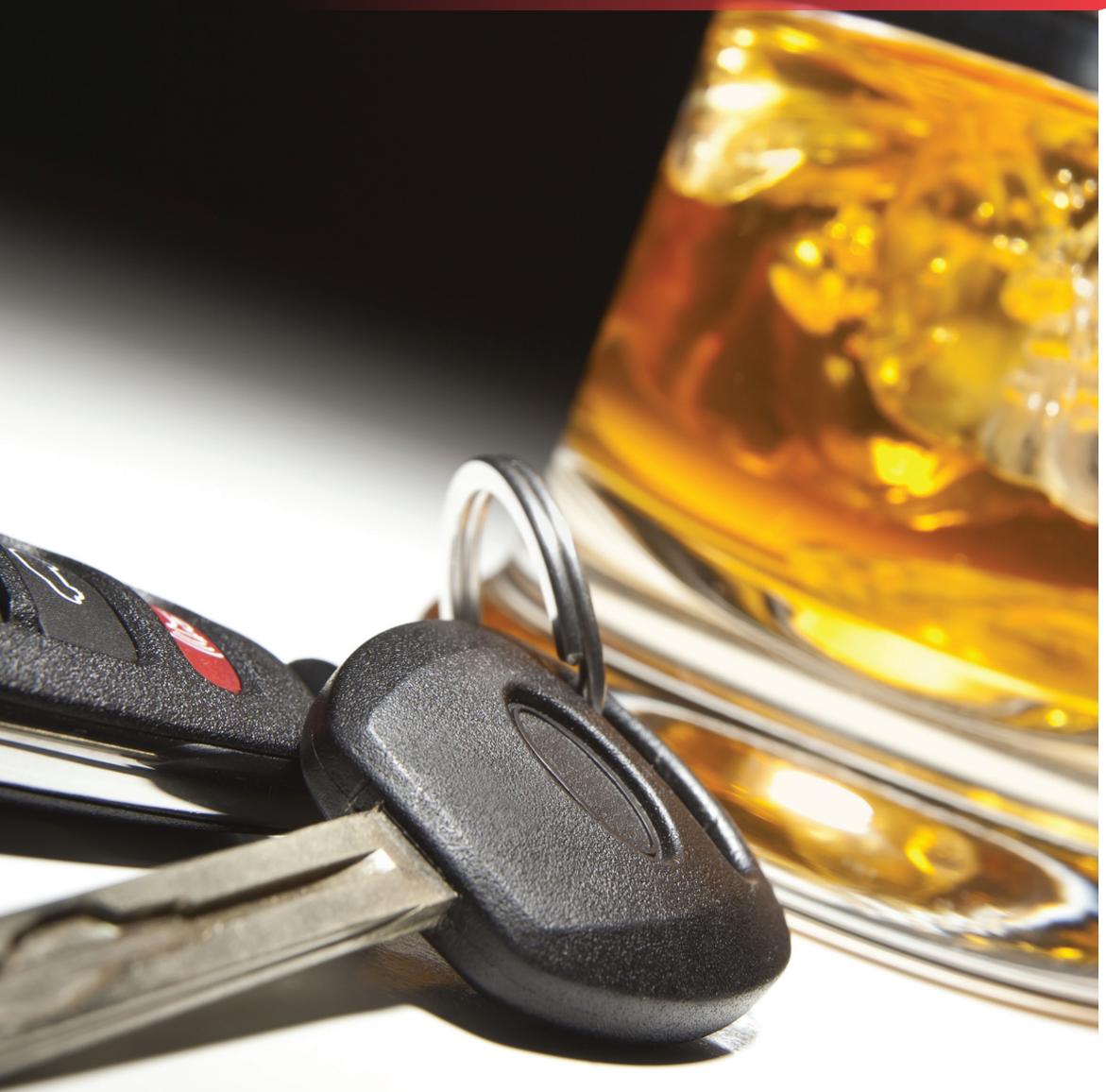


ALCOHOL AND INJURY

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Alcohol and Injury

HOW DOES THIS AFFECT THE UNITED STATES?

- From 2006-2010, an average of 87,798 people died each year as a result of excessive alcohol use, more than half of those deaths (56%) were from injuries.¹
- On average, 4,358 children and youth under the age of 21 died each year from 2006-2010 as a result of excessive alcohol use. Nearly all of those deaths (96%) were from injury.¹
- In 2014, 9,967 people died in alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes.²
- In 2010, the cost of alcohol consumption to society was estimated to be \$249 billion, or approximately \$2.05 per drink.³ This includes direct costs such as medical care and the costs of the judicial and penal systems, as well as indirect costs such as lost wages, and pain and suffering.⁴

HOW DOES THIS AFFECT MARYLAND?

- From 2006-2010, an average of 1,318 Marylanders died each year as a result of excessive alcohol use, more than half were from injuries.¹
- In 2013, 143 Marylanders died in alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes.⁵
- Estimated total, governmental, and binge drinking costs of excessive alcohol consumption in Maryland was \$4.96 billion in 2010, or \$860 per capita.⁶

HOW DO WE ADDRESS THIS PROBLEM?

- Increasing the price of alcohol is associated with reduced drinking among adults and adolescents,⁷ as well as fewer youth traffic fatalities,^{8,9} suicides,¹⁰ and homicides.^{10, 11, 12} Effective July 1, 2011 Maryland Senate Bill 994 increased the sales tax on alcohol to 9 percent.
- In addition to raising alcohol taxes, the Community Preventive Services Task Force recommends limiting the hours and days when alcohol can be purchased, strengthening commercial host liability laws, and increasing enforcement of minimum legal drinking age laws to curb underage drinking.¹³
- The Institute of Medicine recommends reducing adolescent exposure to alcohol advertising.¹⁴ At the local or state level, this can be done by restricting outdoor advertising, retail signage and alcohol sponsorships or promotions on public property and in places frequented by youth.¹⁵
- Ignition interlock devices prevent drivers who have measurable alcohol (set to a predetermined level) in their system from driving an interlock-equipped car. They reduce repeat drunk driving offenses by an average of 64 percent as long as the device remains on the vehicle.¹⁶ Other alcohol-sensing technologies show promise for the future.¹⁷
- Another effective measure includes requiring mandatory substance abuse assessment and treatment, if needed, for Driving While Impaired offenders.¹⁸

Alcohol and Injury

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Center for Substance Abuse Research: www.cesar.umd.edu
- Center on Alcohol Marketing and Youth: www.camya.org
- Johns Hopkins Center for Injury Research and Policy: www.jhsph.edu/InjuryCenter
- Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration:
<http://www.mva.maryland.gov/safety/mhso/program-impaired-driving-prevention.htm>
- The Maryland Collaborative to Reduce College Drinking and Related Problems:
<http://marylandcollaborative.org/>
- National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, CDC: www.cdc.gov/injury

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