



## 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.
- 2,034 drivers aged 15 to 20 years old died in motor vehicle crashes in 2022.
- Teens are 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 15-18 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 2022, 339 motorcycle riders aged 15-20 died in traffic crashes and 6,571 were injured.
- 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 doubles. In addition, as one's speed increases, so does the risk of serious injuries and damage to vehicle.

#### TEXAS:

- In 2022, Texas had the highest number of traffic fatality crashes (620) involving young drivers and the highest number of young drivers killed (222).
- 14.1% of the 2022 Texas traffic fatalities involved 15-20 year olds.

### IT'S THE LAW

- Young drivers generally must follow all the same traffic laws as other drivers in Texas.
- Under Section 545.424 of the Transportation Code, drivers under 18 may not:
  - use wireless communication devices while driving
  - drive between midnight and 5 a.m. (unless for employment, school, or an emergency)
  - drive with more than one passenger that is under 21 who is not a family member

### KEEP IT SAFE

- Be extremely careful when driving at night
- Avoid distractions like cell phones, too many passengers, and loud music
- Do not speed and do not 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
- Do not eat while driving
- Tell your friends that it is not cool to drive over the speed limit
- Wear your seat belt and require all passengers to wear theirs
- Do not drive when drowsy
- Never 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](http://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>