

## **CESAR BRIEFING**

### **Underage Drinking**

*CESAR Briefings* are designed to provide concise answers and information on requested topics related to substance abuse, and are available online at [www.cesar.umd.edu](http://www.cesar.umd.edu). For additional information or to request a *CESAR Briefing*, please contact Erin Artigiani at 301-405-9794 or [erin@cesar.umd.edu](mailto:erin@cesar.umd.edu).

Data on a variety of substance abuse issues in Maryland are available through the Drug Early Warning System (DEWS) at [www.dewsonline.org](http://www.dewsonline.org). Indicators relevant for underage drinking include substance use among students, school suspensions, juvenile arrests, traffic crashes, treatment admissions, and overdose deaths.

#### ***Alcohol Use Among Maryland Students***

- Between 1994 and 2002, current (past 30 days) alcohol use declined in all grade levels surveyed (grades 6, 8, 10, and 12). See Figure 1.
- Among 6th and 8th graders, about half as many students reported current alcohol use in 2002 as in 1994. See Figure 1.
- By 12th grade, most students (70%) have used alcohol at least once in their lifetime (2002 data). See Figure 2.
- In 2002, less than half (44%) of 12th graders reported current use of alcohol. See Figure 2.
- Reports of binge drinking have been on the decline since 1996 among 12th graders, and since 1998 among 8th and 10th graders. See Figure 3.

#### ***School Suspensions***

- Alcohol-related suspensions peaked in the 1997-98 school year at 968 and have steadily declined since then to 713 in 2001-02. This represents a 26% decrease. See Figure 4.

#### ***Arrests***

- In 2001, juvenile arrests for liquor law violations were down 25% from their peak in 1998. See Figure 5.
- Juvenile arrests for DUI have increased 79% between 1994 and 2001 (from 179 to 320). See Figure 5.

#### ***Traffic Crashes***

- Traffic crashes among young (16 to 20 years of age) alcohol-impaired drivers increased by 42% between 1994 and 2001 (from 769 to 1,094). However, the proportion of crashes involving injury or death has dropped from 55% in 1994 to 46% in 2001. See Figure 6.

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## *Substance Abuse Treatment Programs*

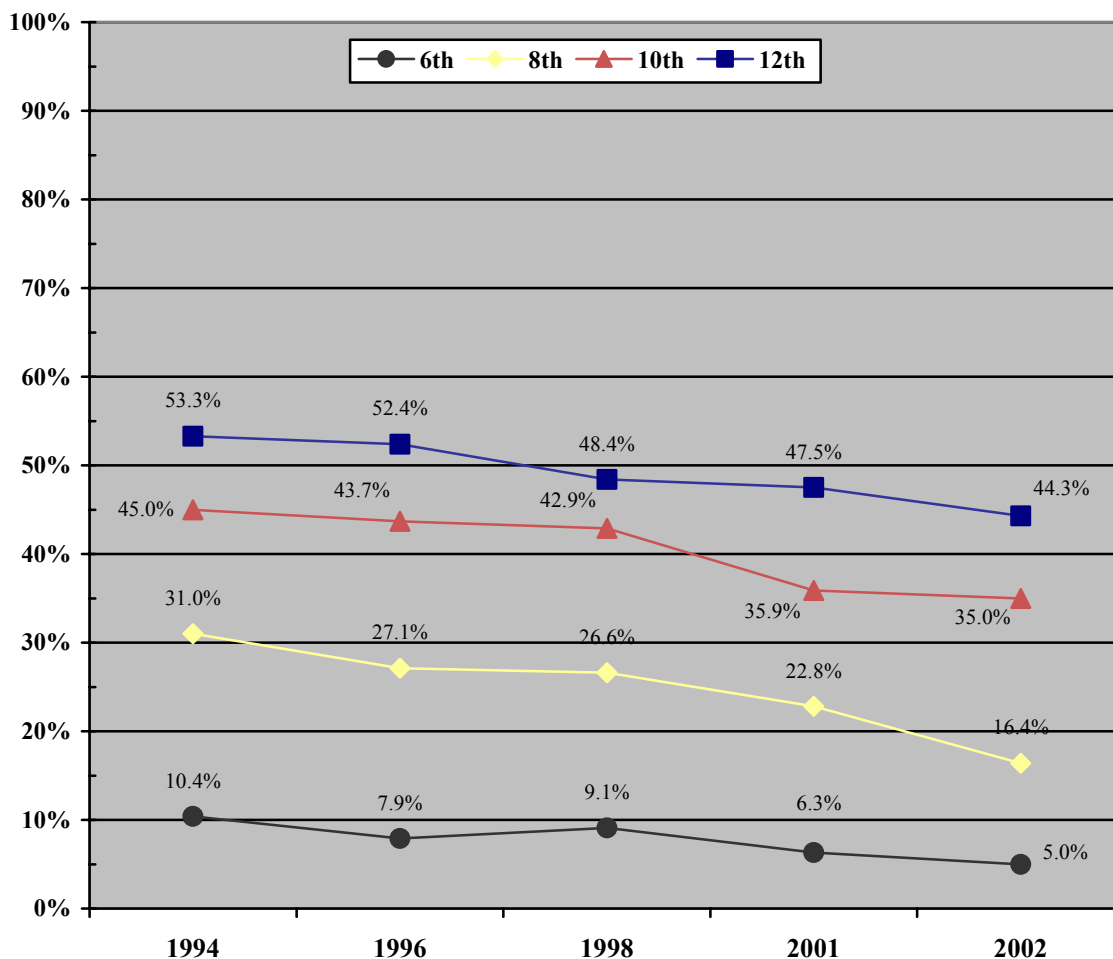
- The number of underage drinkers (i.e., under 21 years of age) being admitted to substance abuse treatment programs has been on the rise since 1999, reaching 7,448 in 2002. This represents a 17% increase. See Table 1.
- A fairly stable majority of treatment admissions among youth (i.e., under 21 years of age) are alcohol-related. Alcohol-related admissions consistently represent between 62% and 66% of all treatment admissions among youth. See Table 1.

## *Overdose Deaths*

- Between 1997 and 2002, only one alcohol-related overdose death was recorded for a juvenile (i.e., under 18 years of age). That death occurred in 2001. (Data not shown.)

# Underage Drinking

**Figure 1.**  
**Percentage of Public School Students Reporting Current\* Use of Any Form of Alcohol, by Grade Level,\*\*\* State of Maryland, 1994-2002**



**NOTES:**

\* Current use refers to use of substance in the 30 days prior to administration of the survey.

\*\* Liquor use (i.e., rum, vodka, or whiskey).

\*\*\* Approximate sample sizes for each grade are presented below with response rates in parentheses:

1994: 6<sup>th</sup>=5,192(89%); 8<sup>th</sup>=4,717(85%); 10<sup>th</sup>=4,126(79%); and 12<sup>th</sup>=4,139(80%)

1996: 6<sup>th</sup>=5,468(81%); 8<sup>th</sup>=5,593(80%); 10<sup>th</sup>=5,181(74%); and 12<sup>th</sup>=5,159(75%)

1998: 6<sup>th</sup>=5,653(70%); 8<sup>th</sup>=5,610(67%); 10<sup>th</sup>=5,480(54%); and 12<sup>th</sup>=5,397(52%)

2001: 6<sup>th</sup>=7,676(86%); 8<sup>th</sup>=7,336(83%); 10<sup>th</sup>=6,614(78%); and 12<sup>th</sup>=6,078(73%)

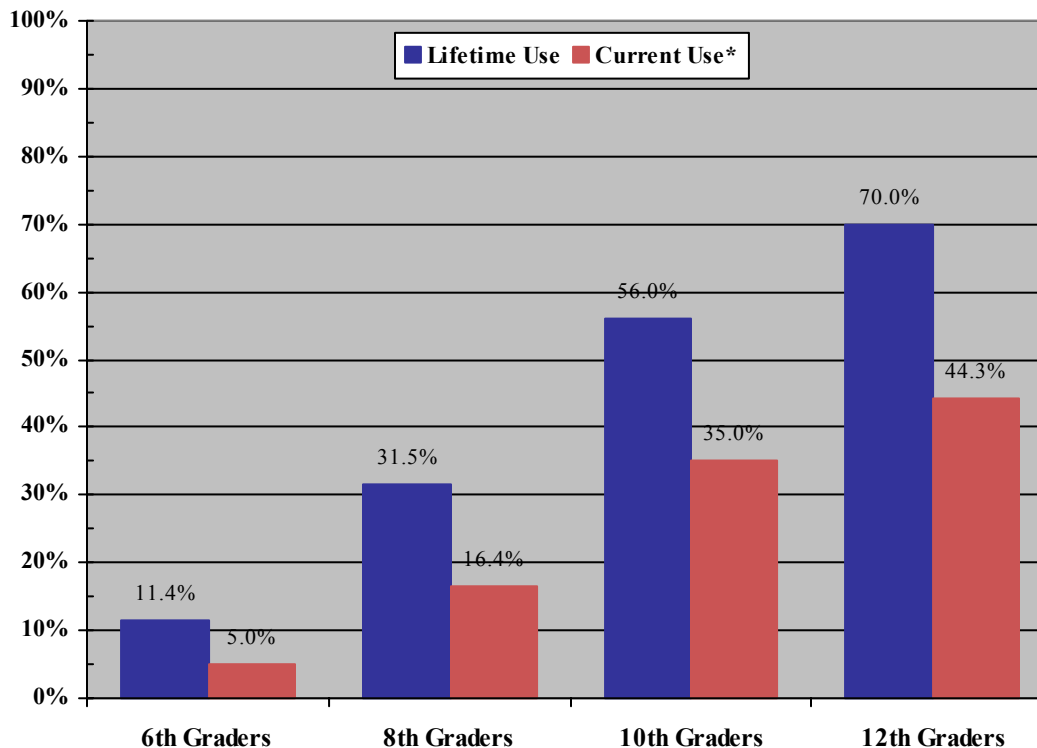
2002: 6<sup>th</sup>=8,978(88%); 8<sup>th</sup>=8,687(84%); 10<sup>th</sup>=8,317(79%); and 12<sup>th</sup>=7,997(76%)

The MAS Report does not provide the standard errors around these observations; therefore, caution should be exercised in interpreting any changes in drug use throughout time.

**SOURCE:** Adapted by CESAR from data from the 1994, 1996, 1998, 2001, and 2002 Maryland Adolescent Surveys (MAS), Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE).

## Underage Drinking

**Figure 2.**  
**Percentage of Public School Students Reporting Lifetime and Current\*  
Use of Any Form of Alcohol, by Grade Level,\*\* State of Maryland, 2002**



**NOTES:**

\*Current use refers to use of substance in the 30 days prior to administration of the survey.

\*\*Approximate sample size with response rate in parentheses:

6<sup>th</sup> Graders=8,978 (88%)

8<sup>th</sup> Graders=8,687 (84%)

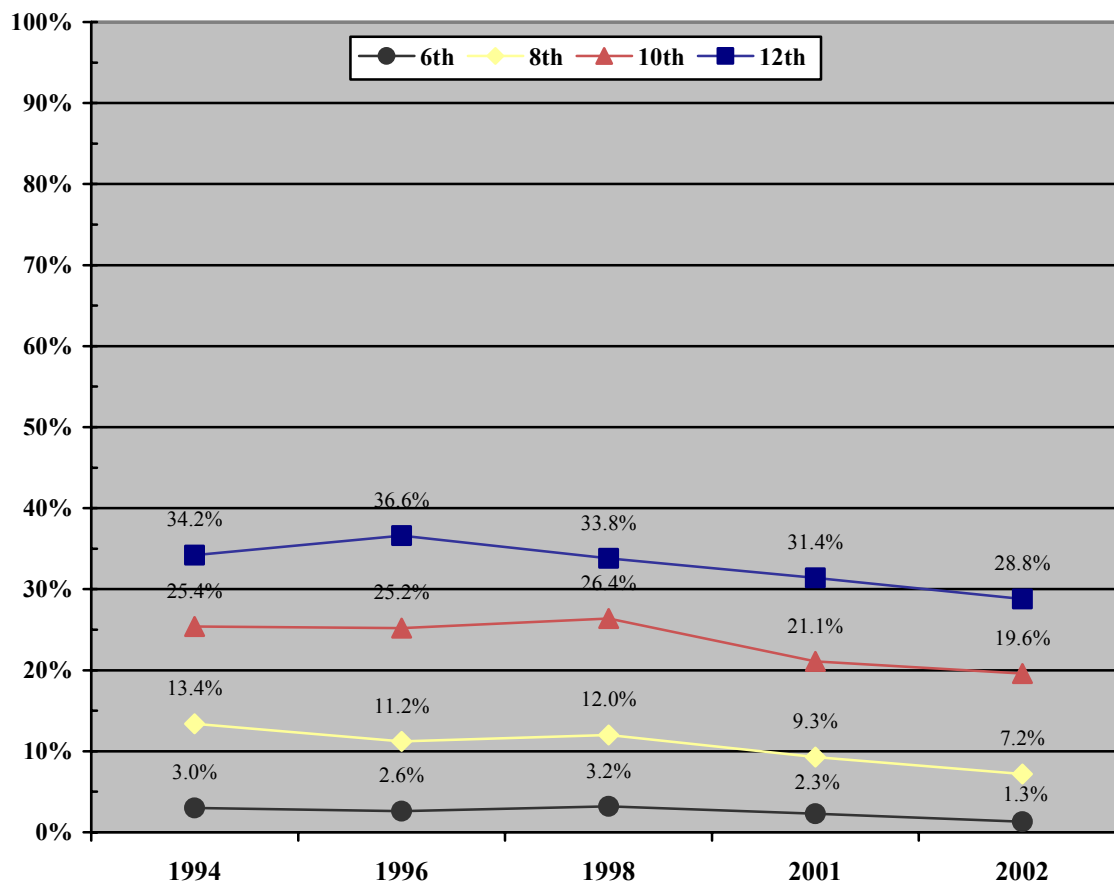
10<sup>th</sup> Graders=8,317 (79%)

12<sup>th</sup> Graders=7,997 (76%)

**SOURCE:** Adapted by CESAR from data from the 2002 Maryland Adolescent Survey (MAS), Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE).

# Underage Drinking

**Figure 3.**  
**Percentage of Public School Students Reporting Current\* Binge Drinking,\*\***  
**by Grade Level,\*\*\* State of Maryland, 1994-2002**



**NOTES:**

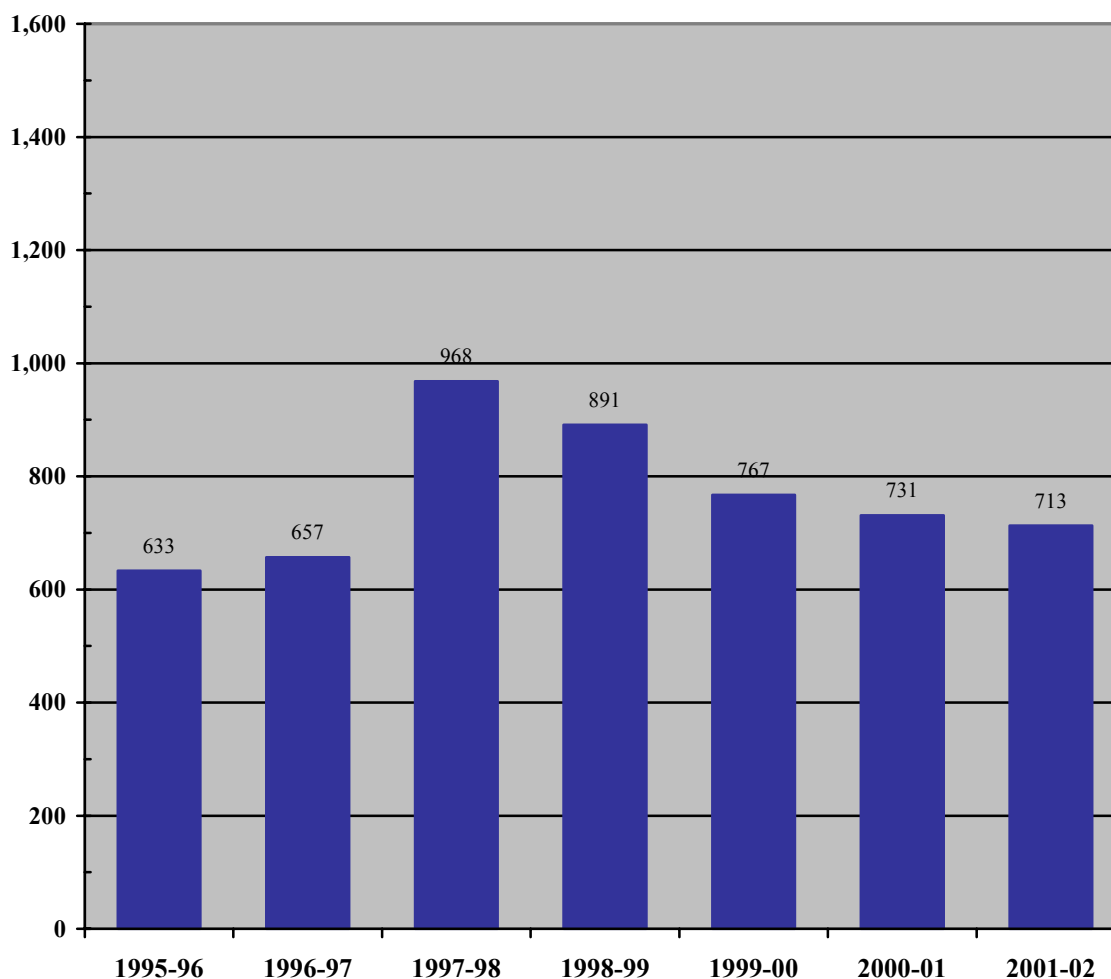
- \* Current use refers to use of substance in the 30 days prior to administration of the survey.
- \*\* Binge drinking refers to consuming “five or more servings of alcohol on the same occasion.”
- \*\*\* Approximate sample sizes for each grade are presented below with response rates in parentheses:  
 1994: 6<sup>th</sup>=5,192(89%); 8<sup>th</sup>=4,717(85%); 10<sup>th</sup>=4,126(79%); and 12<sup>th</sup>=4,139(80%)  
 1996: 6<sup>th</sup>=5,468(81%); 8<sup>th</sup>=5,593(80%); 10<sup>th</sup>=5,181(74%); and 12<sup>th</sup>=5,159(75%)  
 1998: 6<sup>th</sup>=5,653(70%); 8<sup>th</sup>=5,610(67%); 10<sup>th</sup>=5,480(54%); and 12<sup>th</sup>=5,397(52%)  
 2001: 6<sup>th</sup>=7,676(86%); 8<sup>th</sup>=7,336(83%); 10<sup>th</sup>=6,614(78%); and 12<sup>th</sup>=6,078(73%)  
 2002: 6<sup>th</sup>=8,978(88%); 8<sup>th</sup>=8,687(84%); 10<sup>th</sup>=8,317(79%); and 12<sup>th</sup>=7,997(76%)

The MAS Report does not provide the standard errors around these observations; therefore, caution should be exercised in interpreting any changes in drug use over time.

**SOURCE:** Adapted by CESAR from data from the 1994, 1996, 1998, 2001 and 2002 Maryland Adolescent Surveys (MAS), Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE).

## Underage Drinking

**Figure 4.**  
**Alcohol-Related Suspensions\* in Maryland Public Schools, by Year,**  
**State of Maryland, 1997-2001**



**NOTES:**

\* Alcohol-Related Suspensions are defined as suspensions related to possession, use or showing evidence of use, sale, or distribution of any alcoholic substances. The number of suspensions equals the number of offenses, not the number of students suspended.

The total number of suspensions for each school year is listed below:

1995-96: 95,238

1996-97: 109,104

1997-98: 123,327

1998-99: 113,064

1999-00: 113,377

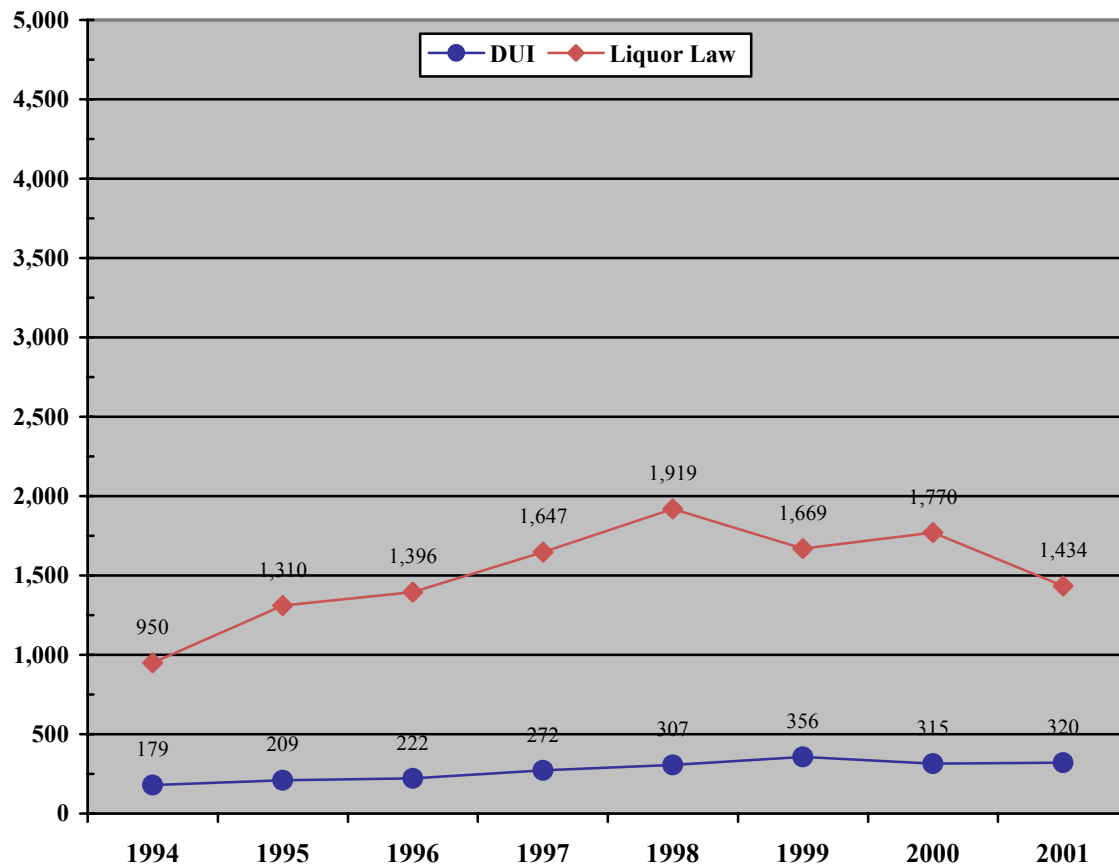
2000-01: 123,364

2001-02: 123,011

**SOURCE:** Adapted by CESAR from the 1995-2002 "Suspensions, Expulsions, and Health-Related Exclusions, Maryland Public Schools" Reports, Division of Planning, Results, and Information Management (PRIM), Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE).

## Underage Drinking

**Figure 5.**  
**Juvenile Arrests for Driving Under the Influence (DUI) and Liquor Law**  
**Law Violations,\* State of Maryland, 1994-2001**

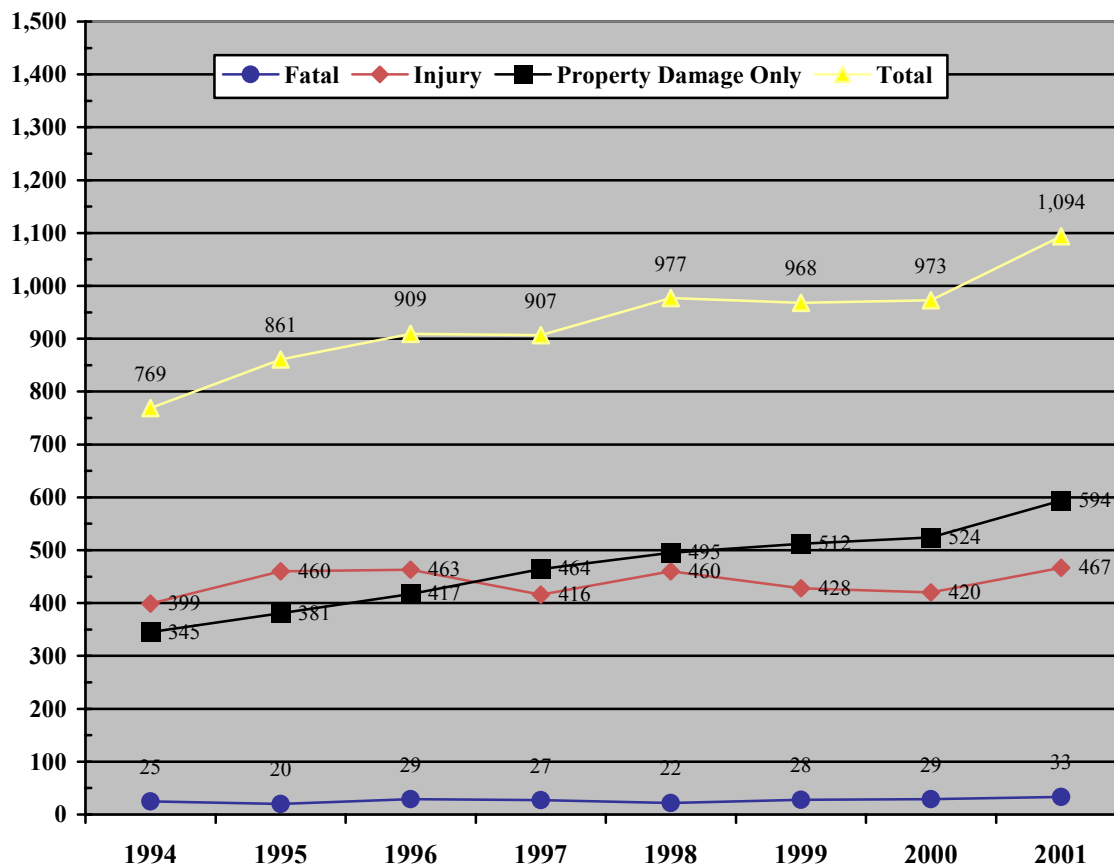


**NOTE:** Liquor Law Violations include all violations for possession and consumption of alcohol by youths under 21 and the distribution of alcohol to youths under 21.

**SOURCE:** Adapted by CESAR from data from Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program, Central Records Division, Maryland State Police (MSP).

# Underage Drinking

**Figure 6.**  
**Number of Traffic Crashes Involving an Alcohol-Impaired Driver Aged 16-20 Years of Age, by Type of Crash, State of Maryland, 1994-2001**



**NOTES:**

\* Definitions:

**Crash:** An event that produces injury and/or property damage, involves a motor vehicle in transport, and occurs on a trafficway or while the vehicle is still in motion after running off the trafficway.

**Fatal Crash:** A police-reported crash involving a motor vehicle in transport on a trafficway in which at least one person dies within 30 days of the crash.

**Injury Crash:** A police-reported crash that involves a motor vehicle in transport on a trafficway in which no one died but at least one person was reported to have: (1) an incapacitating injury; (2) a visible but not incapacitating injury; (3) a possible, not visible injury; or (4) an injury of unknown severity.

**Property Damage Only Crash:** A police-reported crash involving a motor vehicle in transport on a trafficway in which no one involved in the crash suffered an injuries.

**SOURCE:** Adapted by CESAR from data supplied by the Traffic Safety Analysis Division, Office of Traffic and Safety, Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA).



## Underage Drinking

**Table 1.**  
**Number of Alcohol Mentions, Total Number of Treatment Admissions,**  
**and Percentage of Total Treatment Admissions Involving Alcohol**  
**Among Clients Under Age 21 Years, State of Maryland, FY 1998-2002**

Fiscal Year	Number of Alcohol Mentions	Total Admissions	Percentage Alcohol Admissions
1998	6,839	10,613	64.4%
1999	6,384	10,208	62.5%
2000	6,620	10,075	65.7%
2001	7,136	10,958	65.1%
2002	7,448	11,610	64.2%

**NOTES:**

Each client's primary, secondary, and tertiary drugs of choice are reported to SAMIS.

**SOURCE:** Adapted by CESAR from data run on December 9, 2003, from the Substance Abuse Management Information System (SAMIS), Maryland Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration (ADAA), Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH).