

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 2024.

- 18,823 teen driving crashes occurred in Wisconsin in 2024.
- In these crashes, 70 people were killed and 5,784 were injured.
- Teen driving crashes account for 15% of all crashes and 12% of all fatalities in 2024.

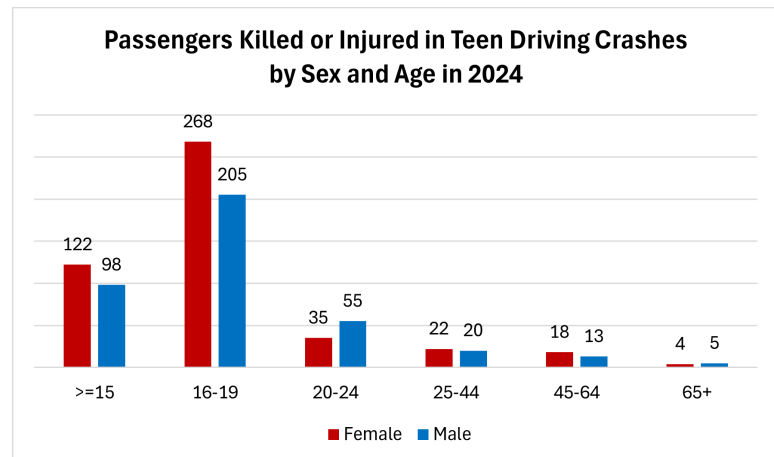
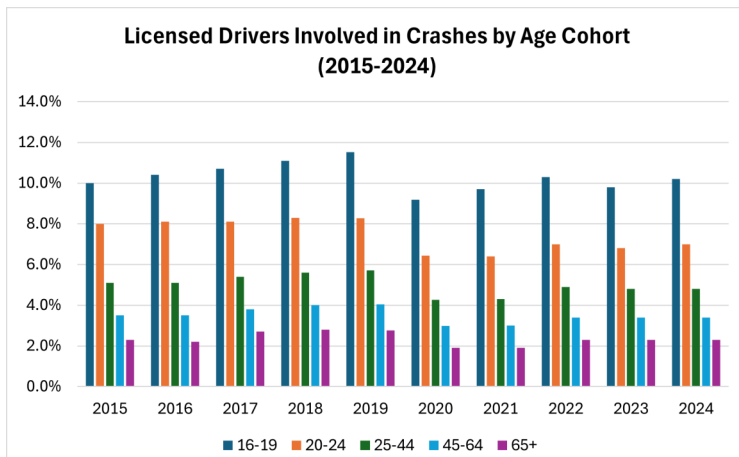
Scope of the Problem

Teen drivers are more likely to be involved in a crash than members of any other age cohort. In 2024, approximately 10.2% 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 2024, teen drivers made up only 4.4% of all licensed drivers but accounted for 10.8% of all drivers in a crash.

On the whole, teen drivers kill and injure other teens. In crashes where teens were driving the vehicle in 2024, 55% of those killed or injured were 16 to 19 years old.



Who is at Risk for Teen Driving Crashes?

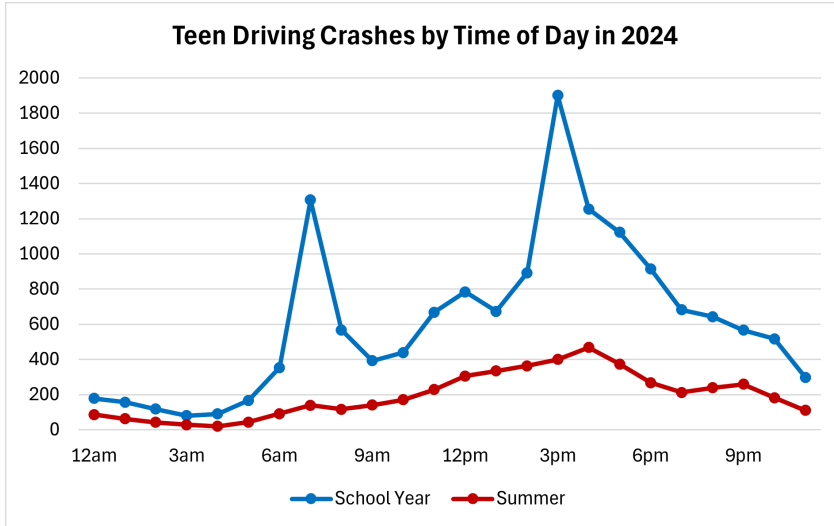
The risk is different for male and female teen drivers. More male teen drivers were involved in a crash than female teen drivers. Approximately 56% of teen drivers in 2024 were male.

Occupant protection is also a factor in teen driving crashes. In fatal and serious injury crashes, 29% of female occupants aged 16-19 were not wearing a seatbelt. Approximately 17% of male occupants aged 16-19 involved in a fatal or serious injury crashes 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. More teen driving crashes occur during the school year than the summer. 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 teen drivers occurred on Friday than on any other day of the week.

Most teen driving crashes occur in January and December. 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 \(wisconsindot.gov\)](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.