



2009 IMPAIRED DRIVING FACT SHEET

NEW DUI Laws Summary:

- HB 301 & SB 259 doubled the period for a subsequent Probation Before Judgment (PBJ) finding for impaired drivers from five to 10 years. This piece of legislation was passed without revisions by both chambers.
- HB 305 & SB 263 provides for fines and incarceration for persons in violation of an MVA-imposed driver's license alcohol restriction.
- SB 262 mandates a one-year driver's license suspension for persons twice convicted within a five year period of Maryland's DUI or controlled dangerous substance driving statutes; ignition interlock sentences are optional after a 45-day suspension.
- HB 299 outlaws the consumption of alcohol by those under 21 and criminalizes the provision of alcohol to those under age 21.

Maryland Drunk Driving Facts

- In 2008, Maryland's 152 alcohol-related traffic fatalities represented 26 percent of all traffic fatalities, lower than the national average of 32 percent.
- From 2007 to 2008, Maryland saw a 15 percent decrease in alcohol-related traffic deaths.
- Nationally, alcohol-related traffic fatalities at .08 BAC (blood alcohol concentration) or above decreased 9.7 percent, from 13,041 in 2007 to 11,773 in 2008.
- In 2008, 24,000 arrests were made for DUI in Maryland, averaging 66 arrests per day.
- A NHTSA study confirmed FBI statistics showing that impaired driving by women is becoming a national safety issue.
- In 2008 Maryland's *Checkpoint Strikeforce* campaign law enforcement stopped nearly 60,000 drivers at sobriety checkpoints and during impaired driving saturation patrols according to the Regional Checkpoint Strikeforce Database.
- According to the NHTSA analysis, the number of impaired women drivers involved in fatal crashes increased in 10 states, and remained flat in five states - despite an overall decline of nine percent in all drunk driver crashes in 2008 from 2007.
- The five states where the number of alcohol-impaired female drivers remained unchanged in 2008 were Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Oklahoma, and Utah.

Public Opinion

- A July 2009 public opinion survey of 21-35-year-old males in Maryland, Virginia and District of Columbia found:

- The biggest fear among this group of local male drivers as a result of driving while intoxicated is killing or injuring someone else (75-percent), more than arrest (two-percent) or their own death (ten-percent).
- Nearly three-quarters (72-percent) of these local drivers perceive drunk driving as one of the most serious dangers faced on area roadways.
- More than nine-out-of-ten (93-percent) of this group of local male drivers support the use sobriety checkpoints.
- Nearly two-out-of-five (19-percent) of these local drivers said that they would (or have) changed their behavior knowing that sobriety checkpoints were being held in their area.

Law Enforcement Component

- Last year in Maryland, checkpoints resulted in 43,797 contacts made to raise public awareness of increased enforcement.
- Law enforcement agencies are planning to conduct at least one sobriety checkpoint or saturation patrol every week throughout Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia. The checkpoint blitz will continue through the end of 2009.
- Sobriety checkpoints are a highly targeted way to fight drunk driving because they are strategically timed when and located where drunk driving is more likely to occur, making them among the most effective tools to stop drunk driving.
- Aggressively deployed sobriety checkpoints can result in a 20 percent reduction in alcohol-related crashes.
- Maryland will be conducting 30 sobriety checkpoints during a two week enforcement blitz from August 21 – September 7, 2009 during NHTSA's 2009 Impaired Driving National Enforcement Crackdown.

Media and Public Awareness Component

- Complementing the deployment of sobriety checkpoints is a highly visible, resonant advertising and public awareness effort outlining the consequences of impaired driving.
- A significant effort has been put toward a media campaign and educational outreach in Maryland. The creative ads were written and produced to connect with the target audience of 21-35 year old males. The ads utilize the findings of the campaign's opinion poll to create messages that hit home with the target audience.
- More than 5500 ads will run on a total of 16 broadcast stations, cable systems and radio stations in Maryland between August and December.

Get more information at <http://www.checkpointstrikeforce.net/educate.html> and listen to the ads at <http://www.checkpointstrikeforce.net/mddui.html>.