

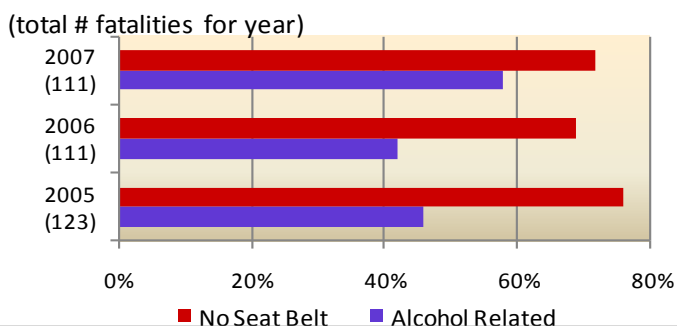
Risky Driving Behavior: Common Among Young Males?

North Dakota crash data reveals concerns in the areas of driving under the influence as well as seat belt use. In 2006, alcohol, drugs, and/or medication was the

second leading contributing factor in North Dakota fatal crashes (ND Crash Summary, 2006).

Additionally, seat belt use plays a significant role in saving lives. Of the crash fatalities in 2007, 72 percent were unbelted (ND Crash Data).

North Dakota traffic trends from 2005 indicate the highest rate of vehicle crashes based on number of drivers for each age category, is highest for drivers 18-20, followed by 21-24 and then 25-34. Crash involvement by gender is also significant. Although males make up only half of the driving population, in 2005 they were involved in 57 percent of all crashes. Analysis of current data regarding crashes in North Dakota also reveals that young male drivers (specifically, ages 18-34) have a high proportion of crashes involving alcohol and/or lack of seat belt use.



North Dakota Motor Vehicle Fatalities: % Alcohol, Unbelted

Seat Belt Trends

Gender

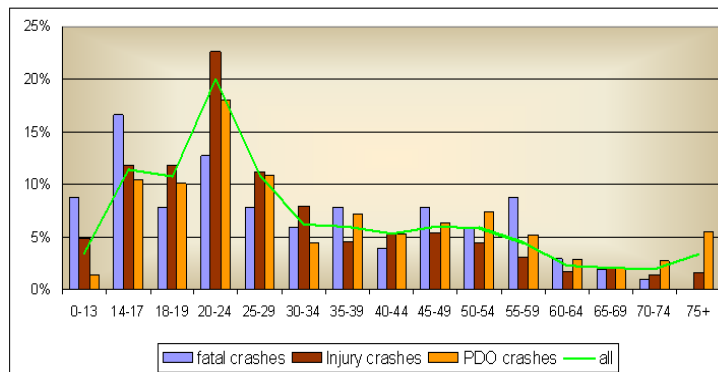
In 2005, 66 percent of male fatality victims (vehicle operators) in ND were unbelted compared to 58 percent of females (ND Crash Summary, 2006).

North Dakota traffic conviction data also points to this problem. In the three-year period from 2004 to 2006, ND seat belt violations were significantly greater for males than females ($p < .0001$). Males made up a majority of the convictions in this period (72 percent). Among all males, the largest number of convictions occurred among 21- to 27-year-olds with 22 percent of all male seatbelt convictions.

Age

Age is also a significant factor in seat belt use. The ND Crash Summary cites ages of unbelted crash occupants for 2006.

The age group with the greatest portion of unbelted occupants for all crashes is ages 20 to 24 with 20 percent. The graph below illustrates the ages for unbelted occupants for all types of crashes in the state in 2006 (ND Crash Summary, 2006).



North Dakota Crashes: Age of Unbelted Occupants, 2006

Impaired Driving Trends

In 2006, driving under the influence ranked number three in type of driver citations given due to all types of crash events in North Dakota (ND Crash Summary, 2006). In fatal crashes for the same year, DUI was the top driver citation given at the crash event (ND Crash Summary, 2006). From 1998 to 2006, an average of 47.4 percent of ND fatal crashes were related to alcohol use. The table to the right contains the statistics for each year (ND Crash Summary, 2006).

Year	All Fatal Crashes	Alcohol Related	% Alcohol Related
1998	79	37	46.8
1999	92	45	48.9
2000	80	40	50.0
2001	96	48	50.0
2002	84	41	48.8
2003	95	48	50.5
2004	95	38	40.0
2005	105	49	46.7
2006	101	46	45.4
Total	827	392	47.4

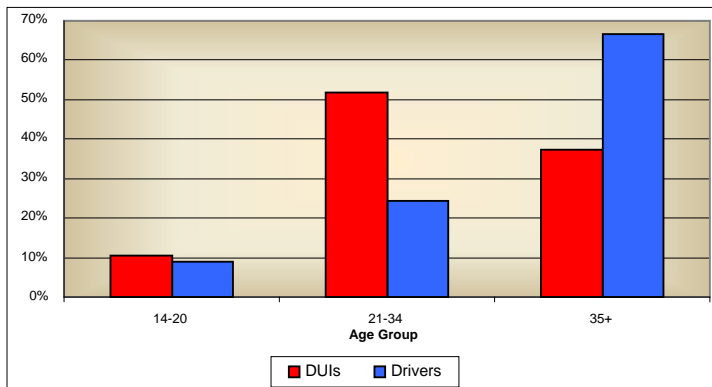
Percent of ND Fatal Crashes that are Alcohol-Related, 1998- 2006

Impaired Driving Trends (continued)

Age

In 2006, just under 65 percent of all alcohol-related crashes in North Dakota were attributed to drivers 17 to 34 years of age. When looking only at those impaired drivers of the legal age to consume alcohol (ages 21 to 34), they make up 47 percent of all alcohol-related crashes (ND Crash Summary, 2006).

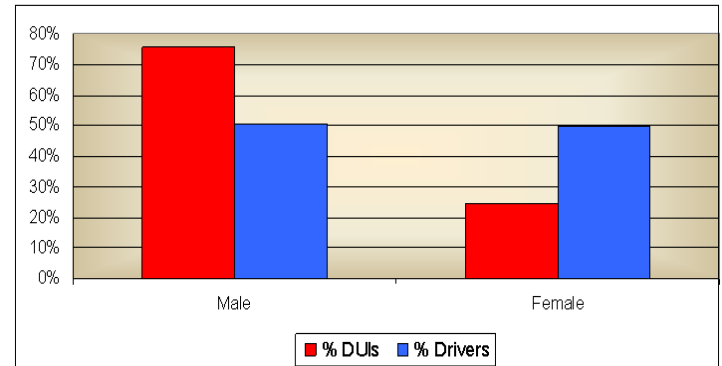
In terms of age categories that tie closely to impaired driving citations, drivers 21 to 34 years of age are highly overrepresented. When looking at North Dakota citation and driver record data (NDDOT data, 2007), the three-year period from 2004 to 2006 indicates that this age group encompasses almost 52 percent of all DUIs, while only accounting for 24 percent of the driver population. The graph below illustrates age group representation in DUI convictions from 2004 to 2006.



Driver Age, percent of DUI convictions in North Dakota (2004-2006)

Gender

Males were convicted of 76 percent of all DUIs for these years, while they make up only 50 percent of licensed drivers (ND Crash Summary, 2006; NDDOT data, 2007). The graph below provides a representation of North Dakota DUI convictions from 2004 to 2006 in terms of driver gender.



Driver Gender, percent of DUI convictions in North Dakota (2004-2006)

Conclusion

The North Dakota Department of Transportation's Office of Traffic Safety and the Rural Transportation Safety and Security Center conducted focus groups statewide with young male drivers to determine what steps might be taken to improve traffic fatalities, increase seat belt use, and reduce impaired driving behaviors in this target group.

Gaining information regarding the target group's feelings and attitudes may prove to be useful in the creation and implementation of traffic safety programs. Ultimately, the information gained through these focus groups will be utilized to reduce vehicle crashes and related injury and death. Using the results will help ND realize greater traffic safety.



The Rural Transportation Safety and Security Center is a program of the Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute at NDSU.

References: (full report at www.dot.nd.gov/divisions/dlts/docs/dot-male-driver-report-final.pdf)

"North Dakota Vehicle Crash Facts for 2005." April 2006. Office of Traffic Safety, North Dakota Department of Transportation. www.dot.nd.gov/docs/driverslicense/crashfacts.pdf.

"North Dakota Traffic Trends: 1996-2005." 2005. Office of Traffic Safety, North Dakota Department of Transportation. www.dot.nd.gov/docs/driverslicense/traffictrends.pdf

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ND DUI Penalties

1st DUI

(BAC up to .17) 91 days suspension

(BAC .18 or greater) 180 days suspension

*work permit possible after 30 days

Minimum fine \$250

Mandatory referral to addiction facility for alcohol evaluation

Higher automotive insurance

2nd DUI

(BAC up to .17) 365 days license suspension

(BAC .18 or greater) 2 years license suspension

*No work permit in either case

Minimum fine \$500

5 days in prison or 30 days community service

Mandatory referral to addiction facility for alcohol evaluation

3rd DUI

(BAC up to .17) 2 years license suspension

(BAC .18 or greater) 3 years license suspension

Minimum fine \$1,000

60 days imprisonment

Mandatory addiction facility alcohol evaluation

4th DUI

Suspension period and fine same as 3rd DUI.

Drivers license restored after completing addiction treatment & avoidance of alcohol-related offenses for 2 years

Minimum fine \$1,000

180 days imprisonment

5th DUI

Class C felony

Maximum fine \$5,000

Maximum of 5 years imprisonment