

MOTOR VEHICLE CRASHES INVOLVING 16 AND 17 YEAR OLD DRIVERS

Data are from the
CRASH OUTCOME DATA EVALUATION SYSTEM (CODES): 1996 - 2001

Number 7

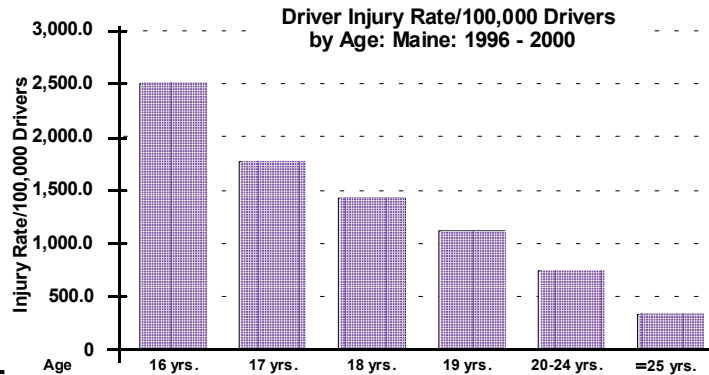
MAINE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

MOTOR VEHICLE CRASHES
FACT SHEET -

Series 11

- ➔ During the 6 years 1996 - 2001, an average of 16,700 Maine residents, 16 and 17 years old, was licensed to drive each year. Nearly 25% of these drivers were involved in motor vehicle crashes. Over the 6 years, more than 12,000 of these crashes resulted in injuries to the driver.
- ➔ Residents in this age group accounted for less than 2% of Maine's licensed drivers, but represented nearly 10% of the drivers who were treated for crash related injuries at hospitals.

- ➔ Driver injury rates decreased as age of the driver increased - from more than 2,500 injuries/100,000 drivers age 16, to 317 injuries/100,000 drivers 25 years old or older - 16 year old drivers were 8 times more likely to be injured in a crash than older drivers.



- ➔ Young drivers were 2½ times more likely to crash with speed as a factor than older drivers.

- ➔ Unsafe speed was a leading contributor to injury crashes involving young drivers - they were more than twice as likely to die or to require hospital care when speed was a factor in their crash.

- ➔ Thirty percent of young drivers who were not wearing their seat belt when they crashed, died or needed hospital treatment as the result of their injuries. Of those wearing seat belts, 7% were injured this seriously.

Contributing Factor	Age in Years			
	16	17	18 - 24	≥25
Driver Inexperience	34%	20%	7%	<1%
Driver Inattention, Distraction	25%	29%	27%	22%
Illegal, Unsafe Speed	18%	16%	15%	7%
Alcohol	1%	1.5%	1%	2.7%

- ➔ Of the 16 and 17 year old drivers who were hospitalized:
 - 43% had traumatic brain injury or other head injury, spinal cord injury, or another injury of the vertebral column
 - 18% had injuries of the internal organs of the torso
 - 23% had fractures of the lower extremities.
- ➔ Young drivers were 1½ times more likely to have passengers in their vehicles when they crashed than older drivers. The passenger in front was younger than 21 in nearly 90% of those crashes.

Notes: CODES is a data network comprised of information from traffic crash reports, hospital discharges, ambulance reports, and death certificates. The Office of Data, Research, and Vital Statistics, Emergency Medical Services, the Bureau of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, the Department of Transportation, and the Maine Health Information Center cooperated in this effort.

For further data on this topic, please contact:
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Visit our website at: <http://www.maine.gov/dhs/bohodr/index.htm>

For prevention information, please contact: Diane Arbour at 287-3265

John Elias Baldacci
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