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Report shows MD crash deaths

Janis Reeser

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More than 3,300 people were killed in Maryland traffic crashes from 2020 through 2025, underscoring a continuing roadway safety challenge even as traffic deaths have declined nationally for four consecutive years. A new report from transportation research nonprofit TRIP found 3,383 people died in Maryland crashes during that six-year period, according to a community announcement. The report also found Maryland's traffic fatality rate in 2025 was lower than the national average, though fatal crashes continued to impose significant human and economic costs. Nationally, traffic crashes claimed 241,637 lives from 2020 to 2025, according to TRIP's report, "Addressing America's Traffic Safety Crisis: Examining the Causes of Increasing U.S. Traffic Fatalities and Identifying Solutions to Improve Traffic Safety."

In Maryland, the traffic fatality rate was 0.84 deaths per 100 million vehicle miles traveled in 2025, compared with the national rate of 1.10. The state recorded six fewer traffic deaths in 2025 than in 2015.

Traffic deaths decline nationally but remain above pre-pandemic levels

TRIP reported that U.S. traffic fatalities fell for a fourth consecutive year in 2025 following a dramatic increase during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The nation recorded 36,640 traffic deaths in 2025, down from pandemic-era highs but still above the 35,484 fatalities recorded in 2015. The report cites changes in driver behavior during the pandemic as a major factor behind rising fatalities. A National Highway Traffic Safety Administration report found some motorists engaged in riskier behavior, including speeding, impaired driving and failing to wear seat belts.

National data included in the report show:

- Pedestrian deaths increased 5% from 2020 to 2025, rising from 6,236 to 6,529.
- Bicyclist deaths increased 29%, from 891 to 1,148.
- Motorcyclists accounted for 16% of all traffic deaths in 2025 despite representing less than 1% of vehicle miles traveled.

- Distraction-affected crash fatalities increased 2% from 2020 to 2024.
- Alcohol-involved crash fatalities increased 2% from 2020 to 2024.

Maryland work zone crashes caused 50 deaths

The report found work zone crashes remain a concern across the country.

From 2020 to 2024, crashes in U.S. highway work zones resulted in 4,481 fatalities. In Maryland, highway work zone crashes caused 50 deaths during that same period.

TRIP said in the announcement that roadway safety can be improved through a combination of engineering, enforcement, education and emergency response measures that align with the Safe System approach adopted by federal transportation officials and many state agencies.

The strategy includes safer road users, safer roads, safer vehicles, safer speeds and improved post-crash care.

Traffic crashes carry massive economic costs

Beyond fatalities and injuries, traffic crashes create a substantial economic burden.

TRIP, using National Highway Traffic Safety Administration crash-cost methodology, estimated that fatal and serious traffic crashes in Maryland generated \$24.7 billion in economic and quality-of-life costs in 2025.

Those costs include medical care, lost productivity, legal expenses, insurance administration, property damage, emergency services, congestion impacts and losses associated with reduced quality of life following fatal or serious-injury crashes. "While it is good news that the number of traffic fatalities is trending downward in recent years, the nation continues to face a traffic



Rising sea transforms California coastline

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In Maryland, the traffic fatality rate was 0.84 deaths per 100 million vehicle miles traveled in 2025, compared with the national rate of 1.10. The state recorded six fewer traffic deaths in 2025 than in 2015.

Despite that improvement, Maryland averaged about 1.5 traffic deaths per day from 2020 to 2025.

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Three million Americans dropped out of the Affordable Care Act marketplace at the beginning of 2026 due to sharp increases in premiums and deductibles. SHANNON STAPLETON/REUTERS FILE

After ACA premiums went up, insurance options limited

Americans try navigating 'Wild West' of health care

Siparna Ray
REPORTS

"It's scary," the 49-year-old Cox told Reuters. "Every month we come to the table and we have a discussion. Is it time to close a business? Is it time to seek employment somewhere in the hopes of getting health insurance?"

Cox is at high risk for breast cancer due to family history and has an autoimmune disease requiring regular medications.

She is among 3 million Americans

who dropped out of the Affordable Care Act marketplace, created by President Barack Obama and often called Obamacare, due to sharp increases in premiums and deductibles at the beginning of 2026.

The plans, which offer subsidies based on income, covered 79.2 million people as of February, according to government data. Expiration of enhanced COVID-era premium tax credits at the beginning of the year contributed to

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Drones, seen flying through a Coffee County High school, are part of a safety initiative to stop school shooters in Georgia. PROVIDED BY CAMPUS GUARDIAN ANGEL

Schools hope drones will stop shooters

Wides Yancy-Brygg
USA TODAY

A small but growing number of schools are set to debut a new way to protect students from mass shootings: drones.

Schools in Colorado, Florida and Georgia have agreed to participate in the Campus Guardian Angel pilot program deploying drones made by Texas-based Mithril Defense. The drones are intended to detect, distract and incapacitate an attacker using sirens, strobe lights, pepper gel and, if all else fails, by ramming the shooter at speeds up to 60 mph.

"We're like having a SWAT team in the parking lot," said co-founder and CEO Justin Martin.

The drones, along with advances like gun detection software that uses artificial intelligence and wearable

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safety crisis with nearly a quarter million Americans killed since 2020," Dave Kearby, TRIP's executive director, said in the announcement.

Kearby said in the announcement that reducing deaths and serious injuries will require continued investment in safe roads, safe vehicles, safe speeds and high-quality post-crash care. Additional information about the report is available from tripnet.org/reports/addressing-americas-traffic-safety-crisis-report-september-2026/