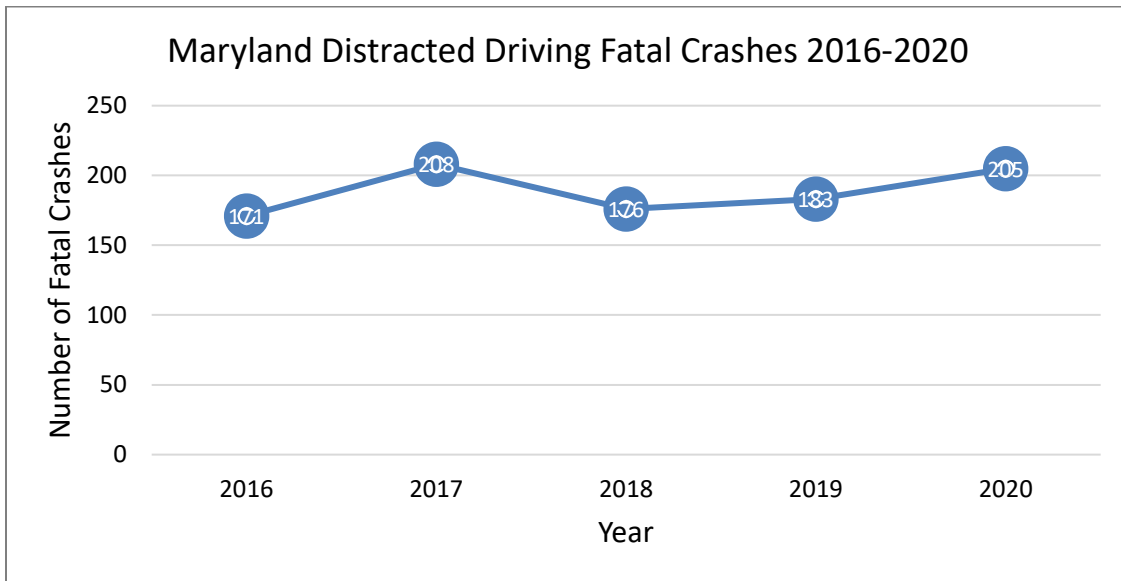
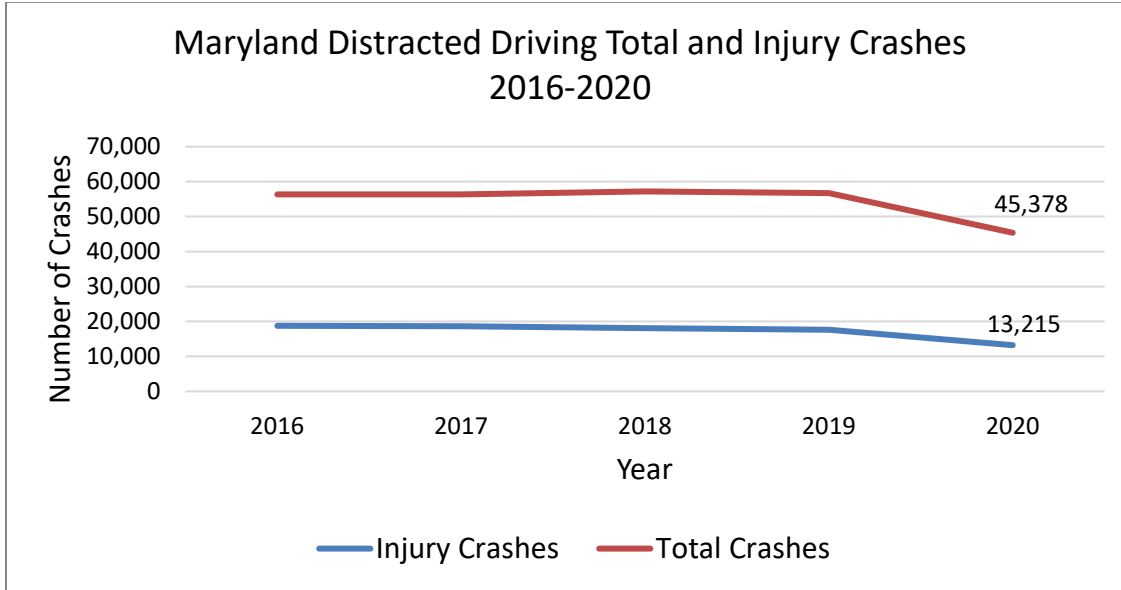


**THE FACTS**



**Distracted driving is defined as:** having values of either “Failure to Pay Full Time and Attention” or “Cell Phone in Use” in any of the four available contributing circumstance fields on the Maryland crash form. Due to the broad use of “Failure to Pay Full Time and Attention” by law enforcement and the self-reported nature of “Cell Phone in Use,” Maryland distracted data represents both an over-reporting and under-reporting of the specific types of distraction while driving.

- **Motor vehicle crashes are a huge threat to public health.** Motor vehicle crashes continue to be a leading cause of death in the United States<sup>1</sup>. In 2019, approximately 6.8 million crashes were reported; approximately 29 percent resulted in an injury or fatality<sup>2</sup>.
- **The number of distracted driving crashes occurring in Maryland<sup>3</sup> each year remains high.** On average, a total of over 54,000 distracted driving crashes have occurred each year from 2016 to 2020. There was a steady increase in distracted driving crashes from 2015 through 2018 with a slight decrease of only 0.1 percent in 2019 before a much larger drop of 20 percent in 2020. Still, distracted driving contributes to 48 percent of all crashes in Maryland.
- **Injuries and fatalities are high in distracted driving crashes.** Approximately 32 percent of distracted driving crashes resulted in injury or death from 2016 to 2020. On average, more than 25,000 people were injured or killed per year because of distracted driving. In 2020, fatalities due to distracted driving increased by 10 percent over the previous year.
- **Weekends and afternoons to early evening hours have the highest number of crashes.** Distracted driving crashes were spread consistently throughout the months and the days of the week. However, Fridays showed a slight increase in the number of crashes that occurred, and Sundays experienced the lowest number of distracted driving crashes. On average, the highest number of fatalities due to distracted driving occurred on Saturdays. Approximately 52 percent of distracted driving crashes occurred between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.
- **Drivers of many ages are involved in distracted driving crashes.** Over 70 percent of the drivers involved in distracted driving crashes were between the ages of 21 and 64. Drivers between ages 21 and 39 accounted for about 38 percent of fatalities. Slightly more drivers involved in a distracted driving-related crash were male (52 percent).

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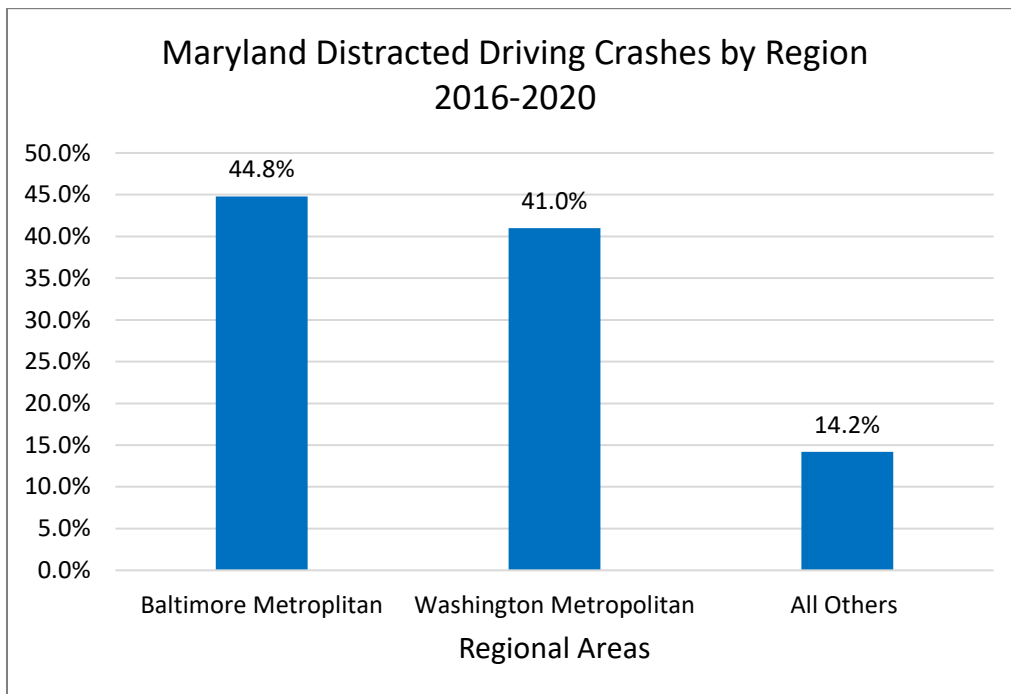
<sup>1</sup> CDC National Vital Statistics Reports – 10 Leading Causes of Death, United States, 2018

<sup>2</sup> Motor Vehicle Crash Data Querying and Reporting All Motor Vehicle Crashes Years: 2015-2019. Report Generated: Thursday, January 20, 2022 (10:39:20 AM).

<sup>3</sup> In 2020, the world experienced the COVID-19 pandemic which contributed to significant changes in roadway travel and driver behavior. Reduced vehicle miles traveled and open roadways resulted in an increase in speed and other risky driving behaviors. Consequently, 573 people died in traffic-related crashes on Maryland's roads, representing an increase of more than seven percent from the previous year's total of 535, with pedestrian and bicycle fatalities comprising over one-quarter of the State's roadway deaths. While overall fatalities increased in 2020, the reduced travel contributed to marked decreases for injury and overall crashes at the statewide and jurisdictional level. Therefore, this anomalous year must be considered when drawing conclusions based on the use of 2020 crash data to evaluate highway safety programs and trends.

Approximately **77**  
**percent** of distracted  
 driver-related fatalities  
 are **male**

- Metropolitan areas have the highest concentration of distracted driving crashes<sup>4</sup>.** The Baltimore and Washington metropolitan areas accounted for nearly 86 percent of crashes related to distracted driving. Prince George’s County accounted for 22 percent of the state’s distracted driving fatalities.



<sup>4</sup> Baltimore Metropolitan area is comprised of Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, Howard and Queen Anne’s Counties, and Baltimore City as designated by the Baltimore Metropolitan Council. The Washington Metropolitan Area is defined as Charles, Frederick, Montgomery, and Prince George’s Counties as designated by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments.