

Impaired Driving Crashes in Wisconsin



Did you know...

In Wisconsin, one person was killed or injured in an alcohol or drug impaired crash every 2.3 hours in 2023.

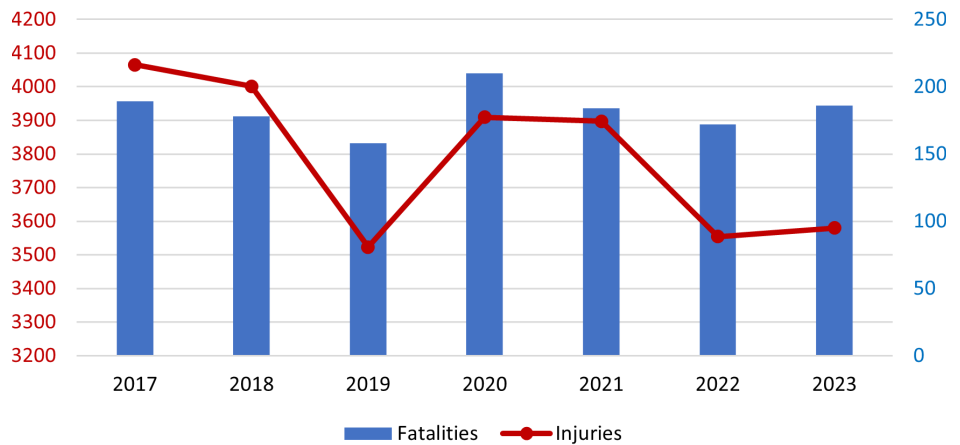
- 7,131 crashes involved impaired drivers in Wisconsin in 2023.
- In these crashes, 186 people were killed and 3,580 people were injured.
- Impaired driving contributed to 6% of all crashes and in 32% of all fatal crashes in 2023.

Scope of the Problem

In 2017, impaired driving (OWI) began to include not only Blood Alcohol Content (BAC), but also when a driver is found to be under the influence of an intoxicant, controlled substance, or any other drug that impairs their ability to safely operate a vehicle. Drivers can be flagged for suspected impaired driving, as well as subjected to further testing.

Impairment, whether from alcohol or any other type of drug, lessens one's ability to concentrate, make good judgements, and quickly react to situations. It takes roughly 30 minutes to two hours for alcohol to be absorbed into your bloodstream.

Trends in Impaired Driving Injuries and Fatalities 2017-2023



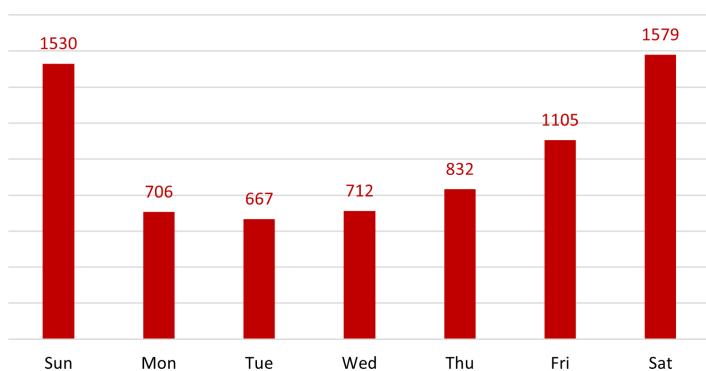
As with any intoxicant, cognitive skills may be delayed, so it is always dangerous to drive after drinking or drug use.

When do Impaired Driving Crashes Occur?

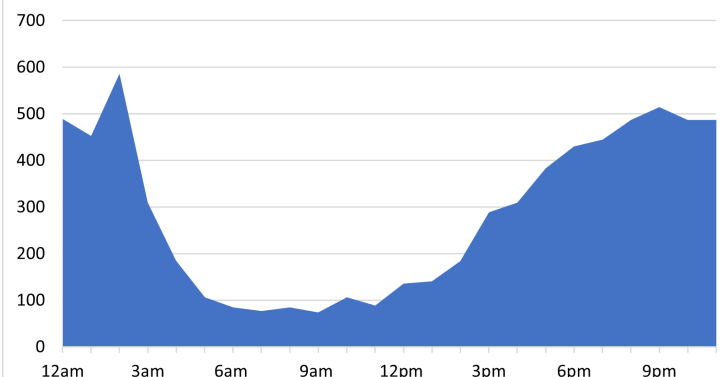
Impaired driving crashes most often occur on weekends with Friday through Sunday accounting for nearly two-thirds of all crashes in 2023, particularly during late night and early morning hours.

Impaired driving crashes steadily rise after 12 pm and peak from 2-3 am, the hours after bars close and when people are returning to their place of residence.

Impaired Driving Crashes by Day of Week in 2023



Impaired Driving Crashes by Time of Day in 2023

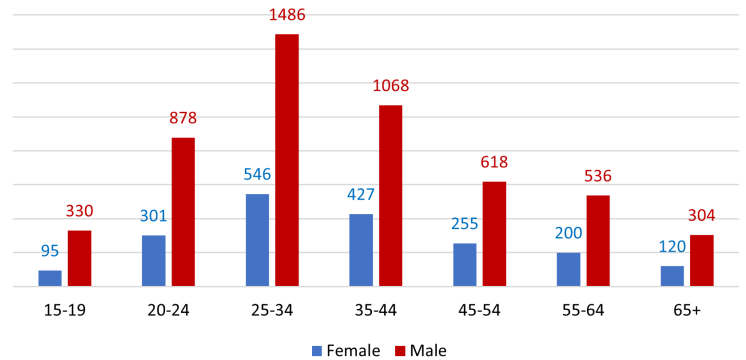


Who is at Risk for Impaired Driving Crashes?

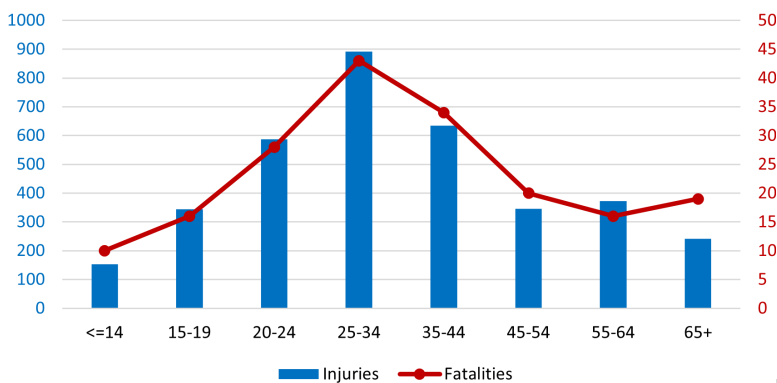
Alcohol or drug consumption can put anyone at risk of causing a crash or other serious injury. However, some populations are more likely to get behind the wheel of a car while impaired.

In 2023, male drivers were nearly three times more likely than females to be suspected of driving impaired. Drivers aged 15-34 accounted for just about half of all drivers in impaired driving crashes in 2023.

Suspected Impaired Drivers by Gender and Age in 2023



People Injured and Killed in Impaired Driving Crashes in 2023

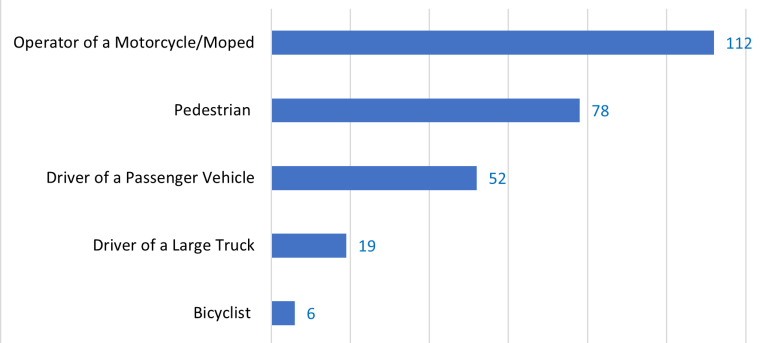


Looking at the age of people injured and killed in impaired driving crashes, injuries and fatalities peak for people aged 25-34. There is a decrease as age increases, with a smaller peak in fatalities for people aged 65+.

All road users can be impacted by impairment. Impairment includes intoxication from drugs, controlled substances, and alcohol, all of which can increase one's likelihood of being in a crash. An impairment rate is the proportion of drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists who were suspected and/or cited for impairment per 1,000 drivers, pedestrians, or bicyclists in a crash. Operators of motorcycles and mopeds have the highest impairment rate, followed by pedestrians and then drivers of a passenger vehicle.

Impairment Rates by Vehicle Type and Role in 2023

*Impairment rate = the portion of drivers, pedestrians, or bicyclists who were suspected and/or cited for drugs and/or alcohol impairment per 1,000 persons.



What Can You Do?

- Plan a safe ride home before you start the party.
- If someone you know has been drinking, don't let them get behind the wheel.
- If you drink, do not drive for any reason. Call a taxi, a ride-sharing service, or a sober friend.
- If you're hosting a party where alcohol will be served, make sure all guests leave with a sober driver.
- Always wear your seat belt—it's your best defense against impaired drivers.