

Teen drivers most at risk of crashing

18th October, 2016



Teenage drivers are still the most likely to crash, according to a new study. The Highway Safety Association (HSA) in the USA found that teen drivers are 1.6 times more likely to be in a traffic accident than

adult drivers. Teens aged 18 to 19 are the likeliest to be in a fatal crash. They are in more deadly car collisions than even 15- to 17-year-old drivers. The HSA said recent figures show an increase in teen driver deaths for the first time since 2006. HSA spokesman Jonathan Adkins said: "This report drives home the message that there is still much to do to reduce teen driver fatal crashes and the resulting deaths." He added: "The increase in teen driver fatal crashes is concerning and [we] are keeping a watchful eye."

The HSA has been working with the Ford motor company in a special Driving Skills for Life program. This first launched in the USA and has since expanded to 35 countries worldwide. It helps new drivers recognize road hazards and teaches them how to be safer drivers. Jim Graham, Global Manager for the Driving Skills for Life program, said: "Smart programs that focus on teen driving behavior have been very successful in helping novice and younger drivers be safer on the roads, but we still have more to do." The greatest chance of crashing is in the first six months after teens get their license. It's understandable why parents worry so much about their teen passing their driving test.

Sources: forbes.com / ctvnews.ca / shreeveporttimes.com

Writing

No one should drive until they are 21. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

teenagers / crash / study / drivers / fatal / crash / collisions / message / concerning / motor company / special / program / worldwide / behavior / novice / driving test

True / False

- a) A study from the WHO found teen drivers were the most dangerous. T / F
- b) Teens aged 15 to 17 are the most likely to crash. T / F
- c) The number of teen driver deaths is going down. T / F
- d) A road safety group said there was still a lot of work to do with teens. T / F
- e) A US driving skills program is used in 35 countries around the world. T / F
- f) The driving skills program has been very successful. T / F
- g) The riskiest time for new teen drivers is their second year of driving. T / F
- h) It's easy to understand why parents of teen drivers worry. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. likely | a. grown |
| 2. found | b. worrying |
| 3. fatal | c. possibility |
| 4. reduce | d. discovered |
| 5. concerning | e. lower |
| 6. launched | f. probable |
| 7. expanded | g. getting through |
| 8. novice | h. started |
| 9. chance | i. deadly |
| 10. passing | j. learner |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) When is the best age for people to start driving?
- c) Should there be an age limit for old people to stop driving?
- d) What is traffic safety like in your country?
- e) What do you think of teen drivers?
- f) What can we do to reduce the number of crashes involving teens?
- g) Why do teenagers have more traffic accidents than adults?
- h) Why might the number of fatal crashes be increasing?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. Teenage drivers are still the most | a. in a traffic accident |
| 2. according | b. parents worry so much |
| 3. teen drivers are 1.6 times more likely to be | c. there is still much to do |
| 4. This report drives home the message that | d. younger drivers |
| 5. we are keeping a watchful | e. to a new study |
| 6. expanded to | f. hazards |
| 7. It helps new drivers recognize road | g. get their license |
| 8. helping novice and | h. likely to crash |
| 9. the first six months after teens | i. eye |
| 10. It's understandable why | j. 35 countries worldwide |

Discussion – Student B

- What should the penalties be for dangerous driving?
- What do the police in your country do to keep the roads safe?
- What are the most dangerous things teen drivers do?
- What advice do you have for new drivers?
- What do you think the driving skills program will teach?
- What kind of driver are you?
- Would you worry about your teenager passing their driving test?
- What questions would you like to ask a road safety expert?

Spelling

- the most llyike to crash
- be in a traffic entdcica
- a ftala crash
- deadly car slicnolio
- recent srifegu show an increase
- The icarsnee in teen driver...
- This first luchnade in the USA
- adendxep to 35 countries worldwide
- road ahaszdr
- have been very scesclufsu
- helping nicove and younger drivers
- the first six months after teens get their clenesi

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. d	3. i	4. e	5. b
6. h	7. a	8. j	9. c	10. f

Role Play

Role A – Speeding

You think speeding is the riskiest thing to do while driving. Tell the others three reasons why. Also, tell the others which is the least risky of these (and why) and what punishment people should get: tailgating, no seatbelt or using a mobile phone.

Role B – Tailgating

You think tailgating is the riskiest thing to do while driving. Tell the others three reasons why. Also, tell the others which is the least risky of these (and why) and what punishment people should get: speeding, no seatbelt or using a mobile phone.

Role C – No seatbelt

You think no seatbelt is the riskiest thing to do while driving. Tell the others three reasons why. Also, tell the others which is the least risky of these (and why) and what punishment people should get: tailgating, speeding or using a mobile phone.

Role D – Using a mobile phone

You think using a mobile phone is the riskiest thing to do while driving. Tell the others three reasons why. Also, tell the others which is the least risky of these (and why) and what punishment people should get: tailgating, no seatbelt or speeding.

Speaking – Risky

Rank these with your partner. Put the riskiest things to do in a car at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| • tailgating | • speeding |
| • not indicating | • using mobile phone |
| • no seatbelt | • driving while tired |
| • drink driving | • running a red light |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	F	d	T	e	T	f	T	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.