

Historical trend of young driver-related fatalities, United States, 1982-2021

Year	Total deaths	Young drivers (ages 15 to 20)	Passenger fatalities of young drivers	Occupant fatalities of all other vehicles	Non-occupant fatalities
1982	10,984	4,526	2,801	2,386	1,271
1983	10,390	4,252	2,716	2,258	1,164
1984	10,942	4,525	2,784	2,398	1,235
1985	10,439	4,281	2,612	2,400	1,146
1986	11,416	4,658	3,098	2,484	1,176
1987	11,168	4,582	2,959	2,439	1,188
1988	11,290	4,619	2,975	2,460	1,236
1989	10,628	4,222	2,872	2,431	1,103
1990	10,003	4,053	2,783	2,177	990
1991	9,169	3,573	2,619	2,037	940
1992	8,172	3,153	2,362	1,831	826
1993	8,355	3,228	2,442	1,863	822
1994	8,875	3,449	2,513	2,102	811
1995	8,936	3,348	2,579	2,143	866
1996	9,037	3,389	2,635	2,190	823
1997	8,921	3,358	2,635	2,139	789
1998	8,819	3,431	2,489	2,091	808
1999	9,139	3,564	2,578	2,245	752
2000	9,097	3,621	2,535	2,185	756
2001	9,064	3,617	2,529	2,172	746
2002	9,251	3,838	2,565	2,153	695
2003	8,727	3,675	2,399	1,997	656
2004	8,782	3,634	2,402	2,113	633
2005	8,241	3,474	2,197	1,946	624
2006	8,211	3,490	2,177	1,912	632
2007	7,694	3,190	2,044	1,829	631
2008	6,452	2,742	1,662	1,527	521

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2009	5,649	2,343	1,456	1,381	469
2010	5,041	1,965	1,333	1,250	493
2011	4,782	1,993	1,194	1,122	473
2012	4,672	1,880	1,060	1,230	502
2013	4,367	1,696	1,069	1,133	469
2014	4,285	1,723	1,015	1,093	454
2015	4,744	1,903	982	1,326	533
2016	4,895	1,916	1,033	1,348	598
2017	4,800	1,844	986	1,396	574
2018	4,528	1,729	919	1,318	562
2019	4,391	1,616	888	1,373	514
2020	5,069	1,899	1,090	1,487	593
2021	5,565	2,116	1,065	1,666	718

Source: National Safety Council analysis of National Highway Traffic Safety Administration data.

Estimated annual proportion of trips taken by drivers aged 16 and 17 years old compared to the proportion of fatal crashes by time of day, 2009-2014

Time of day	Annual number of trips (millions)		Fatal crashes	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
6:00 a.m. to 8:59 p.m.	3,060	89.6%	4,239	69.4%
9:00 p.m. to 11:59 p.m.	332	9.7%	1,054	17.3%
12:00 a.m. to 5:59 a.m.	24	0.7%	811	13.3%
Total	3,417	100.0%	6,104	100.0%

Shults, R.A. & Williams, A.F. (2016). Graduated Driver Licensing Night Driving Restrictions and Drivers Aged 16 or 17 Years Involved in Fatal Night Crashes – United States, 2009-2014. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2016; 65:725-730.

**Percentage of Speeding Drivers in Fatal
Crashes, by Age and Gender, 2021**

age	Male	Female
15 to 20	35%	21%
21 to 24	31%	19%
25 to 34	27%	16%
35 to 44	21%	14%
45 to 54	16%	10%
55 to 64	12%	8%
65 to 74	10%	7%
75+	8%	5%

Source: NSC analysis of NHTSA FARS data.

Alcohol impairment by age of driver, 2021

Age of driver	Number of drivers involved in fatal crashes	Alcohol impaired drivers involved in fatal crashes		Number of drivers killed	Alcohol impaired drivers killed in fatal crashes	
		Number of drivers	Percent of total		Number of drivers	Percent of total
15 to 20	5,088	884	17%	2,116	471	22%
21 to 24	5,513	1,499	27%	2,398	914	38%
25 to 34	13,200	3,531	27%	5,889	2,282	39%
35 to 44	10,291	2,417	23%	4,478	1,639	37%
45 to 54	8,764	1,735	20%	3,943	1,252	32%
55 to 64	8,085	1,284	16%	3,799	908	24%
65 to 74	4,768	589	12%	2,562	430	17%
75 and older	3,263	253	8%	2,129	174	8%

Source: NSC analysis of NHTSA FARS data

**Cumulative Estimated Number of Lives Saved
by Minimum Drinking Age Laws, 1975-2017**

Year	Cumulative Live Saved
1975–2005	24,619
2006	25,507
2007	26,338
2008	27,054
2009	27,690
2010	28,250
2011	28,793
2012	29,330
2013	29,837
2014	30,323
2015	30,865
2016	31,417
2017	31,959

Source: National Center for Statistics and Analysis. (2019, May). Young drivers: 2017 data. (Traffic Safety Facts. Report No. DOT HS 812 753) . Washington, DC: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.