

Traffic Safety Facts

Crash•Stats

Most Fatalities in Young (15- to 20-Year-Old) Driver Crashes Are Young Drivers and Their Young Passengers

Most of the people killed in crashes involving young drivers (15 through 20 years of age) are the young drivers themselves or passengers in the vehicles driven by the young drivers. Most of these passengers are in the same age group as the young drivers. These data are from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS).

Of the 8,738 people killed in crashes involving young drivers in 2004, 3,620 (41%) were the young drivers themselves and 2,391 (27%) were passengers in the vehicles driven by the young drivers (see Chart 1). The remaining 2,727 (31%) were occupants of other vehicles, nonoccupants and occupants of vehicles not in transport. Among the 2,391 passengers killed in vehicles driven by young drivers, 1,523 (64%) were passengers in the same age group (see Chart 2). Thus, of all the people killed in crashes involving young drivers, a majority (5,143 or 59%) were 15- to 20-year-olds.

Table 1 shows that this same pattern exists over the period 2000 – 2004. Table 2 shows fatalities in crashes involving 15- to 20-year-old drivers by person type and State for 2004. The breakdown of passengers by age group is shown both in number and percent.

Table 1
Fatalities in Crashes Involving a 15- to 20-Year-Old Driver by Person Type and Year

Year	Young Driver (Age 15-20)	Passenger of Young Driver, by Age					All Others	Total
		<15 (%)	15-20 (%)	>20+ (%)	Unk.	Total (%)		
2000	3,621	308 (12)	1,629 (64)	589 (23)	9	2,535 (100)	2,941	9,097
2001	3,617	284 (11)	1,615 (64)	623 (25)	7	2,529 (100)	2,918	9,064
2002	3,838	274 (11)	1,679 (65)	604 (24)	8	2,565 (100)	2,848	9,251
2003	3,675	297 (12)	1,522 (63)	576 (24)	4	2,399 (100)	2,653	8,727
2004	3,620	312 (13)	1,523 (64)	548 (23)	8	2,391 (100)	2,727	8,738

Source: NCSA, FARS 2000-2003 (Final), 2004 (ARF)

Unk. - Unknown

Chart 1: People Killed in Crashes Involving a Young Driver in 2004

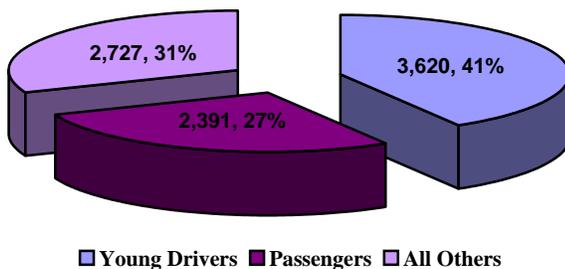
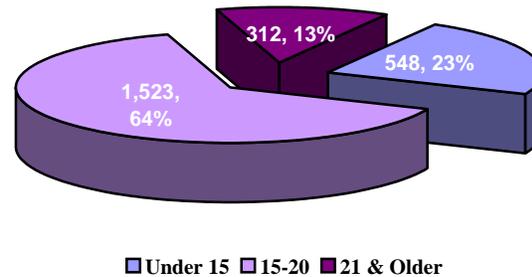


Chart 2: Passenger Fatalities in a Vehicle Driven by a Young Driver in 2004



Definitions: Passengers – people who were traveling in the vehicle with the young driver at the time of the crash; All Others – occupants of other vehicles, and nonoccupants (pedestrians, bicyclists).

FARS annually collects data on fatal crashes from the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. FARS data is made available by the NHTSA’s National Center for Statistics and Analysis (NCSA).

Table 2 - Fatalities in 2004 in Crashes Involving a 15-20 Year Old Driver by Person Type and State

State	Young Driver	Passenger of Young Driver, by Age					All Others	Total
		<15 (%)	15-20 (%)	21+ (%)	Unk.	Total (%)		
Alabama	108	10 (14)	45 (62)	17 (24)	0	72 (100)	78	258
Alaska	6	0 (0)	4 (100)	0 (0)	0	4 (100)	7	17
Arizona	83	6 (9)	38 (56)	23 (34)	1	68 (100)	76	227
Arkansas	64	8 (19)	25 (58)	10 (23)	0	43 (100)	45	152
California	278	32 (13)	159 (66)	50 (21)	0	241 (100)	248	767
Colorado	59	5 (9)	35 (66)	13 (25)	0	53 (100)	58	170
Connecticut	28	4 (24)	8 (47)	5 (29)	0	17 (100)	12	57
Delaware	16	4 (44)	5 (56)	0 (0)	0	9 (100)	11	36
Dist of Columbia	3	0 (0)	3 (100)	0 (0)	0	3 (100)	7	13
Florida	235	20 (15)	76 (56)	40 (29)	0	136 (100)	241	612
Georgia	126	15 (19)	43 (54)	20 (25)	1	79 (100)	124	329
Hawaii	13	1 (13)	3 (38)	4 (50)	0	8 (100)	12	33
Idaho	21	2 (11)	6 (32)	11 (58)	0	19 (100)	12	52
Illinois	95	8 (11)	50 (71)	12 (17)	0	70 (100)	90	255
Indiana	98	9 (14)	46 (71)	10 (15)	0	65 (100)	54	217
Iowa	31	8 (32)	12 (48)	5 (20)	0	25 (100)	26	82
Kansas	48	5 (25)	13 (65)	2 (10)	0	20 (100)	30	98
Kentucky	95	4 (8)	33 (67)	12 (24)	0	49 (100)	56	200
Louisiana	80	7 (14)	35 (69)	9 (18)	0	51 (100)	67	198
Maine	22	1 (7)	12 (80)	2 (13)	0	15 (100)	14	51
Maryland	54	3 (11)	23 (82)	2 (7)	0	28 (100)	29	111
Massachusetts	40	3 (10)	23 (77)	4 (13)	0	30 (100)	27	97
Michigan	104	11 (14)	55 (71)	12 (15)	0	78 (100)	79	261
Minnesota	57	6 (15)	20 (51)	12 (31)	1	39 (100)	47	143
Mississippi	95	10 (20)	26 (51)	15 (29)	0	51 (100)	61	207
Missouri	117	9 (14)	45 (71)	9 (14)	0	63 (100)	64	244
Montana	23	1 (8)	11 (85)	1 (8)	0	13 (100)	6	42
Nebraska	27	1 (5)	14 (70)	5 (25)	0	20 (100)	20	67
Nevada	22	1 (7)	10 (71)	3 (21)	0	14 (100)	24	60
New Hampshire	18	0 (0)	5 (45)	6 (55)	0	11 (100)	13	42
New Jersey	48	0 (0)	17 (71)	7 (29)	0	24 (100)	40	112
New Mexico	39	1 (4)	19 (79)	4 (17)	0	24 (100)	28	91
New York	119	3 (5)	52 (80)	9 (14)	1	65 (100)	88	272
North Carolina	157	10 (13)	46 (58)	23 (29)	1	80 (100)	114	351
North Dakota	8	1 (33)	1 (33)	1 (33)	0	3 (100)	3	14
Ohio	123	15 (17)	54 (61)	18 (20)	1	88 (100)	86	297
Oklahoma	73	4 (7)	36 (67)	14 (26)	0	54 (100)	65	192
Oregon	40	2 (9)	15 (65)	6 (26)	0	23 (100)	29	92
Pennsylvania	139	12 (15)	60 (75)	8 (10)	0	80 (100)	104	323
Rhode Island	8	0 (0)	7 (70)	3 (30)	0	10 (100)	2	20
South Carolina	80	7 (15)	29 (60)	12 (25)	0	48 (100)	45	173
South Dakota	13	3 (25)	6 (50)	3 (25)	0	12 (100)	9	34
Tennessee	134	19 (24)	41 (53)	18 (23)	0	78 (100)	62	274
Texas	275	31 (13)	135 (57)	69 (29)	1	236 (100)	241	752
Utah	15	0 (0)	8 (62)	5 (38)	0	13 (100)	29	57
Vermont	11	0 (0)	6 (100)	0 (0)	0	6 (100)	6	23
Virginia	94	4 (7)	39 (71)	12 (22)	0	55 (100)	50	199
Washington	51	2 (5)	31 (76)	7 (17)	1	41 (100)	28	120
West Virginia	38	0 (0)	11 (85)	2 (15)	0	13 (100)	14	65
Wisconsin	79	4 (13)	19 (63)	7 (23)	0	30 (100)	41	150
Wyoming	10	0 (0)	8 (57)	6 (43)	0	14 (100)	5	29
NATIONAL	3,620	312 (13)	1,523 (64)	548 (23)	8	2,391 (100)	2,727	8,738
Puerto Rico	39	3 (14)	14 (67)	4 (19)	0	21 (100)	39	99
Source: NCSA, FARS 2004(ARF)		Unk. - Unknown						

For questions regarding the above reported data, contact Cherian Varghese at 202-366-1114 or Umesh G. Shankar at 202-366-5558. This issue of Crash•Stats and other general information on highway traffic safety may be accessed by Internet users at: www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/departments/nrd-30/ncsa/AvailInf.html