

WI TEEN DRIVER SAFETY

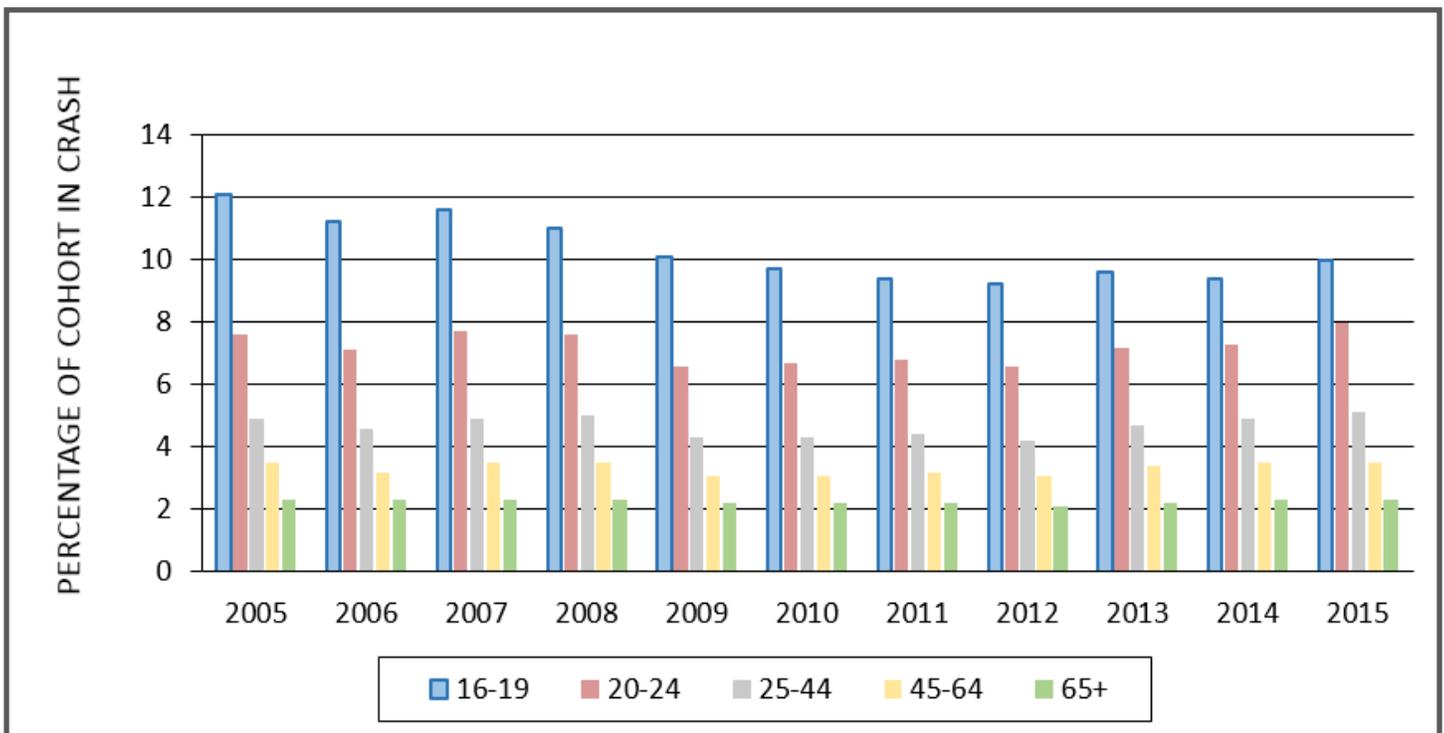


A VISION WE CAN ALL LIVE WITH

SCALE OF THE PROBLEM

- **For about two out of three 16- to 19-year-old WI drivers killed in motor vehicle crashes in 2015, it was their first *and last* crash.** In 2015, traffic crashes claimed the lives of 33 teenagers ages 16 -19. This figure compares favorably to the 44 who were killed in 2014, the 25 who were killed in 2013, the 57 were killed in 2012, and the 43 who were killed in 2011. In spite of this improvement, a single fatality is unacceptable and more must be done by the DOT, local agencies, and the public alike to safeguard Wisconsin’s most precious resource: our young people.
- **Drivers between the ages of 16 and 19 are more likely to be in a motor vehicle crash** than members of any other age cohort (Figure 1). During 2015, a full 10% of all 16-19-year-old licensed drivers in Wisconsin experienced a crash .

FIG. 1: CRASH RISK BY AGE COHORT



- **Compared to drivers in other age groups, teen drivers experience more crashes involving high-risk factors.** In 2015, only 4.5% of all licensed drivers were between the ages of 16-19 years old. Yet, these drivers accounted for 10.0% of all drivers in crashes, 4.7% of all drivers in crashes who had been drinking, and 8.5% of those drivers in crashes who were suspected of using drugs.
- Drivers aged 16 -19 who are involved in crashes are more likely than other drivers to be involved in crashes caused by **inattentive driving, failing to control the vehicle, speeding too fast for conditions, failing to yield the right of way, following too close, and disregarding traffic control** according to the possible contributing circumstances (PCCs) listed on crash reports.

CRASH RISK FACTORS

- Nearly two out of three 16- to 19-year-old passengers killed or seriously injured in a crash were in a vehicle driven by another teenager.** Specifically, of the nine auto *passengers* ages 16-19 killed in traffic crashes in 2015, eight (89%) of them were riding in vehicles with other teen drivers. Additionally, 51 passengers ages 16-19 suffered incapacitating injuries in crashes in 2015. Sixty-six percent of them were in vehicles driven by teenagers.
- Peer pressure may affect *when* teens wear seat belts.** Among teen drivers and their passengers of all ages who were killed or seriously injured in a passenger car or light truck crash in 2015, seat belt use was 71% in driver-only crashes and dropped to 66% when peer passengers were also present in the vehicle.
- Weekends are more deadly for teens than weekdays.** Fifteen of the 33 traffic deaths (46%) among 16- to 19-year-olds occurred on Saturdays or Sundays. On the contrary, only about 30% of all *crashes* among this age group occurred on those days.
- Teen drivers tend to crash in the late afternoon** (Figure 2). The peak hour for teen crashes is 3-6 PM during the school year and 4-5 PM during the summer. More crashes involving 16- to 19-year-old drivers occurred on Friday than on any other day of the week, likely due to a mixture of fatigue and/or increased alcohol consumption.
- Snowy/icy road conditions pose special threats for teen drivers.** Relative to the number of licensed drivers by age, a larger percentage of teen drivers crashed during these conditions in January and December of 2015, than did drivers over age 19 .
- Even *within* the teen cohort, age matters** (Figure 3). 11.85% of all licensed 16-year-old drivers were involved in a crash in 2015; at age 17, the percentage dropped to 9.93%; at age 18, it decreased to 9.49%; at age 19, it fell again to 9.03%. Among licensed drivers aged 20 and older, the 2015 annual crash rate was 4.0%. As can be seen, while a steady decline is observed, the largest drop-off within the teen cohort occurs among within the first year of licensure.
- Male and female circumstances differ** (Figure 4). By individual age, a larger percentage of male teen drivers were involved in all types of crashes than female teen drivers. Two-thirds of the 16- to 19-year-olds killed in 2015 traffic crashes were male. In crashes that proved fatal or incapacitating to 16- to 19-year-olds, 76% of the female victims wore seatbelts; only 57% of the male victims did so.

FIG. 2 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CRASHES/ TIME DURING THE 2015 SCHOOL YEAR

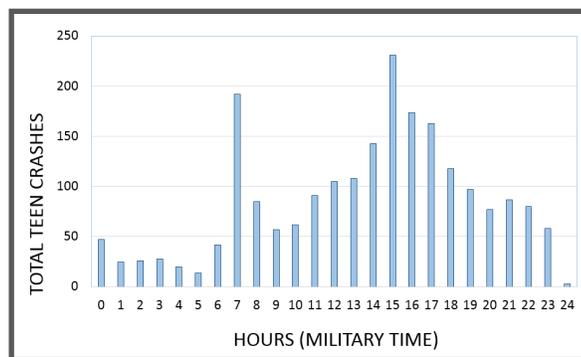


FIG 3. SPECIFIC CRASH AGES AND RISK (2015)

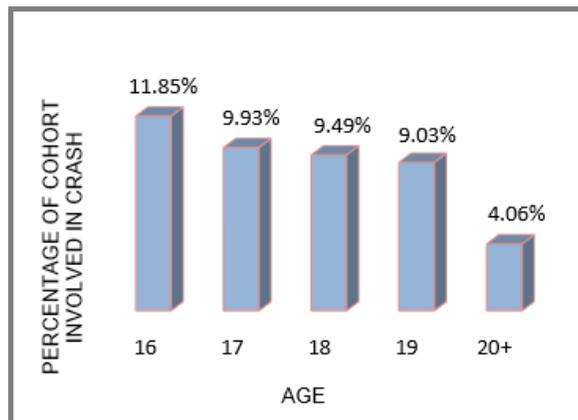
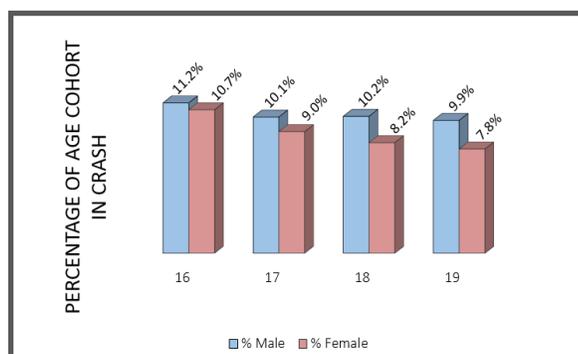


Fig. 4 SEX AND CRASH RISK (2015)



WHO IS AT RISK FROM TEEN DRIVERS?

- **On the whole, teen drivers injure and kill other teen drivers.** In crashes where 16- to 19-year-olds were driving the vehicle in 2015, 54% of those injured/killed were other 16- to 19-year-olds; a full 80% of injured/killed occupants were under 20 years old.
- **On average, a Wisconsin teen driver was involved in a fatal crash every 11 days.** About once every 1.65 hours, a 16- to 19-year-old driver was involved in an injurious crash; about once every 39 minutes, a 16- to 19-year-old driver was involved in a property damage crash (Figure 5).

GRADUATED LICENSE REQUIREMENT

New Wisconsin drivers under the age of 18 obtain their licenses via graduated licensing. Since all phases of Wisconsin's Graduated Driver Licensing Law took effect in 2000, 16- and 17-year-old drivers must have an additional 30 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 (one passenger other than family members) during the first nine months of the probationary operation. These limitations are removed for drivers who remain conviction-free or who turn 18. For more information: <http://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/dmv/teen-driver/yr-frst-licns/teendriving.aspx>

WHAT CAN PARENTS DO?

- Research shows that modelling good driving behavior is one of the most important steps that a parent can take. While it may seem surprising, teens generally look up to their parents as role-models and so **driving defensively, maintaining a safe speed, and exercising good sense on the road** for parents is crucial in raising the next generation of safe drivers.
- **Talk with teens about peer pressure and how this can often lead to unsafe situations.** Teach your teen to recognize the dangers of drunk driving and make contingency plans for safely picking up your child if they are dependent upon another impaired teen to get home.
- Talk with your child about the need to develop hand-eye coordination when driving and to **be cautious** when learning to drive. A driving move that may appear easy at first glance can quickly become hazardous with a lack of experience.
- While Wisconsin only mandates 30 hours of practice driving time before receiving a probationary license, more practice is always better. Parents should set aside some time each week to help cultivate teen driving skills.

WHAT CAN TEENS DO?

- Avoid distractions like your cell phone. Research shows that talking on a cell phone is the equivalent of driving buzzed or even drunk. Ideally, it is recommended that you turn off your cell phone altogether. If you must receive a call, pull over immediately.
- Avoid drinking and driving. Getting an OWI—operating while intoxicated—can be a black mark on your record and can hurt your chances of getting into college and getting 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.

FIG. 5. Wisconsin's Crash Clock for the 16-19 Age Cohort

Frequency of Consequence for 16- to 19-year-olds in 2015	Number of Incidents Involving 16- to 19-year-olds			
	2015	2014	2013	2012
One driver involved in property damage crash every 39 minutes	13,440	12,885	13,452	12,558
One driver involved in injury crash every 1.65 hours	5,303	4,879	5,079	5,318
One 16- to 19-year-old injured every 3.23 hours	4,460	4,055	4,227	4,493
One driver injured roughly every 3.6 hours	2,706	2,454	2,575	2,675
One vehicle passenger injured every 6.3 hours	1,387	1,269	1,297	1,368
One pedestrian injured every 2.9 days	128	112	119	139
One motorcyclist injured every 3.9 days	94	93	96	120
One bicyclist injured every 3.9 days	96	93	108	131
One driver killed every 17 days	22	24	14	28
One moped user injured every 9.3 days	39	34	32	60
One vehicle passenger killed every 41 days	9	14	8	25
One pedestrian killed every year	1	3	1	1
One motorcyclist killed every year	1	3	2	3