



## Partnership for a **Safer** Maryland

### Fall 2017 Newsletter



#### Holiday Impaired Driving

The Maryland Department of Transportation Highway Safety Office

November 2017 – In December 2015, the lives of Rich Leotta and Marcia Goldman changed forever. Their son, Officer Noah Leotta, was killed while on a special DUI enforcement assignment in Montgomery County. Officer Leotta had pulled over a car for suspected drunk driving and while he was walking back to his vehicle, he was struck by another car on the road. The driver of the car had a .22 alcohol level, almost three times the legal limit. Officer Leotta was in the hospital for a week before he passed away. He was just 24 years old.

The Drunk Driving Act of 2016 is known as “Noah’s Law.” Noah’s Law significantly increased the suspension periods for drunk driving violations and allowed drivers to avoid longer suspension by enrolling in the Ignition Interlock program. It is now mandated that all convicted DUI offenders enroll in Ignition Interlock. Noah’s Law is helping to save lives here in Maryland. More people are enrolling in the Ignition Interlock program, and they are getting into the program sooner. Last year, Ignition Interlock devices prevented more than 2,000 drivers from driving with a blood alcohol level above the legal limit of point-zero-eight, and sometimes more than once.

On average, there are 7,218 impaired (alcohol and/or drugs) driving crashes statewide, resulting in 3,497 injuries and 156 fatalities every year, and 32 percent of all motor vehicle fatalities in Maryland involve an impaired driver. In all of 2016, more than 22,000 people were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

From Thanksgiving through New Year’s, Maryland not only sees an increase in traffic, it also experiences one of the most dangerous periods regarding impaired-driving-related deaths. Police will again be deployed in a series of checkpoints and intense DUI patrols throughout the holidays to find and arrest impaired drivers.

Maryland recommends these safe alternatives to drinking and driving during the holiday season:

- Plan a safe way home before the fun begins.
- Designate a sober driver or use public transportation to get home safely.
- If you see a drunk driver on the road, don’t hesitate to contact your local law enforcement agency by dialing 911.

- If you know people who are about to drive or ride after drinking, take their keys and help them make other arrangements to get to where they are going safely.

“Ultimately, everyone needs to take personal responsibility for safety on our roadways,” said Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administrator Christine Nizer. “Between designated drivers, transit services, taxis and ride shares, there are many ways to get home safe after a night of drinking. Plan to have a sober ride, and always remember to buckle up in every seat, every time.”

During the holidays, Maryland will continue the “Beautiful” campaign, which highlights the need to have a sober ride home at the end of the night. Through social media, radio and television spots, and messaging inside bars and liquor stores throughout the State, “Beautiful” showcases the fact that impaired driving can be stopped with one simple solution.

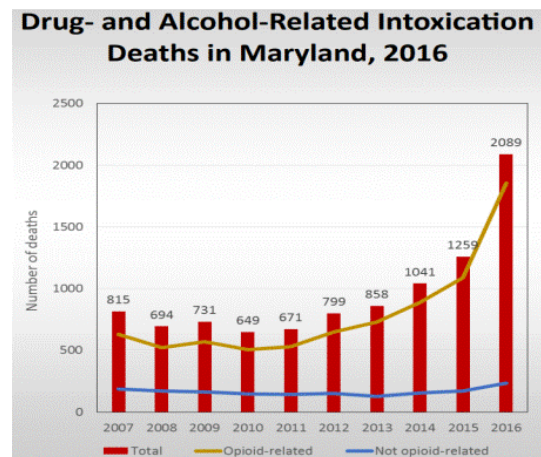
The monetary penalties for an impaired driving arrest are often severe, typically running tens of thousands of dollars in fines, court costs, lawyer fees, lost wages, and other costs. More importantly, as demonstrated by the family members at the event, drunk or drugged drivers run the risk of hurting or killing themselves or others, possibly even their own friends or loved ones.

## An Update on MD’s Opioid Crisis

Marianne Gibson, M.S.

University of Maryland School of Law

According to a recently released report from the President’s Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis, 142 Americans are dying every day from opioid-related overdoses. The report compared the number of lives lost to the country experiencing a September 11th, event every three weeks. As most know, the opioid crisis is not just a national problem, but is one that is in our own back yard and has had devastating impacts on Maryland. Source: MDH



The number of Marylanders dying from opioid related overdoses continues to rise. In 2016, there were a total of 2,098 drug and alcohol related intoxication deaths, which was a 66% increase over the total number of intoxication deaths in 2015 (1,259). In recently released second quarter data from Maryland’s Department of Health (MDH), between January and June of this year, there were 1,172 unintentional drug intoxication deaths, up from 979 in the same time period in 2016.

The increase in opioid-related fatalities can be attributed to the presence of Fentanyl and Carfentanil. These synthetic opioids are 50-100 times more potent than heroin and are increasingly mixed into the supply of heroin found on our streets.

With the increase in deaths, many are wondering what the state is doing to combat this crisis. In March of 2017, Governor Larry Hogan declared a State of Emergency in response to the opioid crisis. This declaration has helped the state and local jurisdictions mobilize and coordinate between the various agencies involved in addressing this issue. Stabilizing this crisis requires an “all hands on deck” effort from partners including those in public health, law enforcement, treatment, EMS/ fire and rescue, education and criminal justice.

The Opioid Overdose Command Center (O OCC) is actively engaged and is serving as the State’s hub for coordinating efforts. Their website, [beforeitstoolate.maryland.gov](http://beforeitstoolate.maryland.gov) provides resources for individuals suffering with substance use disorder (SUD), family and friends of someone with SUD, health professionals and

educators.

Everyone has a role to play in helping to reduce opioid related deaths. First it is important to understand the complexities of substance use disorder in an attempt to reduce stigma associated with the disease. Additionally, you can learn how to administer the lifesaving drug, naloxone. Most local health departments can provide you with information on overdose response, and some can provide naloxone as part of their training. Please call 911 if you see someone you suspect is overdosing. Lastly, if you or someone you know is suffering with a substance use disorder, please call Maryland's crisis hotline: 1-800-422-0009.



## Promising Practices: Anne Arundel County Safe Stations

With the opioid epidemic continuing at a crisis level, law enforcement and emergency medical services providers encounter more and more cases of overdoses. To ease the burden on first responders in Anne Arundel County, the Safe Stations program was created to facilitate the process for anyone with substance abuse disorder seeking help to receive a referral into treatment. The goal of Safe Stations is to provide easy access points for individuals seeking help and treatment throughout the county.

The Safe Stations program is a not-for-profit organization under contract with Anne Arundel County Crisis Response team, part of the Anne Arundel County Mental Health Agency, Inc. At any time, day or night, if a resident of Annapolis or Anne Arundel County who has substance abuse disorder decides they want help, they can go to Anne Arundel or Annapolis Police Departments or Fire Stations, and speak to the personnel on duty.

Safe Stations is a successful collaboration between many different agencies. The Anne Arundel County and Annapolis City Fire Departments provide locations for citizens to seek help, and currently 38 locations participate in this program. If someone enters the Safe Station with a substance in their possession, the Fire Station will remove it and hand it over to the police station. The Anne Arundel County State's Attorney's Office works with the criminal justice system to void any outstanding warrants that an individual may have so they can be referred to a treatment program before they stand trial.

### SUCCESS STORY:

A new initiative for Anne Arundel County, Safe Stations has had a positive impact. Since August of this year, there have been 159 Safe Station cases. Highlights of the success of this program include:

- There was a 24-hour period in June when the county did not experience any opioid overdoses.
- There was a weekend in July where the number of Safe Station cases outnumbered opioid overdoses.
- There was a 30-day period in July into August when the county experienced the first year to year drop in the number of overdoses in more than three years.

On the very first day after the program was announced, Safe Stations received their first patient who is moving forward in her rehabilitation and receiving the help she needs. The overall success rate (people who come to a Safe Station who move on to get treatment) to date of the program is 58 percent (78/159).

### Interested in learning more about the program? Contact:

Captain Russell E. Davies, Jr., Public Information Officer  
Anne Arundel County Fire Department  
8501 Veterans Highway  
Millersville, MD 21108  
Office (410) 222-8305

<http://www.aacounty.org/Fire>

## News from the Maryland Violence and Injury Prevention Program Inaugural Violence and Injury Prevention State Forum Highlights (June 24, 2017)

In collaboration with the Partnership for a Safer Maryland, the Maryland Violence and Injury Prevention Program (MD VIPP) within the Environmental Health Bureau (EHB) at the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) hosted a one-day forum in Annapolis, Maryland on June 24, 2017. Over 80 people attended from local health departments, advocacy groups, and state agencies.

The Maryland Violence and Injury Prevention Forum was an opportunity for state and local public and private organizations to participate in facilitated injury topic breakout sessions to exchange information and resources on violence and injury topics and to inform the creation of a statewide plan for injury and violence prevention.

The injury topics selected by registrants for the forum included alcohol, child abuse and neglect, sexual assault, traumatic brain injury, and falls prevention in older adults. There were two presentations: one on violence and injury data delivered by Dr. Cliff Mitchell, Director of the EHB and a presentation on Maryland law and policy by Kathi Hoke from the University of Maryland School of Law. Additionally, the forum included a lunchtime discussion on the response to the opioid and heroin crisis in Maryland by Clay Stamp, Director of the Opioid Operational Command Center.

This is the first of several forums to be held in different parts of the state. The next forum will be held in late Spring/Summer 2018.

For more information about violence and injury prevention, please visit our [website](#).

For more information about the 2017 forum and suggestions for future forums, please contact the MDVIPP at [mdh.injuryprevention@maryland.gov](mailto:mdh.injuryprevention@maryland.gov).

Need Technical Assistance? 1-866-703-3266 or [mdh.injuryprevention@maryland.gov](mailto:mdh.injuryprevention@maryland.gov)

Contact the Center for Injury and Sexual Assault Prevention to request technical assistance on issues related to data or program implementation.

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## Upcoming Webinars



**Save the date!**

**Effectively Communicating about Public Health in the Context of Policy**

**A webinar presented by:**

The University of Maryland, Carey School of Law & the Maryland Department of Health

**About:** The University of Maryland, Carey School of Law & the Maryland Violence and Injury Program in the Maryland Department of Health are pleased to present a webinar highlighting the role of public health in policy.

**When: Wednesday December 13<sup>th</sup> from 11:30-12:15 pm**

**Presenters:**

**Kathleen Hoke**

Law School Professor and  
Director, Legal Resource Center for Public Health Policy

**Melissa Sager**

Staff Attorney  
Legal Resource Center for Public Health Policy

*Registration link coming soon! Questions?*

*Contact or call:*

*Melissa Sager 410-706-1129 or [msager@law.umaryland.edu](mailto:msager@law.umaryland.edu)*

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## Join the Conversation! National Peer Learning Team on IPV

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### **National Peer Learning Team on Intimate Partner Violence**

The purpose of the Regional Network Collaborating Organization (RNCO) is to provide coordination across all states and with injury and violence prevention (IVP) organizations to share scientific evidence and programmatic best practices.

### **Maryland is the RNCO coordinating the NPLT on Intimate Partner Violence.**

To join, email [Pmahone3@jhu.edu](mailto:Pmahone3@jhu.edu)

### **What are the goals of the NPLT?**

- Provide a forum for discussion of research and best practices to reduce IPV
- Develop a shared useful picture (mental model) for how we think about and actionable steps we can take to change the landscape around IPV
- Create and/or share learning opportunities
- Facilitate peer-to-peer technical assistance
- Create at least one report on what we learned about strategies to reduce IPV
- Create a lessons learned document about Maryland's experience with the NPLT.

**Save the Date! Webinar: Intimate Partner Violence: A Global Perspective**

**Thursday December 14, 2017 3-4 pm EST**

## Resources



# SAFE STATES

**Now Available:**  
**Standards and Indicators for  
Model Level I and II Trauma Center  
Injury and Violence Prevention Programs**

The Safe States Alliance, in partnership with the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), is pleased to announce the release of our newest resource: [\*Standards and Indicators for Model Level I and II Trauma Center Injury and Violence Prevention Programs\*](#). This new publication is the first to outline the core components of a model injury and violence prevention (IVP) program within Level I and II trauma centers.

[Visit the webpage](#) for additional resources and a set of [frequently asked questions and answers](#). Should you have additional questions or comments, we invite you to submit them to [TraumaIVP@safestates.org](mailto:TraumaIVP@safestates.org).

## Maryland Fatal Definition Will Change 1/1/18

Maryland's fatal definition used to determine whether a fatality that occurred related to a crash will be counted as a fatal crash is being updated and modified effective January 1, 2018. The federal FARS definition will be adopted by Maryland as the State fatal definition to clear any confusion between fatality counts in Maryland. Please [Click Here](#) to download the explanation of the changes.

If you have any questions, please contact [Maryland State Police Central Records Division](#).

## Upcoming Pharmacy, Health and Wellness Observances

### December

International AIDS Awareness Month  
National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention  
Month  
Safe Toys and Gifts Month  
National Handwashing Awareness Week (2nd - 8th)  
National Influenza Vaccination Week (2nd - 8th)

### January

Cervical Health Awareness Month  
National Birth Defects Prevention Month  
National Blood Donor Month  
National Glaucoma Awareness Month  
Thyroid Awareness Month National Folic Acid  
Awareness Week (7th - 13th)  
Healthy Weight Week (18th - 24th)

### February

February American Heart Month AMD/Low Vision  
Awareness Month  
National Cancer Prevention Month  
National Children's Dental Health Month Wise Health  
Care Consumer Month  
Wear Red Day (2nd )



*Learn more about Partnership for a Safer Maryland on [our website!](#)*

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