

# Speed-Related Crashes in Wisconsin

## Did you know...

In Wisconsin, in 2021, one person was injured or killed in a speed-related crash every 1.2 hours.

- 17,597 speed-related crashes occurred in Wisconsin in 2021.
- In these speed-related crashes, 186 people were killed and 6,871 people were injured.
- Speed was listed as a contributing cause in 14% of all crashes and in 34% of all fatal crashes in 2021.

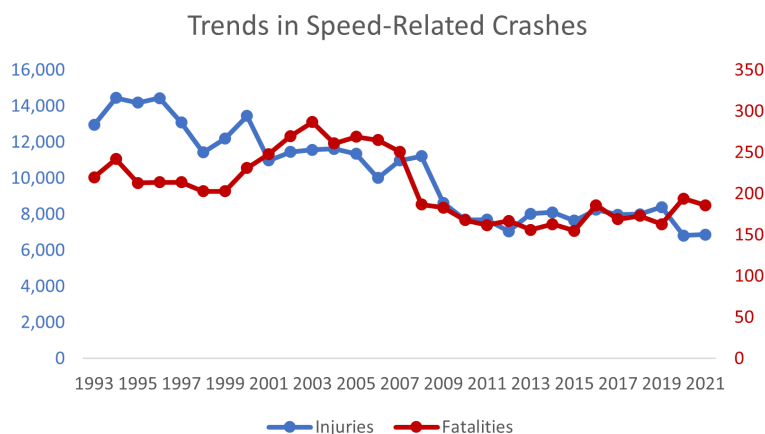


## Speed-Related Crash Trends

Over the years, Wisconsin has experienced a separate—though uneven—decline in speed-related injuries and fatalities. A major drop in speed-related injuries and fatalities occurred between 2008 and 2009 when the economy worsened and seat belt laws were strengthened.

This slow decline is likely due to rising seat belt use over the past several decades, the introduction of graduated driver’s licenses, and much safer automobiles.

2021 saw a slight increase in speed-related injuries, with fatalities dropping from the previous year.



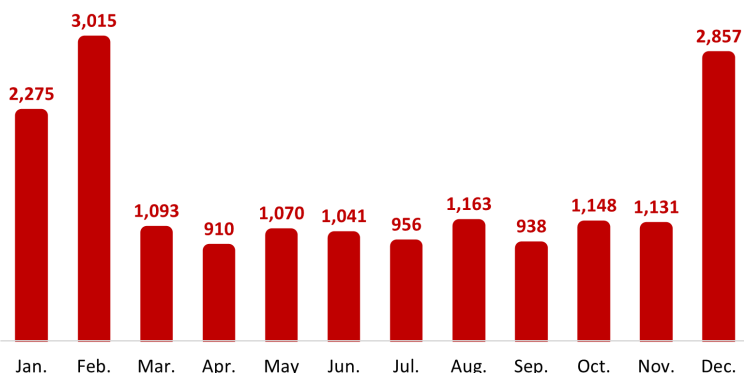
## When do Speed-Related Crashes Occur?

The majority of speed-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 2021 driving too fast for weather condi-

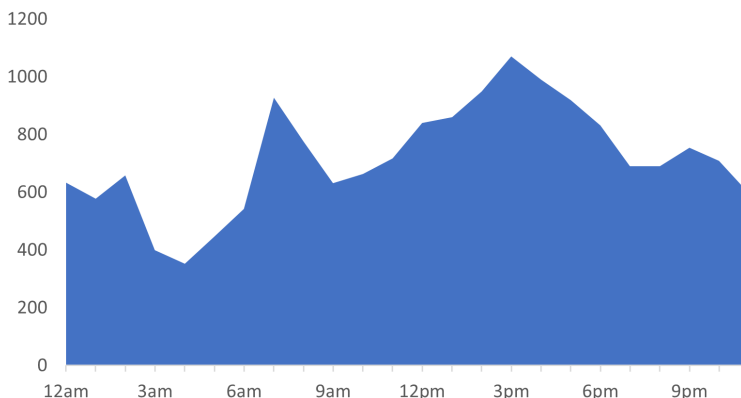
tions was the primary cause of speed-related crashes in February and December.

Over the day, speed-related crashes peak from 7-8 am, with a smaller peak observed between 3-5 pm. The morning crash peak is likely caused by drivers rushing to work.

Speed Related Crashes by Month in 2021



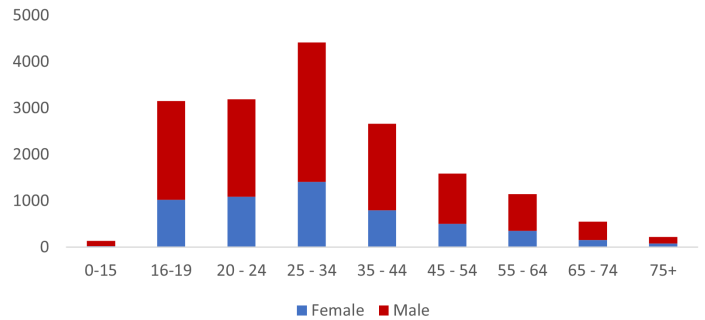
Speed Related Crashes by Time of Day in 2021



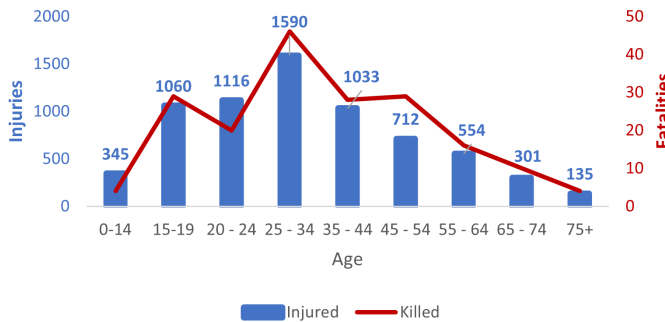
## Factors in Speed-Related Crashes

Male drivers account for nearly 66% of all speed-related crashes. Moreover, 24% of all speed-related crashes were young male drivers (ages 16-24). Inexperience and the likelihood to engage in risky behavior may be factors for drivers in these cohorts.

Age & Gender of Drivers Cited for 'Driving Too Fast' in 2021



Injuries & Fatalities by Age in Speed-Related Crashes in 2021



## Current Speed Laws

(Based on Wis. Stats. 346.57 (2) and (3) and (4))

Drivers are required to drive at a speed that does not exceed the posted limit and is reasonable given conditions of the road. The speed of the vehicle must be in control 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.

Speed-related fatalities and injuries generally follow the same pattern as the number of crashes: fatalities and injuries rise steadily among younger drivers until they dramatically fall off after drivers in their mid-twenties as experience increases.

Those driving on local roads are at the greatest risk of being in a speed-related crash. By vehicles per mile traveled (VMT), a quarter of travel occurs on local roads, but account for nearly half of all speed-related crashes in 2021. Meanwhile, state highways account for the highest percent of VMT at 34% and 29% of crashes.

## What Can You Do?

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