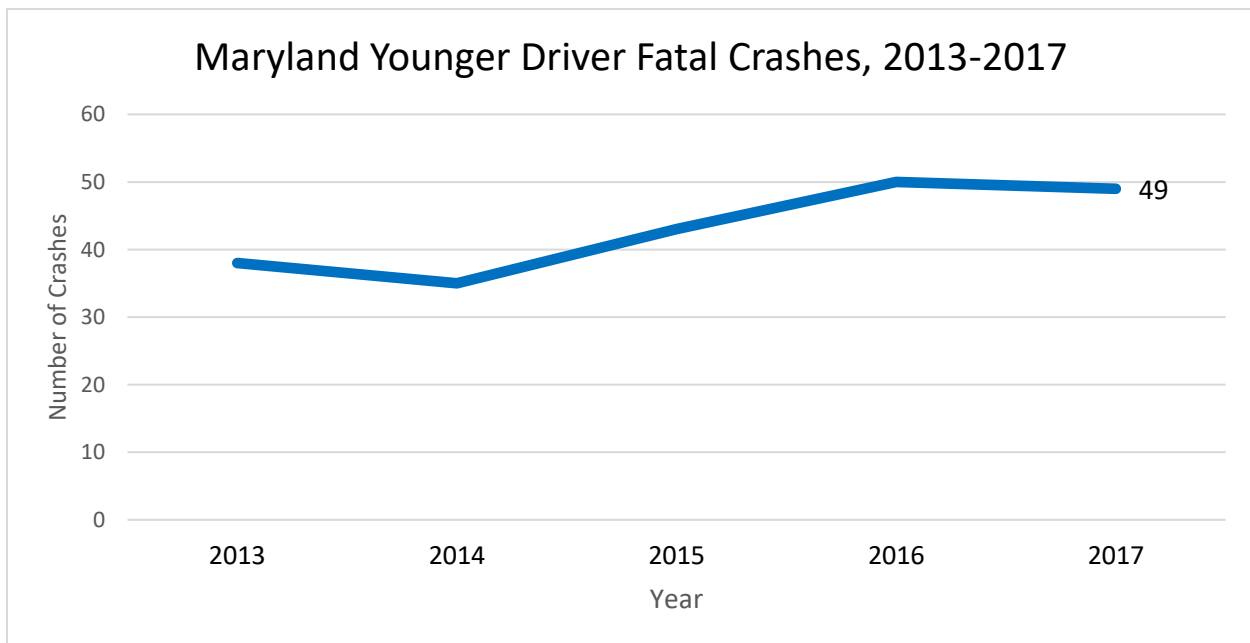
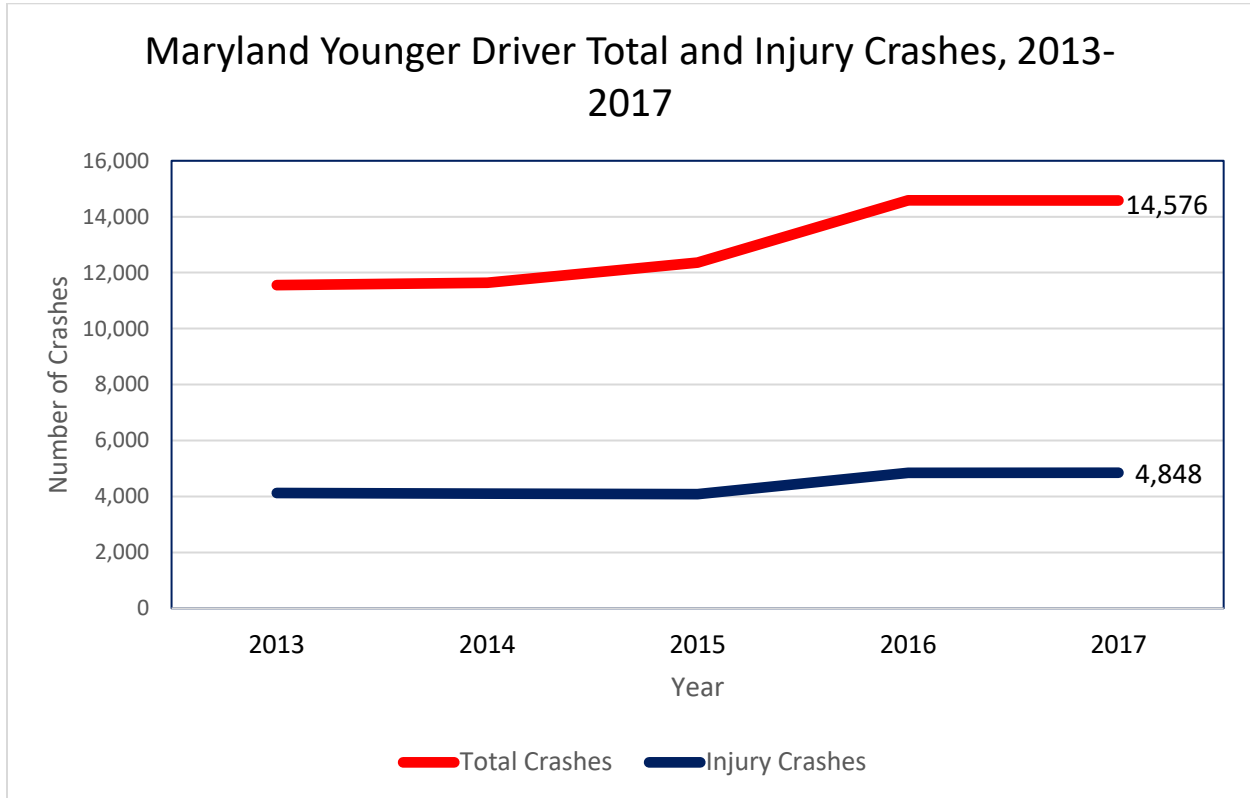


## YOUNG DRIVER SAFETY IN MARYLAND

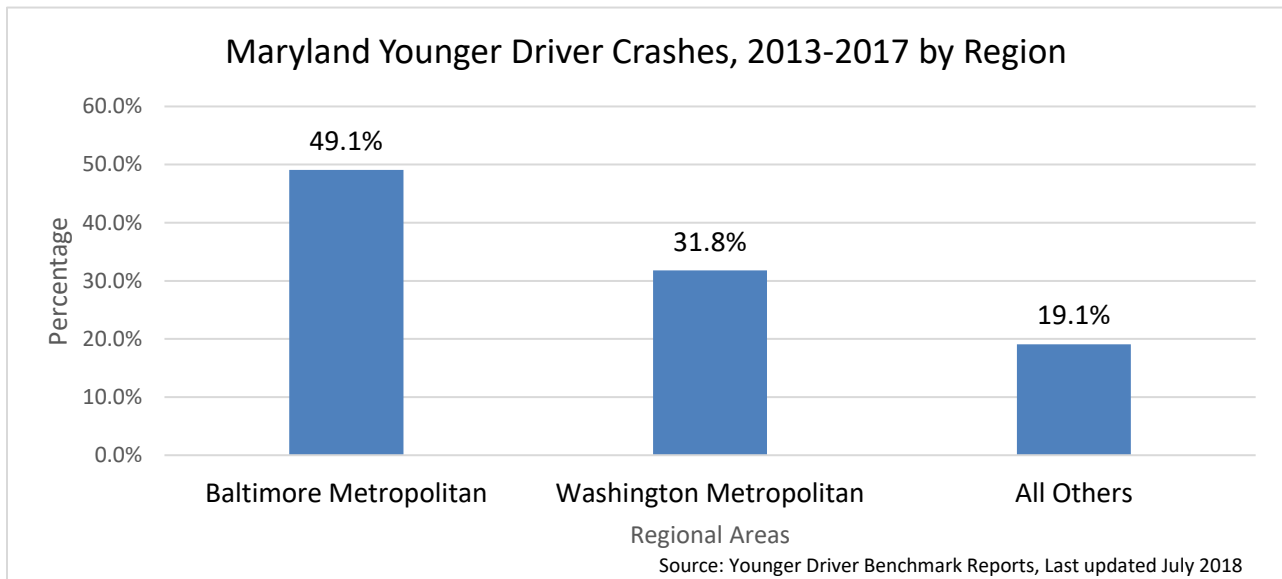
### THE FACTS



- **Motor vehicle crashes are a huge threat to public health.** Over the past decade, the number of crashes reported on the nation's roadways has declined annually. However, motor vehicle

crashes continue to be a leading cause of death in the United States<sup>1</sup>. In 2016, approximately 7.3 million crashes were reported; approximately 44 percent resulted in an injury or fatality<sup>2</sup>.

- **The number of young driver-involved crashes is increasing.** Average annual crashes involving young drivers (16–20) remained steady from 2013 through 2014 but increased through 2016. While the number of crashes involving younger drivers declined in 2017, it was only by ten crashes, so it remains close to the number of total crashes in 2016. This trend follows through to injury and fatal crashes involving younger drivers. Additionally, injury crashes among younger drivers, on average, remained higher than the annual state average (33 percent vs. 30 percent).
- **Injury crashes are more prevalent among young drivers as compared to the state.** In 2017, drivers age 16–20 were involved in over 14,500 crashes, with over 33 percent resulting in an injury or fatality. This is three percent higher than the statewide injury crash prevalence.
- **Metropolitan areas have the highest concentration of crashes involving young drivers<sup>3</sup>.** Crashes involving young drivers were most concentrated in Baltimore City, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Montgomery, and Prince George’s Counties. On average, nearly 16 percent of all young driver-related crashes occurred in Baltimore County.



<sup>1</sup> CDC National Vital Statistics Reports – 10 Leading Causes of Death, United States, 2016

<sup>2</sup> NHTSA Traffic Safety Facts – Summary of Motor Vehicle Crashes DOT HS 812 580

<sup>3</sup> Baltimore Metropolitan area is comprised of Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard 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.

- **Young driver-involved injury and fatal crashes increased during the warmer months.** Over the past five years, young driver-involved crashes were spread relatively evenly over the calendar year, like the statewide distribution. However, during the spring and summer, the number of young driver-involved crashes resulting in injuries increased beginning in May. Nearly 30 percent of all injury crashes involving a young driver occurred between April and June.
- **Young driver-involved fatal crashes increased in the afternoon.** While most of injury and total crashes occurred between noon and 6 p.m., 14 percent more fatal crashes occurred after 6 p.m. than from noon to 6 p.m. (where most crashes occurred of the other types).
- **Young driver-involved crashes were more prevalent Friday through Saturday.** Fatal crashes involving young drivers were most prevalent on Saturdays. Injury crashes and total crashes were most prevalent on Fridays, particularly for total crashes. While Sundays had the second-highest number of young drivers killed in a crash, they had the lowest number of injury crashes.
- **Young male drivers are killed in more crashes than females.** Over 56 percent of all young drivers involved in crashes were male. Young male drivers were killed in over three quarters of fatal crashes involving young drivers. Females had slightly more total crashes than males, but the difference is less than one percent.

Nearly ***one-third*** of all **fatal** crashes involving a ***young driver*** occurred during ***the Summer.***

## BACKGROUND

Young driver crashes, injuries, and fatalities in Maryland have been generally declining the past few years. However, young driver issues remain a concern in many communities across the state and country. The focus of young driver traffic safety programs involves Maryland’s Graduated Licensing System (GLS).

This system goes beyond traditional driver education to involve young people and their parents, law enforcement, safety professionals and educators in addressing this high-risk demographic. Approximately 1,500 skills are needed to drive a motor vehicle including: observation, perception, interpretation, reaction and anticipation.

Scientific research supports that these important cognitive and motor skills do not occur in adults until the mid-to-late 20’s. Through Maryland’s GLS, young drivers can get knowledge and experience to help them become safer behind the wheel and driving well into adulthood.

## YOUNG DRIVER LAWS

- **Maryland's Rookie Driver/Graduated Driver's Licensing System (GLS) Laws**
  - GLS laws provide a solid foundation for protecting Maryland's newest and most inexperienced drivers. GLS has been shown to reduce crashes by young drivers.
  - Maryland GLS laws currently specify the following controls for young drivers:
    - The holding period for a learner's permit is nine months;
    - All passengers of a learner's permit driver must be properly restrained by a seat belt or in a child safety seat;
    - The Provisional License Age is 16 years, six months; and
    - Drivers with a Provisional License are not allowed to have passengers under the age of 18 during the first five months (151 days) of the provisional period, unless accompanied by a **qualified supervising driver** or the passengers are **direct family members**.
  - The Full Licensure Age is 18 years of age.
  - Everyone must be properly restrained by a seat belt or in a child safety seat.
  
- **Underage Drinking and Fake ID Laws**
  - Drivers under age 21 that are found to have purchased, possessed or consumed alcohol, face a fine of \$500 for a first offense and \$1,000 for subsequent offenses.
  - If under 21 and in possession of a fake ID, an offender faces:
    - A fine of up to \$500;
    - Up to two months in prison;
    - 12 points assessed to a license; and
    - Driver's license suspension or revocation.
  - If caught selling fake IDs, an offender faces:
    - A fine of up to \$2000 for **each** fake ID sold;
    - Up to two years in jail for **each** fake ID sold; and
    - The offender is subject to prosecution for violating federal and homeland security laws.
  - If over 21 and knowingly furnishing alcohol to a minor, an offender faces:
    - A fine of up to \$2,500 for the first violation; and
    - A fine of up to \$5,000 for a second or subsequent violation.

- **Ignition Interlock Program (IIP)**
  - An ignition interlock is a device that is installed in vehicles of people who have been convicted of driving while impaired, which prevents the vehicle from starting if alcohol is detected on the driver's breath.
  - Anyone under age 21 who violates the alcohol restriction must automatically participate in the IIP or face suspension.
  - The driver must blow into the device, to start the ignition, and if his or her breath alcohol level exceeds the accepted level set on the device, the vehicle will not start.
  - Ignition interlocks are associated with about a 70 percent reduction in arrest rates for impaired driving, while the device is installed in the vehicle.
  - Young drivers convicted of DUI **MUST** participate in the IIP.
  - If an assignment to install an ignition interlock is for a second alcohol violation in 5 years, the duration of participation in the IIP is determined by how many times they have been assigned to interlock due to one of these violations.

## YOUNG DRIVER SAFETY PROGRAMS

- **Existing young driver programs focus on four major areas:**
  - Driving skill and decision-making
  - Occupant protection
  - Impaired driving
  - Maryland's Graduated Licensing System (GLS)
- A wide variety of high school-based programs have been implemented to address impaired driving, including mock crashes, impaired driving simulators, Fatal Vision goggles simulation exercises, and the promotion of alcohol-free after-Prom parties.
- **MARYLAND'S ROOKIE DRIVER/GRADUATED LICENSING SYSTEM (GLS)**
  - A critical element in young driver safety is parent involvement.
  - Parents of teen drivers must be actively involved in the young driver learning process – and not depend on driver education alone.
  - Parents should continue to practice driving with their young driver even after they get their provisional licenses so they can gain as much experience as possible with different road conditions and situations.
  - Maryland's GLS law system is designed to work with proactive enforcement by parents.

## YOUNG DRIVER SAFETY TIPS

- **TIPS FOR PARENTS**

- **Don't rely solely on driver education.** Driver's education is only ONE piece of learning to drive. It provides the basic skills necessary, and then parents should provide additional practice and close monitoring of their teen's driving to help them gain experience.
- **Require seat belt use all the time.** Although a teen may buckle up with a parent in the car, seat belts may not be used all the time, especially when a teen is with peers. Seat belt use is lowest among teens than any other age group.
- **Restrict night driving.** Most young drivers' nighttime fatal crashes occur from 9 p.m. to midnight. So, limit your teen's driving after 9 p.m. with a parent teen driving agreement.
- **Restrict passengers.** Teen passengers can distract a novice driver, leading to increased risk. About 60 percent of teen passenger deaths occur in crashes involving teen drivers.
- **Supervise practice driving.** Plan practice sessions in a variety of scenarios, including nighttime driving and driving in inclement weather. Supervised practice should be spread over at least nine months and continue after a teen graduates from a learner's permit to a provisional license.
- **Discuss and instill zero tolerance for driving after drinking.** Make it clear that it's illegal for anyone under the age of 21 to drink and it is extremely dangerous and illegal for anyone to drive after drinking alcohol or using any drug.

- **TIPS FOR TEENS**

- **Always wear a seat belt.** Make sure all passengers buckle up, too.
- **Obey all speed limits for both maximum and minimum speeds.**
- **Come to a complete stop at red lights and stop signs.**
- **Use a turn signal to indicate the intention to turn, merge or change lanes.**
- **When a light turns green, make sure the intersection is clear before proceeding.**
- **Don't blast the radio.** Excessive noise might cause a driver to miss a siren or a horn that could warn of possible danger.
- **Don't drive distracted.** The following can all be dangerous distractions: cell phone use, texting, other passengers, eating, drinking, smoking and personal grooming.
- **Don't drink or take drugs and drive, and don't ride with anyone who has been drinking or using drugs.** Even some over-the-counter medications can cause drowsiness or have other side effects. Always check the warning labels of medication and consult a health care provider for more information.

## WHO TO CONTACT ABOUT YOUNGER DRIVER SAFETY IN MARYLAND

### MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION MOTOR VEHICLE ADMINISTRATION

- Contact: MDOT MVA's Press Information at 410-762-5188