

Fatal and Serious Injury Motor Vehicle Crashes:

Younger Driver Crashes

On Minnesota roadways, there were 1,495 crashes involving a younger driver resulting in fatality or serious injury between 2019 and 2023. This is an average of 299 crashes per year and accounted for 16% of all the fatal and serious injury crashes in this period.

Younger Drivers are a Strategic Focus Area. The strategic focus areas are emerging priorities. They are rising in importance due to factors such as changes in prevalence, public/stakeholder perception, and demographics. Strategies and tactics are available in the 2020-2024 Strategic Highway Safety Plan. (www.mndot.gov/trafficeng/safety/shsp/index.html)

Focus Area definitions are published in the SHSP Technical Report. (www.mndot.gov/trafficeng/safety/shsp/technical-report.pdf)

Distribution of Younger Driver Crashes by Roadway Jurisdiction

	Rural		Urban		Total	
Trunk Highway	115	14%	93	11%	208	25%
County	191	23%	130	15%	321	38%
City	13	2%	206	25%	219	26%
Township	73	9%	0	0%	73	9%
Other	8	1%	10	1%	19	2%
Total	400	48%	439	52%	840	100%

Crashes involving a younger driver occur most frequently on the county system.

Rural is defined as a population less than 5,000, per Crash Facts; crashes that are not geolocated are included in total but not rural/urban columns.

Distribution of Younger Driver Crashes by TZD Region

	Rural		Urban		Total	
Northeast	29	59%	20	41%	49	100%
Northwest	35	85%	6	15%	41	100%
East Central	91	73%	33	27%	124	100%
West Central	46	84%	9	16%	55	100%
Southeast	54	70%	23	30%	77	100%
South Central	50	81%	12	19%	62	100%
Southwest	46	79%	12	21%	58	100%
Metro	49	13%	324	87%	374	100%
Total	400	48%	439	52%	840	100%

Crashes involving a younger driver occur most frequently in urban areas.

55% of these crashes occurred in Greater Minnesota.

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Light Conditions

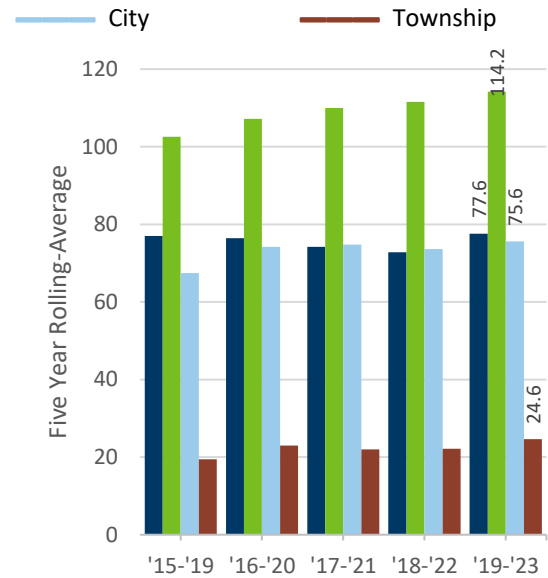
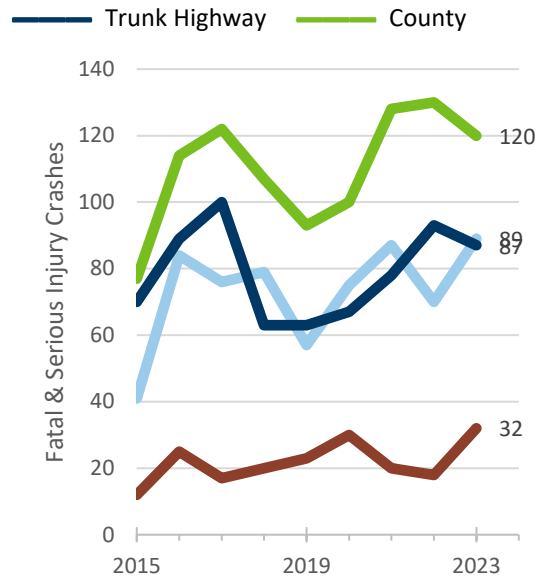
	Focus Area	All KA
Daylight	56.5%	59.7%
Sunrise/Sunset	6.0%	6.2%
Night/Dark	37.4%	33.6%
Street Lights On	20.9%	18.7%
Street Lights Off	0.9%	0.9%
Unknown/No Lighting	15.6%	14.0%
Other/Unknown	0.1%	0.5%

Roadway Conditions

	Focus Area	All KA
Dry	76.7%	78.3%
Wet	8.2%	8.8%
Snow/Slush/Ice	9.0%	8.8%
Other	6.2%	4.1%

Trends in Younger Driver Crashes

Statewide, the percent of all fatal and serious injury crashes involving a younger driver is increasing.



NOTE: In 2016, Minnesota modified the injury severity definitions to align with Federal Standards. This change resulted in an 80% increase in reported serious injury crashes.

Interaction with other Strategic Highway Safety Plan focus areas

Focus Area	Younger Driver Crashes		All K+A Crash Types		Difference	Rank*
Speed	455	30.4%	2,154	23.0%	+ 7.4%	↑ #1
Intersection	807	54.0%	4,575	48.8%	+ 5.1%	↑ #2
Head-on	202	13.5%	1,057	11.3%	+ 2.2%	—
Inattentive Driver	148	9.9%	735	7.8%	+ 2.1%	—
Unbelted Occupant	241	16.1%	1,346	14.4%	+ 1.7%	—
Work Zone	30	2.0%	197	2.1%	- 0.1%	—
Train	0	0.0%	18	0.2%	- 0.2%	—
Unlicensed Driver	286	19.1%	1,918	20.5%	- 1.3%	—
Bicyclist	33	2.2%	364	3.9%	- 1.7%	—
Single Veh. Run-off-road	447	29.9%	2,980	31.8%	- 1.9%	—
Commercial Vehicle	86	5.8%	824	8.8%	- 3.0%	↓
Pedestrian	111	7.4%	1,037	11.1%	- 3.6%	↓
Impaired User	314	21.0%	2,616	27.9%	- 6.9%	↓
Motorcycle	142	9.5%	1,572	16.8%	- 7.3%	↓
Older Driver	166	11.1%	1,771	18.9%	- 7.8%	↓
Younger Driver	1,495	100.0%	1,495	16.0%	N/A	N/A

* Rankings shows areas with greatest overrepresentation compared to all fatal and serious injury crashes.

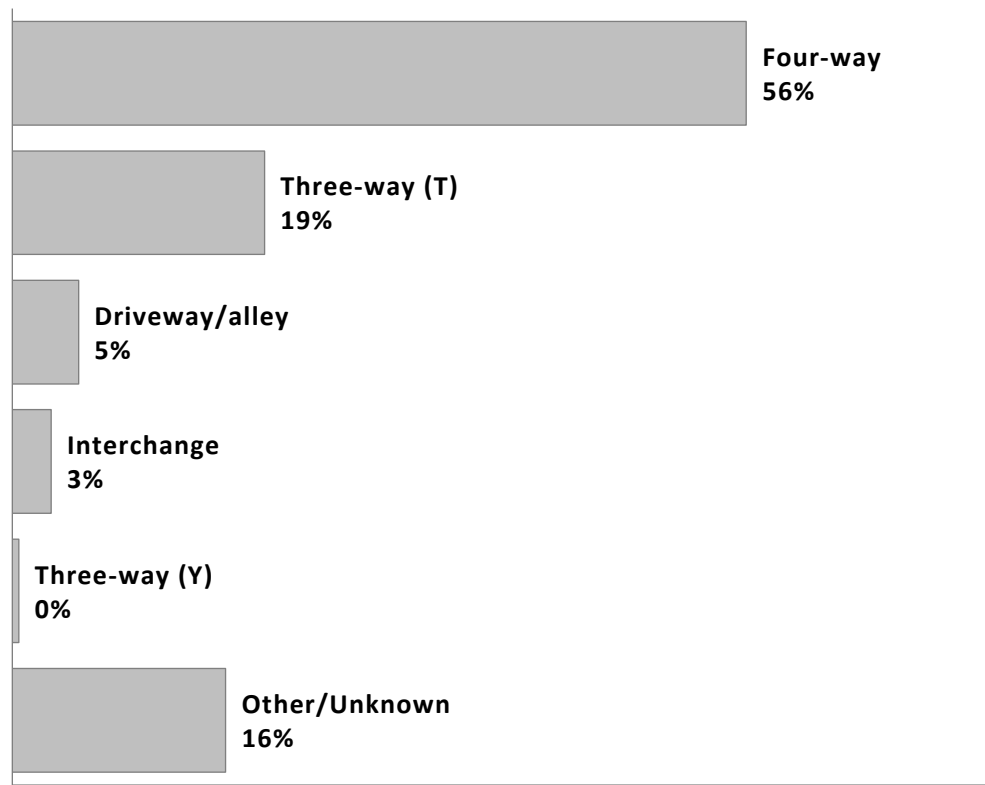
Compared to all fatal and serious injury crashes, the Speed and Intersection focus areas are over-represented in crashes involving a younger driver. These focus areas may present unique challenges and opportunities for reducing Younger Driver Crashes in Minnesota.

Seasonality of Younger Driver Crashes

	3 AM to 6 AM	6 AM to 9 AM	9 AM to 12 PM	12 PM to 3 PM	3 PM to 6 PM	6 PM to 9 PM	9 PM to 12 AM	12 AM to 3 AM	Σ
January	0.1%	0.5%	0.5%	0.3%	0.7%	1.1%	0.8%	0.3%	4%
February	0.1%	0.5%	0.4%	0.9%	1.1%	1.1%	0.8%	0.6%	6%
March	0.3%	0.6%	0.4%	0.9%	1.2%	0.3%	1.3%	0.6%	6%
April	0.4%	0.4%	0.7%	0.7%	1.7%	1.3%	0.8%	0.3%	6%
May	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	1.5%	1.9%	2.1%	1.1%	0.7%	9%
June	0.5%	1.1%	0.6%	1.9%	2.5%	1.8%	2.0%	0.8%	11%
July	0.2%	0.4%	0.9%	2.5%	2.7%	2.5%	2.0%	1.2%	12%
August	0.7%	1.1%	1.0%	2.1%	2.1%	2.5%	1.8%	1.1%	12%
September	0.3%	1.2%	1.0%	2.1%	2.1%	1.5%	1.3%	0.7%	10%
October	0.4%	0.6%	0.5%	0.9%	2.3%	1.7%	1.3%	0.8%	9%
November	0.5%	0.7%	0.8%	0.8%	2.1%	1.5%	0.7%	0.5%	8%
December	0.3%	0.8%	0.5%	0.7%	2.0%	1.3%	1.1%	0.4%	7%
Σ	4%	8%	8%	15%	22%	19%	15%	8%	100%

A fatal or serious injury crash involving a younger driver occurred approximately every 24 hours. These crashes are more prevalent in the summer and autumn & during the evening hours; this analysis does not control for existing traffic patterns.

Top Five Intersection Types (where intersection/interchange related)



About 1 in 2 fatal and serious injury crashes involving a younger driver (54%) were intersection or interchange related.