



**Technical Memorandum  
December 9, 2019**

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**Subject:** Impaired Driving Crash Data where Impaired Driver is < 21 years old – Hays, Travis, Williamson Counties

**BACKGROUND**

The Travis County Attorney’s Underage Drinking Prevention Program requested impaired driving crash data to help identify measurable outcomes for its program.

There are a number of impaired driving strategies, countermeasures, and programs that are deployed and concurrently utilized throughout the State at any given moment in time. Therefore, if any reduction in impaired driving crashes is observed, it would be appropriate to acknowledge coexisting efforts (i.e., other education programs, enforcement, legislative changes, and media campaigns, etc.) that may have also contributed to the change.

The following data was pulled from the Texas Department of Transportation’s Crash Record Information System (CRIS) and was current as of December 4, 2019. Information contained in this memo represents reportable data collected from Texas Peace Officer’s Crash Reports (CR-3). Texas reportable data are crashes that occurred on a public roadway, and resulted in injury or death to a person, or caused at least \$1,000 in property damage. Crashes that do not meet this criteria are not maintained in CRIS.

The following data is related to crashes involving impaired drivers below the age of 21 in Hays, Travis and Williamson Counties. An “impaired driver” is a driver who has a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) greater than 0.00 g/dL, or who had a positive alcohol test, or had a positive drug test, or had a contributing factor flagged as had been drinking, taking medication, under the influence – alcohol, or under the influence – drugs.

**Table 1** lists the crash count by county year and crash injury severity. The injury severity does not mean that the impaired driver sustained that injury – only that someone involved in the crash sustained that injury severity. Crash injury severities are identified by law enforcement.

*Table 1: Crash Count by County Year and Severity, 2016-2018*

County and Year	Fatal	Suspected Serious Injury	Non-incapacitating	Possible Injury	Non-injury	Unknown	Grand Total
<b>Hays</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>68</b>
2016	1	2	6	4	13	2	28
2017	-	1	9	1	10	2	23
2018	-	-	5	4	8	-	17

County and Year	Fatal	Suspected Serious Injury	Non-incapacitating	Possible Injury	Non-injury	Unknown	Grand Total
<b>Travis</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>385</b>
2016	4	12	41	19	87	6	169
2017	7	8	20	13	58	6	112
2018	2	10	21	17	52	2	104
<b>Williamson</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>101</b>
2016	1	2	12	9	22	2	48
2017	1	3	5	6	18	3	36
2018	1	1	2	2	11	-	17
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>554</b>

As shown in **Table 1**, there were 554 crashes involving an impaired driver under the age of 21 in Hays, Travis, and Williamson Counties from 2016-2018. Although injury severity crashes by category may have increased from 2017, the year 2018 marked the fewest total number of impaired driving crashes involving an impaired driver under the age of 21 for each of the three counties.

Across all injury severity and years, more impaired driving crashes where the driver was under 21 years of age occurred in Travis County. There were 385 of these crashes in Travis County, which accounted for 69.5% of the total number of these crashes over the same three-year period. This is largely expected since the populous city of Austin is located within Travis County.

Across the three counties, the most common crash injury severity were non-injury crashes – of which there were 279. A *non-injury* crash means no individual involved in the crash sustained a fatal, suspected serious, non-incapacitating, or possible injury. The next most common crash injury severity during the same time period was non-incapacitating, which occurred in 121 crashes. With this crash injury severity, there is “evident injury such as bruises, abrasions, or minor lacerations which do not incapacitate.”<sup>1</sup> Fatal injury crashes represented the fewest injury severity crashes, with 17 fatal crashes occurring over the three year period.

Table 2: Average, Minimum and Maximum Age of Drivers by County, 2016-2018

County	Average of Driver Age	Min of Driver Age	Max of Driver Age	Count of Drivers
Hays	19	16	20	68
Travis	19	14	20	385
Williamson	19	16	20	101
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>554</b>

**Table 2** shows the average, minimum, and maximum age of impaired drivers under the age of 21 from 2016-2018. The average age of drivers across the three counties was 19 years old, which was also the average age of impaired drivers for each individual county during the same time period.

However, as demonstrated in **Table 3** below, the most common age of impaired drivers involved in crashes was 20 years old, slightly older than the average. There were 191 crashes where the impaired driver was 20 years old, followed by 174 crashes where the impaired driver was 19 years old.

<sup>1</sup> Texas Department of Transportation. State of Texas Instructions to Police for Reporting Crashes – 2018 Edition. “Definition of Non-Incapacitating Injury.” [https://ftp.dot.state.tx.us/pub/txdot-info/trf/crash\\_notifications/2018/crash-report-100.pdf](https://ftp.dot.state.tx.us/pub/txdot-info/trf/crash_notifications/2018/crash-report-100.pdf).

Table 3: Count of Drivers by Age, 2016-2018

Driver Age	Hays	Travis	Williamson	Grand Total
14	-	1	-	1
15	-	2	-	2
16	1	13	6	20
17	3	47	10	60
18	11	70	25	106
19	27	116	31	174
20	26	136	29	191
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>554</b>

As previously mentioned, the majority of impaired driving crashes with an impaired driver under the age of 21 occurred in Travis County (n=385). Travis County was also the only county that experienced crashes where the impaired driver was under the age of 16: there were 2 crashes where the impaired driver was 15 years old, and there was 1 crash where the impaired driver was 14 years old from 2016-2018.

Table 4: Count of Drivers by County and Gender, 2016-2018

County	Female	Male	Unknown	Grand Total
Hays	14	46	8	68
Travis	100	256	29	385
Williamson	23	71	7	101
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>554</b>

As shown in **Table 4**, impaired drivers under the age of 21 were more likely to be male (n=373 or 67.3%) than female (n=137 or 24.7%). Gender was unknown in 7.9% (or 44) of the crashes.

The most number of crashes involving impaired female and male drivers under the age of 21 occurred in Travis County. However, in terms of percentages, 70.3% (or 71) of impaired drivers were male in Williamson County while 25.9% (or 100) of impaired drivers were female in Travis County. These represented the highest percentages for each gender type across all three counties.

Table 5: Percentage of Impaired Drivers under 21 Whose BACs Were Tested

County	Positive	Negative	No Data	Grand Total
Hays	12%	7%	81%	100%
Travis	23%	7%	70%	100%
Williamson	31%	17%	52%	100%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Of the 554 crashes involving impaired drivers under the age of 21 in Hays, Travis, and Williamson Counties, 32% (summation of positive and negative BACs) of the drivers had a BAC result from 2016-2018, as shown in **Table 5**. Of the three counties, Williamson County had BAC results for almost half of the impaired minor drivers, which was the highest of the three counties.

Table 6: Average of Reported BACs Greater than 0.00 g/dL, 2016-2018

County	Count BAC Test Results	Percentage of Drivers with a Reported BAC > 0.00 g/dL	Average of Driver BAC Test
Hays	12	18%	0.130

County	Count BAC Test Results	Percentage of Drivers with a Reported BAC > 0.00 g/dL	Average of Driver BAC Test
Travis	101	26%	0.136
Williamson	38	38%	0.128
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>0.134</b>

For drivers with a reported BAC greater than 0.00 g/dL, the average BAC was 0.134 g/dL, which is slightly below the average of all impaired drivers.

**Table 7** illustrates the distribution of impaired driving crashes with an impaired driver under the age of 21 by hour of day. The columns are highlighted to identify the hours with the highest percentage of impaired driving crashes. The distribution of crashes involving impaired drivers under the age of 21 years is similar to the distribution of all impaired drivers.

Table 7: Percentage of Impaired Driving Crashes Involving Drivers under the Age of 21 Years by Hour, 2016-2018

Crash Hour	Hays	Travis	Williamson	Grand Total
00:00 - 00:59	13%	10%	13%	11%
01:00 - 01:59	9%	8%	10%	8%
02:00 - 02:59	9%	9%	8%	9%
03:00 - 03:59	7%	6%	6%	6%
04:00 - 04:59	10%	4%	8%	6%
05:00 - 05:59	7%	3%	2%	3%
06:00 - 06:59	1%	4%	3%	4%
07:00 - 07:59	1%	3%	4%	3%
08:00 - 08:59	3%	2%	3%	2%
09:00 - 09:59	1%	1%	0%	1%
10:00 - 10:59	3%	1%	1%	1%
11:00 - 11:59	0%	0%	1%	0%
12:00 - 12:59	0%	1%	0%	1%
13:00 - 13:59	0%	1%	2%	1%
14:00 - 14:59	0%	1%	1%	1%
15:00 - 15:59	1%	1%	2%	1%
16:00 - 16:59	1%	2%	4%	2%
17:00 - 17:59	1%	6%	4%	5%
18:00 - 18:59	4%	2%	5%	3%
19:00 - 19:59	6%	5%	5%	5%
20:00 - 20:59	3%	5%	4%	4%
21:00 - 21:59	6%	6%	2%	6%
22:00 - 22:59	3%	10%	5%	8%
23:00 - 23:59	7%	9%	8%	9%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Across all counties, the most common hour for impaired driving crashes involving an impaired driver under the age of 21 to occur is between midnight and 1:00 AM. Crashes that occurred during this hour made up 11% of these types of crashes from 2016-2018.