

# SPEED-RELATED CRASHES



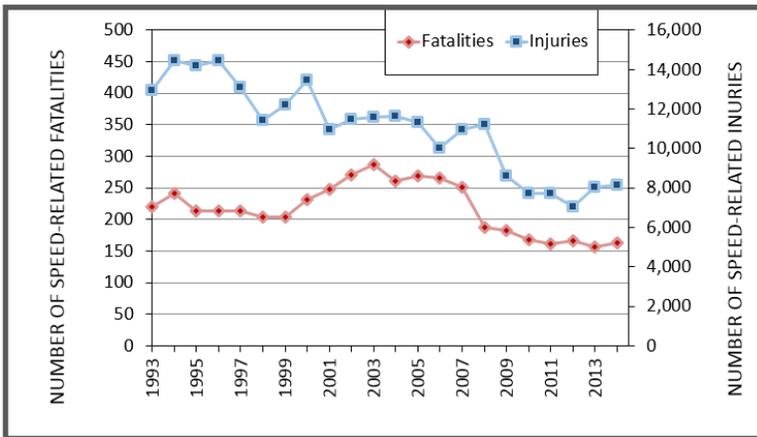
## DID YOU KNOW...

In Wisconsin, in 2014, one person was injured or killed in a speed-related crash every

- 20,887 speed-related crashes occurred in Wisconsin in 2014.
- In these speed-related crashes, 163 people were killed and 8,114 people were injured.
- In 2015, speed was listed as a contributing cause in 17% of all crashes and 33% of all fatal crashes.

## SPEED-RELATED CRASH TRENDS

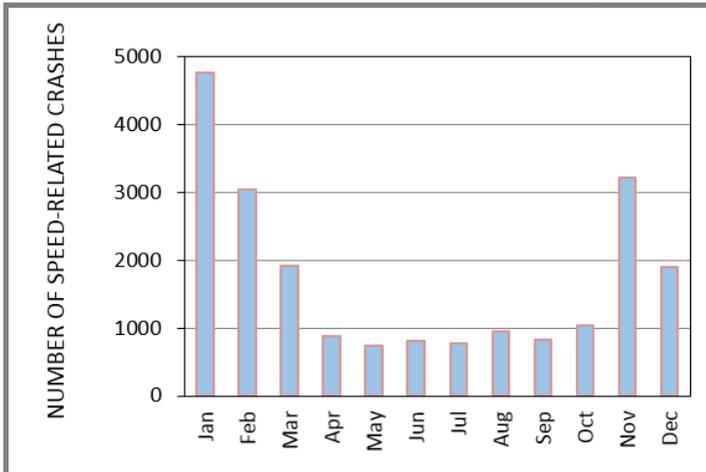
SPEED-RELATED INJ. & FATALITIES (1993-2014)



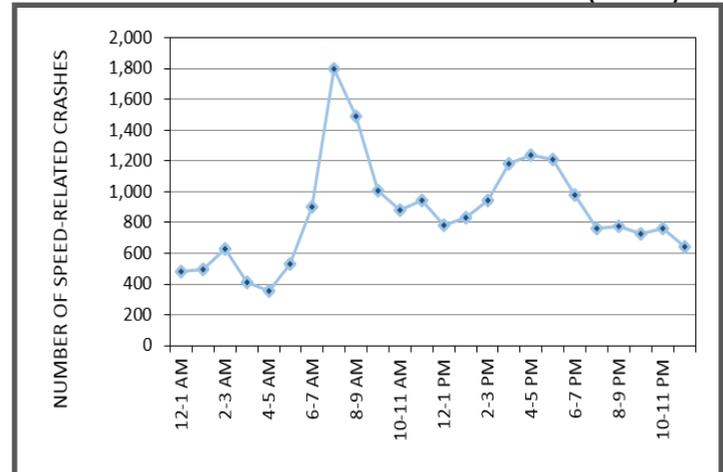
- Over the years, Wisconsin has experienced a secular—though uneven—decline in speeding related injuries and fatalities. A major drop in speed-related injuries and fatalities occurred between 2008 and 2009 when the economy worsened and seatbelt laws were strengthened.
- This decline is likely due to rising seatbelt use over the past several decades, the introduction of graduated driver’s licenses, and much safer automobiles.
- 2014 saw a very slight increase in speed-related injuries and fatalities.

## WHEN DO SPEED-RELATED CRASHES OCCUR?

SPEED-RELATED CRASHES BY MONTH (2014)



SPEED-RELATED CRASHES BY TIME (2014)



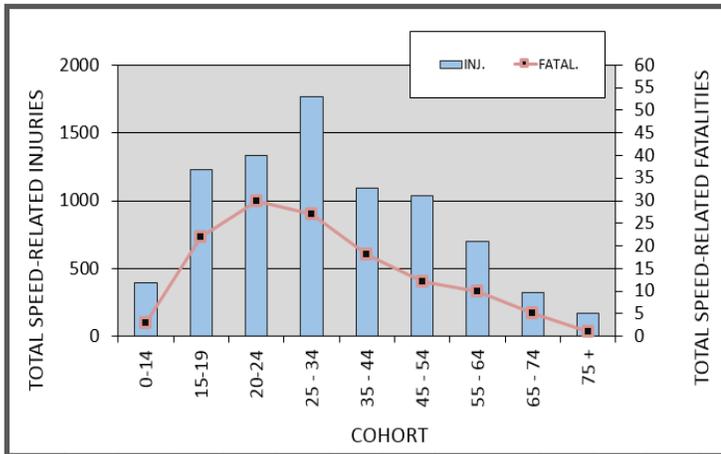
- The majority of speeding-related crashes occur in the winter months. This doesn’t necessarily mean that there is more speeding in those months, merely that *speeding is more likely to cause a crash in such weather*. In 2014, driving too fast for weather conditions was the primary cause of speed-related crashes from December-February.
- In 2014, speed-related crashes peaked from 7-8 AM, with a smaller peak observed between 5-6PM. The morning crash peak is likely caused by people rushing to work.

PRODUCED BY THE WISCONSIN DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION’S BUREAU OF TRANSPORTATION SAFETY. WITH QUESTIONS, CONTACT EVAN MOORMAN (608)-709-0088.

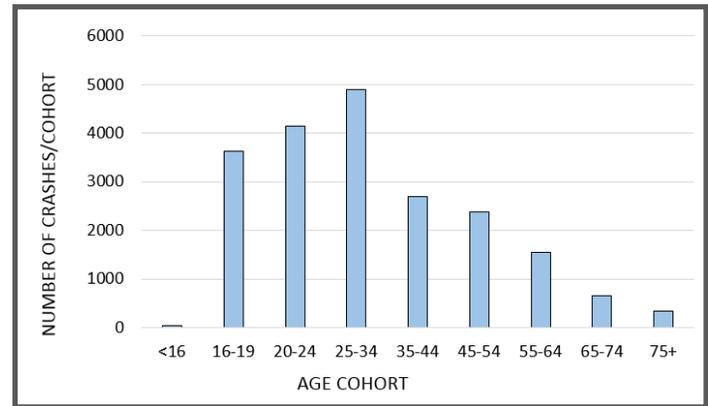
## WHO IS AT RISK FOR SPEED-RELATED CRASHES?

- Males comprise 62% of all speed-related crashes.
- Young people are also particularly susceptible to speed-related crashes (as can be seen in the chart to the right).
- Consequently, young men 16-19 comprise 11% of all speed-related crashes even while this group only comprises some 2.3% of licensed drivers.

### SPEED-RELATED INJURY AND FATALITY RATES BY AGE (2014)



### SPEED-RELATED CRASHES BY COHORT (2014)



- Speed-related fatalities and injuries generally follow the same pattern as the number of crashes: fatalities and injuries rise steadily until they dramatically fall off after the mid-twenties as experience increases.
- Those driving in rural areas are at the greatest risk of being in a speed-related crash. This is not surprising; while the majority of VMT occurs in non-rural areas, rural areas are characterized by long straightaways and little traffic, which encourages speeding.

## CURRENT SPEED LAWS

- Based on Wis. Stats. 346.57 (2) and (3) and (4)
- Drivers are required to drive vehicles at a speed that does not exceed the posted limit and is reasonable given road conditions. Vehicle speeds must be controlled to avoid colliding with any object, person or vehicle.
- Locations possibly requiring reduced speeds include intersection approaches, railway crossings, curves, hillcrests, narrow and winding roads, and school-adjacent streets.
- Drivers may not drive in excess of the following fixed and posted limits: 15 mph in school zones during school hours; 15 mph in safety zones when pedestrians are present; 15 mph in an alley; 25 mph on highways within corporate city limits unless modified and posted, 35 mph in outlying districts of city limits or semi-urban areas outside of city limits; 45 mph on designated rustic roads, 55 mph in the absence of any other fixed or posted limits; and 65 mph on freeways and expressways.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Obey speed limits, and drive cautiously in inclement weather and in the above-mentioned high-risk locations.
- Be alert when traveling in work zones, school zones, and railway grade crossings. Speeding fines are usually doubled in such locations.
- Wear safety belts to reduce the risk of being injured or killed in a speed-related crash.
- Remember, speeding is not worth a ticket...or your life!