

## Fact Sheet

- Car crashes are the number one killer of teens, claiming an average of 3,000 young lives annually (The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia [CHOP], 2013; Centers for Disease Control [CDC], 2012).
- In 2011, 10% of all drivers involved in fatal crashes were between 15 and 20 years old (NHTSA).
- Parents who set, monitor and enforce safe driving practices have teens who are less likely to crash and violate the law. Involved parents, who set high expectations as well as nurture their young drivers, will see their children more likely to drive safely at far greater rates than teens with permissive or uninvolved parents (CHOP, 2009).
- Novice teen drivers, unlike their more experienced adult counterparts, are four times more likely to be involved in a fatal motor vehicle crash (Insurance Institute for Highway Safety [IIHS], 2008).
- In 2009, about 3,000 teens in the United States aged 15–19 were killed and more than 350,000 were treated in emergency departments for injuries suffered in motor-vehicle crashes.
- Young people ages 15-24 represent only 14% of the U.S. population. However, they account for 30% of the total costs of motor vehicle injuries among males and 28% among females.
- Numerous studies that monitor both teen and parent driving, find that “people drive in ways similar to their parents” (Shope, 2006).

### Louisiana Statistics 2013 Statistics

- There were 32 fatal crashes and 2583 injury crashes for the 15-17 year old drivers. This represents a 48.84 fatal crash rate and a 3942.01 injury crash rate.
- Young male drivers ages 15-17 over represent females of the same age group as it relates to fatal and injury crashes by gender. Fatal crashes = 8 (f) and 24 (m); injury crashes = 1289 (f) and 1294 (m).
- Young female drivers ages 15-17 were involved in 50% more alcohol related fatal crashes than males of the same age group – 2(f) and 1(m). However, young male drivers were involved in more alcohol related injury crashes than females of the same age group – 42(m) and 23 (f). Just the opposite is true for young drivers ages 18-20, 13(m) and 5(f),

and for young drivers ages 21-24, 27(m) and 5(f). The same holds true for alcohol related injury crashes for the inclusive age group (15-24), 727 (m) and 319 (f).

- Most fatal crashes for young drivers (ages 15-24) occurred during the months of April, and July thru September. Most injury crashes for the same age group occurred during the months of March thru May and August thru November.
- Most injury crashes for young drivers (ages 15-24) occurred daily during the 3PM to 6PM hours. Most fatal crashes for the same age group occurred during the week days from 3PM to 9PM, on Saturday from 11PM to 12AM, and on Sunday from 2AM to 4AM.

*Source: Data Reports, Louisiana Crash Data Reports*

## Research

A George Mason University study made these recommendations:

- Initiatives should be prepared to help get parents up to date and knowledgeable about the influence they have with their sons and daughters regarding driving safety.
- Parents need to be more involved committing substantive and quality time to their child's preparation as a driver.
- Parents need to conduct more oversight activities with their children regarding driving.

*(Report of Findings Young Drivers Study, George Mason University, Center for the Advancement of Public Health)*

A recent study from the AAA Foundation showed that:

- Only 8% of parents reported receiving materials that offer advice for parents of beginning drivers.
- Only a small percent of supervised driving is conducted in adverse conditions: in the dark (16%), in rain (3%), or in heavy traffic (2%).
- A distinct minority of parents are aware of the need for substantial experience in a wide variety of settings/conditions.
- Parents are generally not aware of the need to, or how to teach the cognitive aspects of driving. They tended to focus only on vehicle handling.
- Parents focus should be on helping their teen develop the higher order cognitive skills essential to driving, moving them toward being a "wise" driver rather than simply a "skilled" driver.

*Parents, Teens and the Learner Stage of Graduated Driver Licensing October 2010 - AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety*