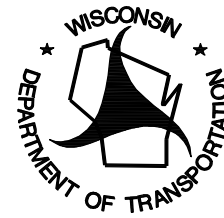
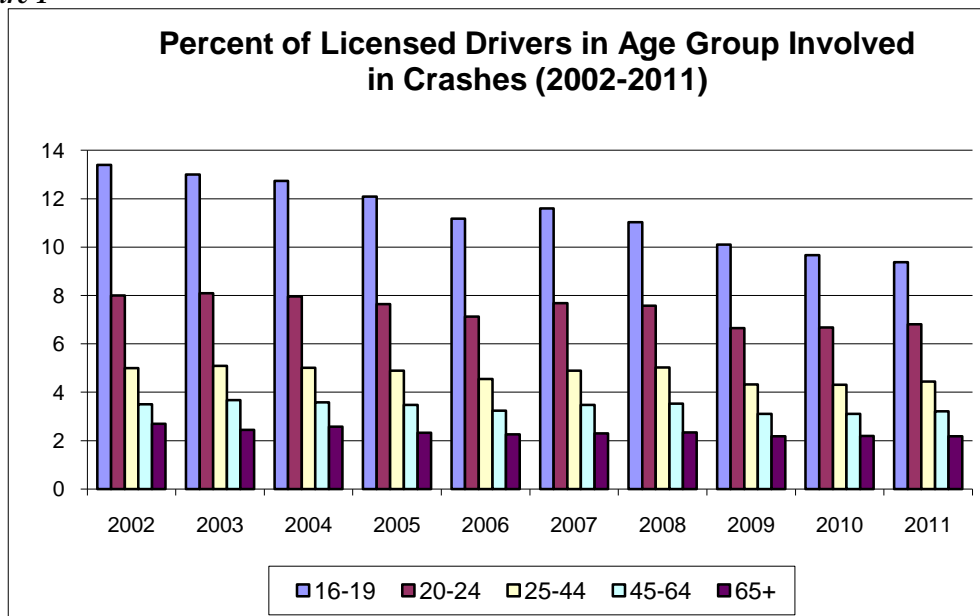


**2011 WISCONSIN CRASH FACTS  
ON THE 16- to 19-YEAR-OLD AGE GROUP**  
APRIL 2013



- Historically, for two out of three 16- to 19-year-old drivers killed in motor vehicle crashes, it was their first and last crash.** In 2011, traffic crashes claimed the lives of 43 teens ages 16 - 19. That compares to 51 who were killed in 2010, 57 in 2009, 56 in 2008, 91 in 2007, and 88 in 2006.
- Drivers between the ages of 16 and 19 are more likely to be in a motor vehicle crash than other age groups (Figure 1).** During 2011, 9.4% of all 16- to 19-year-old licensed drivers in Wisconsin had a crash – more than one in 11 teen drivers.

*Figure 1*

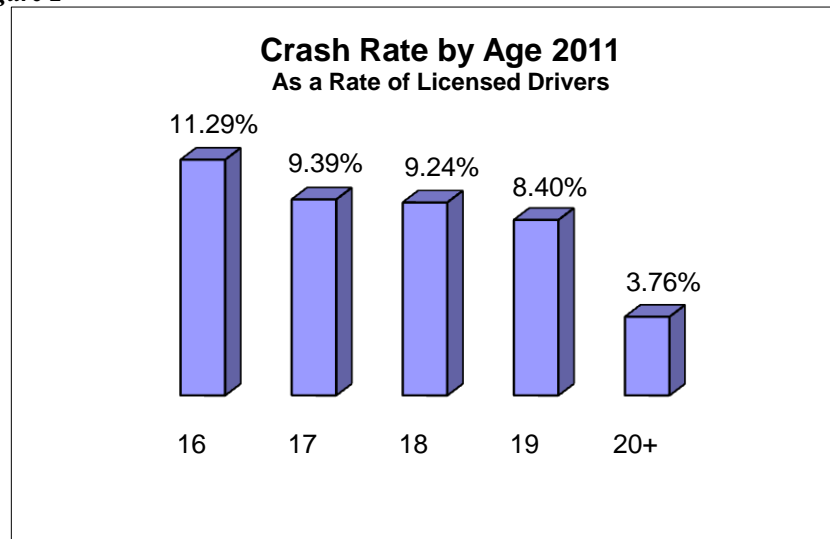


- Compared to drivers in other age groups, teen drivers have more crashes involving high-risk factors.** In 2011, only 4.8% of all licensed drivers were between the ages of 16-19 years old. Yet, these drivers accounted for 9% of all drivers in crashes. They also accounted for 6.7% of all drivers in crashes who were listed as *had been drinking* and 8.4% of those suspected of using other drugs.
- Drivers aged 16 -19 who are involved in crashes are more likely than other drivers to be reported as exceeding the speed limit, driving too fast for conditions, failing to yield right-of-way, failing to control, and driving inattentively** according to the possible contributing circumstances (PCCs) listed on crash reports.

- **Nearly two out of three 16- to 19-year-old passengers killed or seriously injured were in a vehicle driven by another teenager.** Specifically, of the 17 passengers age 16-19 killed in traffic crashes in 2011, 6 (35%) of them were riding in vehicles with drivers under the age of 20. Additionally, 117 passengers age 16-19 suffered incapacitating injuries in crashes in 2011. Fifty-nine 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 2011, seat belt use was 69% in driver-only crashes and dropped to 62% when peer passengers were also present in the vehicle.
- **Weekends are more deadly for teens than weekdays.** Twenty-one of the 43 (49%) 16- to 19-year-olds who died in traffic crashes in 2011 died in crashes occurring on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday.
- **Teen drivers tend to crash in the late afternoon.** The peak hour for teen crashes is 3-4 p.m. during the school year and 5-6 p.m. during the summer. More crashes involving 16- to 19-year-old drivers occurred on Friday than on any other day of the week.
- **Snowy/slushy/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 2011, than did drivers over age 19 (48% vs. 40%).

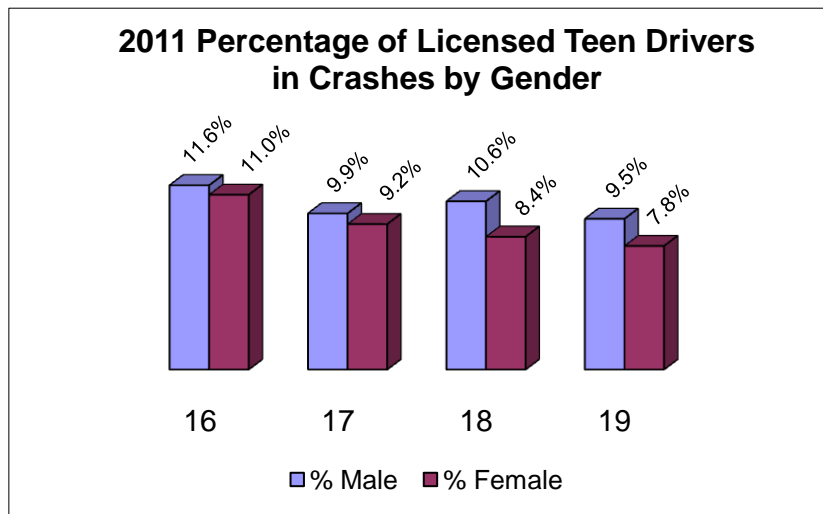
- **Even in the teen years, age matters.** 11.3% of all licensed 16-year-old drivers crash; at age 17, the percentage drops to 9.4%; at age 18, it is down to 9.2%; at age 19, it falls to 8.4%. Among licensed drivers aged 20 and older, the 2011 crash rate was 3.8%. (Figure 2).

Figure 2



- **Male and female circumstances differ.** By individual age, a larger percentage of 16- to 19-year-old male drivers were involved in all types of crashes than female drivers (*Figure 3*). Thirty-one of the 43 (72%) 16- to 19-year-olds killed in 2011 traffic crashes were male. In crashes that proved fatal or incapacitating to a 16- to 19-year-old, 69% of the female victims wore seatbelts; only 47% of the male victims did so.

*Figure 3*



- **16- to 19-year-olds injure/kill 16- to 19-year-olds.** In crashes where 16- to 19-year-olds were driving the vehicle in 2011, 58% of those injured/killed were 16- to 19-year-olds; 81% of injured/killed occupants were under 20 years old.
- **On average, a teen driver was involved in a fatal crash every 6.4 days.** About once every 1.6 hours, a 16- to 19-year-old driver had an injury crash; about once every 40 minutes, a 16- to 19-year-old driver had a property damage crash (*Figure 4*).
- **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 instruction 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 probationary operation. These limitations are removed for drivers who remain conviction-free or who turn 18. For more information on Wisconsin's graduated driver licensing: <http://www.dot.state.wi.us/dmv/GDLchanges.html>.

## Wisconsin's Crash Clock for 16- to 19-year-olds

*Figure 4*

Frequency of Consequence for 16- to 19-year-olds in 2011	Number of Incidents Involving 16- to 19-year-olds			
	2011	2010	2009	2008
One driver involved in property damage crash every 40.1 minutes	13,090	13,398	14,536	16,280
One driver involved in injury crash every 1.6 hours	5,363	5,972	6,416	7,069
One 16- to 19-year-old injured every 1.9 hours	4,603	5,092	5,537	6,086
One driver injured roughly every 3.2 hours	2,698	3,074	3,334	3,684
One vehicle passenger injured every 5.8 hours	1,515	1,632	1,799	1,919
One 16-19 year passenger killed or injured while a 16-19 year was driving every 10.6 hours	821	925	1,015	1,073
One pedestrian injured every 2.8 days	132	137	143	151
One motorcyclist injured every 3.9 days	94	71	93	132
One bicyclist injured every 2.9 days	126	133	130	154
One driver involved in a fatal crash every 6.4 days	57	74	68	80
One teen killed every 8.5 days	43	51	57	56
One driver killed every 18.3 days	20	24	31	34
One moped user injured every 9.6 days	38	45	38	46
One vehicle passenger killed every 21.5 days	17	19	20	20
One pedestrian killed every 4 months	3	3	2	1
One motorcyclist killed every 4 months	3	3	3	1

**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
**Bureau of Transportation Safety / Safety Programs Section**  
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The data for this monograph comes from the WisDOT Division of Motor Vehicles Accident Database.