

Impaired Driving

- Motor vehicle crashes remain the number one cause of death among youth ages 15-20. There were 7,460 youth motor vehicle deaths in 2005. (This includes both drivers and passengers.)
[National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#)
- Twenty-eight percent (28%) of 15- to 20-year-old drivers who were killed in motor vehicle crashes in 2005 had been drinking.
[National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#)
- For young drivers (15-20 years old), alcohol involvement is higher among males than among females. In 2005, 24% of the young male drivers involved in fatal crashes had been drinking at the time of the crash, compared with 12% of the young female drivers involved in fatal crashes.
[National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#)
- Drivers are less likely to use seat belts when they have been drinking. In 2005, 64% of the young drivers of passenger vehicles involved in fatal crashes who had been drinking were unrestrained. Of the young drivers who had been drinking and were killed in crashes, 74% were unrestrained.
[National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#)
- It is estimated that 24,560 lives have been saved by minimum drinking age laws since 1975.
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- In 2005, an estimated 906 lives were saved by minimum drinking age laws.
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- During the last 30 days, 28.5% of high school students nationwide had ridden one or more times in a car or other vehicle driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol.
[2005 CDC Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance](#)
- In 2005, 39% of fatal crashes (all age groups) involved alcohol. The rate of alcohol involvement in fatal crashes is more than three times higher at night than during the day (59% vs. 18%).
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- In 2005, 30% of all fatal crashes (all age groups) during the week were alcohol-related, compared to 52% on weekends.
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