

Teen Driving Program

Drowsy or impaired driving

Impaired driving includes operating a motor vehicle while affected by alcohol, drugs, prescription medications, a medical condition or even exhaustion that hinders your ability to drive. Avoid tragedy by making a responsible decision before you get behind the wheel of a car.



- Alcohol-related crashes killed 190 people in Wisconsin and injured nearly 2,900 in 2015.
- Compared to drivers in other age groups, teen drivers have more crashes involving high-risk factors like drowsy or impaired driving.
- Drowsiness and falling asleep at the wheel causes more than 100,000 car crashes every year.

How Wisconsin law protects

- In Wisconsin, drivers under the age of 21 are required by law to maintain absolute sobriety—ANY amount of alcohol in their system is illegal. Underage drinking is against the law.
- A driver is “under the influence” when his or her ability to operate a motor vehicle is impaired.
- A person’s ability to operate a motor vehicle is impaired if he or she is less able to safely control the vehicle because of the consumption of alcohol or controlled substances. This means that if a police officer pulls you over and determines that you are impaired by alcohol and/or any other drug, you could be arrested and prosecuted, regardless of your blood/breath alcohol concentration.

Source: Wisconsin Department of Transportation

Reduce your risk

- Always wear a seat belt.
- Never drink and drive.
- Get enough sleep and recognize the signs of drowsiness.
- If taking medication, heed the warnings about drowsiness or not operating a vehicle.
- Refuse to ride with a driver who has been drinking or is impaired in any way.
- Discuss with your parents a safe way to get home (such as picking up or paying for a ride) if your driver becomes impaired. Parent-teen driving agreements are tools to help you plan in advance for these situations.

childrenswi.org/teendriving

