

SHOCKING STATISTICS

- Motor vehicle crashes remain the No. 1 cause of fatalities for adolescents.
- The greatest lifetime chance of crashing occurs in the **first 6 months** after licensure.

➤ The overwhelming majority (**75 percent**) of teen driver crashes are due to a “critical error,” with three common errors accounting for nearly half of these crashes:

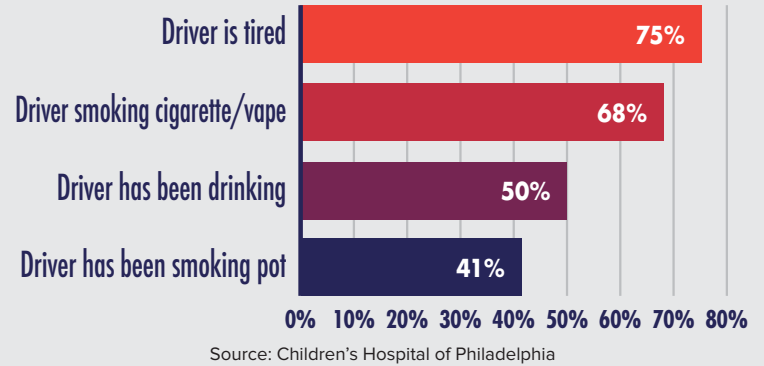
- ▶ Lack of scanning that is needed to detect and respond to hazards.
- ▶ Going too fast for road conditions (e.g., driving too fast to respond to others or to successfully navigate a curve).
- ▶ Being distracted by something inside or outside of the vehicle.

- The fatal crash rate for drivers ages 16 to 19, based on miles driven, is **four times higher** than for drivers ages 25 to 69.
- Teen passengers and cell phones are two distractions proven to cause fatalities among teens.
- **Seven percent** of teens surveyed have been the driver in at least one crash where someone needed medical attention.
- One-fourth of all 9th through 11th graders have been in a crash as a passenger where someone needed medical attention.

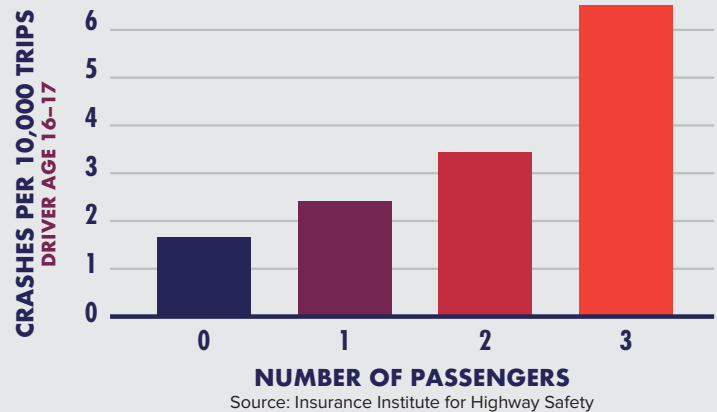
www.teendriversource.org



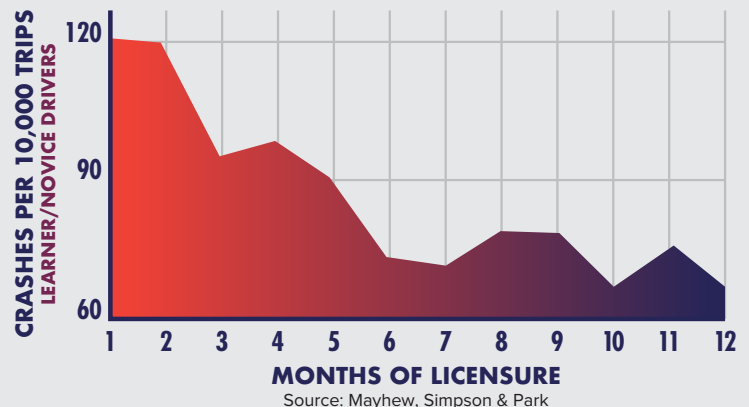
PERCENT OF TEENS WHO REPORT SEEING THESE THINGS AT LEAST SOMETIMES AMONG TEEN DRIVERS



MORE PASSENGERS = MORE RISK



LESS EXPERIENCE = MORE RISK



EIGHT DANGER ZONES

EIGHT TEENS A DAY ARE KILLED IN CAR CRASHES. MAKE SURE YOUR YOUNG DRIVER IS AWARE OF THE LEADING CAUSES OF TEEN CRASHES, AND PUT RULES IN PLACE TO HELP YOUR TEEN STAY SAFE.

1 DRIVER INEXPERIENCE

Most crashes happen during the first year a teen has a license. Provide at least 65 hours of supervised driving practice over at least six months.

Make sure to practice on a variety of roads, at different times of day, and in varied weather and traffic conditions. This will help your teen gain the skills he or she needs to be safe.

2 DRIVING WITH TEEN PASSENGERS

Crash risk goes up when teens drive with other teens in the car.

Limit the number of teen passengers your child can have to zero or one. Keep this rule in place until 18 years of age.

3 NIGHTTIME DRIVING

For all ages, fatal crashes are more likely to occur at night; but the risk is highest for teens.

Teens aged between 16-17 that have a driver license have certain nighttime driving restrictions. A 16-year-old cannot legally drive between the hours of 11PM and 6AM, and a 17-year-old cannot legally drive between the hours of 1AM and 5AM, unless driving to or from work, or accompanied by a licensed driver who is 21 or older.

4 NOT USING SEAT BELTS

The simplest way to prevent car crash deaths is to buckle up.

Require teen to wear a seat belt on every trip. This simple step can reduce your teen's risk of dying or being badly injured in a crash by about half.

5 DISTRACTED DRIVING

Distractions increase your teen's risk of being in a crash.

Don't allow activities that may take your teen's attention away from driving, such as talking on a cell phone, texting, eating, or playing with the radio.

6 DROWSY DRIVING

Young drivers are at highest risk for drowsy driving, which causes thousands of crashes every year.

Teens are most tired and at risk when driving in the early morning or late at night. Be sure your teen is fully rested before he or she gets behind the wheel.

7 RECKLESS DRIVING

Research shows that teens lack the experience, judgment, and maturity to assess risky situations.

Help your teen avoid the following unsafe behaviors.

- **SPEEDING:** Make sure your teen knows to follow the speed limit and adjust speed to road conditions.
- **TAILGATING:** Remind your teen to maintain enough space behind the vehicle ahead to avoid a crash in case of a sudden stop.
- **INSUFFICIENT SCANNING:** Stress the importance of always knowing the location of other vehicles on the road.

8 IMPAIRED DRIVING

Even one drink will impair your teen's driving ability and increase the risk of a crash.

Be a good role model: don't drink and drive, and reinforce this message with your teen.

www.cdc.gov/ParentsAreTheKey/danger/index.html

START BY SETTING A GOOD EXAMPLE WITH YOUR OWN DRIVING. AS YOUR TEEN PAYS MORE ATTENTION TO YOUR BEHAVIOR BEHIND THE WHEEL, YOU DON'T WANT TO PASS ON BAD HABITS. KEEP YOUR MOBILE DEVICES STOWED AND FOCUS ON DRIVING.

teendriving.aaa.com