# Chapter Two: Auto Crash Statistics

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# Age and Its Impact: Teen Drivers

In every motorized country, teen-age drivers represent a major hazard. The problem is worse in the United States than elsewhere. Teen-agers drive less than all but the elderly, but their numbers of crashes and crash deaths are disproportionately high. Risk is highest at age 16. In fact, the crash rate per mile driven is twice as high among 16-year-olds as it is among 18- to 19-year-olds.

Crash rates are high largely because of young drivers' immaturity combined with driving inexperience. The immaturity is apparent in young drivers' risky driving practices like speeding and tailgating. At the same time, teen-agers' lack of experience behind the wheel makes it difficult for them to recognize and respond to hazards.

Crashes involving young drivers typically are single-vehicle crashes, primarily run-off-the-road crashes, that involve driver error and/or speeding. They often occur when other young people are in the vehicle with the young driver, so teen-agers are disproportionately involved in crashes as passengers as well as drivers.

## Teenage Fatalities

- 89 teenage drivers died on Indiana roadways in 2006. There were also about 7,100 teenage drivers injured as a result of accidents. Those numbers make up about 15 percent of the number of fatalities and injuries on the road.

- Nationally, 5,288 teenagers died in car accidents in 2005.

- Teenagers accounted for 10 percent of the U.S. population in 2005, but 12 percent of motor vehicle deaths.

- Eighty-four percent of teen motor vehicle deaths in 2005 were passenger vehicle occupants. The rest were pedestrians (6 percent), motorcyclists (4 percent), bicyclists (2 percent), and people in other types of vehicles (2 percent).

- In 2003, the latest year for which data is available, 37 percent of deaths among 13- to 19-year-olds occurred in motor vehicle crashes. This was the leading cause of death for individuals in this age group.

## Drivers and Passengers National Statistics

- Passenger vehicle death rates per 100,000 people in 2005 peaked at ages 18-19 for both drivers and passengers.

- Slightly more than half of teenage passenger vehicle occupant deaths in 2005 were drivers (54 percent), and a little less than half were passengers (45 percent).

- Sixty-one percent of teenage passenger deaths in 2005 occurred in crashes in which another teenager was driving. Among people of all ages, 19 percent of passenger deaths in 2005 occurred when a teenager was driving.

## Gender Differences National Statistics

- About 2 out of every 3 teenagers killed in motor vehicle crashes in 2005 were males.
- Since 1975, teenage motor vehicle deaths have decreased more among males (47 percent) than among females (19 percent).
- Death rates were higher in 2005 among male drivers age 18-19 than among females - 25 per 100,000 people compared with 11 per 100,000.

# Teen Driving Statistics

## 13- to 19-Year-Old Motor Vehicle Deaths

| Year | Male | Female | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1976 | 6,826 | 2,530 | 9,356 |
| 1977 | 6,983 | 2,650 | 9,633 |
| 1978 | 7,295 | 2,645 | 9,940 |
| 1979 | 7,280 | 2,639 | 9,920 |
| 1980 | 6,932 | 2,591 | 9,524 |
| 1981 | 6,014 | 2,301 | 8,315 |
| 1982 | 5,354 | 1,969 | 7,323 |
| 1983 | 4,850 | 1,955 | 6,805 |
| 1984 | 4,947 | 2,005 | 6,952 |
| 1985 | 4,715 | 2,022 | 6,737 |
| 1986 | 5,280 | 2,182 | 7,466 |
| 1987 | 5,107 | 2,186 | 7,293 |
| 1988 | 5,036 | 2,204 | 7,242 |
| 1989 | 4,528 | 2,158 | 6,688 |
| 1990 | 4,420 | 1,944 | 6,364 |
| 1991 | 3,891 | 1,867 | 5,760 |
| 1992 | 3,495 | 1,713 | 5,215 |
| 1993 | 3,678 | 1,742 | 5,421 |
| 1994 | 3,770 | 1,859 | 5,632 |
| 1995 | 3,702 | 1,970 | 5,675 |
| 1996 | 3,855 | 1,963 | 5,819 |
| 1997 | 3,715 | 2,014 | 5,730 |
| 1998 | 3,649 | 1,960 | 5,610 |
| 1999 | 3,745 | 2,007 | 5,752 |
| 2000 | 3,759 | 1,925 | 5,685 |
| 2001 | 3,735 | 1,859 | 5,594 |
| 2002 | 3,939 | 2,015 | 5,954 |
| 2003 | 3,772 | 1,946 | 5,718 |
| 2004 | 3,696 | 1,948 | 5,645 |
| 2005 | 3,491 | 1,796 | 5,288 |

*Source: Insurance Institute for Highway Safety*

## Teenage Motor Vehicle Deaths by Type and Age (2005)

| Age | Passenger Vehicles | Motorcyclists | Pedestrians | Bicyclists | ATVs | Other | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 13 | 107 | 8 | 29 | 14 | 8 | 9 | 175 |
| 14 | 155 | 8 | 34 | 31 | 6 | 18 | 252 |
| 15 | 289 | 14 | 49 | 18 | 20 | 12 | 402 |
| 16 | 722 | 14 | 49 | 6 | 21 | 12 | 824 |
| 17 | 909 | 36 | 50 | 14 | 8 | 14 | 1,031 |
| 18 | 1,154 | 53 | 52 | 10 | 8 | 18 | 1,295 |
| 19 | 1,104 | 104 | 63 | 7 | 15 | 16 | 1,309 |
| **Total** | **4,440** | **237** | **326** | **100** | **86** | **99** | **5,288** |

# Teen Driving Statistics

**Passenger Vehicle Deaths by Age and Seating Position 2005**

| Age | Drivers | Passengers |
|---|---|---|
| 13 | 3 | 102 |
| 14 | 16 | 138 |
| 15 | 57 | 231 |
| 16 | 356 | 365 |
| 17 | 519 | 386 |
| 18 | 736 | 415 |
| 19 | 724 | 380 |
| Total | 2411 | 2,017 |

According to the Insurance Institute of Highway Safety, half of teenage fatal crashes in 2005 occurred between 3 p.m. and midnight.

In 2006, 14.7 percent of all drivers involved in fatal crashes in Indiana were young drivers age 16-20.

Only 36 percent of young drivers killed in Indiana in 2006 were wearing their seatbelts.

**Young drivers involved fatal collisions 1997-2006**

| Region | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | % Change 1997-2005 | 2006 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | Young drivers involved in fatal collisions | | | | | |
| Indiana | 80.5 | 67.5 | 75.1 | 62.8 | 64.0 | 51.0 | 59.9 | 68.4 | 54.3 | -32.5 | 57.6 |
| Great Lakes* | 53.6 | 56.2 | 59.7 | 56.7 | 53.9 | 54.9 | 53.2 | 50.1 | 45.5 | -15.2 | n/a |
| United States | 62.5 | 62.2 | 64.6 | 63.3 | 64.6 | 66.2 | 63.4 | 63.1 | 59.3 | -5.2 | n/a |
| | | | | | | Young drivers fatally injured | | | | | |
| Indiana | 39.5 | 34.2 | 35.9 | 28.2 | 31.4 | 27.3 | 27.4 | 32.9 | 26.8 | -32.1 | 28.7 |
| Great Lakes* | 24.3 | 24.6 | 26.2 | 24.3 | 24.7 | 25.8 | 24.3 | 22.8 | 21.3 | -12.4 | n/a |
| United States | 26.4 | 26.7 | 28.1 | 27.9 | 28.7 | 30.6 | 29.4 | 28.9 | 27.5 | 4.2 | n/a |

*Defined as Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin

**Most Common Citations Issued to Young Drivers, 2006**

| | Number | | | Citation rates (per 100,000 issued to licensed drivers) | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Citation description | All drivers | Young drivers (< 21) | Older drivers (21+) | All drivers | Young drivers (< 21) | Older drivers (21+) |
| Age (i.e., Minor) violation | 264 | 259 | 4 | 5 | 83 | < 1 |
| Speed limit violation | 1,615 | 515 | 1,097 | 30 | 166 | 22 |
| Vehicle operation violations | 6,509 | 1,615 | 4,875 | 122 | 520 | 97 |
| Learner permit violation | 347 | 240 | 105 | 7 | 77 | 2 |
| Driving without a license | 2,384 | 791 | 1,529 | 45 | 255 | 31 |
| Driving with suspended/revoked license | 4,512 | 499 | 4,002 | 85 | 161 | 80 |
| No financial responsibility (insurance) | 4,196 | 839 | 3,338 | 79 | 270 | 67 |
| Accident responsibility violation | 3,826 | 837 | 2,945 | 72 | 269 | 59 |
| Operating while intoxicated (OWI) | 7,772 | 843 | 6,896 | 146 | 271 | 138 |
| Other violations | 8,628 | 1,685 | 6,868 | 162 | 542 | 137 |

*Source: Indiana Criminal Justice Institute*

# Age and Its Impact: Elderly Drivers

There's cause for concern about elderly drivers because they have higher rates of fatal crashes than all but the youngest drivers per mile driven. Studies show that elderly drivers don't deal as well as younger ones with complex traffic situations, and multiple-vehicle crashes at intersections increase markedly with age. Elderly drivers are more likely to get traffic citations for failing to yield, turning improperly and running stop signs and red lights.

Additionally, elderly people are more susceptible than younger people to medical complications following motor vehicle crash injuries. This means they're more likely to die from their injuries.

## CRASH TYPES

- About half of fatal crashes involving drivers 80 years and older occur at intersections and involve more than one vehicle. This compares with 22 percent among drivers up to age 50.

- People 80 years and older have the highest pedestrian death rates per 100,000

- The rate of pedestrian deaths per 100,000 people in 2005 was higher for people 70 and older than for those younger than 70. Pedestrians 80 and older had a fatality rate twice as high as all pedestrians younger than 80 combined. For all age groups the rate of pedestrian deaths per capita was higher for males than females.

## ELDERLY FATALITIES IN MOTOR VEHICLES

- 5,032 people 70-years-old and older died in motor vehicle crashes in 2005. This is 14 percent fewer than in 1997 but a 33 percent increase since 1977.

- Eighty-percent of motor vehicle crash deaths in 2005 involving people 70 and older were passenger vehicle occupants, and 15 percent were pedestrians.

- People age 80 and older had more motor vehicle deaths per 100,000 people than other groups except people younger than 25.

- Per mile driven, drivers 80 years and older have higher rates of fatal motor vehicle crashes than drivers in other age groups except teenagers.

- Per licensed drivers, fatal crash rates rise sharply at age 75 and older.

- Since 1975, deaths of elderly passenger vehicle occupants have increased 74 percent while deaths of older pedestrians have declined 43 percent. Although far fewer older adults are killed while riding motorcycles, this number is increasing. Thirteen times as many people 70 and older were killed on motorcycles in 2005 than in 1975.

## Gender differences

- The motor vehicle death rate per 100,000 people begins to rise among males at age 70. By age 85 and older, the rate among men is nearly twice as high as it is at age 40-74.

# Elderly Driving Statistics

## Passenger vehicle fatal crash involvements per 100 million miles traveled by driver age, April 2001–March 2002

| Age | Passenger vehicle fatal crash involvements | Rate | Age | Passenger vehicle fatal crash involvements | Rate |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 16 | 1,021 | 9.3 | 45-49 | 3,530 | 1.6 |
| 17 | 1,410 | 8.3 | 50-54 | 2,878 | 1.3 |
| 18 | 1,790 | 6.5 | 55-59 | 2,238 | 1.6 |
| 19 | 1,885 | 7.2 | 60-64 | 1,678 | 1.5 |
| 20-24 | 7,184 | 4.3 | 65-69 | 1,416 | 1.7 |
| 25-29 | 4,873 | 2.3 | 70-74 | 1,453 5 | 2.5 |
| 30-34 | 4,438 | 1.7 | 75-79 | 1,477 | 4.2 |
| 35-39 | 4,492 | 1.7 | 80-84 | 1,046 | 6.3 |
| 40-44 | 4,255 | 1.5 | >85 | 740 | 14.5 |

## Motor Vehicle Crash Deaths per 100,000 People by Age and Gender 2005

| | Male | | | Female | | | Total | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Age | Population | Deaths | Rate | Population | Deaths | Rate | Population | Deaths | Rate |
| <16 | 33,305,469 | 1,334 | 4.0 | 31,781,247 | 1,012 | 3.2 | 65,086,716 | 2,348 | 3.6 |
| 16-19 | 8,541,332 | 2,992 | 35.0 | 8,111,201 | 1,467 | 18.1 | 16,652,533 | 4,459 | 26.8 |
| 20-24 | 10,856,936 | 4,498 | 41.4 | 10,180,924 | 1,364 | 13.4 | 21,037,860 | 5,862 | 27.9 |
| 25-29 | 10,268,169 | 2,964 | 28.9 | 9,797,533 | 888 | 9.1 | 20,065,702 | 3,852 | 19.2 |
| 30-34 | 10,153,091 | 2,402 | 23.7 | 9,924,119 | 830 | 8.4 | 20,077,210 | 3,232 | 16.1 |
| 35-39 | 10,563,375 | 2,274 | 21.5 | 10,438,579 | 853 | 8.2 | 21,001,954 | 3,127 | 14.9 |
| 40-44 | 11,376,664 | 2,473 | 21.7 | 11,483,846 | 970 | 8.4 | 22,860,510 | 3,443 | 15.1 |
| 45-49 | 11,106,575 | 2,361 | 21.3 | 11,377,948 | 934 | 8.2 | 22,484,523 | 3,295 | 14.7 |
| 50-54 | 9,788,780 | 2,101 | 21.5 | 10,208,962 | 771 | 7.6 | 19,997,742 | 2,872 | 14.4 |
| 55-59 | 8,425,070 | 1,643 | 19.5 | 8,928,608 | 728 | 8.2 | 17,353,678 | 2,371 | 13.7 |
| 60-64 | 6,201,648 | 1,211 | 19.5 | 6,800,215 | 602 | 8.9 | 13,001,863 | 1,813 | 13.9 |
| 65-69 | 4,721,791 | 944 | 20.0 | 5,409,653 | 536 | 9.9 | 10,131,444 | 1,480 | 14.6 |
| 70-74 | 3,807,605 | 827 | 21.7 | 4,700,764 | 509 | 10.8 | 8,508,369 | 1,336 | 15.7 |
| 75-79 | 3,117,774 | 818 | 26.2 | 4,294,039 | 591 | 13.8 | 7,411,813 | 1,410 | 19.0 |
| 80-84 | 2,161,671 | 684 | 31.6 | 3,480,878 | 535 | 15.4 | 5,642,549 | 1,219 | 21.6 |
| > 85 | 1,603,796 | 599 | 37.3 | 3,492,142 | 468 | 13.4 | 5,095,938 | 1,067 | 20.9 |

*Source: Insurance Institute for Highway Safety*

# Automobile Crash Statistics

## Motor vehicle deaths by type and state, 2005

| State | Passenger car occupants | | Pickup and SUV occupants | | Large truck occupants | | Motorcyclists | | Pedestrians | | Total motor vehicle deaths |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % | # | % | # |
| Alabama | 579 | 51 | 354 | 31 | 16 | 1 | 61 | 5 | 72 | 6 | 1,131 |
| Alaska | 34 | 47 | 19 | 26 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 10 | 72 |
| Arizona | 359 | 31 | 278 | 24 | 13 | 1 | 122 | 10 | 157 | 13 | 1,177 |
| Arkansas | 273 | 42 | 220 | 34 | 25 | 4 | 63 | 10 | 37 | 6 | 648 |
| California | 1,954 | 45 | 855 | 20 | 36 | 1 | 462 | 11 | 742 | 17 | 4,329 |
| Colorado | 262 | 43 | 175 | 29 | 15 | 2 | 87 | 14 | 48 | 8 | 606 |
| Connecticut | 138 | 50 | 41 | 15 | 5 | 2 | 42 | 15 | 34 | 12 | 274 |
| Delaware | 76 | 57 | 19 | 14 | 2 | 1 | 19 | 14 | 11 | 8 | 134 |
| D.C. | 17 | 35 | 4 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 12 | 16 | 33 | 48 |
| Florida | 1,416 | 40 | 760 | 21 | 46 | 1 | 448 | 13 | 576 | 16 | 3,543 |
| Georgia | 765 | 44 | 554 | 32 | 29 | 2 | 143 | 8 | 150 | 9 | 1,729 |
| Hawaii | 47 | 34 | 22 | 16 | 0 | 0 | 24 | 17 | 35 | 25 | 140 |
| Idaho | 117 | 43 | 105 | 38 | 9 | 3 | 25 | 9 | 9 | 3 | 275 |
| Illinois | 695 | 51 | 255 | 19 | 29 | 2 | 157 | 12 | 164 | 12 | 1,361 |
| **Indiana** | **441** | **47** | **236** | **25** | **29** | **3** | **102** | **11** | **63** | **7** | **938** |
| Iowa | 241 | 54 | 107 | 24 | 6 | 1 | 44 | 10 | 24 | 5 | 450 |
| Kansas | 190 | 44 | 141 | 33 | 11 | 3 | 35 | 8 | 24 | 6 | 428 |
| Kentucky | 496 | 50 | 269 | 27 | 18 | 2 | 87 | 9 | 54 | 5 | 985 |
| Louisiana | 371 | 39 | 325 | 34 | 20 | 2 | 75 | 8 | 109 | 11 | 955 |
| Maine | 91 | 54 | 44 | 26 | 1 | 1 | 15 | 9 | 9 | 5 | 169 |
| Maryland | 288 | 47 | 99 | 16 | 9 | 1 | 84 | 14 | 102 | 17 | 614 |
| Massachusetts | 202 | 46 | 81 | 18 | 1 | 0 | 55 | 12 | 76 | 17 | 442 |
| Michigan | 557 | 49 | 227 | 20 | 5 | 0 | 122 | 11 | 137 | 12 | 1,129 |
| Minnesota | 282 | 50 | 131 | 23 | 12 | 2 | 55 | 10 | 44 | 8 | 559 |
| Mississippi | 464 | 50 | 294 | 32 | 18 | 2 | 39 | 4 | 72 | 8 | 931 |
| Missouri | 631 | 50 | 372 | 30 | 21 | 2 | 88 | 7 | 88 | 7 | 1,257 |
| Montana | 84 | 33 | 112 | 45 | 3 | 1 | 27 | 11 | 13 | 5 | 251 |
| Nebraska | 140 | 51 | 93 | 34 | 5 | 2 | 17 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 276 |
| Nevada | 173 | 41 | 98 | 23 | 13 | 3 | 52 | 12 | 63 | 15 | 427 |
| New Hampshire | 65 | 39 | 40 | 24 | 2 | 1 | 42 | 25 | 5 | 3 | 166 |
| New Jersey | 372 | 50 | 97 | 13 | 21 | 3 | 61 | 8 | 154 | 21 | 748 |
| New Mexico | 172 | 35 | 183 | 38 | 13 | 3 | 37 | 8 | 61 | 12 | 488 |
| New York | 634 | 44 | 179 | 13 | 24 | 2 | 161 | 11 | 321 | 22 | 1,429 |
| North Carolina | 737 | 48 | 390 | 25 | 26 | 2 | 135 | 9 | 164 | 11 | 1,534 |
| North Dakota | 48 | 39 | 45 | 37 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 7 | 123 |
| Ohio | 742 | 56 | 239 | 18 | 18 | 1 | 177 | 13 | 95 | 7 | 1,323 |
| Oklahoma | 350 | 44 | 266 | 33 | 25 | 3 | 75 | 9 | 50 | 6 | 802 |
| Oregon | 210 | 43 | 139 | 28 | 6 | 1 | 48 | 10 | 48 | 10 | 488 |
| Pennsylvania | 853 | 53 | 297 | 18 | 29 | 2 | 197 | 12 | 159 | 10 | 1,616 |
| Rhode Island | 45 | 52 | 10 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 16 | 14 | 16 | 87 |
| South Carolina | 544 | 50 | 279 | 26 | 21 | 2 | 97 | 9 | 98 | 9 | 1,093 |
| South Dakota | 83 | 45 | 52 | 28 | 5 | 3 | 22 | 12 | 14 | 8 | 186 |
| Tennessee | 616 | 49 | 369 | 29 | 21 | 2 | 128 | 10 | 70 | 6 | 1,270 |
| Texas | 1,375 | 39 | 1,090 | 31 | 73 | 2 | 354 | 10 | 419 | 12 | 3,504 |
| Utah | 119 | 42 | 91 | 32 | 10 | 4 | 23 | 8 | 20 | 7 | 282 |
| Vermont | 43 | 59 | 11 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 19 | 3 | 4 | 73 |
| Virginia | 456 | 48 | 253 | 27 | 25 | 3 | 69 | 7 | 88 | 9 | 947 |
| Washington | 312 | 48 | 142 | 22 | 11 | 2 | 73 | 11 | 71 | 11 | 647 |
| West Virginia | 170 | 45 | 106 | 28 | 9 | 2 | 33 | 9 | 23 | 6 | 374 |
| Wisconsin | 430 | 53 | 192 | 24 | 13 | 2 | 93 | 11 | 44 | 5 | 815 |
| Wyoming | 52 | 31 | 74 | 44 | 7 | 4 | 20 | 12 | 7 | 4 | 170 |
| **US total** | **19,811** | **46** | **10,834** | **25** | **759** | **2** | **4,439** | **10** | **4,881** | **11** | **43,443** |