

# Impaired Driving Crashes in Wisconsin



## Did you know...

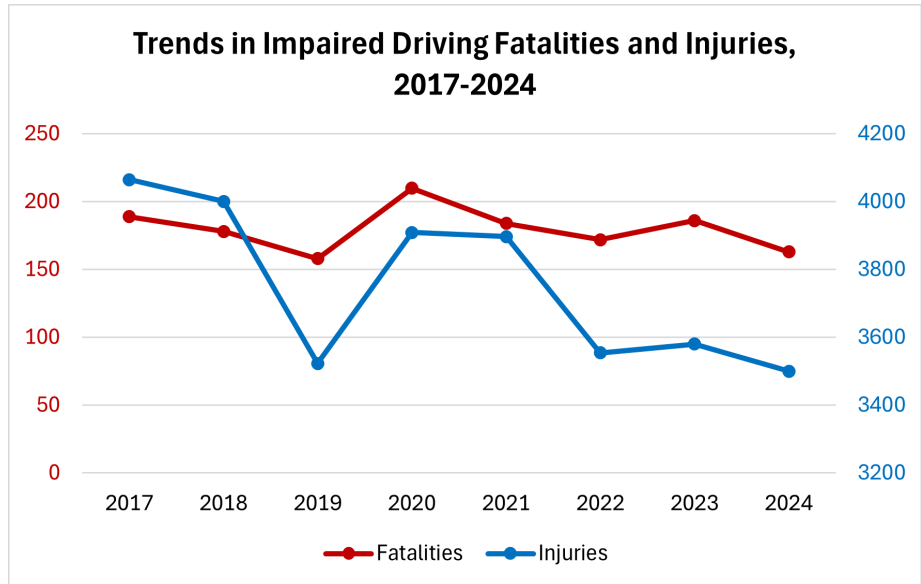
In Wisconsin, one person was killed or injured in an alcohol or drug impaired driving crash every 2.4 hours in 2024.

- 7,067 crashes involved impaired drivers in Wisconsin in 2024.
- In these crashes, 163 people were killed and 3,500 people were injured.
- Impaired driving contributed to 6% of all crashes and 27% of all fatal crashes in 2024.

## Scope of the Problem

In 2017, impaired driving (OWI) began to include not only Blood Alcohol Content (BAC), but also when a driver is found to be under the influence of an intoxicant, controlled substance, or any other drug that impairs their ability to safely operate a vehicle. Drivers can be flagged for suspected impaired driving, as well as subjected to further testing.

Impairment, whether from alcohol or any other type of drug, lessens one's ability to concentrate, make good judgements, and quickly react to situations. It takes roughly 30 minutes to two hours for alcohol to be absorbed into your bloodstream.

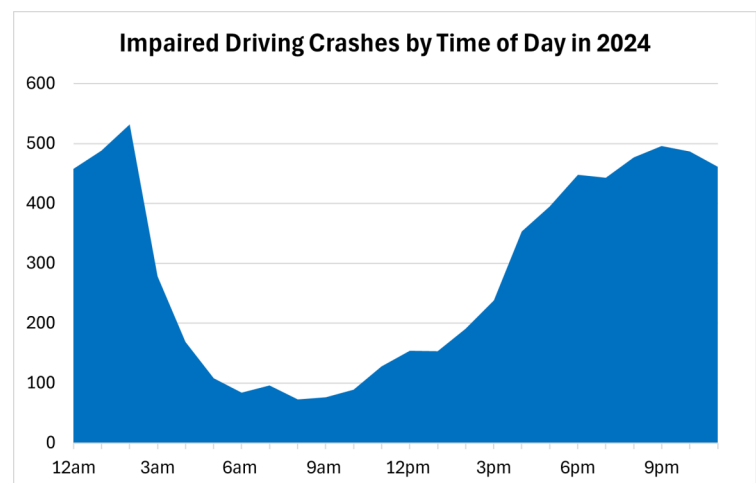
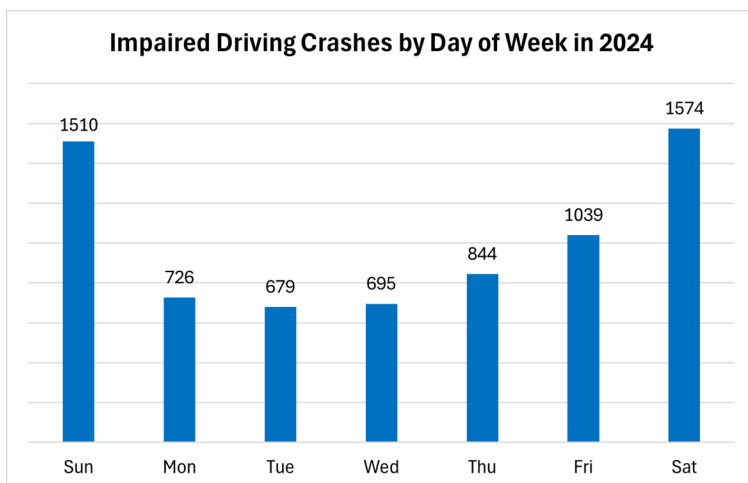


As with any intoxicant, cognitive skills may be delayed, so it is always dangerous to drive after drinking or drug use.

## When do Impaired Driving Crashes Occur?

Impaired driving crashes most often occur on weekends with Friday through Sunday accounting for approximately 58% of all impaired driving crashes in 2024, particularly during late night and early morning hours.

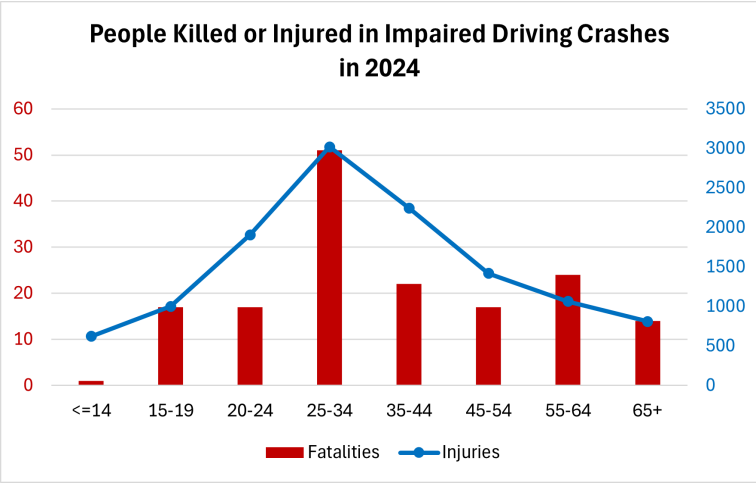
Impaired driving crashes steadily rise after 3 pm and peak from 2-3 am, the hours after bars close and when people are returning to their place of residence.



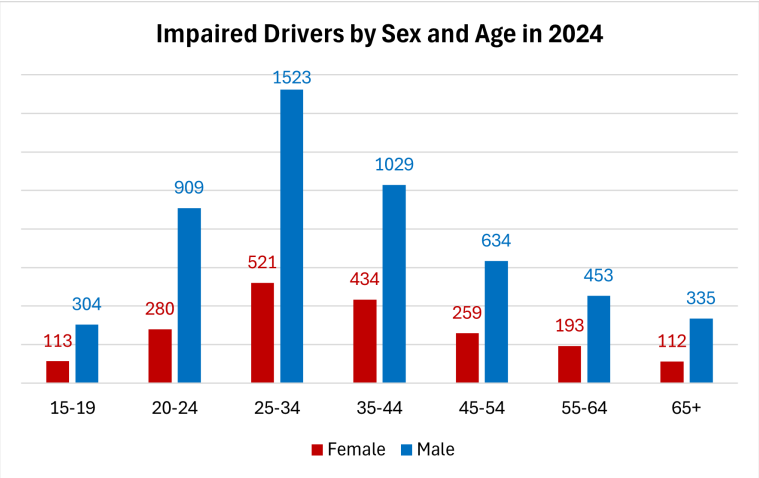
# Who is at Risk for Impaired Driving Crashes?

Alcohol or drug consumption can put anyone at risk of causing a crash or other serious injury. However, some populations are more likely to get behind the wheel of a car while impaired.

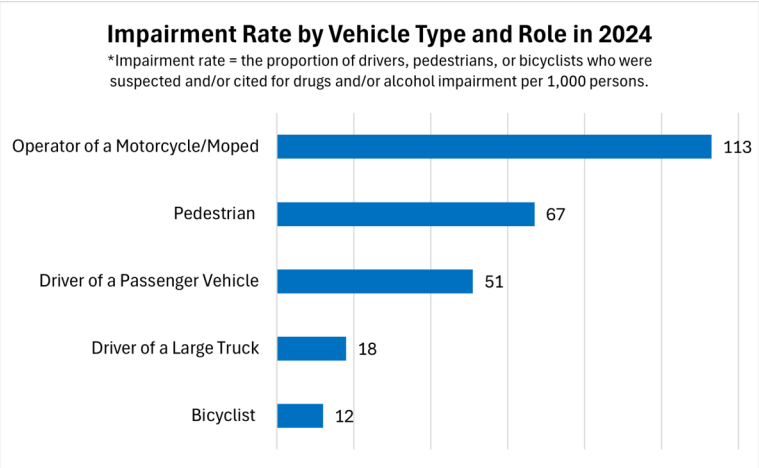
In 2024, male drivers were nearly three times more likely than females to be suspected of driving impaired. Drivers aged 15-34 accounted for approximately 39% of all drivers in impaired driving crashes in 2024.



All road users can be impacted by impairment. Impairment includes intoxication from drugs, controlled substances, and alcohol, all of which can increase one’s likelihood of being in a crash. An impairment rate is the proportion of drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists who were suspected and/or cited for impairment per 1,000 drivers, pedestrians, or bicyclists in a crash. Operators of motorcycles and mopeds have the highest impairment rate, followed by pedestrians and then drivers of a passenger vehicle.



Looking at the age of people killed or injured in impaired driving crashes, fatalities and injuries peak for people aged 25-34. There is a decrease as age increases, with a smaller peak in fatalities for people aged 55-64.



## What Can You Do?

- Plan a safe ride home before you start the party.
- If someone you know has been drinking, don’t let them get behind the wheel.
- If you drink, do not drive for any reason. Call a taxi, a ride-sharing service, or a sober friend.
- If you’re hosting a party where alcohol will be served, make sure all guests leave with a sober driver.
- Always wear your seat belt—it’s your best defense against impaired drivers.