

Test Your Knowledge

Q: What group is most affected by motor vehicle crashes?

A: The risk of motor vehicle crashes is highest among teen drivers, due to their inexperience and increased likelihood of risk-taking behaviors.^{1,4} Many of these crashes are preventable by both drivers and passengers following safe driving rules.

Q: What is one of the best ways to increase teen driver safety?

A: Enrolling in a driver's education course increases road safety among teenage drivers.⁴ These courses are designed to help teenagers learn safe driving rules and can be found locally.

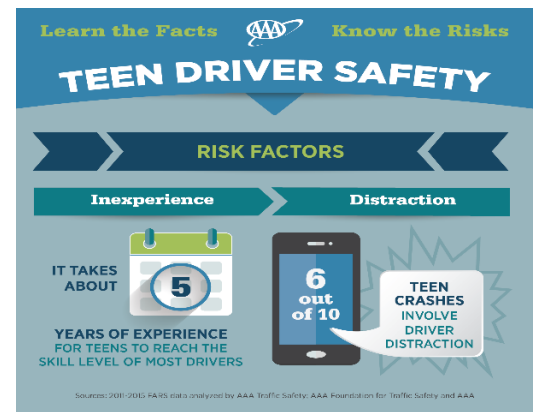
The risk of motor vehicle crash fatalities is highest among **teen drivers**.¹ Studies show teen drivers are involved in crashes because of inexperience and risk-taking.² Teen motor vehicle incidents are preventable. Proven strategies and a pledge to following safe driving rules can improve the safety of all young drivers.

KNOW THE FACTS

- In 2018, nearly 2,500 teenage drivers were killed in vehicle crashes²
- In 2017, about 300,000 teenagers were treated for injuries suffered in a motor vehicle crash³
- Motor vehicle injuries in those aged 15 – 19 years accounted for \$13.1 billion of the total cost of motor vehicle injuries in 2017³
- Teens are more likely to speed and allow a shorter distance from the car in front of them³
- Teens and young adults have the lowest seat belt use rates; in 2017 only 58.8% of high schoolers used seat belts as car passengers³



Who is at risk?⁸



WHO IS MOST AFFECTED BY MOTOR VEHICLE CRASHES?

- The highest risk of motor vehicle crashes are in 16-19 years old³
- Males aged 16-19 years had double the motor vehicle death rate than females of the same age group³
- Teen drivers with teen passengers are more likely to suffer a crash, this risk increases with more teenage passengers^{3,5,6}
- Newly licensed teens have a higher crash risk than others within 1 month of getting their driver's license³

WHAT ARE THE RISK FACTORS?³

- Driver inexperience
- Speeding
- Lack of seat belt use
- Alcohol use
- Nighttime driving
- Weekend driving
- Having multiple passengers
- Texting⁷

ThinkFirst about...

Teen Driver Fast Facts

... protecting yourself and others when driving! As a new driver, learn and follow rules of the road and GDL laws. As a parent, be a good role model and dedicate time to supervise your teen's practice driving – the more practice driving the better!

Test Your Knowledge

Q: Can parents improve the safety of their teen drivers?

A: Yes. Commit to being active while teaching your teen how to drive. Be up to date on your state's GDL laws for teenage drivers, as safety parameters like times of the day teenagers may drive and how many passengers are allowed may differ between states. Be a good role-model; always buckle-up, use your turn signal, don't drive distracted and don't speed!^{4,10}



The ThinkFirst Foundation is a 501c3 nonprofit organization dedicated to preventing brain, spinal cord and other traumatic injuries through education, research and advocacy. Visit our website to learn more and use our chapter directory to locate a chapter near you — your resource for injury prevention presentations.

www.thinkfirst.org

PREVENTION TIPS FOR TEENS

- Know the risks to avoid. Make sure you are aware of, and diligent against the leading causes of teen car crashes listed on the previous page.
- Enroll in a quality driver's education course.
- Follow your state's Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) laws which are proven to reduce fatal crashes among teen and novice drivers.
<https://www.iihs.org/topics/teenagers#graduated-licensing>

WHAT CAN YOU DO TOGETHER?

- Take your roles seriously as you work together as a new-driver/driver-supervisor team.
- Sign a safe driver agreement, such as the **Safe Driver Pledge** at <https://www.thinkfirst.org/drive-safe-pledge>.
- Commit to knowing and following safe driving rules for new drivers, including GDL laws in your state.
- If possible, follow the IIHS top safety picks when choosing a vehicle with key safety features that are important for a teenage driver.
<https://www.iihs.org/ratings/safe-vehicles-for-teens>
- Attend presentations that may be offered in your area for parents of teen drivers.
- Realize learning to drive can be tense for both teens and parents— agree to be considerate and supportive of each other.
- Practice, practice, practice! Make time to build experience with plenty of supervised driving time.

Sources

¹Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). WISQARS (Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System). US Department of Health and Human Services; September 2019. Available at <https://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/index.html>

²The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) and The Highway Loss Data Institute (HLDI). Teenagers; March 2020. Available at <https://www.iihs.org/topics/teenagers>. (accessed 5/22/2020).

³Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Teen Drivers: Get the Facts. (2019). Available at: https://www.cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety/teen_drivers/teendrivers_factsheet.html. (accessed 5/16/2020)

⁴National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Dept. of Transportation (US). Traffic Safety Marketing. Teen Safety: Drivers Ed. Available at <https://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/get-materials/teen-safety/drivers-ed> (accessed 5/16/2020)

⁵Chen L, Baker SP, Braver ER, Li G. Carrying passengers as a risk factor for crashes fatal to 16- and 17-year-old drivers. JAMA 2000;283(12):1578–1582.

⁶Ouimet MC, Pradhan AK, Brooks-Russell A, et al. Young drivers and their passengers: a systematic review of epidemiological studies on crash risk. Journal of Adolescent Health 2015;57(1 Suppl):S24-35.

⁷National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Dept. of Transportation (US). (2019, April). Traffic Safety Facts Research Notes: Distracted Driving in Fatal Crashes, 2017. DOT HS 812 700. Available from URL: <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/812700> (accessed 5/16/2020).

⁸American Automobile Association (AAA). Keys2Drive: The AAA Guide to Teen Driver Safety, Understand the Facts & Risks. Available at: <https://teendriving.aaa.com/OH/getting-ready/understand-the-facts-risks/> (accessed 5/16/2020).

⁹American Automobile Association (AAA). Keys2Drive: The AAA Guide to Teen Driver Safety, Teen Driver Distraction. Available at: <https://teendriving.aaa.com/OH/getting-ready/teen-driver-distraction/> (accessed 5/16/2020).

¹⁰American Automobile Association (AAA). Keys2Drive: The AAA Guide to Teen Driver Safety, Key Points for Parents. Available at: <https://teendriving.aaa.com/OH/getting-ready/key-points-for-parents/> (accessed 5/16/2020).