



GEORGIA TRAFFIC SAFETY QUICK FACTS: 2019

YOUNG ADULT DRIVERS (AGE 15-20 YEARS)

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

Young adult motor vehicle crashes are **preventable**. There are proven strategies that can improve the safety of young drivers on the road. **Young adult drivers have a higher risk of being involved in fatal crashes** compared to other age groups. This can be due to **lack of driving experience or other risk factors**.

THE NUMBERS

In 2019...

203 young adult drivers were involved in a **motor vehicle crash** each day.



169 young adult drivers were involved in a **fatal motor vehicle crash** – of these drivers, **59** died.

42% of all young adult drivers fatally injured **did not wear a seatbelt**.



~\$140 million total medical charges were incurred by Georgian motor vehicle occupants aged 15-20 years who were seen or admitted to a hospital with a traffic motor vehicle injury.

12% **DECREASE**

of young adult drivers involved in fatal crashes



REDUCE YOUR RISK



WEAR YOUR SEATBELT



DRIVE ALERT STAY FOCUSED



DRIVE UNIMPAIRED
(Alcohol, Drugs, or Drowsy)



SLOW DOWN

FACTORS THAT LEAD TO CRASHES AMONG YOUNG ADULT DRIVERS

- Failure to yield
- Following too close
- Overcorrecting
- Changing lanes improperly
- Driving while distracted



PREVENTION

- ☒ Increase parental involvement and compliance to Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) laws.
- ☒ Encourage young drivers to complete behind-the-wheel training with an approved instructor.
- ☒ Change teen behaviors, attitudes, and perceptions surrounding texting and other forms of distracted driving using peer-to-peer programs and media campaigns.
- ☒ Increase parental role modeling of good driving practices and set up a Teen/Parent Agreement.



2019 GEORGIA QUICK FACTS

Young Adult Drivers

Young adult drivers (15-20 years) accounted for **8%** of all Georgia licensed drivers, but represented:

- **10%** of all drivers involved in traffic crashes
- **17%** of all drivers involved in serious injury crashes, and
- **8%** of all drivers involved in fatal crashes.

Male Young Adult Drivers

Young adult male drivers are at a higher risk of traffic fatalities. **Three out of four** fatally injured young adult drivers were male.

Traffic Injuries

Over **13,000** Georgia residents aged 15-20 years were either seen or admitted to a hospital for a motor vehicle occupant injury.

Risks

Nighttime Driving

Night driving increases the risk of a crash for all drivers, but that risk is even higher for young, inexperienced drivers – **over half** of fatal crashes involving young drivers were at night.

Distracted Young Drivers

56% of young adult drivers were confirmed or suspected of distracted driving.

Impaired Young Drivers

Among all young drivers ages 15-to-20 years involved in fatal crashes, **6%** consumed alcohol (0.01+ g/dL BAC) and **4%** had a BAC of 0.08+ g/dL.

RESOURCES

GRADUATED DRIVER LICENSING (GDL)

GDL programs allow young adult drivers to safely gain driving experience before obtaining full driving privileges in three stages:

- 1 **Learner Stage** – supervised driving, culminating with a driving test;
- 2 **Intermediate Stage** – limited unsupervised driving in high risk situations; and,
- 3 **Full Privilege Stage** – issuance of a standard driver's license.

GDL Conditions and Restrictions

- May not drive between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 5:00 a.m., no exceptions.
- During the first six (6) months following issuance, only immediate family members can ride in the vehicle.
- During the second six (6) months following issuance, only one (1) passenger under 21 years of age and who is not a member of the driver's immediate family can ride in the vehicle.
- After one year from the date of issuance, only three (3) passengers under 21 years of age and who are not members of the driver's immediate family can ride in the vehicle.

PEER-TO-PEER PROGRAMMING

Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) is an organization with a mission to prevent students from making potentially destructive decisions.

Teens in the Driver Seat (TDS) is a peer-to-peer safety program for teens that focuses on traffic safety and addresses risk for this age group. TDS is available to high schools in Georgia.

AutoCoach is a free teen driving training app for parents to teach their teens to drive safely.



Visit our website for more information and resources related to safe driving among young adult drivers: <https://gahighwaysafety.org/campaigns/young-drivers/>