



## National Teen Driving Statistics

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death among 15- to 20-year olds, according to the National Center for Health Statistics. National studies of graduated licensing found that strong laws were associated with substantially lower fatal crash rates and substantially lower insurance claim rates among young teen drivers covered by the laws.

Strong restrictions on nighttime driving and teen passengers, as well as raising the licensing age, reduced rates of fatal crashes and insurance collision claims.

### According to the [Insurance Institute for Highway Safety](#):

- A total of 2,820 teenagers ages 13-19 died in motor vehicle crashes in 2016. This is 68% fewer than in 1975 and 3% more than in 2015.
- About 2 out of every 3 teenagers killed in crashes in 2016 were males. Since 1975 teenage crash deaths have decreased more among males (72%) than among females (57%).
- In 2016, teenagers accounted for 8% of motor vehicle crash deaths. They comprised 9% of passenger vehicle (cars, pickups, SUVs, and vans) occupant deaths among all ages, 6% of pedestrian deaths, 3% of motorcyclist deaths, 8% of bicyclist deaths and 15% of all-terrain vehicle rider deaths.
- 76% of teenage motor vehicle crash deaths in 2016 were passenger vehicle occupants. The others were pedestrians (11%), motorcyclists (6%), bicyclists (2%).
- In 2016, 56% of deaths among passenger vehicle occupants ages 16-19 were drivers.
- In 2016, teenage crash deaths occurred most often in June and May; July, August, October and November also saw elevated crash deaths among teens.
- 53% of motor vehicle crash deaths among teenagers in 2016 occurred on Friday, Saturday or Sunday.

- Teenage motor vehicle crash deaths in 2016 occurred most frequently from 9:00 p.m. to midnight (18%).
- In 2016, 55% of the deaths of teenage passengers in passenger vehicles occurred in vehicles driven by another teenager. Among deaths of passengers of all ages, 13% occurred when a teenager was driving.
- In 2016, seat belt use among fatally injured passenger vehicle drivers age 16 (50%), 17 (52%), and 18 (52%) was higher than among fatally injured drivers age 19 (41%) and those ages 20-59 (41%), but lower than among drivers 60 and older combined (62%). Among fatally injured 16 to 19-year-old occupants, belt use among passengers (35%) was considerably lower than among drivers (49%). Note, that belt use among those fatally injured is not always accurately recorded but it gives an indication of relative belt use rates in serious crashes by age group.
- Among passenger vehicle drivers ages 16-19 involved in fatal crashes in 2016, 46% were involved in single-vehicle crashes. This was higher than for drivers ages 25 and older (36%).
- Among fatally injured teenage drivers in 2016, females were less likely than males to have high BACs. Among fatally injured passenger vehicle drivers ages 16-17, 13% of males and 11% of females had BACs at or above 0.08%. Among fatally injured drivers ages 18-19, 25% of males and 13% of females had BACs at or above 0.08%.

The AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety released a report in May 2012 that showed that the risk of 16- or 17-year old drivers being killed in a crash increases with each additional teenage passenger in the vehicle. The risk increases 44% with one passenger; it doubles with two passengers, and quadruples with three or more passengers. The study analyzed crash data and the number of miles driven by 16- and 17-year old's.

