



Highway Safety Report



FAST FACTS

Wyoming crash data from 2018-2022 report that:

- ✓ Around 32% of all traffic crashes involved a young driver.
- ✓ A quarter (25%) of all fatal traffic crashes involved a young driver.
- ✓ Young drivers 16-17 years old had the highest number of drivers involved in a traffic crash (22.7%).
- ✓ Winter weather and/or road conditions were present in 27% of all young driver involved traffic crashes.
- ✓ Speed was a potential contributing factor in nearly 25% of all young driver involved traffic crashes.
- ✓ Distracted driving was suspected in around 9% of all young driver involved crashes.
- ✓ Almost 6% of young driver involved crashes were also impaired crashes.
- ✓ Around 7% of all young people in a young driver involved crash were not properly wearing a seat belt at the time of the crash.

CRASH CATEGORIES:

Critical Crashes – fatal and suspected serious injury crashes.

Serious Crashes – suspected minor injury and possible injury crashes.

Damage Crashes – no apparent injury and injury unknown crashes.

Young Driver Safety

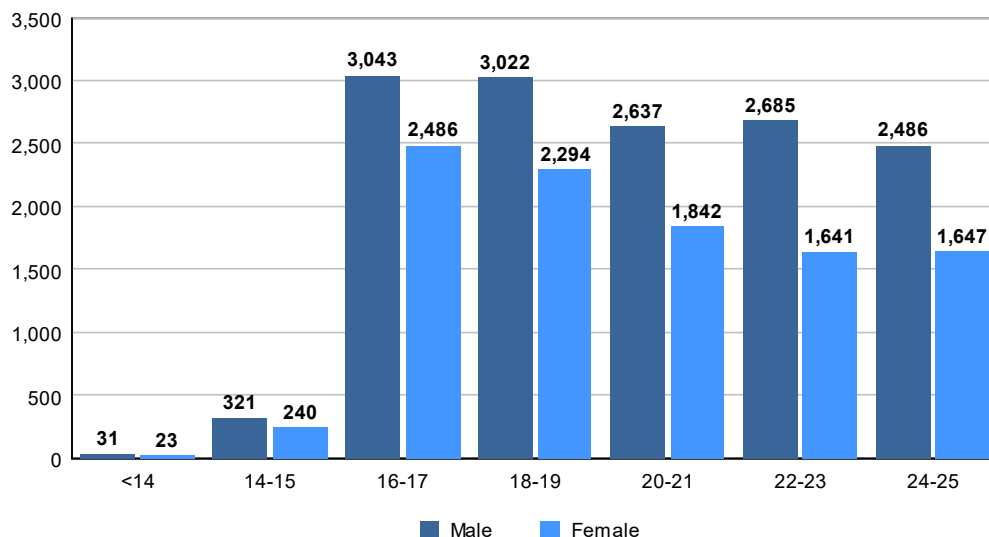
Critical crashes tend to occur more frequently in the young driver (age 25 years or less) portion of the driving population. In fact, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, traffic crashes are ranked as the leading cause of death for people 15-24 years old. Young drivers are inexperienced and can show poor judgement in the face of driving challenges such as increased traffic, inclement weather, higher speeds, distractions, impaired driving, and peer pressure. This can increase the chance of dangerous situations for the young driver, their vehicle occupants, and other roadway users around them.

In Wyoming, during the most recent five-year period (2018-2022), 22,121 traffic crashes involved a young driver, which accounted for around 32% of all traffic crashes. These young driver involved crashes included 658 critical crashes (29% of all critical crashes), 3,947 serious crashes (38% of all serious crashes), and 17,516 damage crashes (31% of all damage crashes) resulting in 167 fatal injuries, 681 suspected serious injuries, 2,894 suspected minor injuries, and 2,615 possible injuries.

When looking specifically at critical crashes over the last five years, 25% of fatal crashes (140) and 31% of suspected serious injury crashes (518) were young driver involved crashes. These crashes resulted in 115 fatal injuries and 497 suspected serious injuries for people aged 25 years or less.

Young drivers 16-17 years old had the highest number of drivers involved in a traffic crash (22.7%), followed closely by 18-19 (21.8%), then 20-21 (18.4%), 22-23 (17.7%), and 24-25 (16.9%). This seems to support the idea that driving competence increases over time with more driving experience. The younger the driver, the more underdeveloped their driving abilities tend to be. This includes poorer situation perception, slower reaction time, and underdeveloped vehicle maneuvering skills.

Young Driver by Age and Gender (2018-2022)



BY THE NUMBERS

WYDOT Crash Data October 1, 2023 vs. (October 1, 2022)

Fatalities: 105 (99)

Serious Injuries: 346 (358)

**Alcohol-Involved
Fatalities: 24 (33)**

**Bicycle-Involved
Fatalities: 1 (1)**

**CMV-Involved
Fatalities: 28 (19)**

**Drug-Involved
Fatalities: 19 (29)**

**Motorcycle-Involved
Fatalities: 13 (19)**

**Pedestrian-Involved
Fatalities: 9 (7)**

**Speed-Related
Fatalities: 50 (45)**

Data current as of 10/10/2023



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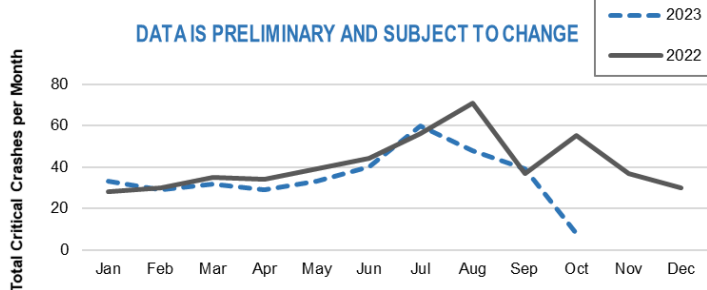
Young driver safety risks include:

1. Inclement Weather: Young drivers often lack the knowledge and skills necessary to adapt to more challenging weather and roadway conditions.
2. Speed: Speeding is a critical issue for ALL drivers, but it is especially deadly for young drivers who lack the experience to react to changing circumstances.
3. Distracted Driving: Distracted driving includes any activity that takes the driver's attention away from the task of safe driving, which includes cell phone use, eating or drinking, other passengers, and interior vehicle controls.
4. Impaired Driving: Driving under the influence of any impairing substance (alcohol, illicit drugs, prescription drugs, over-the-counter medication) can have deadly consequences.
5. Seat Belt Use: The easiest way to try to stay safe in case of a motor vehicle crash is to wear a seat belt. Drivers and passengers are more likely to die in a crash if they are unbuckled.
6. Passengers: Research shows the risk of a fatal crash dramatically increases in direct relation to the number of passengers in a vehicle. For young drivers, especially teen drivers, the likelihood the driver will engage in risky behavior triples when multiple passengers are in the same vehicle.

Parents and guardians can help young drivers by discussing risky driving behaviors and setting firm driving rules. Research shows that young drivers whose parents set and enforce firm rules for driving typically engaged in less risky driving behaviors and were involved in fewer crashes.

National Teen Driver Safety Week is October 15-21, 2023: The U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) encourages parents and guardians to take this opportunity to have a conversation with teen drivers about safe driving habits and to continue to have this conversation regularly. NHTSA offers detailed information and statistics on teen driving and outlines helpful tips to address teen driver safety: www.nhtsa.gov/road-safety/teen-driving.

Monthly Critical Crash Comparison:
2022 and 2023



Total as of 10/10/2023

WYDOT Completed Safety Treatment Locations (Active)
as of October 10, 2023

District	Count	Annual Lifecycle Cost	Average Benefit to Cost	Annual Critical Crash Reduction
1	267	\$ 81,727.00	269.21	13.26
2	288	\$ 266,868.00	173.47	5.78
3	576	\$ 228,217.00	85.48	9.96
4	491	\$ 86,247.00	273.09	8.02
5	65	\$ 24,365.00	358.16	0.98
State	1,687	\$ 687,424.00	197.69	38.01