

Teen Driving Crashes in Wisconsin



Did you know...

In Wisconsin, one person was killed or injured in a teen driving crash every 1.4 hours in 2025.

- 19,388 teen driving crashes occurred in Wisconsin in 2025.
- In these crashes, 71 people were killed and 5,973 were injured.
- Teen driving crashes account for 15% of all crashes and 13% of all fatalities in 2025.

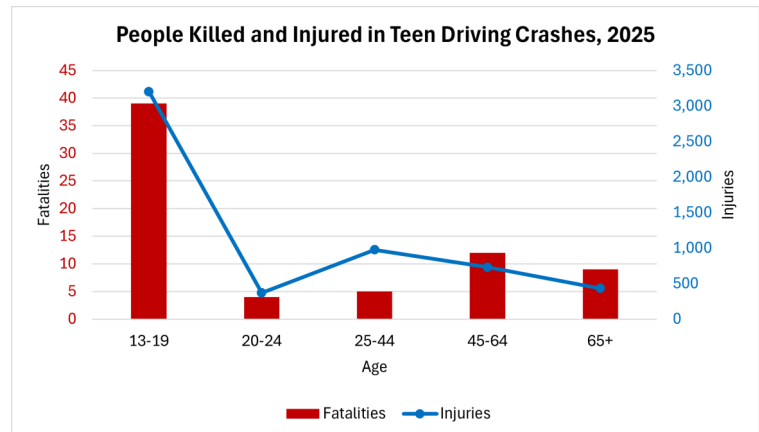
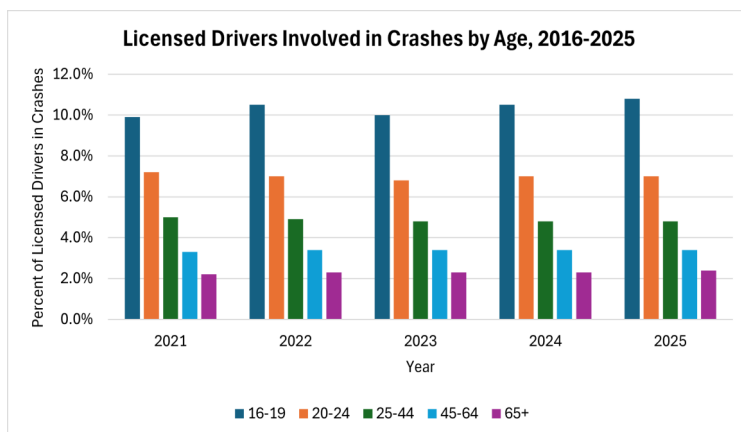
Scope of the Problem

Teen drivers are more likely to be involved in a crash than members of any other age cohort. Teen drivers account for only 4.3% of all licensed drivers, yet in 2025, approximately 11.2% of all drivers in crashes were aged 13-19.

As age increases, crash involvement decreases, as shown on the graph below. This trend remains consistent year-to-year.

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

On average, teen drivers kill and injure other teens. Nearly 55% of people killed in teen driving crashes are aged 13-19. Injuries as a result of teen driving crashes follows a similar trend.



Who is at Risk for Teen Driving Crashes?

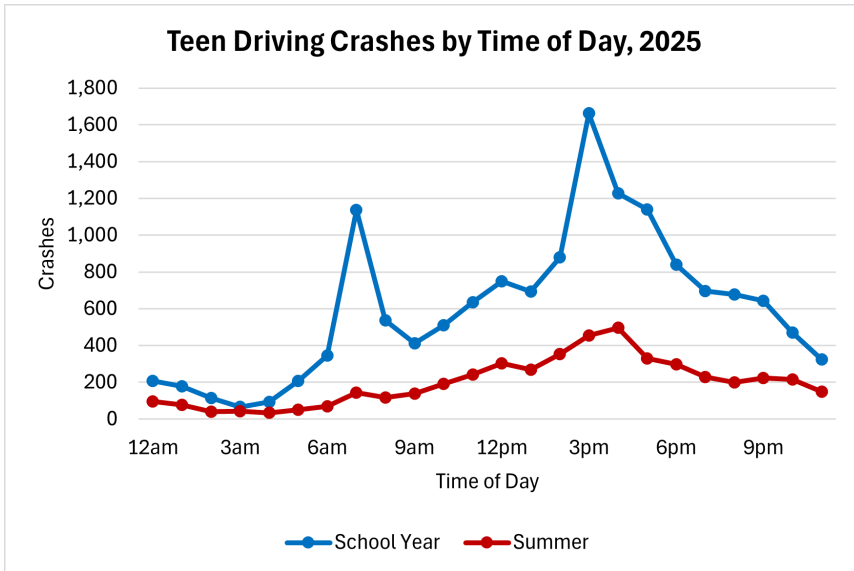
The crash risk is different for male and female teen drivers. More male teen drivers were involved in a crash than female teen drivers. Approximately 56% of teen drivers in 2025 were male.

Occupant protection is also a factor in teen driving crashes. For those who suffered a fatal or serious injury, 21% of occupants aged 13-19 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
- Failing to Control the Motor Vehicle
- Driving too Fast for Conditions
- Driving in an Inattentive, Careless, or Erratic Manner

When do Teen Driving Crashes Occur?



Teen driving crashes happen more frequently in the late afternoon. More teen driving crashes occur during the school year than the summer. The peak hours for teen driving crashes is 7-8 am and 3-4 pm during the school year and 3-5 pm during the summer. More crashes involving teen drivers occurred on Wednesday than on any other day of the week.

In 2025, October and December saw the highest number of teen driving crashes. 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.