



Municipal Traffic Safety Initiatives Young Drivers



JUST THE FACTS:

NATIONALLY:

- In 2022, motor vehicle crashes were the leading cause of death among 13-19-year-old females and one of the leading causes of death among 13-19-year-old males in the United States.
- According to teen driver safety statistics compiled by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 2,034 young drivers ages 15 to 20 years old died in motor vehicle crashes in 2022.
- Teen driver statistics also show that teens are also more likely to crash if impaired, using a cell phone, or with peer passengers.
- Novice teen drivers are twice as likely as adult drivers to be in a fatal crash. There was a 30% increase in passenger vehicle driver fatalities of 15- to 18-year-olds between 2013 and 2022.
- Most newly licensed teen drivers exit the learner's permit period with significant skill deficits, leading to a much higher risk of crashing compared with more experienced drivers. The most common types of crashes involve left turns, rear-end events, and running off the road.
- In 2017, 2,364 teens in the United States aged 16-19 were killed, and about 300,000 were treated in emergency departments for injuries suffered in motor vehicle crashes. That means six teens aged 16-19 died every day due to motor vehicle crashes, and hundreds more were injured.
- In 2022, teenagers accounted for 7% of motor vehicle crash deaths. They accounted for 9% of passenger vehicle occupant deaths, 3% of pedestrian deaths, 4% of motorcyclist deaths, 6% of bicyclist deaths and 13% of all-terrain vehicle rider deaths.
- Speeding nearly triples the risk of being involved in a crash or near-crash. Driving too fast for existing driving conditions reduces your ability to steer safely, extends your stopping distances, and can prevent you from reacting quickly enough to avoid a crash. A relatively small speed increase can have large and possibly lethal consequences because a vehicle's crash impact increases exponentially with its speed. For every 10 mph of increased speed, the risk of dying in a crash double. In addition, as your speed increases so does your risk of serious injuries and damage to vehicles and property. In fact, speed accounted for approximately one-third of all traffic deaths in 2018, totaling 9,378 deaths.

IN TEXAS:

- In 2022, Texas had the highest number of traffic fatality crashes (620) involving young drivers, AND the highest numbers of young drivers killed (222).

IT'S THE LAW:

- Young drivers must follow all the same laws as other drivers in Texas.
- Additionally, there are some other requirements for drivers under 18 years of age.¹
 - For 12 months after obtaining a license, a person under 18 years of age may not operate a motor vehicle after midnight and before 5 a.m. unless the operation of the vehicle is necessary for the operator to attend or participate in employment or a school-related activity or because of a medical emergency. For the same period they may not drive with more than one passenger in the vehicle under 21 years of age who is not a family member or while using a wireless communications device (including a cell phone with hands-free capabilities), except in case of emergency.
 - Similar restrictions apply to those under 17 years of age who holds a restricted motorcycle license or moped license.

KEEP IT SAFE:

- Be extremely careful when driving at night.
- Avoid distractions, like cell phones, text messaging, and too many passengers.
- Do not speed and don't encourage the driver to speed.
- Do not accept a challenge at a red light to drag race.
- Do not drive while putting on sunscreen or makeup.
- Tell your friends that it is not cool to drive crazy. Wear your seat belt and require all passengers to wear theirs.
- Do not drive when drowsy or short on sleep.
- Do not drink and drive.

What Other Safety Tips Can You Suggest?

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

NHTSA – Traffic Safety Facts, Young Drivers: 2022 Data <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/813601>

NHTSA Teen Driving, <https://www.nhtsa.gov/road-safety/teen-driving#the-topic-for-teens>
www.teendriversource.com

NHTSA – Teen Distracted Driver Data, <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/813558>

National Centers for Injury Prevention and Control, 2024,

<https://wisqars.cdc.gov/lcd/?o=LCD&y1=2022&y2=2022&ct=10&cc=ALL&g=00&s=0&r=0&ry=0&e=0&ar=lcd1age&at=groups&ag=lcd1age&a1=0&a2=199>

EMC Insurance, <https://www.emcinsurance.com/losscontrol/insights-d/2020/08/speed-increases-risk>

¹ Texas Transportation Code §545.424.