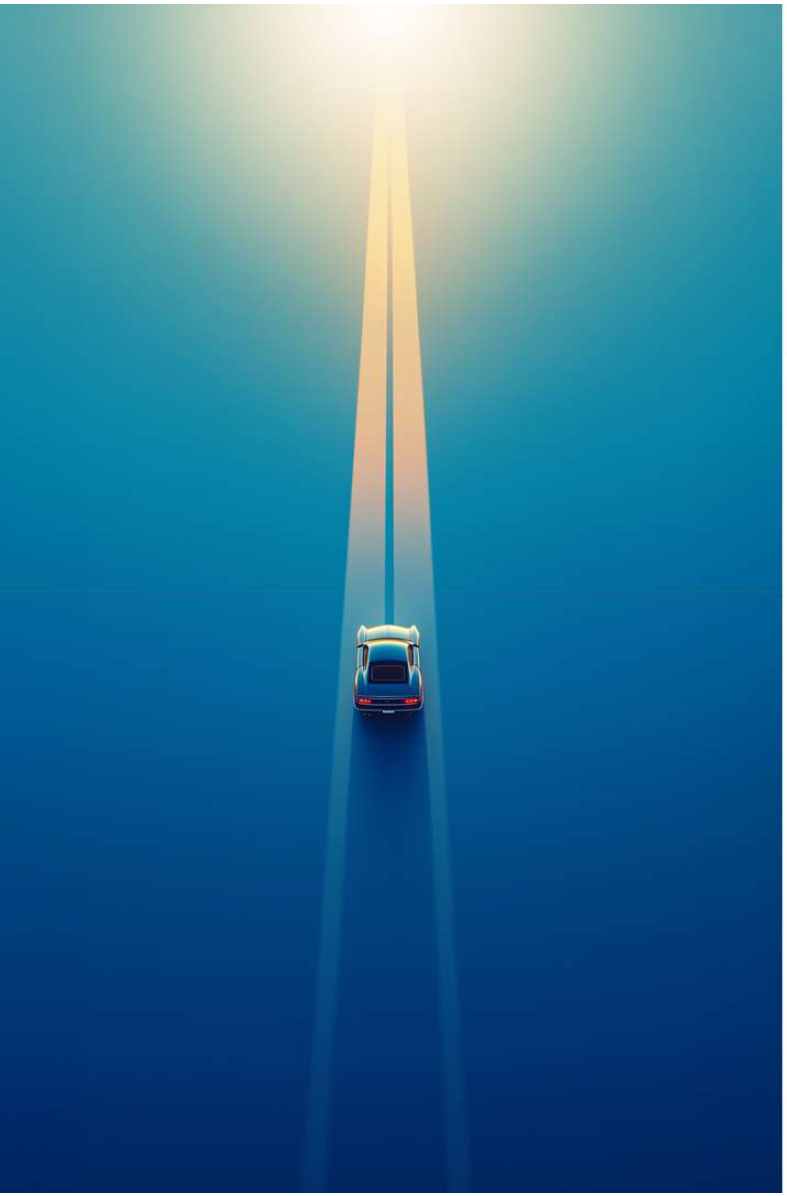


**October 22, 2026**

# Drunk Driving in Virginia


Brandy Brubaker
Director
DMV's Virginia Highway Safety Office


VADMV

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

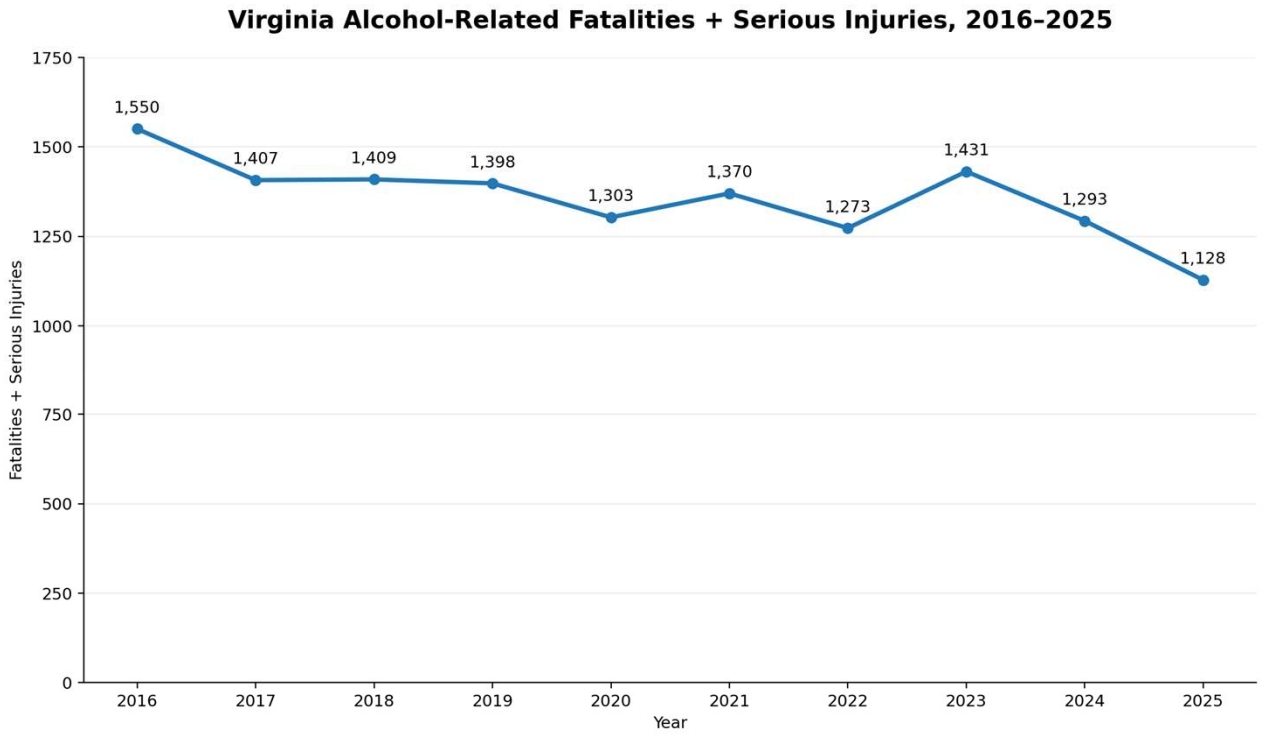
Safeguarding Lives | Securing Identities | Serving the Motoring Public | Supporting Industry Partners

**Over the course of your workday …**

**Someone in Virginia**
**will be killed or suffer a serious injury**

**because of a drunk driver.**

# Alcohol-Related Fatalities and Serious Injuries are Declining, but Their Impact Remains High




Although alcohol-related fatalities and serious injuries decreased 27% over the decade, these crashes **still kill or deliver life-altering injuries to more than 1K people every year** in Virginia

## Alcohol-Related Crashes are Disproportionately Fatal

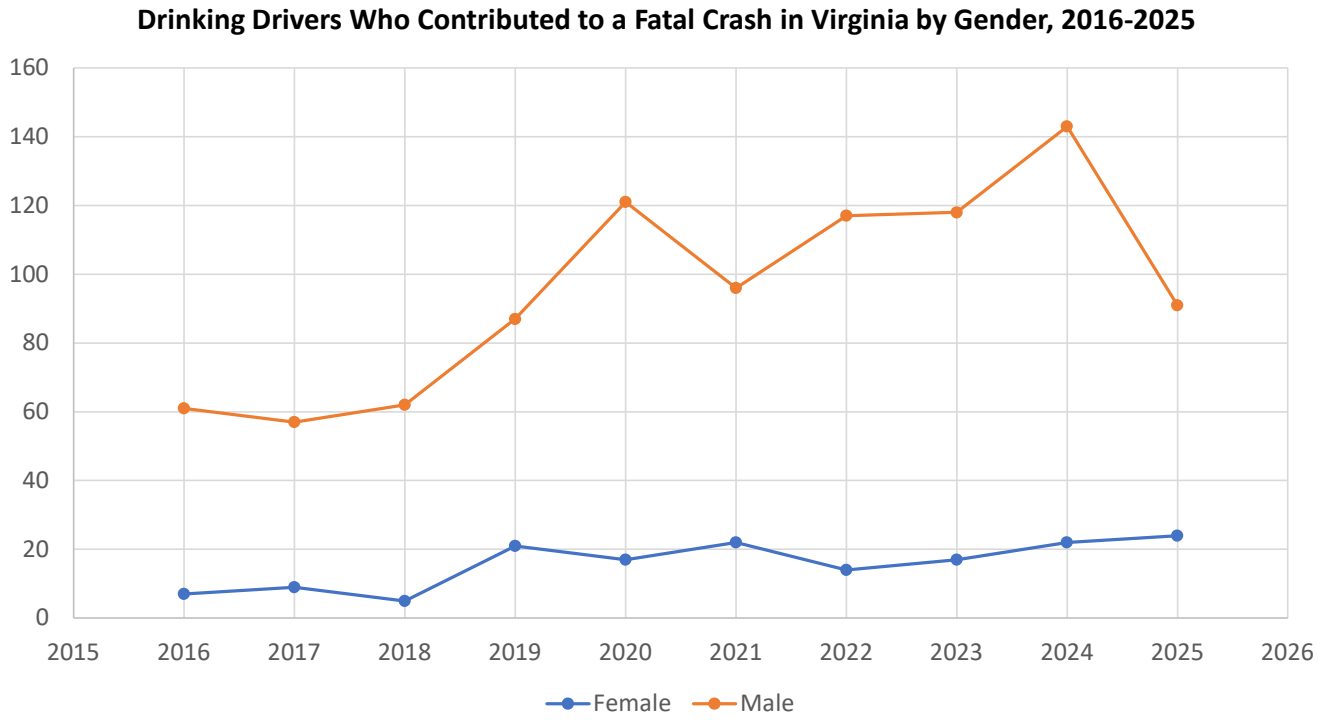
In 2025, alcohol played a role in …

**5%** of crashes

**30%** of fatalities

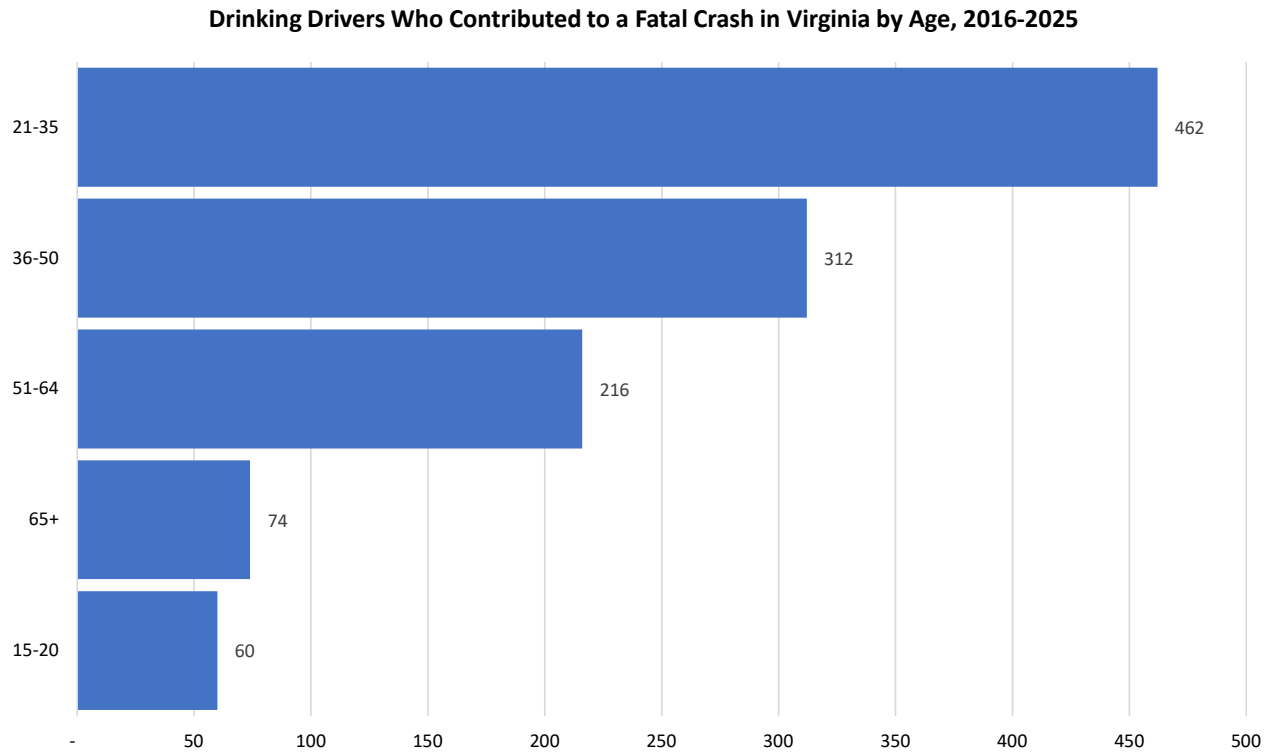
**Nearly 1-in-3 crash fatalities in Virginia involve alcohol**

# Drinking Drivers Involved in Fatal Crashes are Overwhelmingly Male



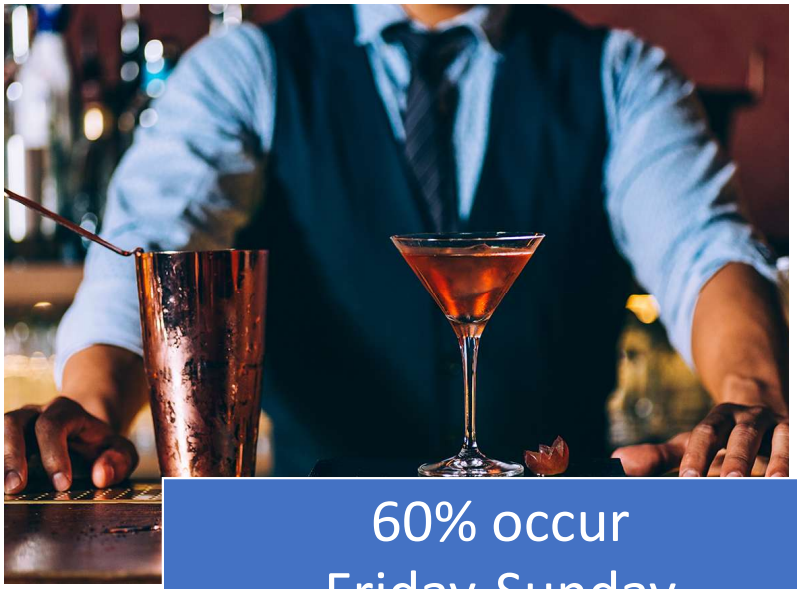

85% of drinking drivers who contributed to fatal crashes over the past decade were male
However, this number decreased sharply in 2025, contributing to the significant decline that year

# Most Drinking Drivers Involved in Fatal Crashes are Young Adults

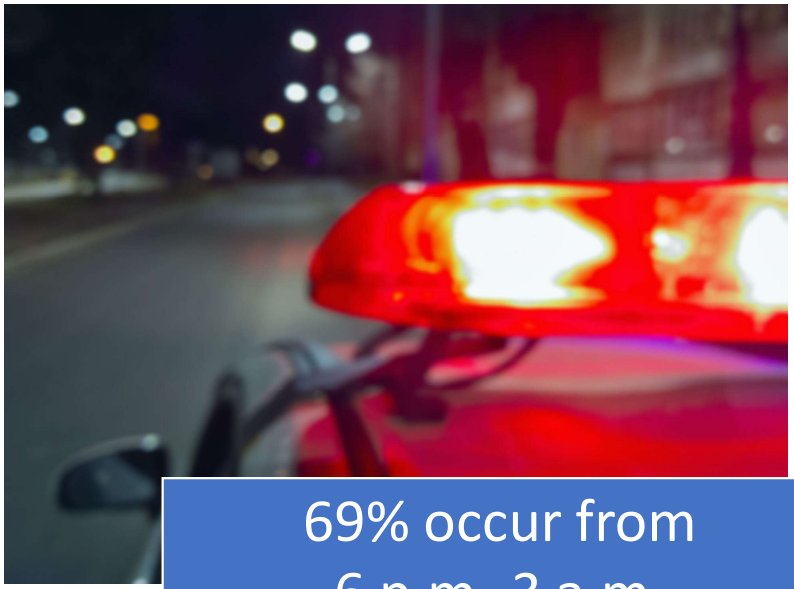



Nearly half of drinking drivers involved in a fatal crash over the decade were between 21-35

## Alcohol-Related Fatal Crashes Are Most Likely to Occur at Night and on Weekends

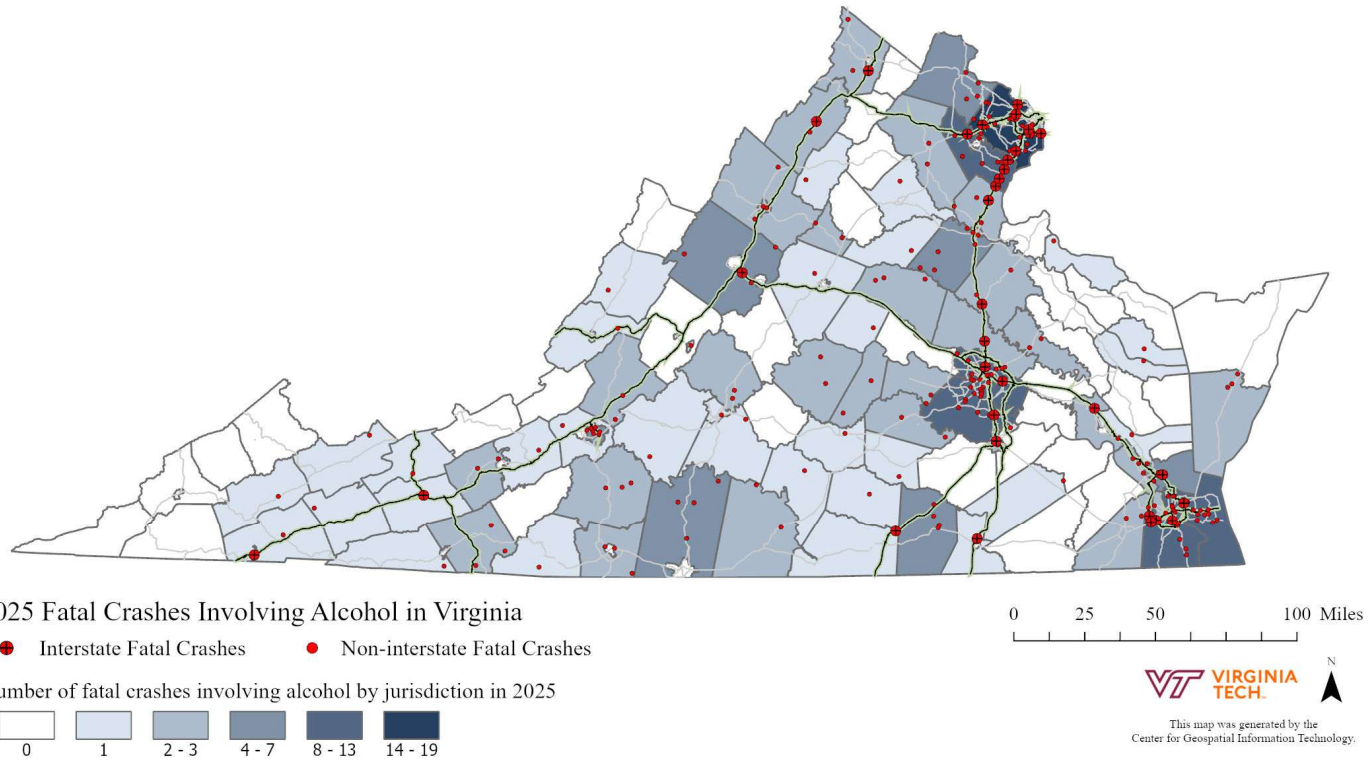


60% occur
Friday-Sunday



69% occur from
6 p.m.-3 a.m.

# Alcohol-Related Fatalities Occur Statewide but Clusters Appear in Metro Areas



## So, what do we do about it?

# Turning Data into Action: Virginia's Multifaceted Approach to Preventing Drunk Driving

**Law Enforcement — Stopping impaired driving before it becomes a tragedy**
Supporting officers with training, equipment and enforcement resources to identify and remove impaired drivers from our roads

**Marketing — Changing perceptions and behaviors**
Delivering compelling campaigns that make the dangers and consequences of impaired driving impossible to ignore

**Outreach — Meeting people where they are**
Engaging communities through partnerships, events and conversations that turn awareness into action

**Education — Building knowledge before decisions are made**
Equipping people with information and skills to recognize impairment, understand the risks and make safer choices

# Turning Data into Action: Virginia's Multifaceted Approach to Preventing Drunk Driving

**Sober Ride Programs — Providing a safer way home**
Expanding access to transportation alternatives so getting home safely is always an option

**Recidivism Prevention — Breaking the cycle**
Supporting interventions that address repeat impaired driving and help prevent future offenses

**Toxicology Testing — Strengthening the evidence**
Supporting timely, reliable testing that helps identify impairment, informs investigations and strengthens our understanding of the problem

**Brandy Brubaker**
Director
**DMV's Virginia Highway Safety Office**
Brandy.Brubaker@dmv.virginia.gov