



Young drivers aged 17-25 in casualty collisions Ireland, 2021 - 2025

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Presentation outline



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- Provide overview of young driver fatal collisions, and casualties over the period 2021-2025
- Road Traffic Collision (RTC) dataset: describe fatal collisions involving young drivers and examine profile of young drivers involved
- Hospital data: describe serious injuries sustained, health outcomes for young drivers admitted to hospital



Background

Road Traffic Collision data



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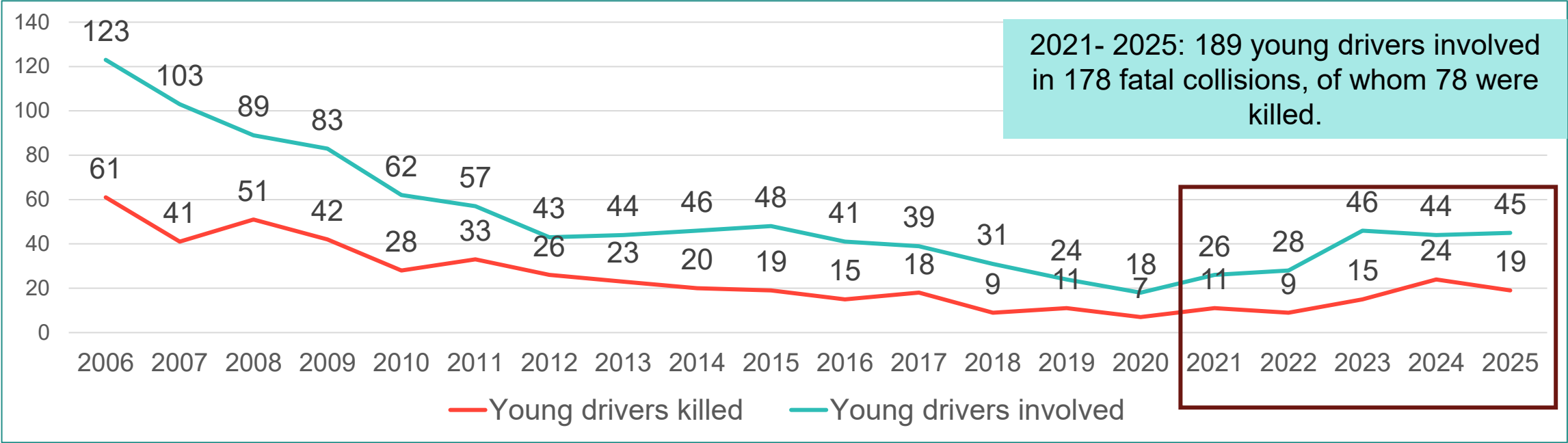
- The RSA has a **statutory remit to report on casualty trends** from road traffic collisions based on information transferred to the RSA by An Garda Síochána.
- ❏ The information in the collision record provides **detailed location information**, as well as information on the **vehicles and persons involved in collisions**. It does not contain information on the contributory factors.
- A 'driver' for the purposes of this presentation includes **drivers of private cars, vans, other motorised vehicles**. It excludes motorcyclists, e-scooter users, e-bikes users.
- A **young driver** for the purposes of this presentation refers to those aged **17-25** inclusive. The data in this report is provisional and subject to change.



Fatal collisions involving young drivers: long term trend



2006-2025



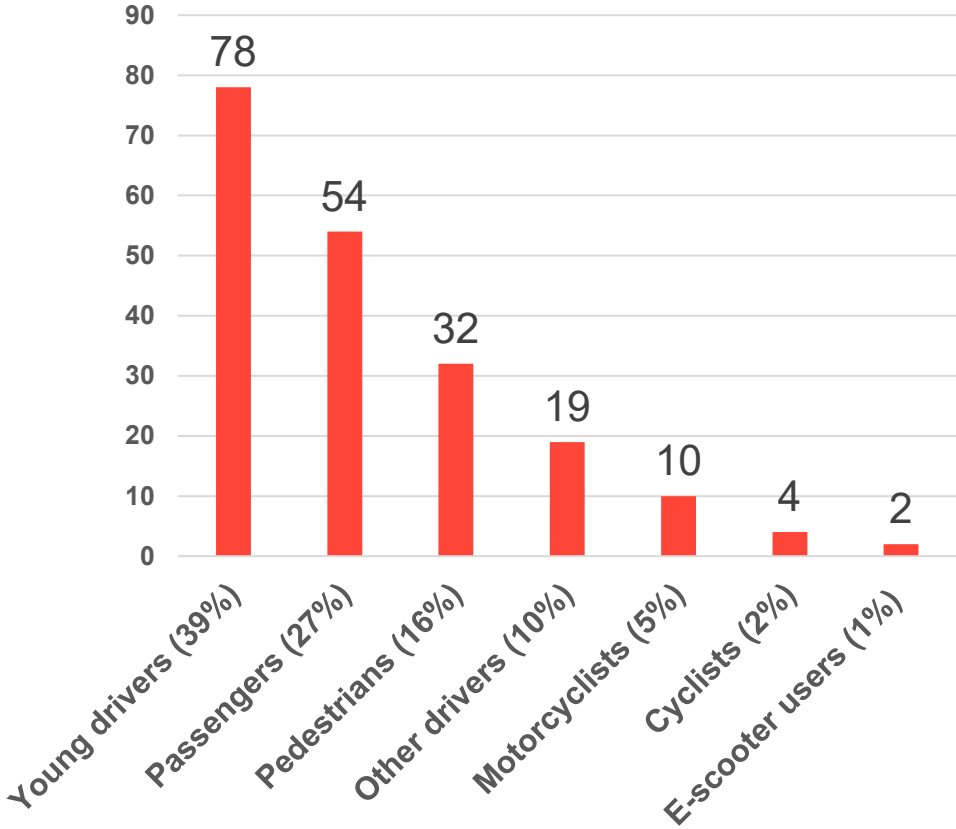
These 189 young drivers represent 1 in 5 (19%) of all drivers involved in fatal collisions.
78 young drivers killed, representing 23% of all driver fatalities during this time.



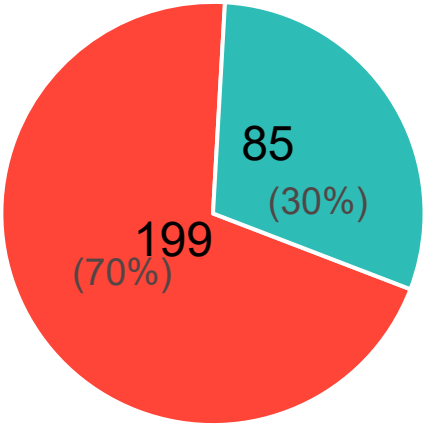
284 road users killed or seriously injured in collision involving a young driver



Young driver fatal collisions 2021-2025 n=178



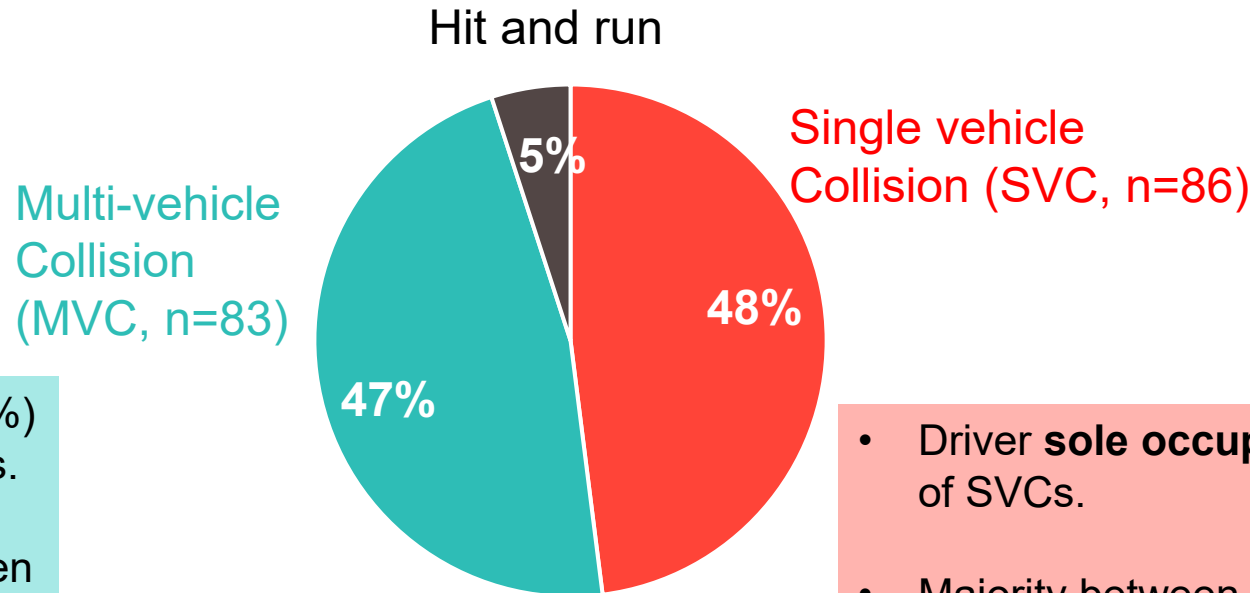
No. of fatalities and serious injuries
N=284



Serious Injuries	N	%
Passengers	44	52%
Other drivers	19	22%
Young drivers	17	20%
VRU	5	6%

Equal share of multi, versus single vehicle collisions

Young driver fatal collisions (n=178)



- Over half of MVCs (55%) were head-on collisions.
- Over half (53%) between 4pm and midnight.
- Impact with a car (54%), motorcyclist (14%), LGV (12%), HGV (9%)

- Driver **sole occupant of vehicle** in almost half (47%) of SVCs.
- Majority between **8pm and 4am (69%)**
- 1 in 4 collisions involved a **pedestrian (26%)**.
- Impact with a **wall (23%), tree (15%) or ditch (14%)** also feature.

High risk locations: rural counties had highest share

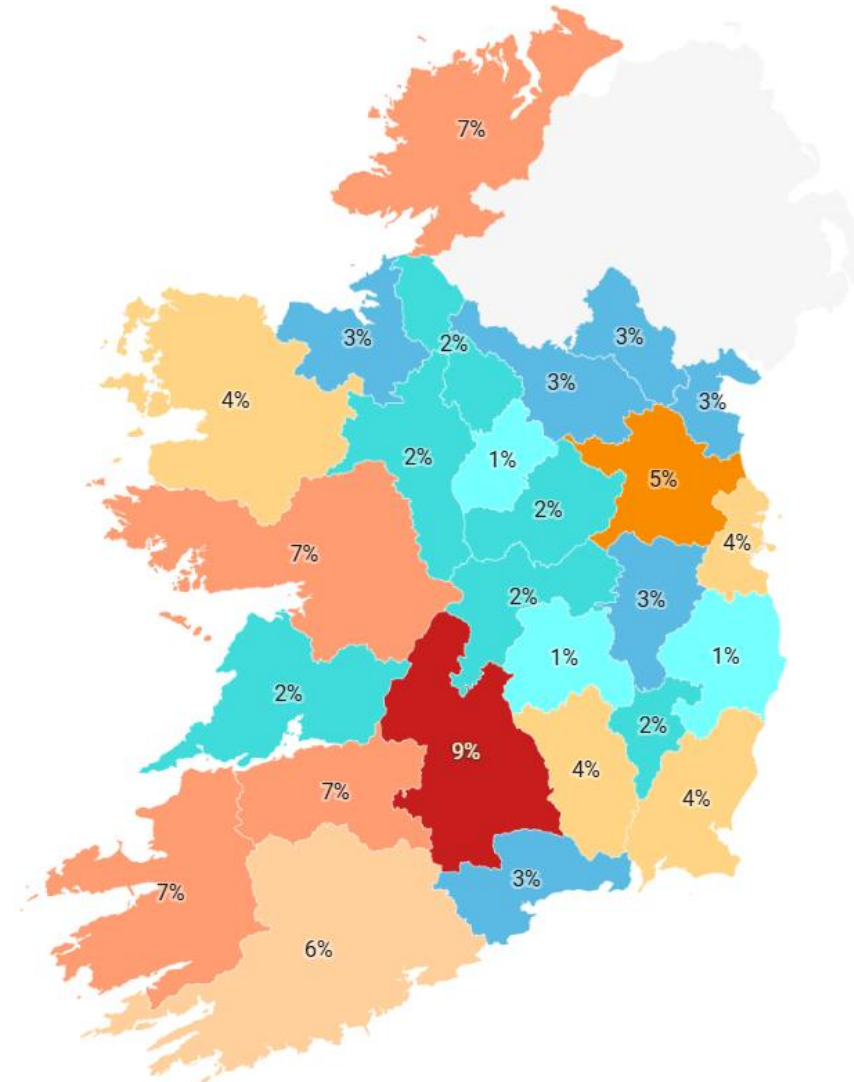
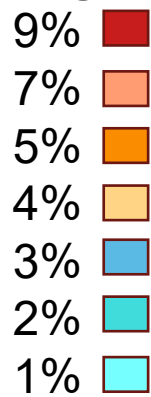
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Young driver fatal collisions (n=178)

County / Counties	%
Tipperary	9%
Galway, Donegal, Kerry, Limerick	7% each
Cork	6%
Meath	5%

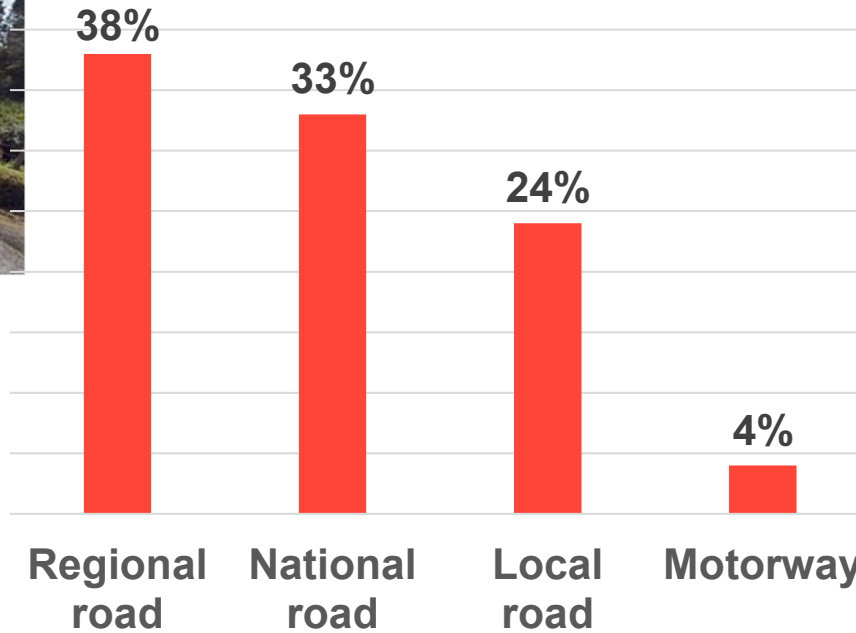
Legend



High risk locations: regional and national high-speed roads



Young driver fatal collisions (n=178)



- Three quarters (76%) of collisions on **high speed roads** (80km/h and 100km/h).
- Majority of collisions (70%) on a **straight road**.
- Most frequently noted driver actions were '**lost control**' 23% (44) and '**failed to observe**' 11% (21)

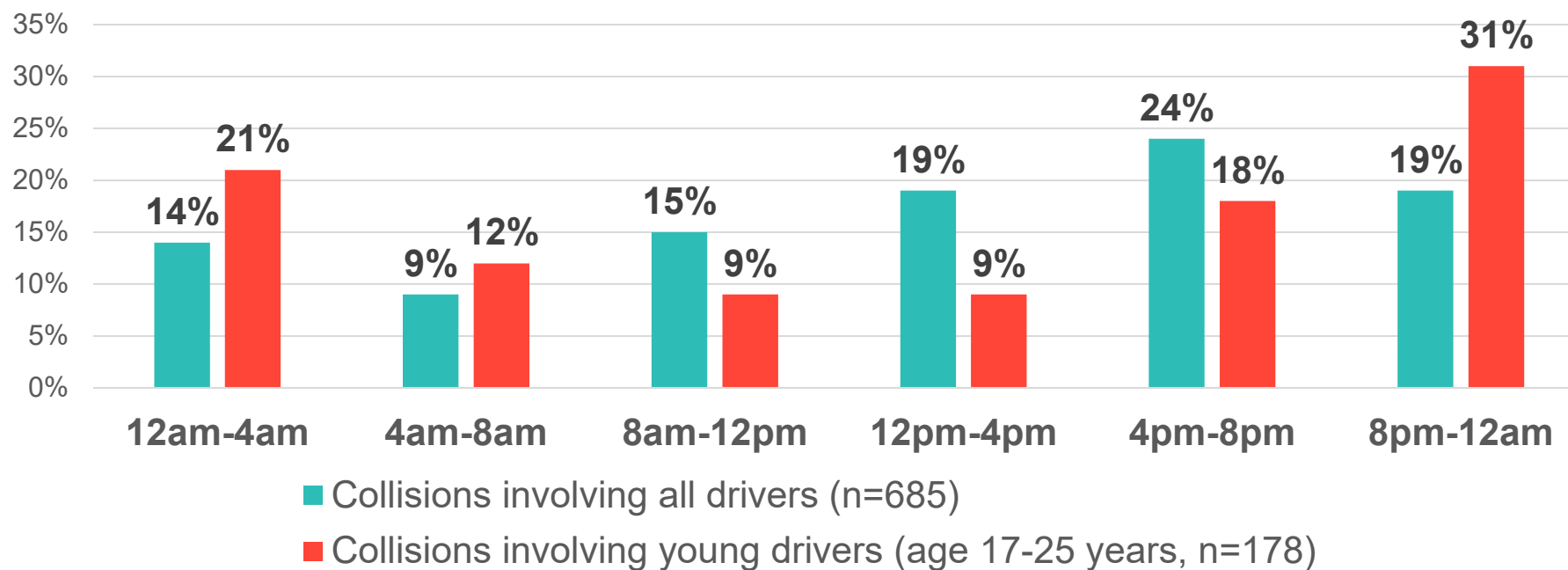


High risk times: late at night/early morning

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Young driver fatal collisions (n=178)



Collisions involving young drivers more likely to occur late at night/early morning (8pm to 4am) compared to those involving drivers of all ages.

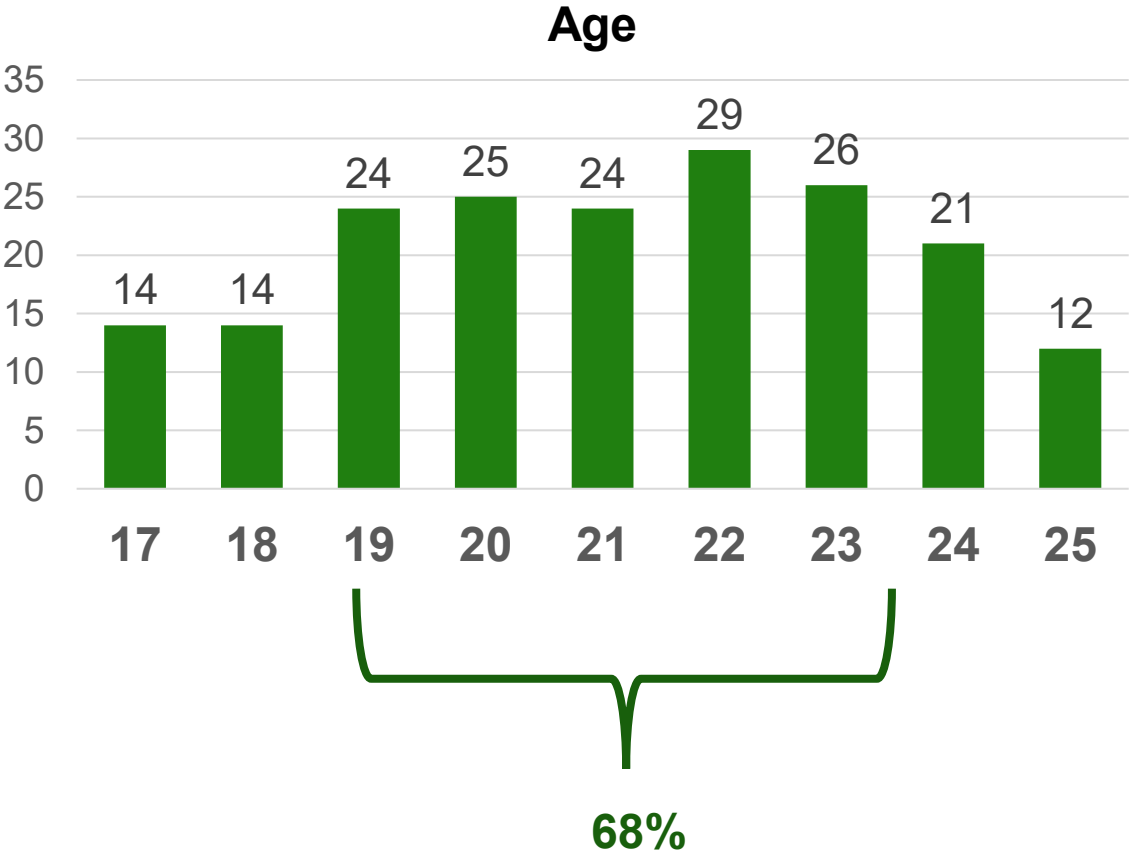
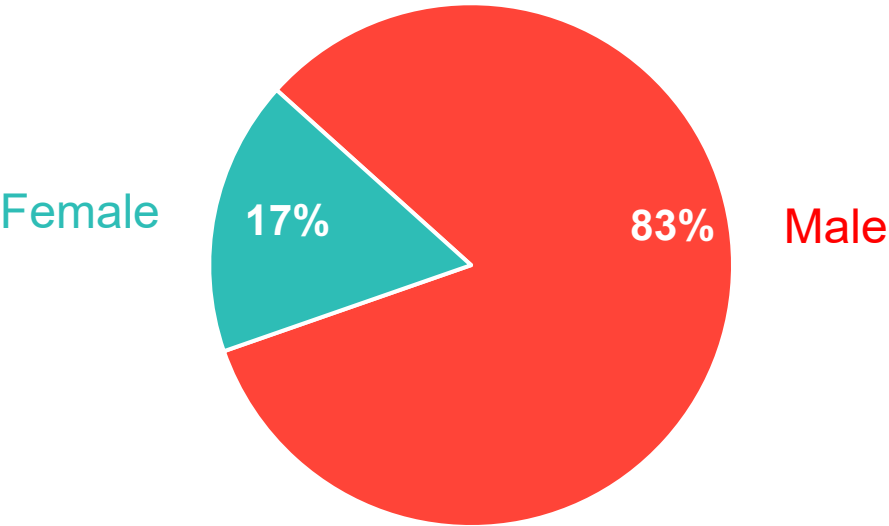
35% of fatal collisions involving young drivers occurred at the weekend: Saturday (20%) and Sunday (15%)

Drivers most likely male, and aged 19-23

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Young drivers involved in fatal collisions (n=189)

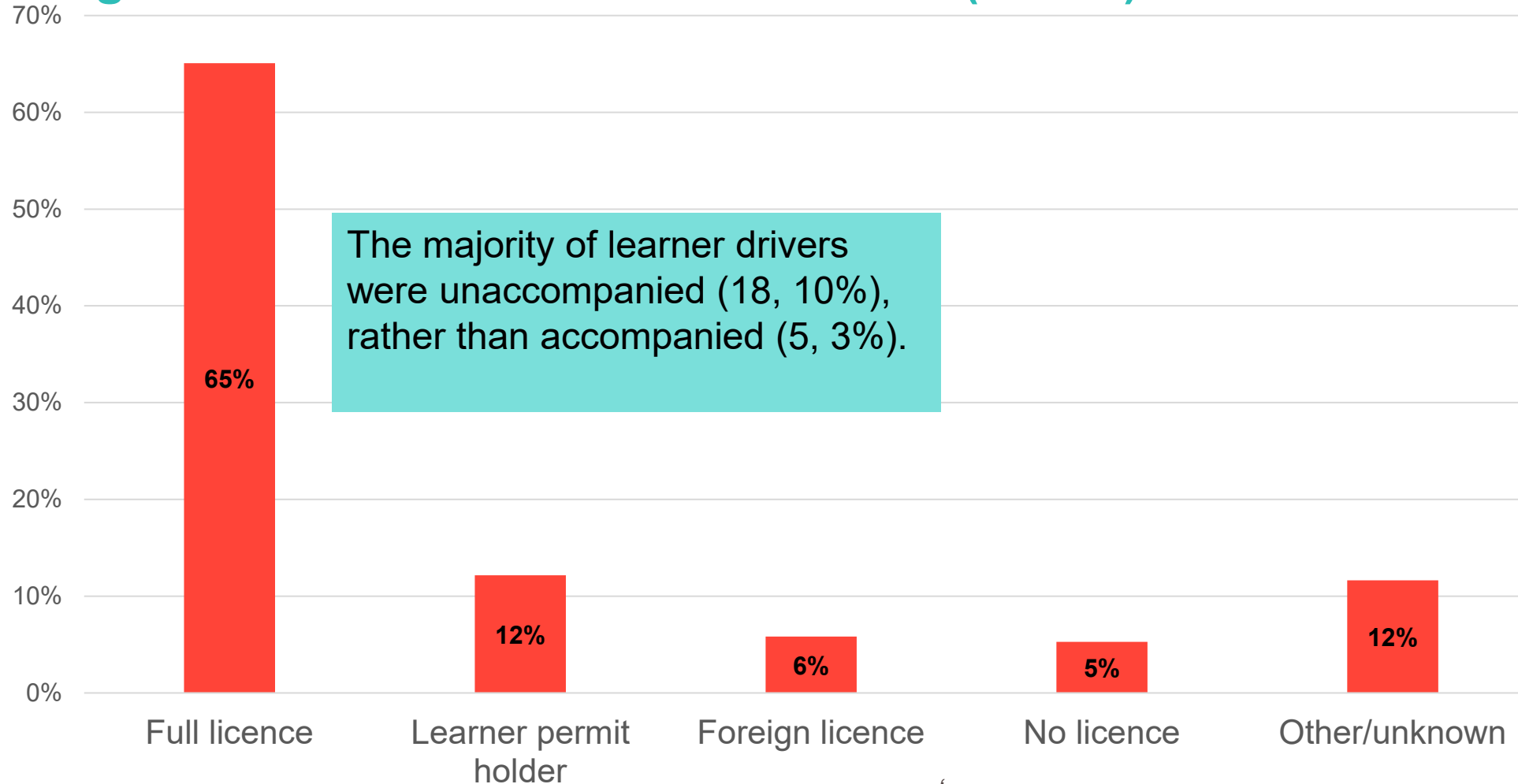


Almost two thirds recorded as holding full Irish licence

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Young drivers involved in fatal collisions (n=189)



High risk behaviours: evidence of no seat belt, and drink driving

Young drivers in fatal collisions (n=189)



Young driver wearing a seatbelt	Young driver fatalities	Young drivers involved & survived
Yes	55%	64%
No	23%	9%
Unknown	22%	27%



Of 111 surviving young drivers in fatal collisions, **10% of drivers involved** had a positive test result following the fatal collision.



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Serious injuries from hospital data

2020-2024

Serious injuries among young drivers in hospital data



Background

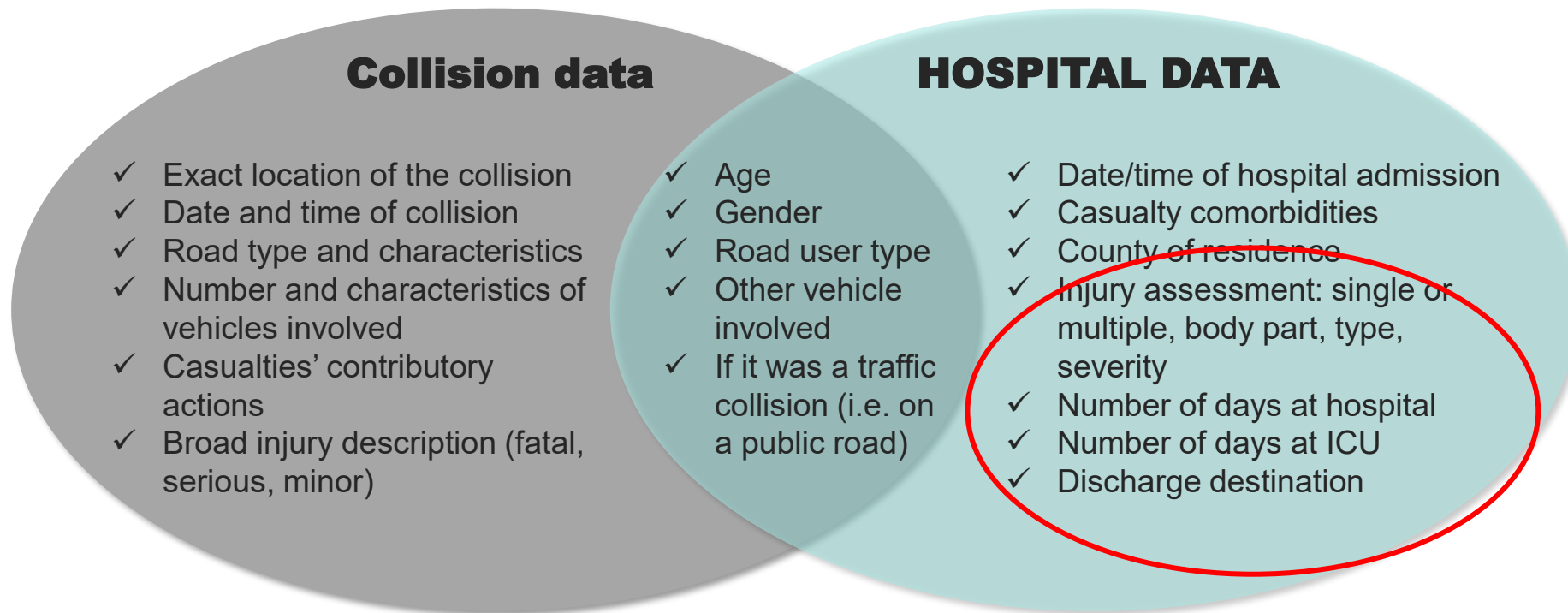
-  To report on serious injuries, the RSA complements the collision data with information from HIPE, the national database of hospital discharges.
-  The study of HIPE data is done in collaboration with the HSE National Health Intelligence Unit and the School of Medicine, Trinity College Dublin.
-  All hospitalised casualties: those who were admitted to hospital with at least one injury from an RTC.

For more information on serious injuries using hospital data, please see the RSA website directly accessible [here](#).



What type of information can we obtain from collision data and hospital data?

- Both data sources are complementary. Collision data describes the collision characteristics, and hospital data describes the casualty's health outcomes, including an accurate injury assessment.
- Some information can be found in both collision and hospital data.

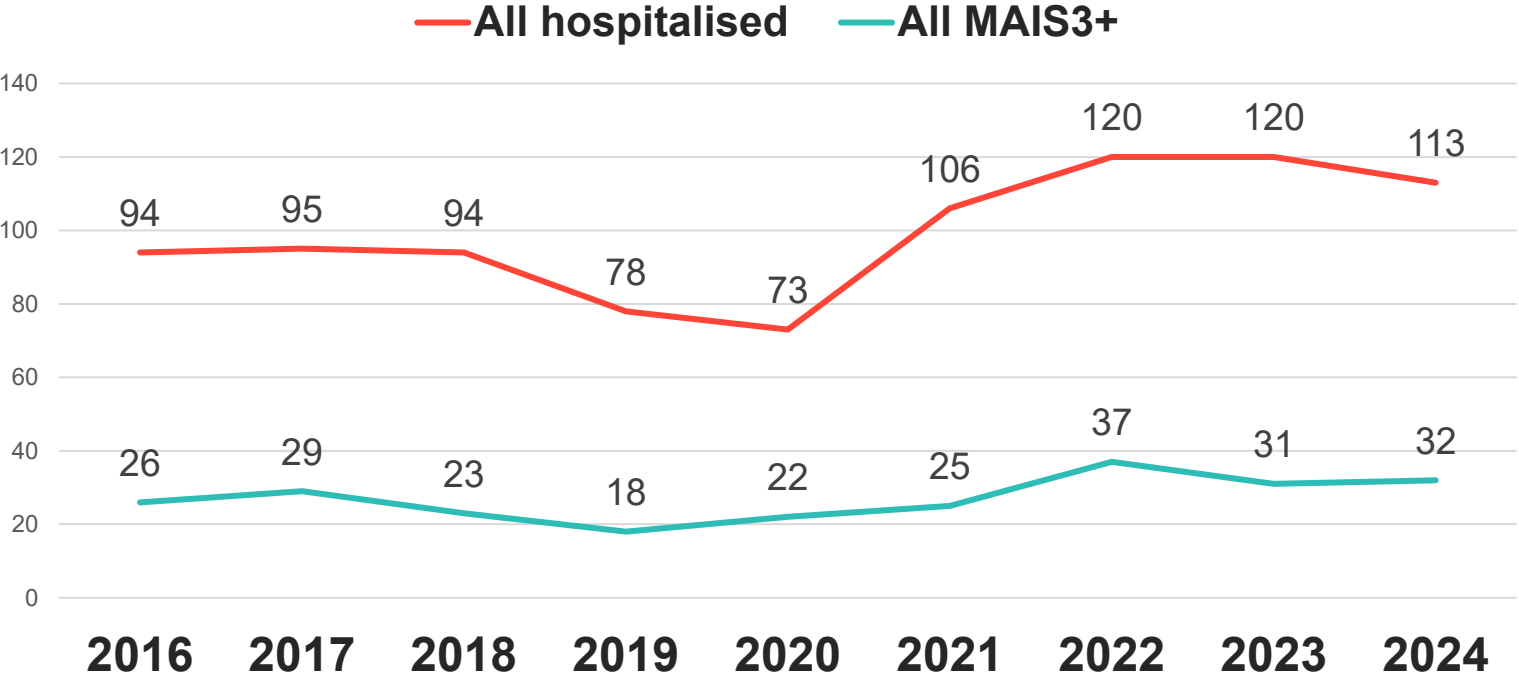


Serious injuries among young drivers increasing since 2020

17-25 year old drivers admitted to hospital



Serious injuries among young drivers



The European Commission: member states must report on hospital data using the MAIS3+ serious injury definition, based on the *Abbreviated Injury Scale* (AIS*).

Casualties with clinically serious injuries (MAIS3+) are a subgroup of all hospitalisations, with the most serious injuries based on AIS scoring.



All hospitalised young drivers

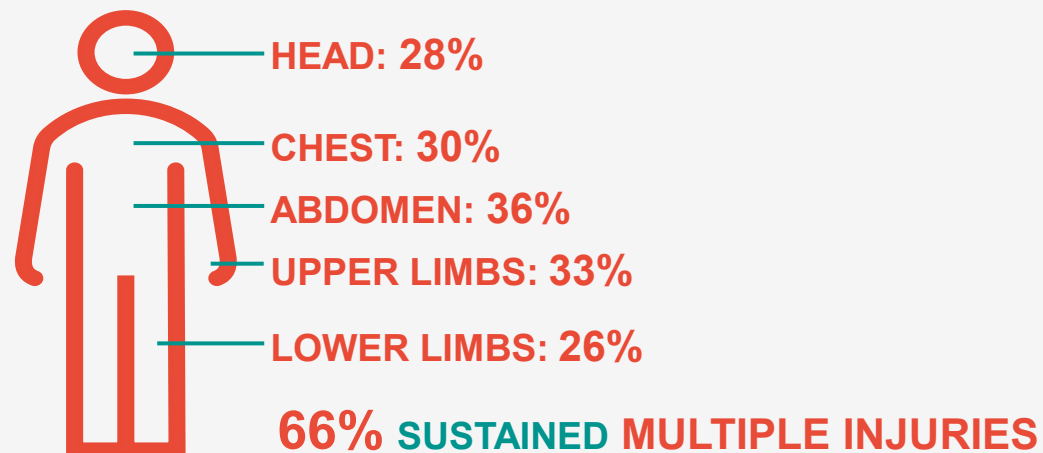
N= 532; 2020-2024



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THEY SUSTAINED AT LEAST ONE INJURY IN THE FOLLOWING BODY PARTS:



ON AVERAGE, 7.4 DAYS AS IN-PATIENTS



82% SENT HOME AT DISCHARGE

28% SUSTAINED CLINICALLY SERIOUS INJURIES

Young drivers with clinically serious injuries (MAIS3+)

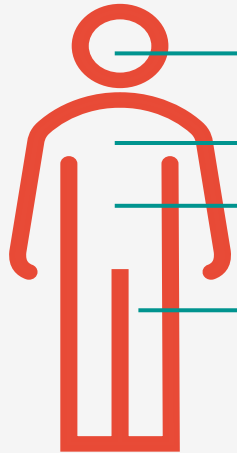
N= 147; 2020-2024



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MOST SUSTAINED A SINGLE SERIOUS INJURY:



HEAD: 22%

CHEST: 24%

ABDOMEN: 3%

LOWER LIMBS: 18%

27% SUSTAINED MULTIPLE SERIOUS INJURIES



ON AVERAGE, 17 DAYS AS IN-PATIENTS

41% SPENT 1+ NIGHTS AT A CRITICAL CARE AREA



68% SENT HOME AND 28% WERE SENT TO ANOTHER HOSPITAL AT DISCHARGE

In Summary

- Young drivers 17-25 represent 1 in 5 of all drivers involved in fatal collisions, almost 1 in 4 of all drivers killed; male drivers dominate
- Passenger risk** is also significant, especially young peer passengers travelling with young drivers
- 8pm to 4am** is high risk; over half of all fatal collisions
- Largest share on **regional and national road network**, rural counties, and on roads with **80km/h and 100km/h** speed limits
- Some evidence of **risk taking** including drink-driving and non seat belt wearing
- 28% of young drivers admitted to hospital sustained **clinically serious injuries**, a higher share than for any other age group of driver
- Serious head injuries** and **chest injuries** are most common
- These require **significant hospital stays** and have the potential for life-long consequences



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