

Science of Safe Driving Among Adolescents
Special Supplement to *Injury Prevention*
June 20, 2006

Teen Driver Facts

- Traffic crashes occur disproportionately among newly driving young adults with one in four crash fatalities in the US involving 16 to 24 year olds (FARS)[1].
- The crash fatality rate (crash fatalities/100,000 population) is highest for 16 to 17 year olds – with the first six months after licensure the most dangerous – and remains high through age 24[2].
- For the 16-to-20 age group, the crash fatality rate in 2004 was nearly twice as high as other age groups: 27deaths/100,000 population for 16 to 20 year olds, as compared with 15 for 25 to 34 year olds and 11 for those 55 to 64 and 18 for those 74 years and older[3].
- Approximately two-thirds (63 percent) of teen (13 to 19 year olds) passenger deaths occur when other teenagers are driving. Child passengers (under age 16 years) driven by teenaged (16 to 19 year olds) drivers have three times the risk of injury in a crash than children driven by adults. Overall, 9 percent of child fatalities occur with a driver under age 19[4, 5].
- US research demonstrates that the “overwhelming majority” of crashes involving teen drivers were due to failure to employ safe operating practices and failure to recognize the inherent risk rather than “thrill seeking” or deliberate risk-taking[6].

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 2. Mayhew, D.R., H.M. Simpson, and A. Pak, *Changes in collision rates among novice drivers during the first months of driving*. Accident Analysis and Prevention, 2003. **35**: p. 683-691.
 3. NHTSA. *Traffic Safety Facts 2004: A Compilation of Motor Vehicle Crash Data from the Fatality Analysis Reporting System and the General Estimates System*. 2006 [cited 2006 May 22, 2006]; 1-222]. Available from: <http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/pdf/nrd-30/NCSA/TSFAnn/TSF2004.pdf>.
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 5. (IHS), I.I.F.H.S., *FATALITY FACTS 2004: TEENAGERS*. 2006. Insurance Institute for Highway Safety: Arlington, VA. p. 1-11.
 6. McKnight, A.J. and A.S. McKnight, *Young novice drivers: careless or clueless?* Accident Analysis and Prevention, 2003. **35**: p. 921-925.