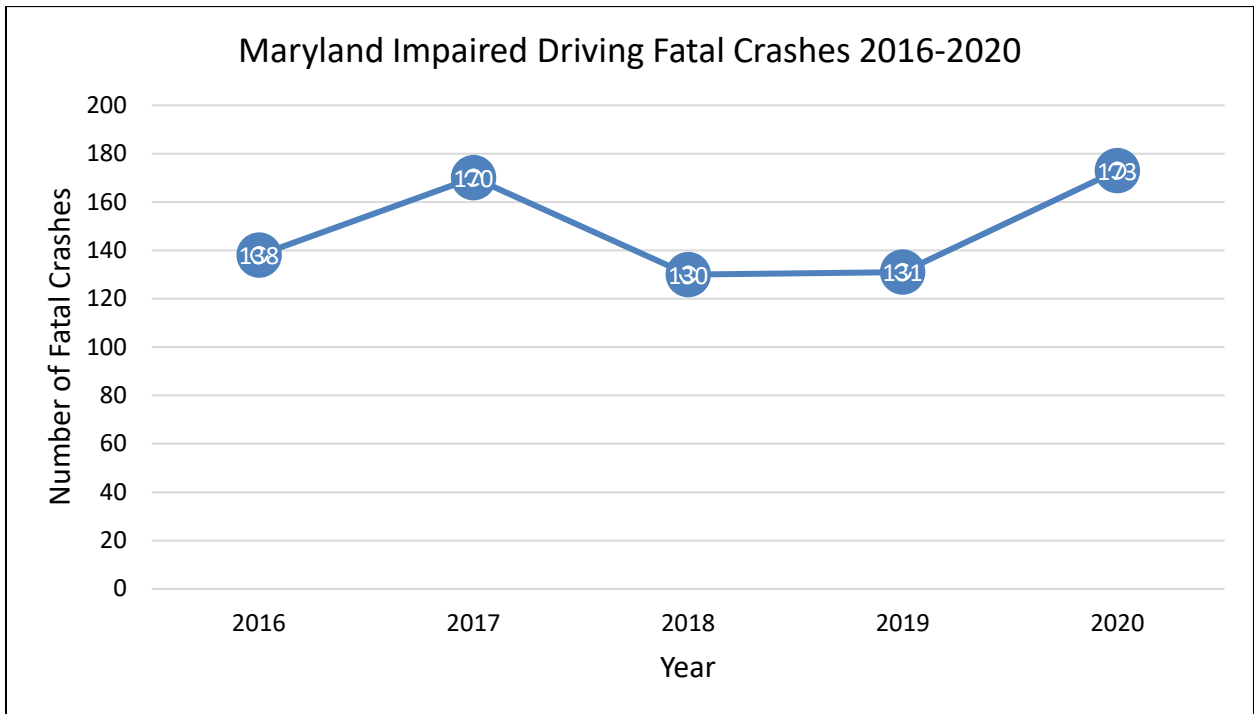
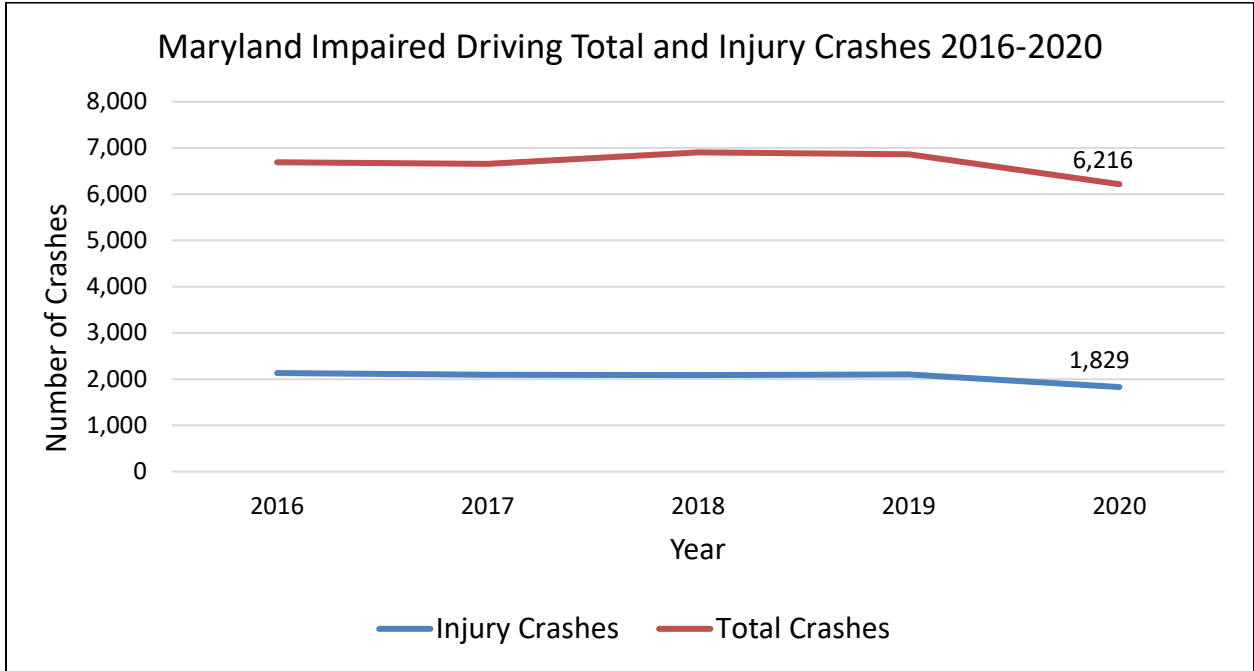


**THE FACTS**



- **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>.
- **Crashes involving impaired drivers have decreased.** During the past five years, the number of impaired driving crashes in Maryland<sup>3</sup> peaked in 2018 before falling by 10 percent to a five-year low in 2020. Injury crashes fell by 13 percent in 2020.
- **Fatal crashes related to impaired driving are decreasing.** Between 2016 and 2020, over 16,000 persons were either killed or injured in a crash where drugs and/or alcohol were involved. In 2020, the number of fatal crashes related to impaired driving had increased by 32 percent since 2019. Statewide, however, overall fatal crashes have increased by 10 percent since 2019.
- **Metropolitan areas have the highest concentration of impaired driving crashes<sup>4</sup>.** Approximately 80 percent all impaired driving crashes occurred within the Baltimore and Washington metropolitan areas, with more than 16 percent occurring in Prince George's County.

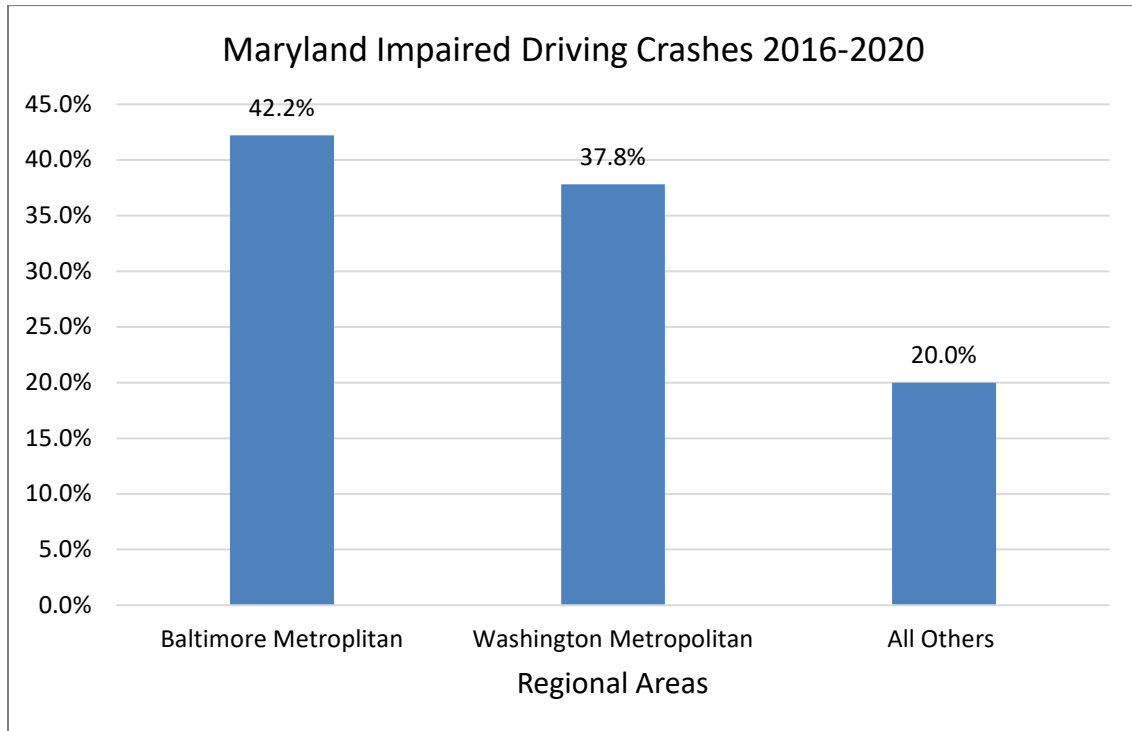
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<sup>1</sup> CDC National Vital Statistics Reports – 10 Leading Causes of Death, United States, 2018

<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.

<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.



- Weekends and late evening/early morning hours have the highest number of impaired crashes.** Approximately eight percent of yearly impaired driving crashes occurred each month. Fifty-seven percent of all impaired crashes occurred on a Friday, Saturday, or Sunday, while crashes resulting in death or injury were highest on Saturdays and Sundays. Crashes began to increase from the late afternoon through the early morning hours and saw a dramatic fall after 3 a.m. Approximately 32 percent of fatal crashes occurred between midnight and 4 a.m.
- Drivers in their twenties and thirties are involved in a disproportionate number of impaired-related crashes.** Forty-seven percent of drivers involved in an impaired driver crash were 20–39 years old. In addition, drivers in their twenties and thirties were involved in approximately 55 percent of impairment involved crashes resulting in an injury or death.