fault" for accident

[#] Prince George's County data represents persons under the age of 24 years

Source: Jurisdictional contacts, see specific contact in Methodology

NOTE: Data on persons under the age of 21 years is not consistently recorded or maintained within and between jurisdictions. Caution must be used in drawing conclusions regarding changes in behavior based on this data.

SUMMARY

The DC Metro Region has seen alcohol-related motor vehicle fatalities increase each year since 1998. The 13.0% increase in the past year is in sharp contrast to the decrease of 2.9% nationwide. With the exception of 2002, reported arrests for impaired driving have decreased during this time. In 2003, the number of alcohol-related crashes decreased slightly making those that occurred more deadly. Standardization of information collection systems would improve comparability between jurisdictions in the future.

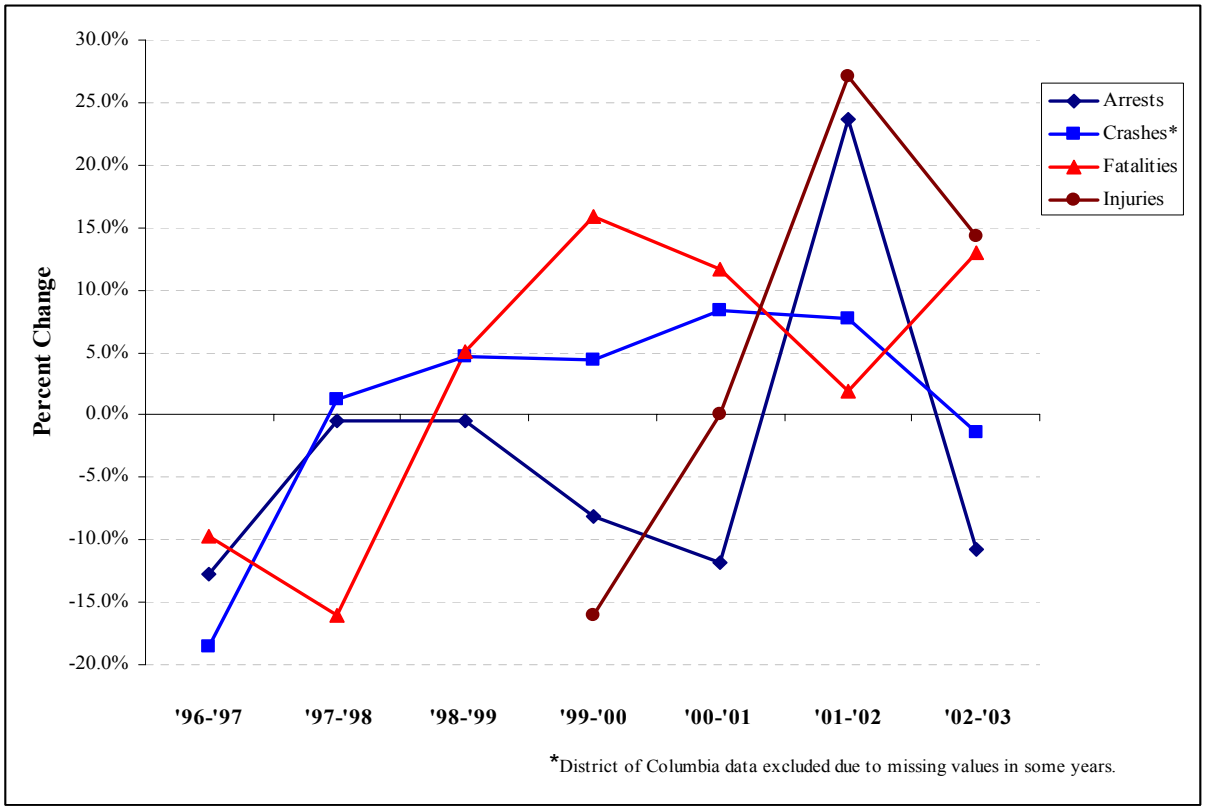
Table 20: DC Metro Region Percentage Change in Alcohol-related Incidents by Year, 1996-2003

	'96-'97	'97-'98	'98-'99	'99-'00	'00-'01	'01-'02	'02-'03
Arrests	-12.8%	-0.5%	-0.5%	-8.1%	-11.8%	23.7%	-10.8%
Crashes*	-18.5%	1.3%	4.7%	4.4%	8.3%	7.7%	-1.4%
Fatalities	-9.7%	-16.1%	5.1%	15.9%	11.6%	1.9%	13.0%
Injuries	-	-	-	-16.0%	-6.8%*	27.1%	14.3%

* District of Columbia data excluded due to missing values in previous years.

Source: Jurisdictional contacts, see specific contact in Methodology

Figure 20: DC Metro Region Percentage Change in Alcohol-related Incidents by Year, 1996-2003



The District of Columbia continues to experience significant increases not only in alcohol-related fatalities, but crashes and injuries as well. Despite active involvement in impaired driving initiatives and increased arrest rates, alcohol-related incidents increased alarmingly in 2003 compared with 2002.

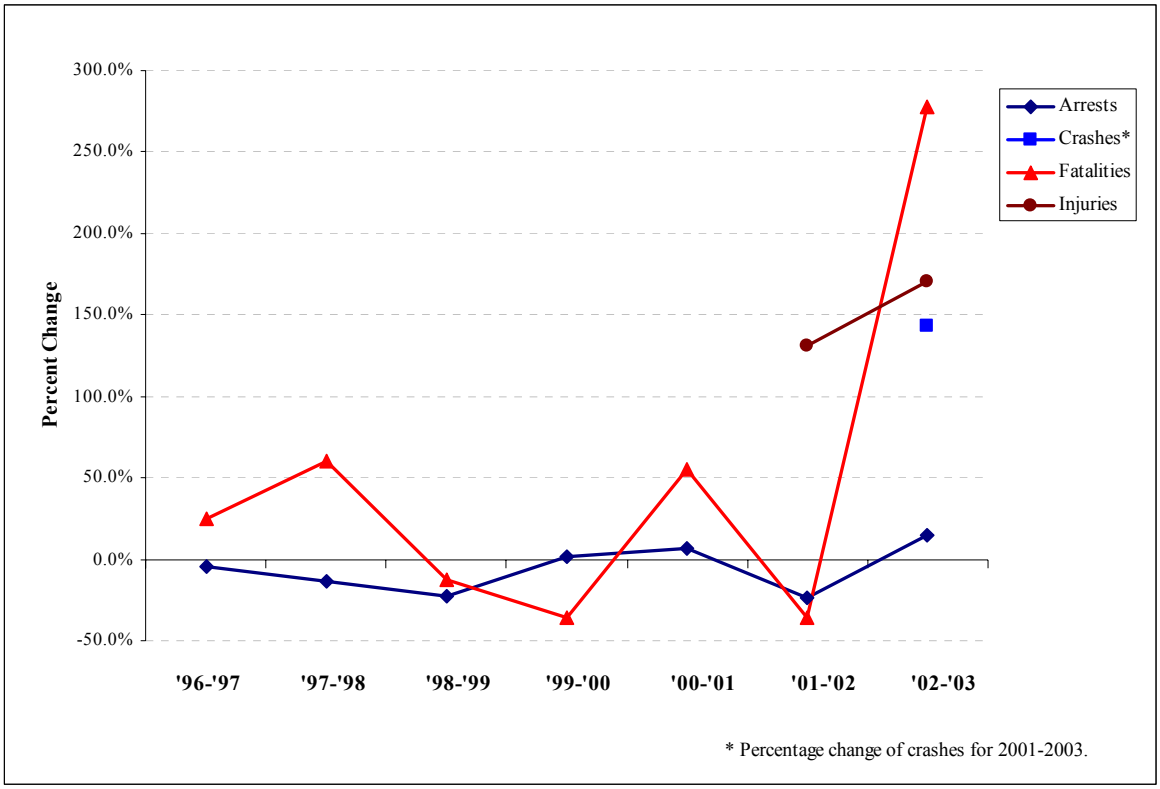
Table 21: District of Columbia Percentage Change in Alcohol-related Incidents by Year, 1996-2003

	'96-'97	'97-'98	'98-'99	'99-'00	'00-'01	'01-'02	'02-'03
Arrests	-4.9%	-13.4%	-22.2%	1.2%	6.3%	-24.1%	14.7%
Crashes	-	-	-	-	-	-	143.2%*
Fatalities	25.0%	60.0%	-12.5%	-35.7%	55.6%	-35.7%	277.8%
Injuries	-	-	-	-	-	131.5%	170.4%

* Percentage change 2001 to 2003.

Source: Jurisdictional contacts, see specific contact in Methodology

Figure 21: District of Columbia Percentage Change in Alcohol-related Incidents by Year, 1996-2003



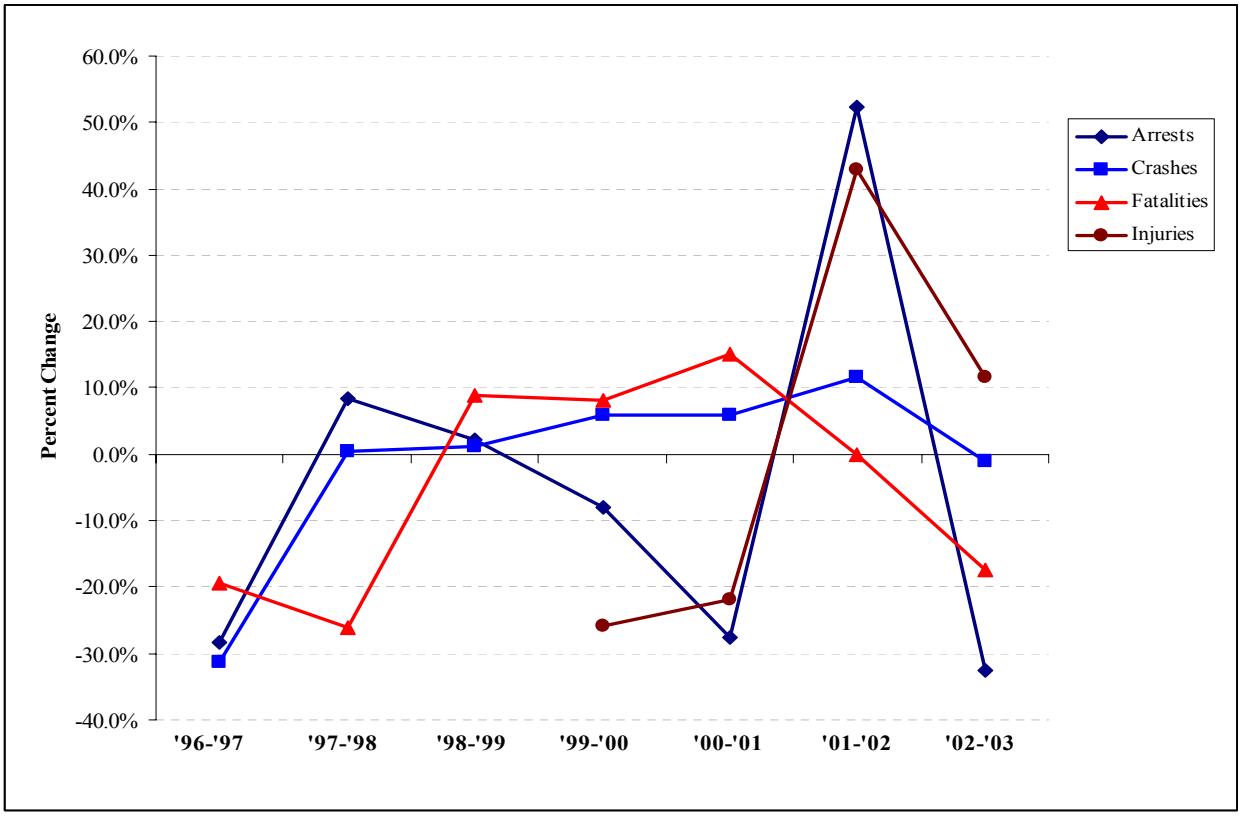
Montgomery and Prince George's counties in Maryland have seen varied numbers of arrests for impaired driving over the past three years. There has been an overall decrease in drunk driving arrests of 25.5% since 2000. Over the same period, alcohol-related fatalities have increased 5%, injuries 25%, and crashes 17%.

Table 22: Montgomery and Prince George's Counties, Maryland, Percentage Change in Alcohol-related Incidents by Year, 1996-2003

	'96-'97	'97-'98	'98-'99	'99-'00	'00-'01	'01-'02	'02-'03
Arrests	-28.4%	8.3%	2.2%	-7.9%	-27.5%	52.2%	-32.5%
Crashes	-31.4%	0.4%	1.3%	6.0%	6.0%	11.7%	-1.1%
Fatalities	-19.3%	-26.1%	8.8%	8.1%	15.0%	0.0%	-17.4%
Injuries	-	-	-	-25.8%	-21.8%	42.8%	11.5%

Source: Jurisdictional contacts, see specific contact in Methodology

Figure 22: Montgomery and Prince George's Counties, Maryland, Percentage Change in Alcohol-related Incidents by Year, 1996-2003



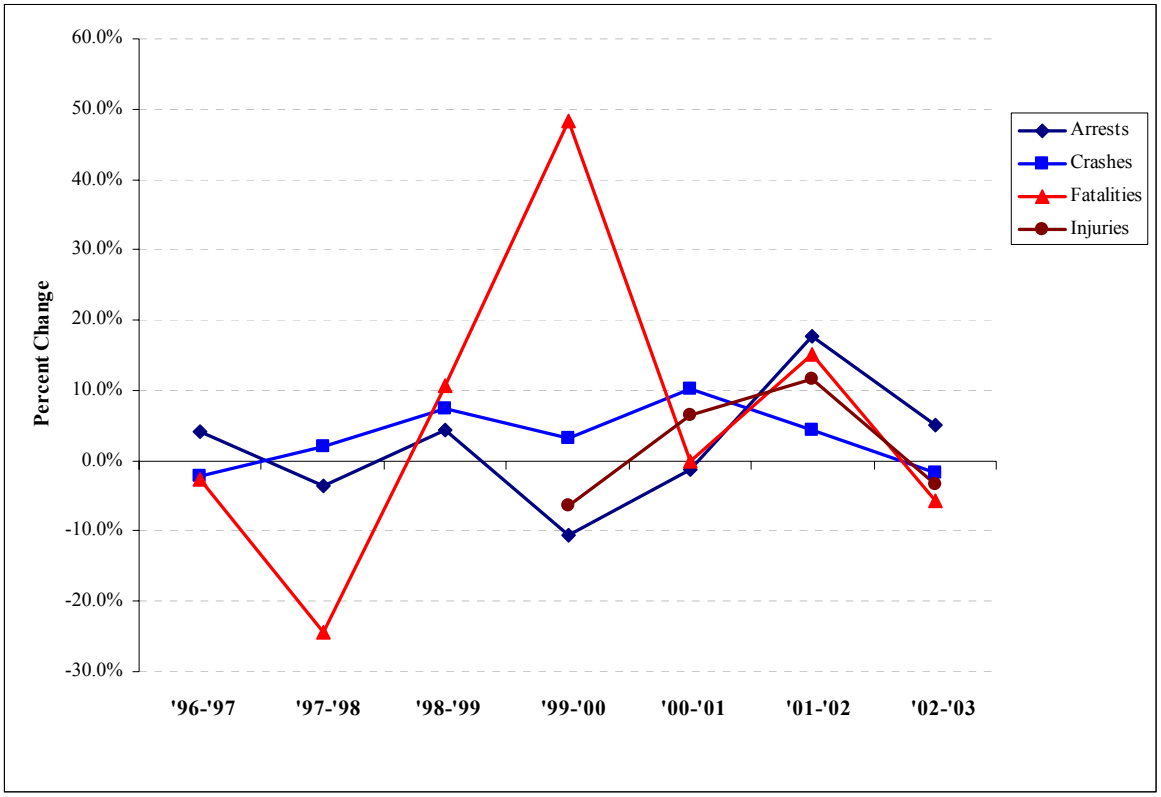
Northern Virginia had an overall increase in the number of arrests between 2002 and 2003. Associated with the increased arrests, alcohol-related incidents dropped. For the past eight years, the incidence of alcohol-related arrests, crashes, and injuries has remained relatively stable. Of note is a significant increase in the number of fatalities in 2000 and again in 2002.

Table 23: Northern Virginia Percentage Change in Alcohol-related Incidents by Year, 1996-2003

	'96-'97	'97-'98	'98-'99	'99-'00	'00-'01	'01-'02	'02-'03
Arrests	4.1%	-3.5%	4.4%	-10.7%	-1.2%	17.6%	5.0%
Crashes	-2.2%	2.1%	7.5%	3.3%	10.3%	4.4%	-1.6%
Fatalities	-2.6%	-24.3%	10.7%	48.4%	0.0%	15.2%	-5.7%
Injuries	-	-	-	-6.4%	6.4%	11.6%	-3.4%

Source: Jurisdictional contacts, see specific contact in Methodology

Figure 23: Northern Virginia Percentage Change in Alcohol-related Incidents by Year, 1996-2003



LOCAL IMPAIRED DRIVING INITIATIVES

Jurisdictions within the DC Metro Region were questioned regarding specific programs focused on decreasing the incidence of impaired driving. Eight categories of programs were included in the survey. These categories are not considered inclusive of all potential programs, but are considered the most common. Contacts were asked to indicate if programs were part of their jurisdiction's impaired driving prevention efforts and, if so, the source of program funding.

Impaired driving initiatives of interest in this report:

- **Sobriety checkpoints**: Check points set up on roads that have a history of problems caused by impaired driving. All cars are stopped and officers talk with the drivers. Any driver suspected to be under the influence of alcohol is tested on site.

- **Blanket patrols**: Roaming patrols stop cars that are moving erratically or in an unsafe manner. Drivers suspected to be under the influence of alcohol are tested on site.

- **Public service announcements**: Public service announcements (PSAs) are often utilized in conjunction with sobriety checkpoints and blanket patrols. The purpose of these announcements is to raise awareness of increased enforcement and the dangers of impaired driving.

- **Prevention activities**: Many efforts may be undertaken by local jurisdictions to increase awareness of the effects of alcohol on driving. Community education programs and monitoring for excessive intoxication at bars are two examples. Typical activities targeting underage drinking prevention include patrolling of underage parties where alcohol may be present, spot checks of establishments to verify compliance with identification checks, underage stings at establishments selling liquor, juvenile justice screening and treatment, and educational programs in the schools.

- **Responsible server training and enforcement**: Regulations defining training requirements for alcoholic beverage servers are in place within the DC Metro Region. These laws often include server training in proper methods of checking identification, recognizing intoxication, computing the amount of alcohol per serving, and methods of refusing to serve potentially intoxicated clients. Jurisdictions were asked to identify if they participated in activities such as on-site training of servers and monitoring of establishments to ensure they don't over-serve and/or serve minors. Activities identified as enforcement regulations include giving citations to bar owners for not meeting responsible server training regulations and to tenders for over-serving and/or serving minors.

- **Collaborative partnerships**: Community collaborations are often most effective in addressing impaired driving concerns. Potential organizations included in these collaborations are law enforcement, schools, social services, health care providers, community agencies, and the Alcoholic Beverage Commission. Activities may include strategic planning, joint funding applications, and joint implementation activities. For the purposes of this report, partnerships between law enforcement and non-enforcement prevention and/or treatment partners (e.g. MADD, school administration, and health departments) defined a collaborative partnership.

- **Simplified arrest paperwork**: This concept has been introduced to police jurisdictions throughout the nation. The goal is to decrease the time it takes an officer to process an arrest thereby getting the officer back on the road faster. Simplified arrest paperwork and processing may involve centralized book-keeping, reducing the number and complexity of forms, and simplifying the approval process.

- **Officer training**: Impaired driving enforcement is a standard part of academy training. This survey solicited information on jurisdiction-level training to enforce learning or learn new technology. Topics may include clues for recognizing an impaired driver, use of the Standardized Field Sobriety Test and Preliminary Breath Tester, proper methods of conducting a stop for a potential impaired driver, booking procedures, and providing courtroom testimony.

2003 Local Initiatives

Five of the twelve jurisdictions of Northern Virginia counties and cities were unable to report data on impaired driving programs. The following results, therefore, include data from the jurisdictions of the District of Columbia, Montgomery and Prince George's Counties in Maryland, Arlington and Prince William Counties in Virginia, and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, and Manassas Park in Virginia.

- **Sobriety checkpoints**: All but one of the reporting jurisdictions identifies participation in sobriety checkpoints in 2003. The District of Columbia reported 26 checkpoints this past year; Prince William and Loudon Counties reported 23 and 10 respectively; Montgomery and Prince George's Counties reported 6 and 5; and Manassas Park reported 2. Most jurisdictions report funding checkpoints through their general budget; however one indicates overtime funds are used. *Checkpoint Strikeforce*, supported by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), has been in place in the Region since 2001 to facilitate coordination and funds for such efforts. Data was not obtained on the extent to which jurisdictions participated in this program.

- **Blanket Patrols**: All reporting jurisdictions participated in blanket patrols. Several sources of funding were reported for these including general budget, overtime, and grant funds.

- **Public service announcements**: Public service announcements (PSAs), by their very nature, are cross jurisdictional. Only two jurisdictions identified initiating PSAs during 2003. Of those, one reported funding efforts through grants and overtime, and one as a part of the general budget. *Checkpoint Strikeforce* incorporates PSAs into the program. It is unknown if jurisdictions considered these efforts in their responses.

- **Prevention activities**: As a part of their general budget, all jurisdictions reported involvement in impaired driving prevention efforts. Information on the nature or volume of these efforts was not solicited.

- **Responsible server training and enforcement**: The District of Columbia and Maryland have the most structured regulations regarding alcoholic beverage server training. These areas require that at least one server be trained on responsible dispensing of alcohol. Four of the reporting jurisdictions indicate they participate in some aspect of responsible server training – either through assisting in the training or monitoring compliance with standards. These four jurisdictions also indicate they are active in enforcement of state regulations. Funding was provided through general budget item, overtime, and grant funding.

- **Collaborative partnerships**: All but one of the jurisdictions indicated they participated in community collaborative partnerships. Information on the participants and collaboration activities was not requested. Most jurisdictions funded officer involvement through the general budget. However, one paid overtime and one used grant funds.

- **Simplified arrest paperwork**: Three of the six reporting jurisdictions have instituted some form of simplified paperwork to facilitate getting officers back on the streets after arrests. These efforts have been funded through the general budget and, in one jurisdiction, through SADD student volunteers.

- **Officer training**: All jurisdictions reported that some form of officer training took place in 2003. Data on specific activities within this category was not requested. In all cases, officer training was undertaken as a part of the general budget.

FINAL COMMENTS

Efforts are underway nationwide to curb alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes, injuries and fatalities. In the DC Metro Region, local jurisdictions continue work to increase the number and impact of impaired driving initiatives. These efforts have not yet altered the annual increase in alcohol-related motor vehicle fatalities seen since 1998. In 2003, the incidence of alcohol-related fatalities increased 13.0% compared with 2002 in the DC Metro Region while the incidence decreased 2.9% nationwide. The District of Columbia has seen alarming increases in alcohol-related fatalities, injuries and crashes despite increasing efforts in impaired driving initiatives. The long term impact of these initiatives, as well as the impact of improved assessment of potential alcohol-related motor vehicle incidents, needs to be monitored.

The relationship between drunk driving arrests and alcohol-related fatalities, injuries and crashes is not clearly understood. The full impact of changes in the number of impaired driving arrests needs to be evaluated. In the DC Metro Region, arrests for impaired driving went down 10.8% in 2003 compared to 2002, while alcohol-related fatalities and injuries increased 13% and 14.3% respectively. In Northern Virginia, drunk driver arrests rose and fatalities and injuries decreased in the past year. However, in the District of Columbia alcohol-related arrests increased 14.7% while fatalities, injuries, and crashes all rose well over 100%. Similarly, in Prince George's County, Maryland, impaired driver arrests decreased over 50% while alcohol-related fatalities and injuries also decreased significantly. To further evaluate causes of increased problems in the most populated core of the DC Metro Region, it will be important to identify jurisdictional variance in road use. Information on the impact of mass transit options, commutes to social gatherings within the city, as well as density and type of roadways would provide valuable assistance in evaluating the problem and creating effective programs.

Reporting of local impaired driving initiatives, first included in the 2002 report, has changed format this year. The focus is on the types of programs initiated and funding sources used by each jurisdiction. Efforts and funding vary among the DC Metro Region. In this small geographical area, improved identification of efforts and collaboration among jurisdictions within the region is suggested to increase the impact of these efforts.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Institute for Community Health at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University acknowledges that a report of this magnitude requires the assistance of many. We wish to thank the following individuals and organizations for their assistance with, and contributions to, this *How Safe Are Our Roads?* report.

Kurt Erickson and Emily DeTitta
Washington Regional Alcohol Program

Nancy Rea
Metropolitan Washington Council on Governments

"Combining law enforcement and community efforts can be an effective tool for preventing impaired driving."

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

From the DC Metro Region jurisdictions

District of Columbia

Captain Patrick Burke, Lieutenant Byron Hope, and Arlinda Page, Metropolitan Police Department

Maryland

Ms. Ida Williams, Maryland State Police Department

Lieutenant Doug Murray and Dana Gigliotti, Prince George's County Police Department

Lieutenant Ron Smith and Felicia Hobbs, Montgomery County Department of Police

Northern Virginia

Sergeant Wallace Bouldin, Virginia State Police Department

Mr. Dean Montanye, Arlington County Police Department

Mr. Jerry Stemler, Fairfax County Police Department

Lieutenant Ed Leonard, Loudoun County Sheriff's Office

Sergeant Bobby Bardon, Prince William County Police Department

Deputy Chief Blaine Corle and Mary Gerrand, City of Alexandria Police Department

Lieutenant Bill Kitzerow, City of Fairfax Police Department

Officer Whitney, City of Falls Church Police Department

Lieutenant Tim Wolfe and Tracy Julien, City of Manassas Police Department

Sergeant Berry, City of Manassas Park Police Department

How Safe Are Our Roads?

Prepared by
Paula J. Pheley and Heidi L. Sung

Institute for Community Health
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
School of Public and International Affairs
200 Architecture Annex
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061

540-231-2451
www.spia.vt.edu/ich