



## FACT SHEET

August 29, 2006

### Maryland Drunk Driving Facts

- In Maryland, alcohol-related traffic fatalities (.01 BAC +) decreased a total of 18-percent between 2004 and 2005.<sup>1</sup>
- In 2005, Maryland had the second largest decrease in alcohol-related traffic deaths in the nation.<sup>2</sup>
- The last five years including 2005, Maryland has averaged 245 alcohol-related traffic deaths per year.<sup>3</sup>
- In 2005, Maryland's 235 alcohol-related traffic fatalities signify nearly 39 percent of all crash fatalities.<sup>4</sup>
- Alcohol-related traffic crashes also decreased last year in Maryland (and for the second year in a row). In fact, drunk driving crashes in Maryland have decreased by more than three-percent (3.48%) in the last three years (2003-2005, 9,089>8,772).<sup>5</sup>
- In 2005, 24,244 arrests were made for DUI in Maryland.<sup>6</sup>
- More people were arrested in Maryland for drunk driving last year than reside in Bel Air (10,014), Chevy Chase (2,776), Crisfield (2,808) and La Plata (8,442)...combined.<sup>7</sup>
- Nationally, alcohol related traffic fatalities declined slightly from 16,919 in 2004 to 16,885 in 2005. Nearly 39 percent of all traffic deaths in 2005 nationally involved alcohol.<sup>8</sup>

### Checkpoint Strikeforce

- *Checkpoint Strikeforce* is a research-based, zero-tolerance initiative within the Mid-Atlantic states designed to catch and arrest drunk drivers via sobriety checkpoints and to educate the public about the dangers and consequences of drunk driving.
- Males between the ages of 21 and 35 are the primary target audience. This demographic group is typically harder to reach with public awareness campaigns and statistically at the highest risk for drunk driving.
- In Maryland, the campaign is supported by a grant from the Maryland State Highway Administration's Highway Safety Office.

### Public Opinion

- A July 2006 public opinion survey of Maryland and Washington-metropolitan area drivers conducted for *Checkpoint Strikeforce* found:
  - Sobriety Checkpoints are strongly supported - 84-percent of area drivers support sobriety checkpoints.<sup>9</sup>
  - More than half (53 percent) of area drivers perceive drunk drivers among the most serious dangers they face on the road.<sup>10</sup>
  - 57 percent of area drivers believe that they would be stopped by police for driving after drinking.<sup>11</sup>
  - Almost three-quarters (73 percent) of area drivers are aware of the use of sobriety checkpoints in their area.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> FARS Data, NHTSA

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

<sup>3</sup> Ibid

<sup>4</sup> Ibid

<sup>5</sup> MAARS, Maryland State Highway Administration

<sup>6</sup> Maryland State Highway Administration

<sup>7</sup> US Census

<sup>8</sup> FARS Data, NHTSA

<sup>9</sup> *Checkpoint Strikeforce*/MWR Strategies survey of Greater Washington, DC area drivers, July 2006

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

## Results

<b>Maryland DUI Statistics<sup>13</sup></b>							
	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>AVG.</b>
<b>DUI ARRESTS</b>	23,270	23,697	23,997	25,055	<b>24,244</b>	120,263	24,0523
<b>.02 VIOLATIONS (UNDER 21)</b>	2,240	2,913	3,230	3,078	<b>3,233</b>	11,461	2,292
<b>REFUSALS</b>	6,782	6,674	6,965	7,314	<b>7,088</b>	34,823	6,965
<b>LICENSES CONFISCATED</b>	13,268	14,275	14,997	15,166	<b>14,641</b>	72,347	14,469

<b>Driver Involved Alcohol or Drug Impaired Crash Profile Sheet<sup>14</sup></b>							
	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>AVG.</b>
<b>INJURY ACCIDENTS</b>	3,519	3,535	3,198	3,142	<b>3,125</b>	16,519	3,304
<b>TOTAL INJURED</b>	5,580	5,570	4,869	4,886	<b>4,863</b>	25,768	5,154

### Law Enforcement Component

- Law enforcement agencies will conduct at least one sobriety checkpoint every week in Maryland, as well as in Virginia and the District of Columbia. The checkpoint blitz will continue through the end of 2006.
- 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. Consequently, they are among the most effective tools to stop drunk driving.
- Aggressively deployed sobriety checkpoints can result in a 20 percent reduction in alcohol-related fatal crashes.<sup>15</sup>

### Media and Public Awareness Component

- Complementing the aggressive deployment of sobriety checkpoints is a proactive, highly visible, resonant advertising and public awareness effort outlining the consequences of impaired driving.
- A nearly half million-dollar ad campaign on targeted stations will air creative advertisements, which were written and produced to connect with the target audience. The ads utilize the findings of the campaign's opinion poll to create messages that hit home with the target audience.
- The ads will run in Washington, D.C., Baltimore, Hagerstown and Salisbury over seven weeks, spread out over more than four months.

### Maryland Legislation

- Going into effect on October 1, 2006 – Underage drunk drivers will be penalized drivers with (an amended) one to two year driver's license suspensions. In addition, the administrative license suspension periods have been doubled (to 90 days for a first offense, 180 days for a second or subsequent offense) for persons arrested with a .15 or higher BAC in the state; and a requirement has been imposed for of a one-year ignition interlock device for both high-BAC offenders and those refusing a BAC test but pursuing a suspension modification of restricted license (or versus participating in a hearing to contest such an offense for high-BAC offenders.)

<sup>13</sup> HSO, Maryland State Highway Administration

<sup>14</sup> MAARS, Maryland State Highway Administration

<sup>15</sup> Insurance Institute for Highway Safety