

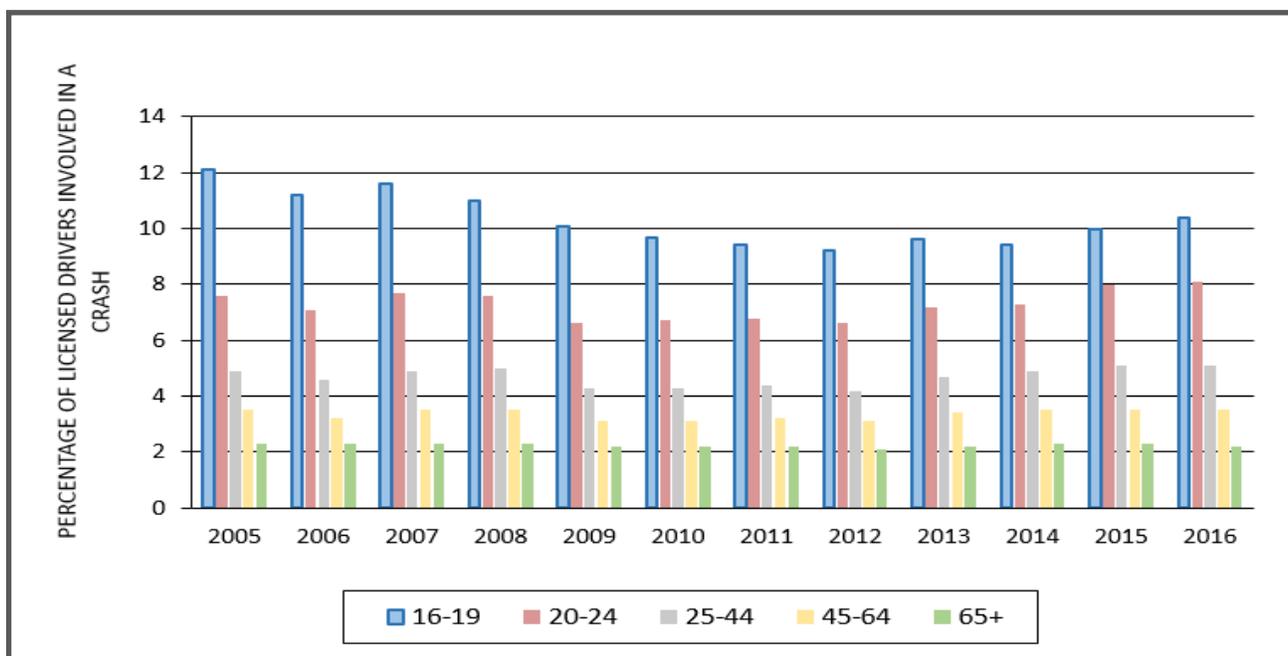
WI TEEN DRIVER SAFETY



SCALE OF THE PROBLEM

- For about two out of three 16- to 19-year-old WI drivers killed in motor vehicle crashes in 2016, it was **their first and last crash**. In 2016, traffic crashes claimed the lives of 43 teenagers ages 16 -19. This figure represents an increase from the number of teens who died on Wisconsin roads in 2015 (33).
- A single fatality on our roads 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. Only by working together through enforcement and education can the state bring these numbers down to zero.
- **Drivers between the ages of 16 and 19 are more likely to be involved in an automobile crash** than members of any other age cohort (Figure 1). During 2016, a full 10% of all 16- to 19-year-old licensed drivers in Wisconsin were involved in a crash, a slight uptick from the previous year.

FIG. 1: CRASH RISK BY AGE COHORT



- **Compared to drivers in other age groups, teen drivers experience more crashes involving high-risk factors.** In 2016, only 4.6% of all licensed drivers were between the ages of 16 and 19 years old. However, these drivers accounted for 10.0% of all drivers in crashes.
- Drivers ages 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. They were also more likely to have had drugs in their system (although not alcohol) when compared to the general population.

CRASH RISK FACTORS

- **About 62% of 16- to 19-year-old passengers killed or seriously injured in a crash were in a vehicle driven by another teenager.** Additionally, 47 teen passengers suffered incapacitating injuries in crashes in 2016, with a full sixty percent of them being in vehicles driven by other 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 2016, seat belt use was 73% in driver-only crashes; this dropped to 57% when peer passengers were also present in the vehicle.
- **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 2016, than did drivers over age 19 .
- **Even *within* the teen cohort, age matters.** As can be seen, while a general decline in crash risk is observed with increasing age, the largest drop-off within the teen cohort occurs among within the first year of licensure. Wisconsin’s graduated drivers license (or GDL) system limits teen exposure during this dangerous period, as it places limitations on the number of passengers teens can transport, while also limiting operating hours.
- **Within the teen cohort, male and female risks differ** (Figure 3). 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 2016 traffic crashes were male. In crashes that proved fatal or incapacitating to 16- to 19-year-olds, 69% of the female victims wore seatbelts; only 51% of the male victims did so.

FIG. 2. INJURIES AND FATALITIES BY TEEN DRIVERS AND TIME (2016 SCHOOL YEAR)

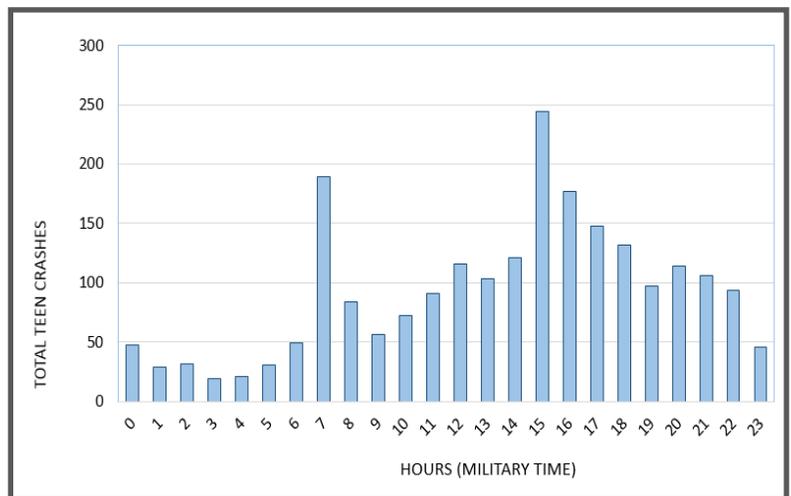
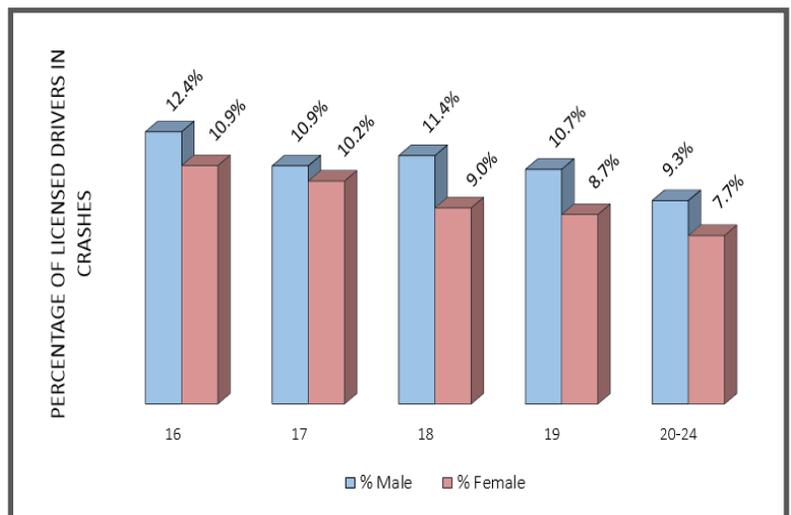


Fig. 3 CRASH RISK BY AGE AND GENDER (2016)



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 2016, 62% of those seriously injured or killed were other 16- to 19-year-olds; almost 80% of injured or killed occupants were under 20 years old.
- **On average, a Wisconsin teen driver was involved in a fatal crash every 6.6 days.** About once every 1.6 hours, a 16- to 19-year-old driver was involved in an injurious crash; about once every 36 minutes, a 16- to 19-year-old driver was involved in a property damage crash (Figure 4).

GRADUATED LICENSE REQUIREMENT

New Wisconsin drivers under the age of 18 obtain their licenses via graduated licensing. Since 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-lcns/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. 4. WISCONSIN'S CRASH CLOCK FOR TEEN DRIVERS IN 2016

Frequency of Incident for 16- to 19-year-olds in 2016	Number of Incidents Involving 16- to 19-year-olds			
	2016	2015	2014	2013
One driver involved in property damage crash every 36 minutes	14,511	13,440	12,885	13,452
One driver involved in injury crash every 1.6 hours	5,464	5,303	4,879	5,079
One 16- to 19-year-old injured every 1.9 hours	4,585	4,460	4,055	4,227
One driver injured roughly every 3.1 hours	2,792	2,706	2,454	2,575
One vehicle passenger injured every 6 hours	1,459	1,387	1,269	1,297
One pedestrian injured every 2.8 days	129	128	112	119
One motorcyclist injured every 4.1 days	88	94	93	96
One bicyclist injured every 3.9 days	94	96	93	108
One driver killed every 13 days	28	22	24	14
One moped user injured every 15.8 days	23	39	34	32
One vehicle passenger killed every 30.4 days	12	9	14	8
One pedestrian killed every four months	3	1	3	1
Zero motorcyclist killed every year	0	1	3	2