

Quick Facts

Illinois Crash Information 2007

Young Drivers (Aged 16 to 20)

Young drivers have less driving experience than older drivers, so an evaluation of their involvement in motor vehicle incidents is particularly important.

	All Crashes	Crashes Involving One or More Young Drivers (Age 16-20)
Crashes:	422,889	83,848
Fatal Crashes:	1,126	241
Injury Crashes:	73,220	16,720
Total People Involved:	983,373 ^a	226,050 ^a
Total Fatalities:	1,250 ^a	282 ^a
Total Non-Fatal Injuries:	103,174 ^a	25,500 ^a

^aTotals include occupants and non-occupants; e.g. 983,373 total people = 973,034 occupants + 10,339 non-occupants

Overall, 282 (22.6%) of all 1,250 traffic fatalities in Illinois in 2007 occurred in crashes involving one or more young drivers (aged 16 to 20). Fatally injured young drivers themselves accounted for 108 (8.6%) of all 1,254 traffic fatalities in Illinois in 2007. Other people involved in these crashes—including other drivers as well as passengers, pedestrians, pedalcyclists and other non-occupants—accounted for 118 (9.4%) of all 1,250 traffic fatalities in Illinois in 2007.

Demographics

- 50,111 (55.2%) of all 90,840 young drivers aged 16 to 20 involved in crashes were male.[†] In comparison, 332,979 (58.7%) of all 567,697 drivers aged 21 & above involved in crashes were male.[†]
- Young drivers accounted for a disproportionate number of all crashes, as they represented just 589,941 (7.2%) of all 8,190,023 licensed drivers in Illinois but 90,850 (13.8%) of all 658,592 drivers in crashes, 251 (15.0%) of all 1,670 drivers in fatal crashes and 118 (15.4%) of all 767 fatally injured drivers.[‡]

	Percent in Age Group*								Total
	16-20	21-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-69	70+	
Population **	9.4	7.0	19.0	20.8	17.1	10.9	4.2	11.6	100.0
Licensed Drivers ***	7.3	6.7	17.5	19.0	20.0	15.0	4.8	9.7	100.0
Drivers in crashes	13.8	10.6	21.8	19.3	16.8	10.2	2.7	4.8	100.0
Drivers in fatal crashes	15.0	11.4	18.3	18.8	15.1	10.2	3.2	7.9	100.0
Fatally injured drivers	15.4	11.6	18.6	14.6	14.6	10.8	3.3	11.1	100.0

* Ages 16 and above, where age was known

** Source: Census 2000, U.S. Census Bureau

*** Source: Highway Statistics 2007, Federal Highway Administration

[†] Where sex and age were known

[‡] Where age was known

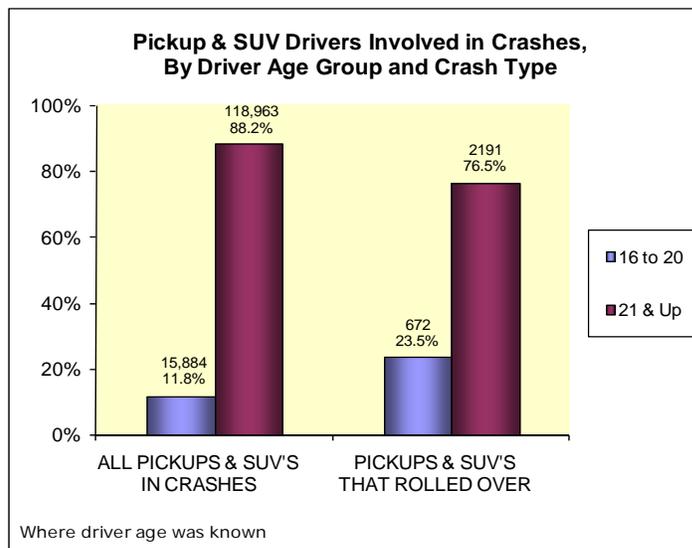
Note: Data as of March 23, 2009; with 422,889 crash records, 785,918 vehicle records and 983,373 person records

Characteristics of crashes involving young drivers

- 12,853 (15.3%) of all 83,848 crashes involving young drivers were speeding-related[§], compared with 34,373 (10.1%) of all 338,857 crashes in which no young driver was involved
- 40,002 (47.7%) of all 83,848 crashes involving young drivers were intersection-related, compared with 126,897 (37.5%) of all 338,857 crashes in which no young driver was involved
- 15,301 (18.3%) of all 83,848 crashes involving young drivers were single vehicle crashes, compared with 78,271 (23.1%) of all 338,857 crashes in which no young driver was involved.
- Seat belt use^{**} was reported for 77,382 (86.8%) of all 89,133 young drivers of passengers cars/light trucks^{††} involved with crashes, compared with 440,137 (84.6%) of all 520,192 older drivers of passengers cars/light trucks.

Pickup & SUV Rollovers

- Young drivers were behind the wheel of just 11.8% of all pickups and SUV's involved in crashes, yet they were behind the wheel during 23.5% of all pickup and SUV rollovers.^{‡‡}
- 21 fatalities (1.7% of all 1,250 traffic fatalities in Illinois in 2007) resulted from crashes in which young drivers were behind the wheel of pickups and SUV's that suffered rollovers.



[§] "Speeding-related" was defined as crashes in which at least one driver in the crash was driving too fast for conditions or in which exceeding the speed limit or excessive speed for conditions was listed by police as a cause of the crash

^{**} Percent using seat belts was defined as the number of people for whom seat belt use was reported divided by the total number of people involved in crashes.

^{††} Passenger cars and light trucks for this analysis were defined as passenger cars, pickup trucks, vans, minivans and SUV's according to classifications used by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

^{‡‡} Where driver age was known

Geographic Information

- 13,385 (16.0%) of all 83,848 crashes involving young drivers took place on roads that were classified as "rural" road use, compared with 46,467 (15.9%) of all 292,574 crashes in which no young driver was involved.
- 53,500 (63.8%) of all 83,848 crashes involving young drivers took place in Illinois counties outside Cook County, compared with 162,497 (47.9%) of all 339,041 crashes in which no young driver was involved.

	Crashes Involving One or More Young Drivers		Crashes Involving No Young Drivers	
	n	(%)	n	(%)
Chicago	12,830	(15.3%)	108,014	(31.9%)
Suburban Cook County	17,518	(20.9%)	68,530	(20.2%)
Chicago Collar Counties	22,102	(26.4%)	65,493	(19.3%)
Rest of State - Urban	16,524	(19.7%)	48,888	(14.4%)
Rest of State - Rural	14,874	(17.7%)	48,116	(14.2%)

Note: Counties were stratified according to criteria defined by the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System for the Illinois Department of Public Health

Time of Day

The percentage of crashes involving young drivers varied by time of day.

- Crashes that occurred between 4:00 am and 6:59 am were least likely to involve young drivers
- During early morning commute hours for work/school, there was a peak in percentage of crashes involving young drivers
- Other peaks occurred during late afternoon and late evening hours.

