

# HOW SAFE ARE OUR ROADS?

2019 annual data report on the impact of drunk driving on road safety in the metropolitan Washington region

December 2020



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

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

December 2020

### **ABOUT WRAP**

The Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) is a coalition of diverse interests using effective education, innovative programs, and targeted advocacy to end alcohol-impaired driving and underage drinking in the Washington, D.C. metro area. Through public education, innovative health education programs and advocacy, WRAP is credited with keeping the metro-Washington area's alcohol-related traffic deaths historically lower than the national average. WRAP, however, may best be known to area residents via the organization's popular free safe ride service to prevent drunk driving, SoberRide®.

### **ABOUT COG**

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) is an independent, nonprofit association that brings area leaders together to address major regional issues in the District of Columbia, suburban Maryland, and Northern Virginia. COG's membership is comprised of 300 elected officials from 24 local governments, the Maryland and Virginia state legislatures, and U.S. Congress.

### **CREDITS**

Cover photo caption: Fairfax County Police Chief Colonel Edwin C. Roessler, Jr. talks to the media at the August 20, 2019 launch of Virginia's 2019 anti-drunk driving Checkpoint Strikeforce campaign in Fairfax, Virginia. (WRAP)

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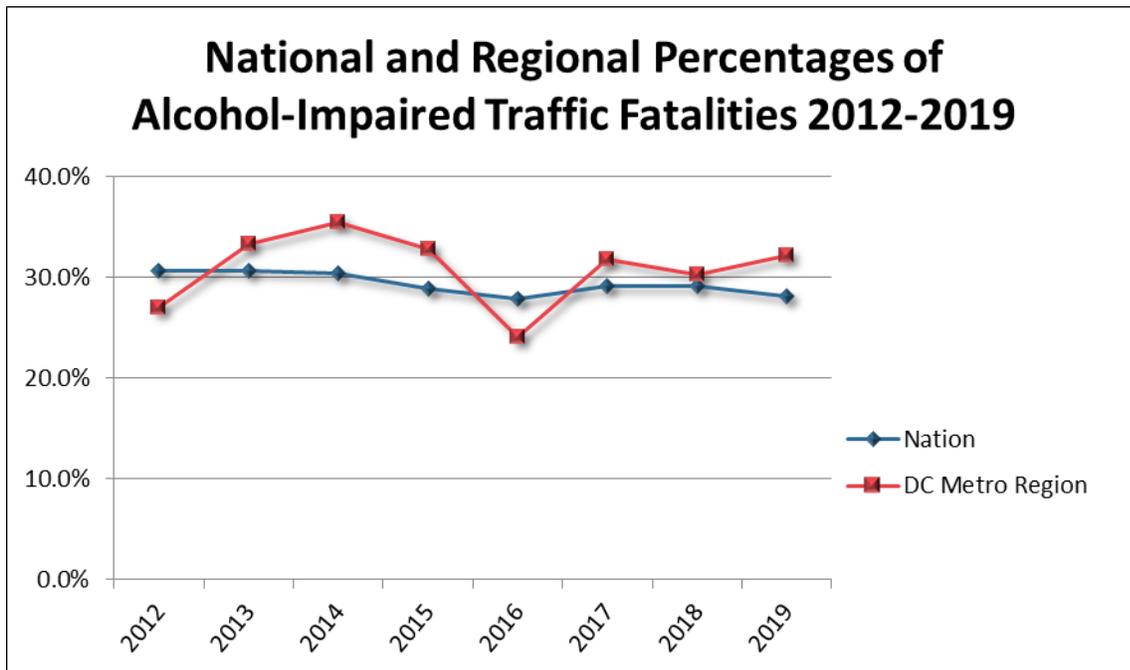
## A LOOK AT REGIONAL AND NATIONAL FIGURES

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

Regional alcohol and/or drug-impaired traffic fatalities have increased 5.88% of total crash fatalities in the region in 2019 from 2018, compared with a decrease of 1.16% in 2018 from 2017. Nationally, alcohol-impaired fatality rates decreased in 2019 to 28.09% of total crash fatalities (compared to 29.07% in 2018<sup>1</sup>).

Jurisdictions differ in collection and categorization methods for alcohol-impaired driving, therefore, some of the data in this report may include both alcohol and alcohol/drug-impaired driving numbers. These regional totals include U.S. National Park Service data.

**Figure 1. National & Regional Percentages of Alcohol-Impaired Traffic Fatalities, 2012-2019**



<sup>1</sup> For additional information, see [NHTSA Traffic Safety Facts, Overview of Motor Vehicle Crashes in 2019](#).

Figure 2. Regional Totals of Alcohol-Related Injuries, Crashes, & Arrests, 2012-2019

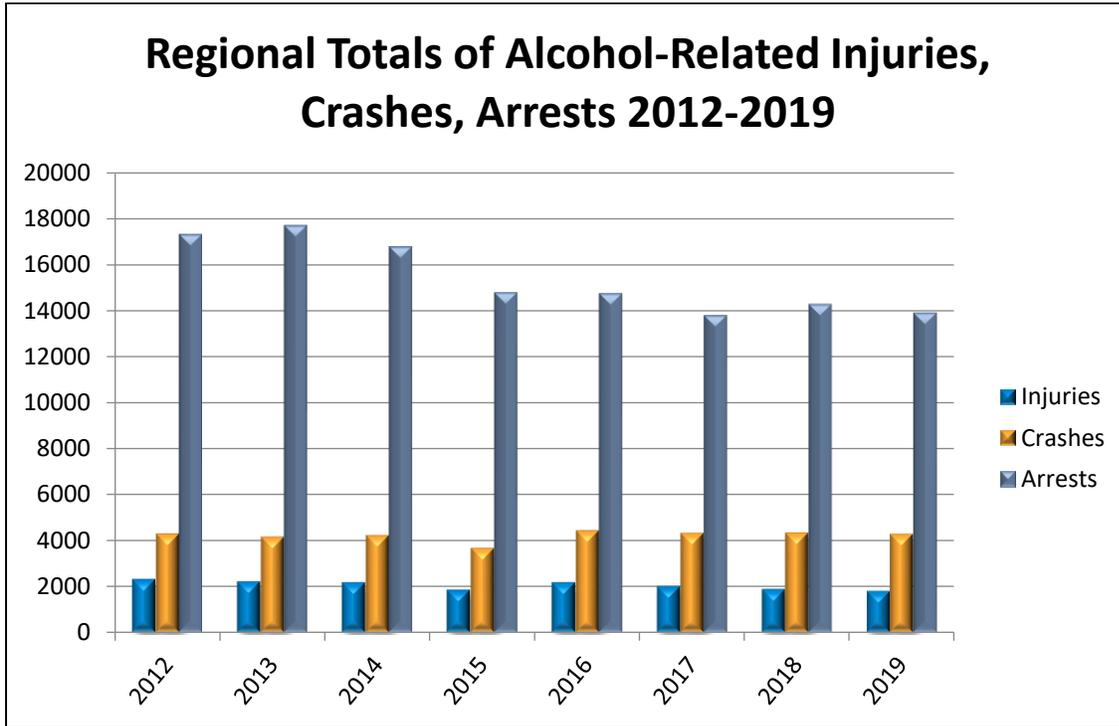
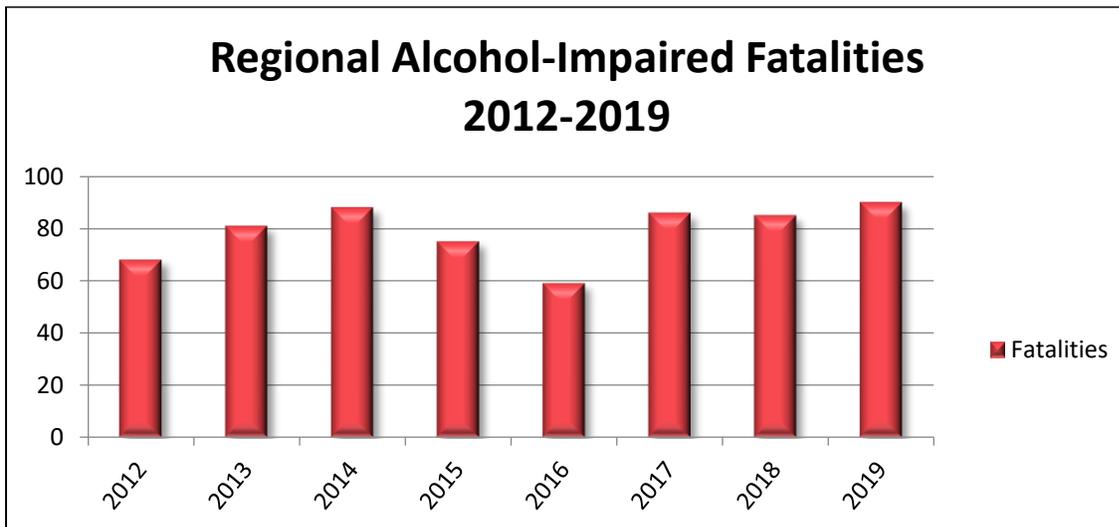


Figure 3. Regional Alcohol-Impaired Fatalities, 2012-2019



# HOW SAFE ARE OUR ROADS? 2020 REPORT

## OVERVIEW

Findings in the 2020 report (2019 data) include:

**FATALITIES:** Local alcohol and/or drug-impaired traffic fatalities **increased** by 5.88% between 2018 and 2019 (from 85 to 90 such fatalities).

- The total average number of regional (DC Metro region and National Parks) alcohol and/or drug-impaired traffic fatalities over the last five years (2015-2019) is 79.
- Four of the last five years has had more alcohol and/or drug-impaired traffic fatalities than the average.
- 2016 was below the average for alcohol and/or drug-impaired traffic fatalities.

**CRASHES:** Area traffic crashes attributed to alcohol and/or drugs **decreased** 1.43% between 2018 and 2019 (from 4,335 to 4,273 such crashes).

- The average number of DC Metro regional alcohol and/or drug-impaired related traffic crashes over the last five years (2015-2019) is 4,167.
- Four of the last five years has had more alcohol and/or drug-impaired traffic crashes than the average.
- 2015 was below the average of alcohol and/or drug-impaired traffic crashes.

**INJURIES:** Regional alcohol and/or drug-related traffic injuries **decreased** 4.62% between 2018 and 2019 (from 1,863 to 1,777 such injuries).

- The average number of DC Metro regional alcohol and/or drug-impaired related traffic injuries over the last five years (2015-2019) is 1,895.
- Two of the last five years has had more alcohol and/or drug-impaired traffic injuries than the average.
- 2015, 2018, and 2019 were below the average for alcohol and/or drug-impaired traffic injuries.

**ARRESTS:** Local arrests for either driving under the influence (DUI) or driving while impaired (DWI) **decreased** 2.61% between 2018 and 2019 (from 14,293 to 13,920 such arrests).

- The average number of DC Metro regional alcohol and/or drug-impaired related arrests over the last five years (2015-2019) is 14,062.
- Two of the last five years has had more alcohol and/or drug-impaired traffic arrests than the average.

- 2017, 2018, and 2019 were below the average for alcohol and/or drug-impaired traffic arrests.

Of the metropolitan Washington region's 280 total traffic fatalities for 2019, 90 (or 32%) were due to drivers who were alcohol and/or drug-impaired (Blood Alcohol Concentration [BAC] = .08+). National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) statistics show that 28% of total U.S. vehicular fatalities in 2019 were reported as alcohol impaired (BAC = .08+).

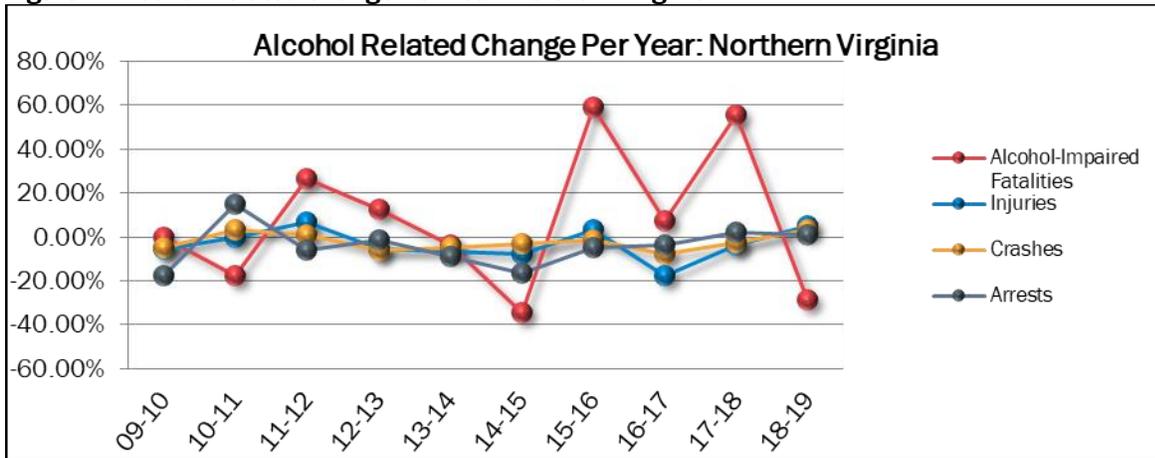
## Background

Data compiled in this report comes from national, state, and local sources including the U.S. Census Bureau, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), U.S. National Park Service (NPS), Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), District Department of Transportation (DDOT), Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (VA DMV), Maryland National Study Center for Trauma and Emergency Medical Systems (MD NSC), and local police departments of each jurisdiction.

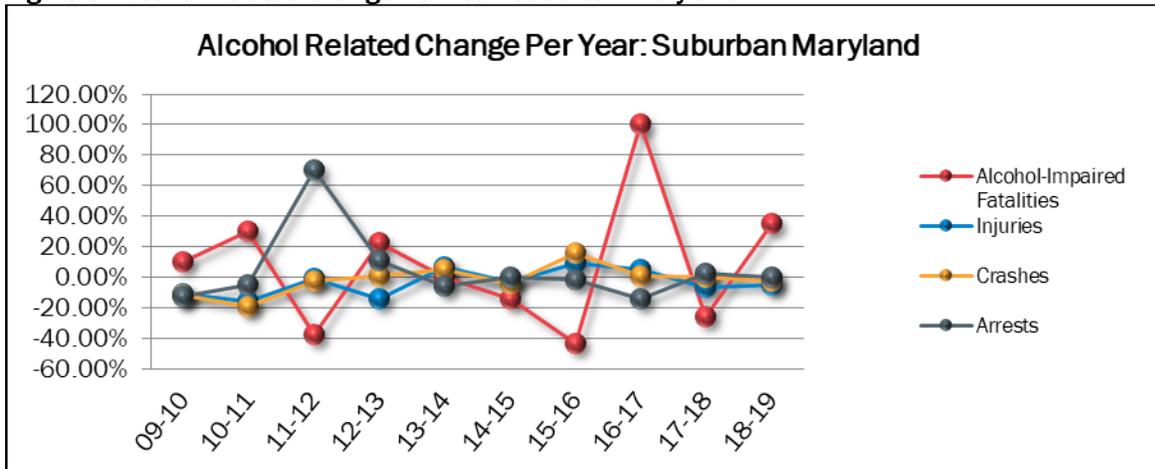
Jurisdictional data in this report does not always include State Police data. The State Police in Maryland and Virginia are charged with enforcing traffic laws on state highways and interstate expressways; inclusion of this data would likely increase the number of incidents in all categories. It is possible that some jurisdictional data may include State Police figures because local police often respond to highway incidents when State Police are unavailable. In some jurisdictions, the data reported were provided by the state, and most likely include state police data.

# SUB-REGIONAL TRENDS

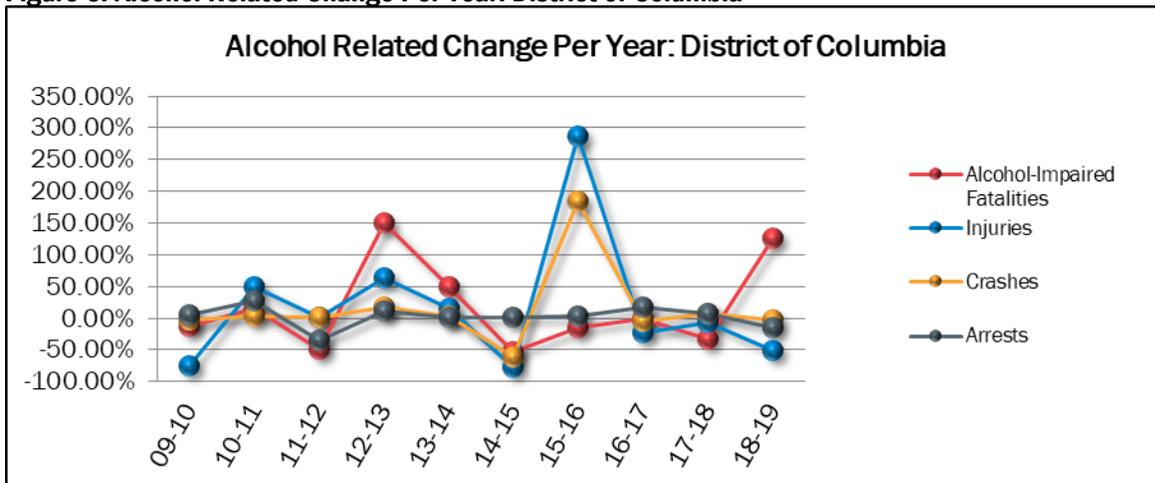
**Figure 4. Alcohol-Related Change Per Year: Northern Virginia**



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



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



# TOTAL TRAFFIC FATALITIES

| Total Traffic Fatalities 2012-2019 |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |                          |
|------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------------------------|
| Year                               | 2012   | 2013   | 2014   | 2015   | 2016   | 2017   | 2018   | 2019   | Percent Change 2018-2019 |
| <b>DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA</b>        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |                          |
| Washington                         | 15     | 29     | 26     | 26     | 28     | 33     | 36     | 27     | -25.00%                  |
| <b>MARYLAND</b>                    |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |                          |
| Montgomery County                  | 37     | 41     | 40     | 47     | 42     | 33     | 34     | 37     | 8.82%                    |
| Prince George's County             | 83     | 87     | 98     | 95     | 78     | 99     | 103    | 112    | 8.74%                    |
| MD Regional Total                  | 120    | 128    | 138    | 142    | 120    | 132    | 137    | 149    | 8.76%                    |
| <b>VIRGINIA</b>                    |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |                          |
| Arlington County                   | 4      | 6      | 5      | 5      | 1      | 5      | 2      | 6      | 200.00%                  |
| Fairfax County                     | 46     | 40     | 32     | 30     | 36     | 35     | 47     | 45     | -4.26%                   |
| Loudoun County                     | 17     | 13     | 12     | 11     | 12     | 22     | 11     | 13     | 18.18%                   |
| Prince William County              | 19     | 19     | 23     | 11     | 30     | 22     | 24     | 14     | -41.67%                  |
| City of Alexandria                 | 4      | 3      | 0      | 4      | 4      | 4      | 5      | 5      | 0.00%                    |
| City of Fairfax                    | 5      | 2      | 0      | 0      | 4      | 0      | 2      | 2      | 0.00%                    |
| City of Falls Church               | 0      | 0      | 1      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0.00%                    |
| City of Manassas                   | 1      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 2      | 4      | 1      | -75.00%                  |
| City of Manassas Park              | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0.00%                    |
| Northern Virginia Total            | 96     | 83     | 73     | 61     | 87     | 90     | 95     | 86     | -9.47%                   |
| DC Metro Regional Total            | 231    | 240    | 237    | 229    | 235    | 255    | 268    | 262    | -2.24%                   |
| National Parks in Region           | N/A    | 3      | N/A    | 17     | 10     | 16     | 13     | 18     | 38.46%                   |
| Regional Total Adjusted            | N/A    | 243    | N/A    | 246    | 245    | 271    | 281    | 280    | -0.36%                   |
| National <sup>2</sup>              | 33,782 | 32,893 | 32,744 | 35,484 | 37,806 | 37,473 | 36,835 | 36,096 | -2.01%                   |

<sup>2</sup> National data for total traffic fatalities was updated for 2018.

# ALCOHOL-IMPAIRED TRAFFIC FATALITIES

| Alcohol-Impaired Traffic Fatalities by Jurisdiction with BAC=.08+ 2012-2019 |        |        |       |        |        |        |        |        |                          |
|---|--------|--------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------------------------|
| Year  | 2012   | 2013   | 2014  | 2015   | 2016   | 2017   | 2018   | 2019   | Percent Change 2018-2019 |
| <b>DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA</b>   |        |        |       |        |        |        |        |        |                          |
| Washington  | 4      | 10     | 15    | 7      | 6      | 6      | 4      | 9      | 125.00%                  |
| <b>MARYLAND</b>   |        |        |       |        |        |        |        |        |                          |
| Montgomery County   | 10     | 12     | 11    | 10     | 4      | 8      | 7      | 10     | 42.86%                   |
| Prince George's County  | 25     | 31     | 32    | 27     | 17     | 34     | 24     | 32     | 33.33%                   |
| MD Regional Total   | 35     | 43     | 43    | 37     | 21     | 42     | 31     | 42     | 35.48%                   |
| <b>VIRGINIA</b>   |        |        |       |        |        |        |        |        |                          |
| Arlington County  | 1      | 1      | 2     | 2      | 0      | 2      | 1      | 2      | 100.00%                  |
| Fairfax County  | 8      | 18     | 12    | 9      | 12     | 12     | 18     | 17     | -5.56%                   |
| Loudoun County  | 5      | 4      | 6     | 2      | 4      | 7      | 7      | 5      | -28.57%                  |
| Prince William County   | 10     | 4      | 5     | 2      | 9      | 6      | 14     | 6      | -57.14%                  |
| City of Alexandria  | 2      | 0      | 0     | 2      | 1      | 1      | 3      | 2      | -33.33%                  |
| City of Fairfax   | 1      | 0      | 0     | 0      | 1      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0.00%                    |
| City of Falls Church  | 0      | 0      | 1     | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0.00%                    |
| City of Manassas  | 0      | 0      | 0     | 0      | 0      | 1      | 2      | 0      | -200.00%                 |
| City of Manassas Park   | 0      | 0      | 0     | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0.00%                    |
| Northern Virginia Total   | 27     | 27     | 26    | 17     | 27     | 29     | 45     | 32     | -28.89%                  |
| DC Metro Region Total   | 66     | 80     | 84    | 61     | 54     | 77     | 80     | 83     | 3.75%                    |
| National Parks in Region  | 3      | 1      | 4     | 14     | 5      | 9      | 5      | 7      | 40.00%                   |
| Regional Total Adjusted   | 69     | 81     | 88    | 75     | 59     | 86     | 85     | 90     | 5.88%                    |
| National <sup>3</sup>   | 10,336 | 10,076 | 9,967 | 10,320 | 10,497 | 10,908 | 10,710 | 10,142 | -5.30%                   |

<sup>3</sup> National data for total traffic fatalities was updated for 2018.

# TOTAL TRAFFIC INJURIES

| Total Traffic Injuries by Jurisdiction 2012-2019 |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |               |                          |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------------|--------------------------|
| Year   | 2012   | 2013   | 2014   | 2015   | 2016   | 2017   | 2018   | 2019          | Percent Change 2018-2019 |
| <b>DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA</b>                      |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |               |                          |
| Washington                                       | 6,515  | 6,929  | 7,474  | 8,638  | 3,878  | 3,612  | 3,437  | <b>2,403</b>  | -30.08%                  |
| <b>MARYLAND</b>                                  |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |               |                          |
| Montgomery County                                | 6,051  | 5,417  | 6,196  | 6,365  | 7,045  | 7,000  | 6,753  | <b>6,453</b>  | -4.44%                   |
| Prince George's County                           | 6,411  | 6,532  | 6,549  | 6,746  | 7,715  | 7,787  | 7,351  | <b>7,285</b>  | -0.90%                   |
| MD Regional Total                                | 12,462 | 11,949 | 12,745 | 13,111 | 14,760 | 14,787 | 14,104 | <b>13,738</b> | -2.60%                   |
| <b>VIRGINIA</b>                                  |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |               |                          |
| Arlington County                                 | 1,252  | 1,090  | 1,094  | 978    | 1,048  | 1,036  | 998    | <b>1,125</b>  | 12.73%                   |
| Fairfax County                                   | 8,185  | 7,608  | 7,649  | 7,677  | 7,564  | 6,418  | 6,000  | <b>6,032</b>  | 0.53%                    |
| Loudoun County                                   | 1,837  | 1,917  | 2,123  | 2,143  | 2,289  | 2,081  | 2,299  | <b>2,079</b>  | -9.57%                   |
| Prince William County                            | 2,763  | 3,030  | 2,915  | 2,747  | 2,785  | 2,652  | 2,811  | <b>2,899</b>  | 3.13%                    |
| City of Alexandria                               | 609    | 681    | 757    | 731    | 721    | 576    | 699    | <b>673</b>    | -3.72%                   |
| City of Fairfax                                  | 243    | 227    | 440    | 338    | 294    | 242    | 147    | <b>164</b>    | 11.56%                   |
| City of Falls Church                             | 232    | 132    | 241    | 160    | 133    | 177    | 154    | <b>150</b>    | -2.60%                   |
| City of Manassas                                 | 612    | 560    | 646    | 626    | 773    | 711    | 756    | <b>541</b>    | -28.44%                  |
| City of Manassas Park                            | 24     | 41     | 29     | 48     | 60     | 26     | 63     | <b>36</b>     | -42.86%                  |
| Northern Virginia Total                          | 15,757 | 15,286 | 15,894 | 15,448 | 15,667 | 13,919 | 13,927 | <b>13,759</b> | -1.64%                   |
| DC Metro Region Total                            | 34,734 | 34,164 | 36,113 | 37,197 | 34,305 | 32,318 | 31,468 | <b>29,840</b> | -5.17%                   |
| National Parks in Region                         | 541    | 570    | N/A    | 603    | 532    | 492    | 496    | <b>496</b>    | 0.00%                    |
| Regional Total Adjusted                          | 35,275 | 34,734 | N/A    | 37,800 | 34,837 | 32,810 | 31,964 | <b>30,336</b> | -5.09%                   |

# ALCOHOL-RELATED TRAFFIC INJURIES

| Alcohol-Related Traffic Injuries by Jurisdiction with BAC=.01+ 2012-2019 |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |              |                          |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------------|--------------------------|
| Year   | 2012  | 2013  | 2014  | 2015  | 2016  | 2017  | 2018  | 2019         | Percent Change 2018-2019 |
| <b>DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA</b>  |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |              |                          |
| Washington   | 139   | 228   | 263   | 59    | 228   | 176   | 163   | <b>81</b>    | -50.31%                  |
| <b>MARYLAND</b>  |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |              |                          |
| Montgomery County  | 393   | 316   | 343   | 366   | 401   | 492   | 423   | <b>357</b>   | -15.60%                  |
| Prince George's County   | 530   | 474   | 501   | 451   | 492   | 448   | 451   | <b>476</b>   | 5.54%                    |
| MD Regional Total  | 923   | 790   | 844   | 817   | 893   | 940   | 874   | <b>833</b>   | -4.69%                   |
| <b>VIRGINIA</b>  |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |              |                          |
| Arlington County   | 117   | 117   | 78    | 84    | 91    | 94    | 79    | <b>89</b>    | 12.66%                   |
| Fairfax County   | 594   | 524   | 476   | 442   | 459   | 331   | 290   | <b>329</b>   | 13.45%                   |
| Loudoun County   | 133   | 115   | 150   | 128   | 144   | 117   | 133   | <b>124</b>   | -6.77%                   |
| Prince William County  | 203   | 223   | 204   | 182   | 182   | 163   | 181   | <b>187</b>   | 3.31%                    |
| City of Alexandria   | 66    | 71    | 60    | 52    | 53    | 53    | 48    | <b>44</b>    | -8.33%                   |
| City of Fairfax  | 14    | 17    | 26    | 25    | 12    | 17    | 7     | <b>6</b>     | -14.29%                  |
| City of Falls Church   | 16    | 6     | 4     | 10    | 11    | 11    | 7     | <b>10</b>    | 42.86%                   |
| City of Manassas   | 43    | 49    | 47    | 41    | 38    | 33    | 35    | <b>33</b>    | -5.71%                   |
| City of Manassas Park  | 0     | 1     | 5     | 2     | 9     | 5     | 13    | <b>9</b>     | -30.77%                  |
| Northern Virginia Total  | 1,186 | 1,123 | 1,050 | 966   | 999   | 824   | 793   | <b>831</b>   | 4.79%                    |
| DC Metro Region Total  | 2,248 | 2,141 | 2,157 | 1,842 | 2,120 | 1,940 | 1,830 | <b>1,745</b> | -4.64%                   |
| National Parks in Region   | 51    | 51    | N/A   | N/A   | 33    | 46    | 33    | <b>32</b>    | -3.03%                   |
| Regional Total Adjusted  | 2,299 | 2,192 | N/A   | N/A   | 2,153 | 1,986 | 1,863 | <b>1,777</b> | -4.62%                   |

# TOTAL TRAFFIC CRASHES

| Total Traffic Crashes by Jurisdiction 2012-2019 |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |               |                          |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------------|--------------------------|
| Year  | 2012   | 2013   | 2014   | 2015   | 2016   | 2017   | 2018   | 2019          | Percent Change 2018-2019 |
| <b>DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA</b>                     |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |               |                          |
| Washington                                      | 18,276 | 19,482 | 21,752 | 2,400  | 25,850 | 25,712 | 25,818 | <b>26,823</b> | 3.89%                    |
| <b>MARYLAND</b>                                 |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |               |                          |
| Montgomery County                               | 10,562 | 10,825 | 12,279 | 13,006 | 14,160 | 14,239 | 14,231 | <b>13,843</b> | -2.73%                   |
| Prince George's County                          | 12,049 | 12,580 | 13,355 | 14,758 | 17,185 | 18,297 | 19,562 | <b>20,516</b> | 4.88%                    |
| MD Regional Total                               | 22,611 | 23,405 | 25,634 | 27,764 | 31,345 | 32,536 | 33,793 | <b>34,359</b> | 1.67%                    |
| <b>VIRGINIA</b>                                 |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |               |                          |
| Arlington County                                | 2,469  | 2,463  | 2,469  | 2,483  | 2,711  | 2,508  | 2,535  | <b>2,558</b>  | 0.91%                    |
| Fairfax County                                  | 14,500 | 13,675 | 13,680 | 14,024 | 13,781 | 13,631 | 13,368 | <b>13,301</b> | -0.50%                   |
| Loudoun County                                  | 4,164  | 4,186  | 4,281  | 4,824  | 4,921  | 4,875  | 5,149  | <b>4,951</b>  | -3.85%                   |
| Prince William County                           | 5,265  | 5,671  | 5,856  | 5,660  | 5,564  | 5,540  | 5,757  | <b>5,880</b>  | 2.14%                    |
| City of Alexandria                              | 1,711  | 1,695  | 1,777  | 1,912  | 1,736  | 1,441  | 1,566  | <b>1,499</b>  | -4.28%                   |
| City of Fairfax                                 | 648    | 615    | 700    | 561    | 565    | 596    | 417    | <b>528</b>    | 26.62%                   |
| City of Falls Church                            | 154    | 83     | 165    | 169    | 144    | 121    | 130    | <b>121</b>    | -6.92%                   |
| City of Manassas                                | 610    | 567    | 568    | 595    | 633    | 573    | 607    | <b>438</b>    | -27.84%                  |
| City of Manassas Park                           | 63     | 66     | 71     | 81     | 97     | 55     | 71     | <b>80</b>     | 12.68%                   |
| Northern Virginia Total                         | 29,584 | 29,021 | 29,567 | 30,309 | 30,152 | 29,340 | 29,600 | <b>29,356</b> | -0.82%                   |
| DC Metro Region Total                           | 70,471 | 71,908 | 76,953 | 60,473 | 87,347 | 87,588 | 89,211 | <b>90,538</b> | 1.49%                    |
| National Parks in Region                        | 2,644  | 1,281  | 4,164  | 4,621  | 4,049  | 3,486  | 1,600  | <b>1,462</b>  | -8.63%                   |
| Regional Total Adjusted                         | 73,115 | 73,189 | 81,117 | 65,094 | 91,396 | 91,074 | 90,811 | <b>92,000</b> | 1.31%                    |

# ALCOHOL-RELATED TRAFFIC CRASHES

| Alcohol-related Traffic Crashes by Jurisdiction with a BAC=.01+ 2012-2019 |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |              |                          |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------------|--------------------------|
| Year  | 2012  | 2013  | 2014  | 2015  | 2016  | 2017  | 2018  | 2019         | Percent Change 2018-2019 |
| <b>DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA</b>   |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |              |                          |
| Washington  | 564   | 657   | 682   | 260   | 740   | 710   | 756   | <b>735</b>   | -2.78%                   |
| <b>MARYLAND</b>   |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |              |                          |
| Montgomery County   | 737   | 690   | 807   | 815   | 905   | 954   | 881   | <b>827</b>   | -6.13%                   |
| Prince George's County  | 980   | 1,041 | 1,017 | 933   | 1,116 | 1,085 | 1,166 | <b>1,163</b> | -0.26%                   |
| MD Regional Total   | 1,717 | 1,731 | 1,824 | 1,748 | 2021  | 2,039 | 2,047 | <b>1,990</b> | -2.78%                   |
| <b>VIRGINIA</b>   |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |              |                          |
| Arlington County  | 242   | 232   | 235   | 218   | 199   | 203   | 162   | <b>192</b>   | 18.52%                   |
| Fairfax County  | 910   | 829   | 740   | 708   | 701   | 621   | 580   | <b>589</b>   | 1.55%                    |
| Loudoun County  | 239   | 213   | 236   | 222   | 259   | 227   | 251   | <b>244</b>   | -2.79%                   |
| Prince William County   | 337   | 337   | 319   | 332   | 305   | 296   | 333   | <b>343</b>   | 3.00%                    |
| City of Alexandria  | 97    | 111   | 99    | 99    | 94    | 83    | 88    | <b>87</b>    | -1.14%                   |
| City of Fairfax   | 27    | 26    | 35    | 29    | 19    | 26    | 10    | <b>15</b>    | 50.00%                   |
| City of Falls Church  | 12    | 4     | 9     | 8     | 12    | 10    | 4     | <b>8</b>     | 100.00%                  |
| City of Manassas  | 34    | 44    | 35    | 40    | 30    | 33    | 35    | <b>27</b>    | -22.86%                  |
| City of Manassas Park   | 16    | 3     | 3     | 4     | 19    | 9     | 6     | <b>10</b>    | 66.67%                   |
| Northern Virginia Total   | 1,914 | 1,799 | 1,711 | 1,660 | 1,638 | 1,508 | 1,469 | <b>1,515</b> | 3.13%                    |
| DC Metro Region Total   | 4,195 | 4,095 | 4,217 | 3,668 | 4,399 | 4,257 | 4,272 | <b>4,240</b> | -0.75%                   |
| National Parks in Region  | 94    | 51    | N/A   | N/A   | 33    | 54    | 63    | <b>33</b>    | -47.62%                  |
| Regional Total Adjusted   | 4,289 | 4,146 | N/A   | N/A   | 4,432 | 4,311 | 4,335 | <b>4,273</b> | -1.43%                   |

# ALCOHOL-RELATED TRAFFIC ARRESTS

| Total Alcohol Related Traffic Arrests by Jurisdiction 2012-2019 |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |               |                          |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------------|--------------------------|
| Year  | 2012   | 2013   | 2014   | 2015   | 2016   | 2017   | 2018   | 2019          | Percent Change 2018-2019 |
| <b>DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA</b>                                     |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |               |                          |
| Washington  | 1,340  | 1,498  | 1,501  | 1,508  | 1,561  | 1,834  | 1,978  | <b>1,680</b>  | -15.07%                  |
| <b>MARYLAND</b>   |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |               |                          |
| Montgomery County   | 3,892  | 3,983  | 3,723  | 3,973  | 4,101  | 3,406  | 3,442  | <b>3,253</b>  | -5.49%                   |
| Prince George's County  | 2,688  | 3,314  | 3,153  | 2,894  | 2,629  | 2,379  | 2,506  | <b>2,715</b>  | 8.34%                    |
| MD Regional Total   | 6,580  | 7,297  | 6,876  | 6,867  | 6,730  | 5,785  | 5,948  | <b>5,968</b>  | 0.34%                    |
| <b>VIRGINIA</b>   |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |               |                          |
| Arlington County  | 963    | 850    | 874    | 742    | 692    | 494    | 445    | <b>438</b>    | -1.57%                   |
| Fairfax County  | 3,343  | 3,628  | 3,116  | 2,387  | 2,457  | 2,536  | 2,424  | <b>2,400</b>  | -0.99%                   |
| Loudoun County  | 845    | 828    | 733    | 667    | 671    | 561    | 709    | <b>731</b>    | 3.10%                    |
| Prince William County   | 2,745  | 2,493  | 2,372  | 1,941  | 1,651  | 1,613  | 1,890  | <b>1,904</b>  | 0.74%                    |
| City of Alexandria  | 360    | 378    | 372    | 349    | 324    | 397    | 292    | <b>263</b>    | -9.93%                   |
| City of Fairfax   | 175    | 155    | 107    | 78     | 62     | 59     | 51     | <b>77</b>     | 50.98%                   |
| City of Falls Church  | 113    | 110    | 103    | 78     | 55     | 43     | 36     | <b>57</b>     | 58.33%                   |
| City of Manassas  | N/A    | N/A    | N/A    | 138    | 124    | 125    | 91     | <b>117</b>    | 28.57%                   |
| City of Manassas Park   | N/A    | N/A    | N/A    | 46     | 71     | 56     | 58     | <b>51</b>     | -12.07%                  |
| Northern Virginia Total   | 8,544  | 8,442  | 7,677  | 6,426  | 6,107  | 5,884  | 5,996  | <b>6,038</b>  | 0.70%                    |
| DC Metro Region Total   | 16,464 | 17,237 | 16,054 | 14,801 | 14,398 | 13,503 | 13,922 | <b>13,686</b> | -1.70%                   |
| National Parks in Region  | 877    | 487    | 740    | N/A    | 359    | 305    | 371    | <b>234</b>    | -36.93%                  |
| Regional Total Adjusted   | 17,341 | 17,724 | 16,794 | N/A    | 14,757 | 13,808 | 14,293 | <b>13,920</b> | -2.61%                   |

# YOUTH DATA

| Alcohol-Related Crashes, Injuries, and Arrests for Persons Under 21 Years of Age by Region, 2019 |            |                            |                                 |         |                         |                              |          |                          |                               |         |                         |                              |
|--|------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------|-------------------------|------------------------------|----------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|---------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
|  | Fatalities | Alcohol-Related Fatalities | % of Alcohol-Related Fatalities | Crashes | Alcohol-Related Crashes | % of Alcohol-Related Crashes | Injuries | Alcohol-Related Injuries | % of Alcohol-Related Injuries | Arrests | Alcohol-Related Arrests | % of Alcohol-Related Arrests |
| <b>DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA</b>  |            |                            |                                 |         |                         |                              |          |                          |                               |         |                         |                              |
| Washington   | 3          | 0                          | 0.00%                           | 2,848   | 5                       | 0.18%                        | 304      | 3                        | 0.99%                         | 339     | 28                      | 8.26%                        |
| <b>MARYLAND</b>  |            |                            |                                 |         |                         |                              |          |                          |                               |         |                         |                              |
| Montgomery County  | 3          | 1                          | 33.33%                          | 3,130   | 142                     | 4.54%                        | 991      | 65                       | 6.56%                         | 3,890   | 93                      | 2.39%                        |
| Prince George's County   | 10         | 5                          | 50.00%                          | 4,293   | 151                     | 3.52%                        | 1,194    | 59                       | 4.94%                         | 4,970   | 52                      | 1.05%                        |
| MD Regional Total  | 13         | 6                          | 46.15%                          | 7,423   | 293                     | 3.95%                        | 2,185    | 124                      | 5.68%                         | 8,860   | 145                     | 1.64%                        |
| <b>VIRGINIA</b>  |            |                            |                                 |         |                         |                              |          |                          |                               |         |                         |                              |
| Arlington County   | 0          | 0                          | 0.00%                           | 257     | 12                      | 4.67%                        | 86       | 2                        | 2.33%                         | 1,404   | 19                      | 1.35%                        |
| Fairfax County   | 3          | 1                          | 33.33%                          | 2,170   | 59                      | 2.72%                        | 704      | 28                       | 3.98%                         | 10,927  | 109                     | 1.00%                        |
| Loudoun County   | 1          | 0                          | 0.00%                           | 1,025   | 31                      | 3.02%                        | 311      | 12                       | 3.86%                         | 3,834   | 33                      | 0.86%                        |
| Prince William County  | 0          | 0                          | 0.00%                           | 1,281   | 39                      | 3.04%                        | 430      | 19                       | 4.42%                         | 8,839   | 85                      | 0.96%                        |
| City of Alexandria   | 0          | 0                          | 0.00%                           | 177     | 9                       | 5.08%                        | 69       | 5                        | 7.25%                         | 797     | 7                       | 0.88%                        |
| City of Fairfax  | 0          | 0                          | 0.00%                           | 115     | 2                       | 1.74%                        | 28       | 2                        | 7.14%                         | 567     | 1                       | 0.18%                        |
| City of Falls Church   | 0          | 0                          | 0.00%                           | 17      | 0                       | 0.00%                        | 14       | 0                        | 0.00%                         | 150     | 2                       | 1.33%                        |
| City of Manassas   | 0          | 0                          | 0.00%                           | 94      | 4                       | 4.26%                        | 74       | 3                        | 4.05%                         | 682     | 4                       | 0.59%                        |
| City of Manassas Park  | 0          | 0                          | 0.00%                           | 22      | 2                       | 9.09%                        | 11       | 2                        | 18.18%                        | 410     | 1                       | 0.24%                        |
| Northern Virginia Total  | 4          | 1                          | 25.00%                          | 5,158   | 158                     | 3.06%                        | 1,727    | 73                       | 4.23%                         | 27,610  | 261                     | 0.95%                        |
| DC Metro Regional Total  | 20         | 7                          | 35.00%                          | 15,429  | 456                     | 2.96%                        | 4,216    | 200                      | 4.74%                         | 36,809  | 434                     | 1.18%                        |
| National Parks in Region   | 0          | 0                          | 0.00%                           | 73      | 2                       | 2.74%                        | 80       | 4                        | 5.00%                         | 55      | 12                      | 21.82%                       |
| Regional Total Adjusted  | 20         | 7                          | 35.00%                          | 15,502  | 458                     | 2.95%                        | 4,296    | 204                      | 4.75%                         | 36,864  | 446                     | 1.21%                        |

# METHODOLOGY

## Agencies Providing Local Jurisdictional Data

### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Metropolitan Police Department (MPD)

District Department of Transportation (DDOT)

### MARYLAND

MD National Study Center for Trauma and Emergency Medical Systems (MD NSC)

Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD)

Prince George's County Police Department (PGPD)

### VIRGINIA

Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (VA DMV)

Arlington County Police Department

Fairfax County Police Department

Loudoun County Sheriff's Office

Prince William County Police Department

City of Alexandria Police Department

City of Fairfax Police Department

City of Falls Church Police Department

City of Manassas Police Department

City of Manassas Park Police Department

### FEDERAL

U.S. National Park Service (NPS)

## Definitions of Data-Related Terms

**NHTSA Alcohol-Impaired Driving Traffic Fatalities:** Any fatality that occurs in motor vehicle traffic crash that involves at least one driver or a motorcycle rider (operator) with a BAC of .08 grams per deciliter or higher; This threshold does not consider the impairment status of non-occupants involved in fatal crashes, such as pedestrians or pedal cyclist.

**WRAP Alcohol-Impaired Driving Traffic Fatalities:** Any person who dies as result of a traffic crash involving alcohol with a BAC level .08 or higher.

**WRAP Alcohol-Related Traffic Fatalities for Persons Under 21:** Any person under the age of 21 who has died as result of an alcohol-related traffic crash involving a driver with a BAC level .01 or higher. This includes drivers, passengers, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

**Alcohol-Related Traffic Injuries:** Where any driver, passenger, bicyclist or pedestrian is listed on the police report to be injured in an alcohol-related crash where the BAC = .01 or higher.

**Alcohol-Related Traffic Injuries for Persons Under 21:** Any person under the age of 21 who receives injuries because of an alcohol-related crash where the BAC = .01 or higher; this includes drivers, passengers, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

**Alcohol-Related Traffic Crashes:** The driver, passenger, bicyclist, or pedestrian is listed on the police report as drinking before the crash with a BAC = .01 or higher. At least one driver in the crash was reported to be under the influence of alcohol and/or other drugs.

**Alcohol-Related Traffic Crashes for Persons Under 21:** Any person under the age of 21 who was involved in a traffic crash involving a driver with a BAC = .01 or higher. This data includes drivers, passengers, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

**Drunk Driving Arrests/Citation:** A general reference to those criminal cases prior to and/or after adjudication and sentencing that are called DUI, DWI, OUI, OWI or other acronyms that generally describe three types of cases:

- The driver is sufficiently impaired by alcohol, drugs or a combination of the two, and cannot drive safely, and has a BAC level of .01 or higher;
- The driver is a “Drunk Driver”, as defined by the driver being above that state’s legal limit of BAC .08;
- A driver under the age of 21 is under the influence of alcohol at a BAC level of .02 or higher.

**DWI/DUI Arrests:** A driver is listed on the police report as arrested for operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol with a BAC level of .01 or higher.

**DWI/DUI Arrests for persons under 21:** Any person/driver under the age of 21 listed on the police report as arrested for operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol with a BAC level of .01 or higher.

## Data Analysis

The findings in this report are based on data collected from organizations and agencies from across the Washington Metro region. Data tables provide totals within the Washington 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-related incidents to total numbers across time.

## Data Limitations

It is important to note limitations that affected collection and analysis of this data, as they may limit comparability across jurisdictions and influence the level of reasonable analysis. Whenever possible, limitations are noted within the tables and figures.

It should be noted that the researchers constructing this report utilized data from the National Study Center for Trauma and EMS (NSC) at the University of Maryland, for data pertaining to crashes, injuries, and arrests. Regarding the alcohol-related crash and injury data, the variable identifies a driver or pedestrian under the influence of alcohol, drugs, both, or none. Within the NSC data reported, researchers analyzed drivers reported as under the influence of *alcohol or both*, to capture alcohol-related crashes and injuries. That variable is created using several others on the report (such as driver condition, BAC, etc.) so it does not specify only those with BAC 0.01+, and comparisons to previous year's data should be made with caution. In addition, because this report tracks just two jurisdictions in Maryland, regional totals could also be affected.

Additionally, there is no standardization for data definitions, collection, or recording within the Washington Metro region. Each agency has its own system of data collection, coding, and management. In addition, the range and type of data collected may not be consistent across jurisdictions. The data reported and analyzed in this report reflect data as reported by contact agencies. Independent verification of data to ensure accuracy is not within the scope of this report.

Information on data collection and management systems and changes within jurisdictions was not solicited. In addition, changes in laws or judicial priorities may result in increased attention to specific data (e.g. blood alcohol level in driver fatalities related to stricter server laws). In some cases, this may result in missing data or data that appears inconsistent when examined against the same values for previous years. It is beyond the scope of this report to identify data methodology or priority changes for each jurisdiction.

Data on alcohol-related driver involvement in motor vehicle fatalities, injuries, crashes and arrests was requested for alcohol-related (BAC= .01+) only, however, due to differences between jurisdictions in reporting on impaired data, some cases may involve drug use.

The number of incidents, total and related to alcohol impairment, is very small for some jurisdictions. Due to the small numbers, jurisdictional analysis might easily misrepresent the problem. For example, an increase of one alcohol-related fatality would have little impact in a jurisdiction that saw 50 alcohol-related fatalities the previous year but would appear to represent a significant change in a small jurisdiction with only one or two alcohol-related fatalities the previous year.

Data are reported and analyzed by absolute numbers only. At this time, information that would allow identification of comparable rates is unavailable. It is assumed that people involved in motor vehicle crashes and arrests may live within or outside the Washington Metro region. Collection of data on driver or passenger residence versus jurisdiction of crash is beyond the scope of this report. Calculating rates based on the Washington Metro region's population or number of licensed drivers would not accurately represent the problem since drivers may be from outside the jurisdiction.

Data on people under the age of 21 years is collected in an inconsistent manner among jurisdictions. Caution must be used in evaluation of this data due to varied definitions and missing data.

Each chart displays two regional total numbers. The first, "DC Regional Total" is the total of the District of Columbia, the Maryland Region, and the Northern Virginia Region. The second regional number, "Regional Total Adjusted" includes data from the United States Park Police. Because the Park Police information has only been recently collected, it is shown separately and the two regional totals are shown so that comparisons with previous years can be done.

## Credits

How Safe Are Our Roads? Report was prepared for the Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG). COG works with WRAP and other partners to compile the data and develop the report.