



GEORGIA TRAFFIC SAFETY QUICK FACTS: 2020

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**.

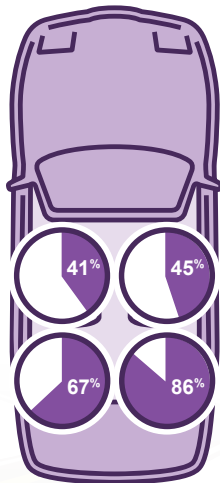
THE NUMBERS

In 2020...



206 young adult drivers were involved in a **fatal motor vehicle crash** of these drivers, **77** died.

Percent of fatally injured young drivers and their fatally injured passenger occupants (Aged 15-to-20) were **unrestrained**



~\$181 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.

22% INCREASE

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

- Following too close
- Driver lost control
- Failure to yield
- Speeding too fast for conditions
- Changing lanes improperly



PREVENTION

- Avoid risky driving behaviors by not speeding, have no distractions, focus on driving, not driving while tired or impaired, and wearing your seat belt.
- 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 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 **9%** of all Georgia licensed drivers, but represented:

- **9%** of all drivers involved in traffic crashes
- **18%** of all drivers involved in serious injury crashes, and
- **11%** of all drivers involved in fatal crashes.

Injuries

Among all serious injuries involving young drivers, **61%** were occupants in the vehicle operated by the young driver and **39%** were occupants of other vehicles or non-motorists

Traffic Injuries

Over **12,000** 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 – **Nearly half** of fatal crashes involving young drivers were at night.

Distracted Young Drivers

35% of young adult drivers were confirmed or suspected of distracted driving.

Single Vehicle Crashes

53% of young drivers involved in single-vehicle crashes lost control of their vehicle moments before they crashed with an object other than another vehicle.

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

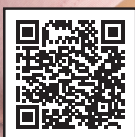
- May not drive between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 5:00 a.m., no exceptions.
- During the first six (6) months following issuance, only immediate family members can ride in the vehicle.
- During the second six (6) months following issuance, only one (1) passenger under 21 years of age and who is 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.



For more information and resources related to risky driving:
<https://www.gahighwaysafety.org/georgia-traffic-safety-facts/>