Sentencing Snapshot

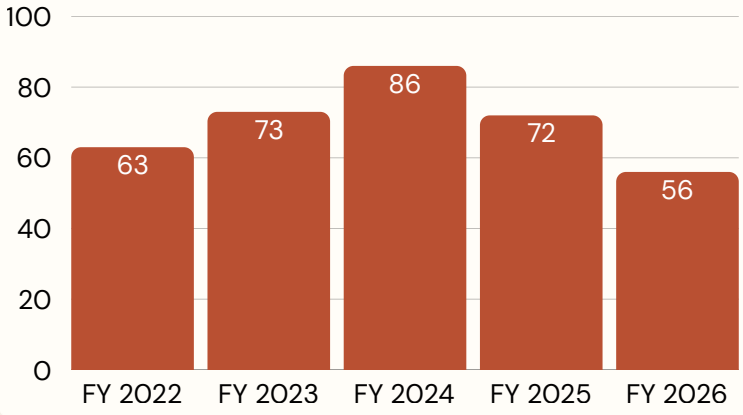
Issue 16—November 2026

Sentencing Trends For Vehicular Homicide in Maryland Circuit Courts

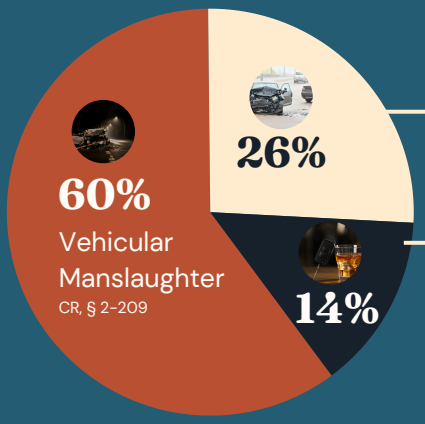
This Sentencing Snapshot examines vehicular homicides sentenced in Maryland circuit courts in fiscal years 2022 through 2026. Vehicular homicide includes vehicular manslaughter, criminally negligent vehicular homicide, and negligent homicide while under the influence or impaired. Additional information, including methodology, may be found on the MSCCSP website.

GUIDELINES-ELIGIBLE CIRCUIT COURT SENTENCING EVENTS

Vehicular Homicide – FY 2022-2026



Offenses



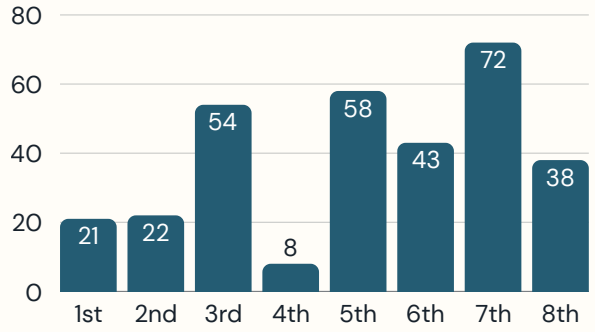
8% of defendants were convicted as subsequent offenders

Key Takeaways

Individuals sentenced for **vehicular homicide** were significantly more likely to have **no prior record** than all guidelines-sentenced individuals.

Departures above the guidelines were **more likely** than **departures below the guidelines** for sentences for vehicular homicide offenses.

Judicial Circuit – FY 2022-2026



1st Circuit:	Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico, Worcester
2nd Circuit:	Caroline, Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's, Talbot
3rd Circuit:	Baltimore County, Harford
4th Circuit:	Allegany, Garrett, Washington
5th Circuit:	Anne Arundel, Carroll, Howard
6th Circuit:	Frederick, Montgomery
7th Circuit:	Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, St. Mary's
8th Circuit:	Baltimore City

Sex

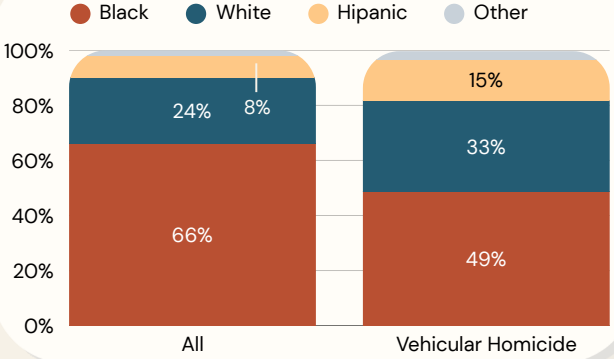
Vehicular Homicide

80% male | **20%** female

All Defendants

88% male | **12%** female

Race



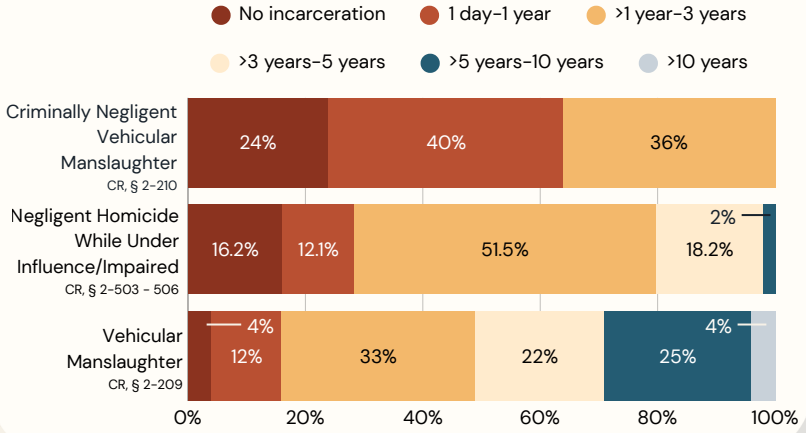
Prior Record

54% of individuals convicted of vehicular homicide had **no prior record**

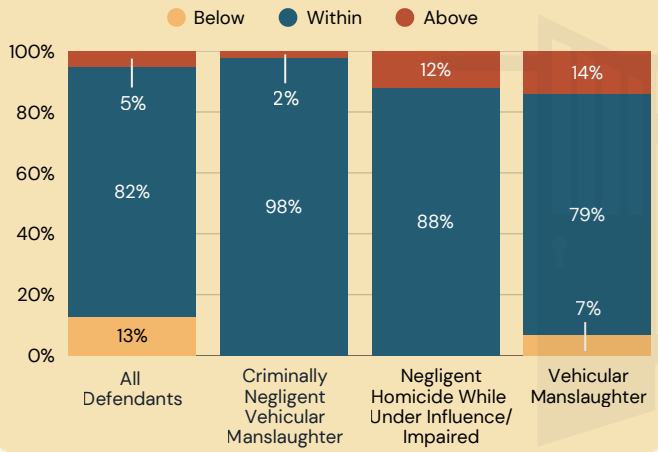
36% of all defendants had **no prior record**

Sentencing Trends For Vehicular Homicide in Maryland Circuit Courts

Non-Suspended Sentences for Vehicular Homicide



Sentencing Guidelines Compliance



Average Non-Suspended Sentences

1Y — Criminally Negligent Vehicular Manslaughter

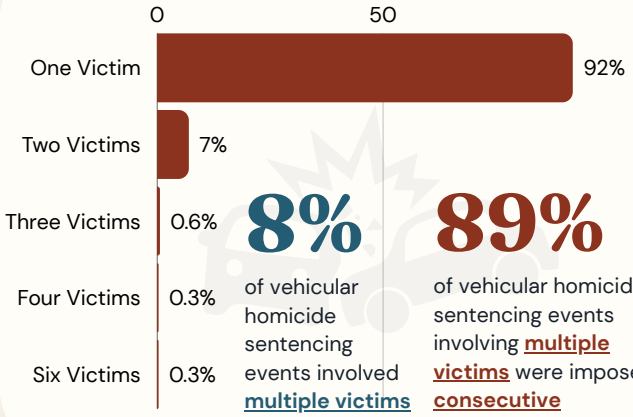
2Y — Negligent Homicide While Under Influence/ Impaired

4Y — Vehicular Manslaughter

Maximum Penalty

Criminally Negligent Vehicular Manslaughter	Negligent Homicide While Under Influence/ Impaired	Vehicular Manslaughter
3Y (1st Offense) / 5Y (Subsequent)	5Y[1] (1st Offense) / 10Y[1] (Subsequent)	10Y (1st Offense) / 15Y (Subsequent)

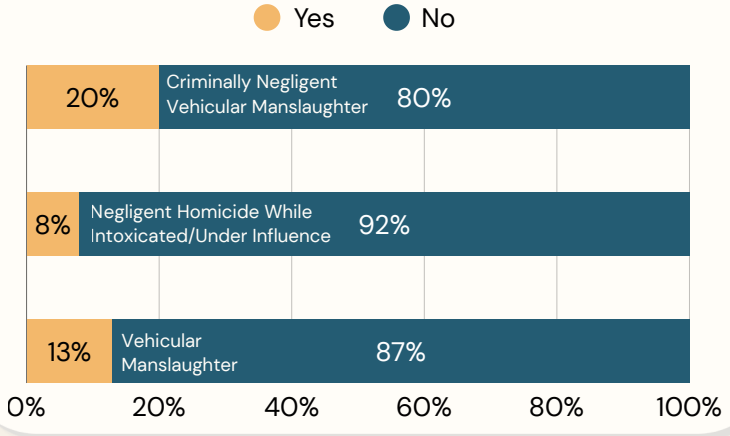
Number of Victims



8% of vehicular homicide sentencing events involved multiple victims

89% of vehicular homicide sentencing events involving multiple victims were imposed consecutive sentences

Special Victim Vulnerability



Special Victim Vulnerability— Non-Suspended Sentence Length

9M — Criminally Negligent Vehicular Manslaughter

4Y — Negligent Homicide While Intoxicated/ Under Influence

5Y — Vehicular Manslaughter

[1] This category includes four distinct offenses. The statutory maximum penalties for one of these offenses — Negligent homicide by motor vehicle or vessel while impaired by alcohol (CR, § 2-504) — is 3 years for a first offense and 5 years for a subsequent offense.