

THE THREE PRIMARY FACTORS INFLUENCING TEEN DRIVER DEATHS

1. ALCOHOL

Alcohol and driving **never** mix

2. SEAT BELTS

Seat belts are the single best prevention measure for driver safety and teen drivers are the least likely to use them

3. DISTRACTIONS

Especially other passengers in the car

THE ALABAMA GRADUATED DRIVER'S LICENSE LAW

(Amended 2010)

www.adph.org/teendriving

A 16-17 year old Alabama driver with a Graduated License may NOT:

1. Have more than ONE* non-family passengers other than the parent, guardian, or supervising licensed driver at least 21 years of age.
2. Operate a vehicle between 12:00 midnight and 6:00am, unless...
 - a. accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.
 - b. accompanied by a licensee 21 years of age or older with parental consent.
 - c. going to or from their place of work.
 - d. going to or from a school-sponsored event.
 - e. going to or from a religious-sponsored event.
 - f. driving due to a medical, fire, or law enforcement emergency.
 - g. driving to or from hunting/fishing activities in possession of required licenses.*
3. Drive while operating any non-essential handheld communication device.*

Violations will result in an extension of the graduated license period and/or suspension of the license.

* New restrictions added in 2010.

For more information, please visit www.adph.org/teendriving.

SURVIVING TEEN DRIVING

**PLEASE SHARE THIS
INFORMATION WITH
YOUR FRIENDS WHO
ARE JUST STARTING
TO DRIVE. IT MAY
SAVE THEM SOMEDAY.**



Injury Prevention Branch
Alabama Department of Public Health



Alabama Child Death Review System



**A SURVIVAL
GUIDE FOR NEW
TEEN DRIVERS
AND THEIR
PARENTS**

ALCOHOL

Alcohol and/or drugs negatively affect the safety and abilities of any driver.

Because of their age, teen drivers are more likely to be affected by alcohol and are the least experienced drivers on the road.

Understandably, alcohol poses an even greater risk to teen drivers (and their passengers) than to other drivers on the road.

Even if no crash, injury, or death occur, there are very serious criminal consequences for operating a vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Alcohol and driving never mix... but that is especially true for teen drivers.

To view or download a parent-teen driving contract and for other good information, please visit www.parentingteendrivers.com.

SEAT BELTS

Always wearing a seat belt while driving or riding in a vehicle is the single best way to prevent vehicular injury and death and is very easy to do, yet many people still fail to do so.

Air bags and passive restraint systems have proven effective in reducing injury and death in certain types of crashes, but they are no substitute for seat belts and work best when used along with seat belts.

Teen drivers and passengers are less likely to wear seat belts than their adult counterparts, but more likely to be in a crash where they could prove useful.

Teen drivers possibly have the most to gain by wearing seat belts every time they drive or ride.

It's also the law -- seat belts are required for drivers and most passengers in Alabama.

DISTRACTIONS

All drivers must deal with distractions while driving but, as the least experienced drivers on the road, teen drivers are at the greatest risk of having those distractions put them in danger.

Driving is an important and potentially dangerous activity that requires attention and focus from the driver at all times.

Some common distractions that are known to cause or contribute to teen driver injuries and deaths include:

Passengers -- the likelihood of a crash goes up with each additional passenger in the vehicle

Talking on cell phones and/or text messaging -- please pull off the road to talk or text

Eating or drinking

Adjusting the radio, CD player, temperature controls, etc.

Listening to music too loudly or using headphones

A driver's eyes, ears, and complete attention are required for safe driving!

FACTS AND OTHER FACTORS

The leading cause of death for people ages 16-24 in the US is motor vehicle crashes -- almost half of all deaths by all causes.

Each year approximately 450,000 teens are injured in vehicle crashes, 27,000 are hospitalized, and 5,500 die.

Drivers age 16-19 are twice as likely to crash as those 20-24; three times as likely as those 25-29; and more than 4 times as likely as those 30-69. Among those 16-19 years old, the youngest drivers have the highest risk.

In Alabama, vehicular deaths account for approximately half of all preventable deaths each year for those less than 18 years of age. "Driver inexperience" is cited as the cause in approximately one-fourth of those deaths.

In addition to the three primary factors already discussed in this brochure (alcohol, seat belts, and distractions), other factors which contribute to teen driver crashes, injuries, and fatalities include:

Driver inexperience -- this amplifies the effects of most other factors

Speeding

Aggressive and/or reckless driving

Nighttime driving

Unlicensed and underage driving

Unsafe vehicles/equipment

ALABAMA IS CURRENTLY THE SECOND WORST STATE IN THE NATION FOR TEEN DRIVER FATALITIES