

# SPEED-RELATED CRASHES



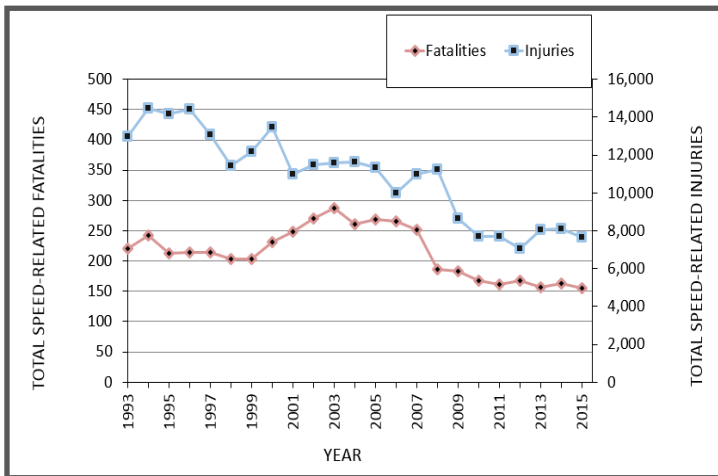
## DID YOU KNOW...

In Wisconsin, in 2015, one person was injured or killed in a speed-related crash every 65 minutes.

- 17,811 speed-related crashes occurred in Wisconsin in 2015.
- In these speed-related crashes, 155 people were killed and 7,646 people were injured.
- Speed was listed as a contributing cause in 15% of all crashes and 28% of all fatal crashes.

## SPEED-RELATED CRASH TRENDS

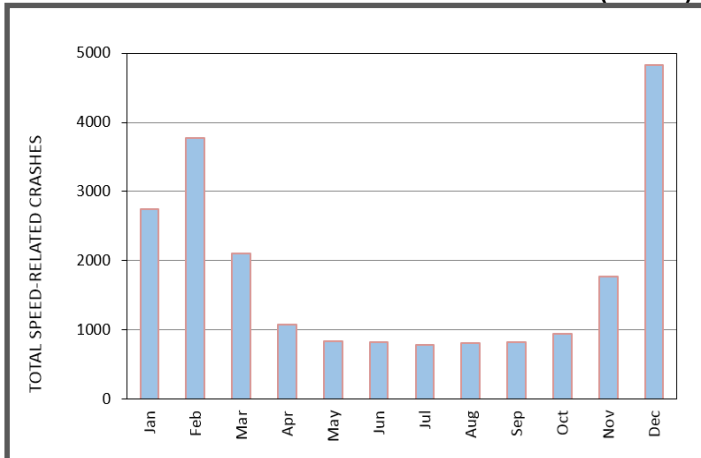
SPEED-RELATED INJ. & FATALS (1993-2015)



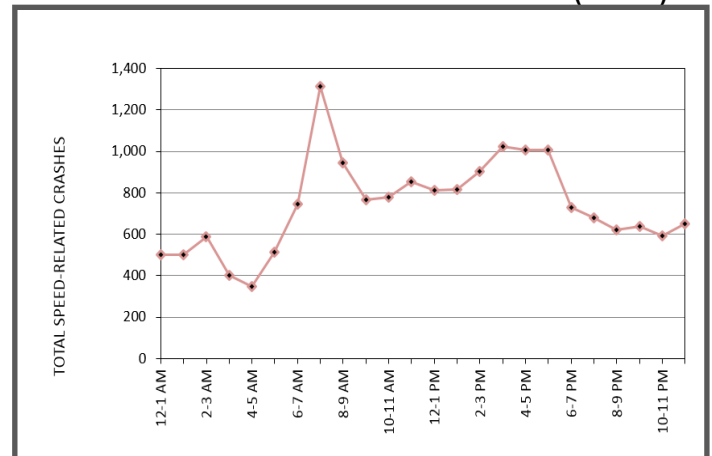
- Over the years, Wisconsin has experienced a secular—though uneven—decline in speed-related injuries and fatalities. A major drop in speed-related injuries and fatalities occurred between 2008 and 2009 when the economy worsened and seatbelt laws were strengthened.
- This slow decline is likely due to rising seatbelt use over the past several decades, the introduction of graduated driver’s licenses, and much safer automobiles.
- 2015 saw a slight decrease in speed-related injuries and fatalities.

## WHEN DO SPEED-RELATED CRASHES OCCUR?

SPEED-RELATED CRASHES BY MONTH (2015)



SPEED-RELATED CRASHES BY TIME (2014)



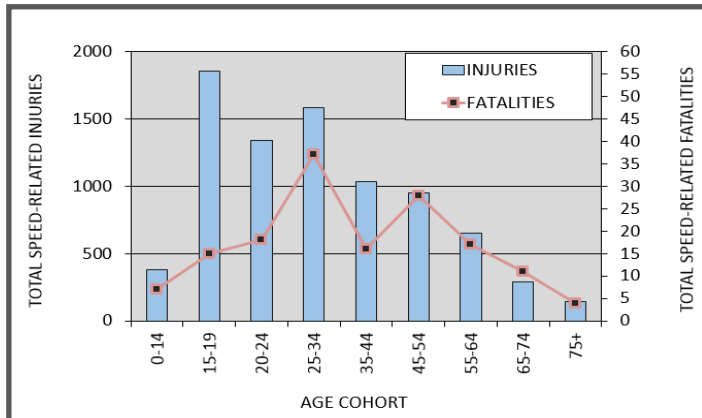
- The majority of speed-related crashes occur in the winter months. This doesn’t necessarily mean that there is more speeding in those months, merely that *speeding is more likely to cause a crash in such weather*. In 2015, driving too fast for weather conditions was the primary cause of speed-related crashes from December-February.
- Speed-related crashes peak from 7-8 AM, with a smaller peak observed between 5-6PM. The morning crash peak is likely caused by people rushing to work.

PRODUCED BY THE WISCONSIN DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION’S BUREAU OF TRANSPORTATION SAFETY. WITH QUESTIONS, CONTACT EVAN MOORMAN (608)-709-0088.

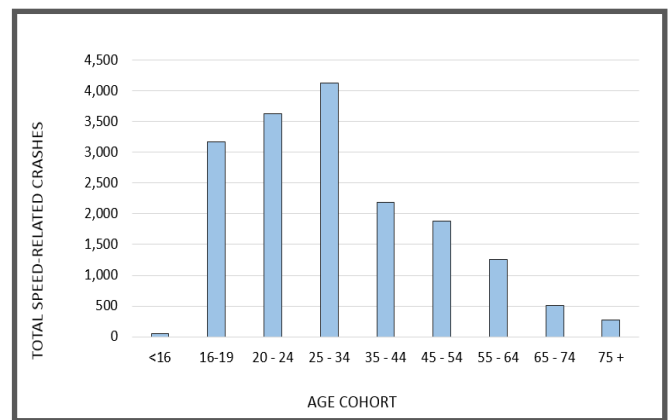
## WHO IS AT RISK FOR SPEED-RELATED CRASHES?

- Males comprise almost 65% of all speed-related crashes.
- Young people as well, are particularly susceptible to speed-related crashes (as can be seen in the chart to the right).
- Consequently, young men 16-19 comprise 11% of all speed-related crashes even while this group only comprises some 2.3% of licensed drivers.

### SPEED-RELATED INJURY AND FATALITY RATES BY AGE (2015)



## SPEED-RELATED CRASHES BY COHORT (2015)



- Speed-related fatalities and injuries generally follow the same pattern as the number of crashes: fatalities and injuries rise steadily until they dramatically fall off after the mid-twenties as experience increases.
- Those driving in rural areas are at the greatest risk of being in a speeding-related crash. While the majority of VMT occurs in urban areas, rural areas are characterized by long straightaways and little traffic, which encourages speeding.

## CURRENT SPEED LAWS

- Wis. Stats. 346.57 (2) and (3) and (4)
- Drivers are required to drive vehicles 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 controlled 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.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

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