

# Teen Driving Crashes in Wisconsin



## Did you know...

**In Wisconsin, one person was killed or injured in a teen driving crash every 1.5 hours in 2023.**

- 18,352 teen driving crashes occurred in Wisconsin in 2023.
- In these crashes, 83 people were killed and 5,930 were injured.
- Teen driving crashes account for 15% of all crashes and 15% of all fatalities in 2023.

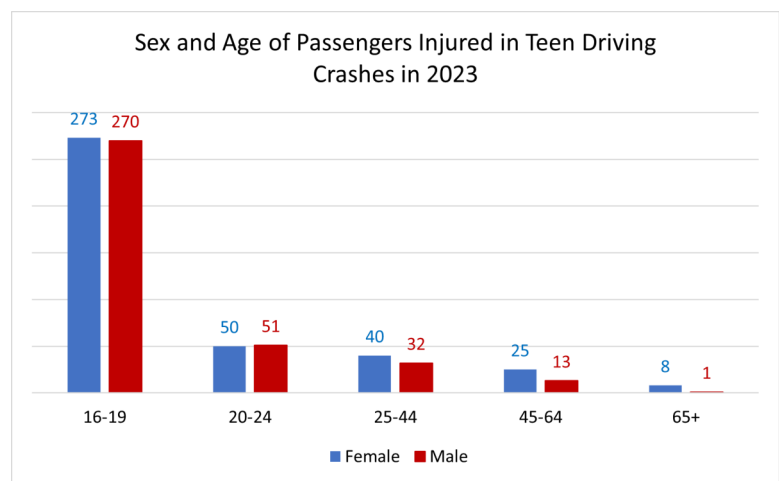
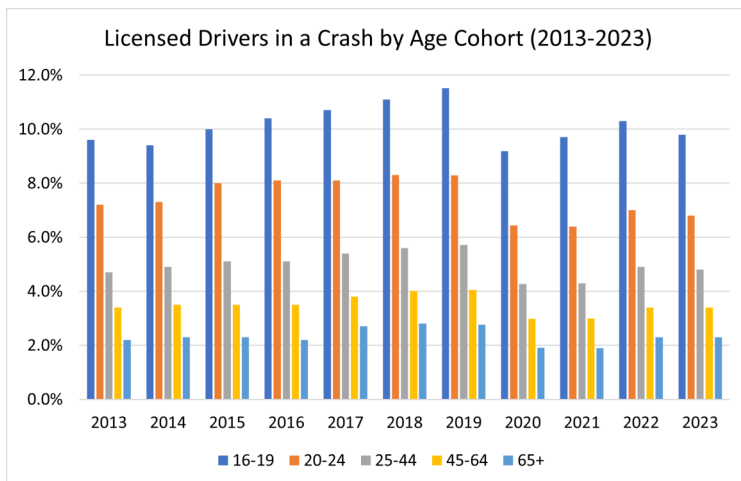
## Scope of the Problem

Teen drivers are more likely to be involved in a crash than members of any other age cohort. In 2023, 9.3% of all licensed drivers that were involved in a crash were 16 to 19 years old.

Compared to drivers in other age groups, teen drivers experience more crashes involving risky behaviors.

In 2023, teen drivers made up only 4.5% of all licensed drivers but accounted for 9.3% of all drivers in a crash.

On the whole, teen drivers injure and kill other teens. In crashes where teens were driving the vehicle in 2023, 71% of those injured or killed were 16 to 19 years old.



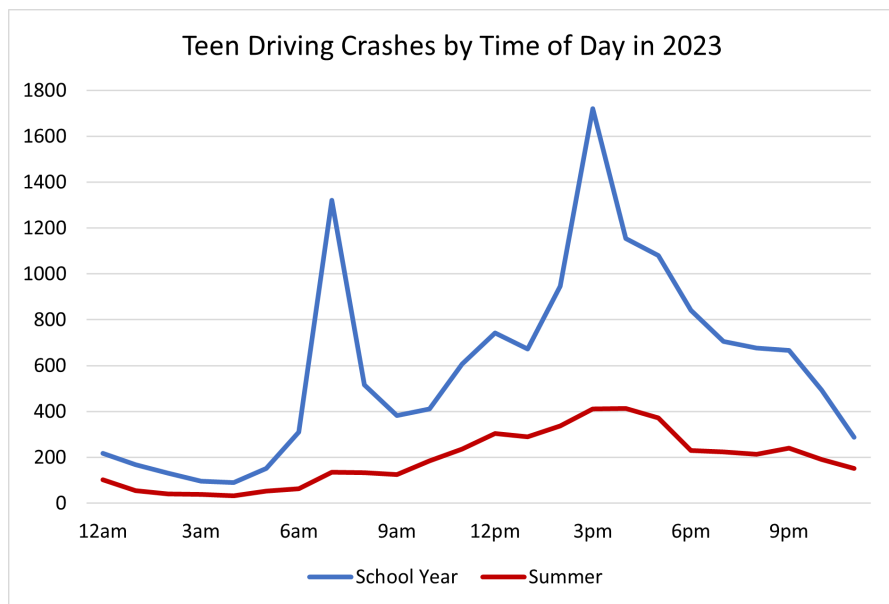
## Who is at Risk for Teen Driving Crashes?

Within the teen cohort, male and female risks differ. More male teen drivers were involved in a crash than female teen drivers. One out of three 16 to 19 year olds killed in 2023 crashes were male. In fatal and serious injury crashes, 21% of female teens were not wearing a seatbelt. Approximately 19% of teen males fatally or seriously injured were not wearing a seatbelt.

Teen drivers who are involved in crashes are more likely than other drivers to be involved in crashes caused by:

- Exceeding the speed limit
- Over-correcting/over-steering
- Driving too fast for conditions
- Driving in an aggressive or erratic manner

## When do Teen Driving Crashes Occur?



Teen driving crashes tend to occur in the late afternoon. The peak hours for teen crashes is 7 to 8 am and 3 to 4 pm during the school year and 3 to 5 pm during the summer. More crashes involving 16 to 19 year old drivers occurred on Friday than on any other day of the week.

Most teen driving crashes occur in October, followed by January. Winter road conditions, including snow and icy roads, can impact the safety of drivers on the road.

## Graduated License Requirement

When new Wisconsin drivers under the age of 18 obtain their license, it comes with graduated drivers license (GDL) restrictions. Since 2000, 16 and 17 year-old drivers must have an additional 50 hours of practice driving time (including 10 hours at night) and hold an instructional permit for at least six months before taking a road test and applying for a probationary driver's license. The probationary license imposes a curfew (no operation between midnight and 5 a.m. except for going to/from school or work) and a passenger restriction (only one passenger other than family members) during the first nine months of operation. These limitations are removed for drivers who remain conviction-free or once they turn 18. For more information, please visit: [Wisconsin DMV Official Government Site - Graduated Driver License \(GDL\) FAQs \(wisconsin.gov\)](https://wisconsin.gov/dmv/gdl-faq).

## What Can Parents Do?

- Model good driving behavior. While it may seem surprising, teens generally look up to their parents as role models.
- Talk with teens about peer pressure and to recognize the dangers of impaired driving.
- Talk with your child about the need to develop hand-eye coordination when driving and to be cautious.
- More practice is always better. Parents should set aside some time each week to help cultivate their teen's driving skills.

## What Can Teens Do?

- Avoid distractions like your cell phone. Research shows that talking on a cell phone is just as dangerous as driving while impaired. For teens in Wisconsin, state law bans all cell phone use if you have a probationary license
- Avoid drinking and driving. Getting an OWI can hurt your chances of getting into college and obtaining a job.
- Accept that you are learning and so when in doubt about a maneuver, don't do it! Your safety is your priority and it is not worth endangering it for a slightly faster trip.