

Georgia Traffic Safety Facts

2021 Data

August 2023

Key Findings

- In 2021, there were 215 young drivers aged 15-to-20 years old involved in fatal crashes – a 4 percent increase since 2020 (9 more drivers). Sixty-nine percent of young drivers involved in fatal crashes were 18-to-20 years of age.
- Young drivers accounted for 8 percent of all licensed drivers, 10 percent of all drivers involved in fatal crashes, and 8 percent of all drivers involved in motor vehicle crashes.
- Among all serious injuries involving young drivers, 56 percent were occupants in the vehicle operated by the young driver, and 44 percent were occupants of other vehicles or non-motorists.
- In 2021, the total motor vehicle crash-related hospitalization and emergency room charges among Georgia residents 15-to-20 years was \$206 million.

Cross-Cutting Findings

- In 2021, 37 percent of young drivers 15-to-20 years of age involved in a traffic crash were confirmed or suspected of distracted driving.
- Among drivers aged 15-to-20 years involved in fatal crashes, 6 percent consumed alcohol (0.01+ g/dL BAC), and 4 percent had a BAC of 0.08+ g/dL.

YOUNG DRIVERS

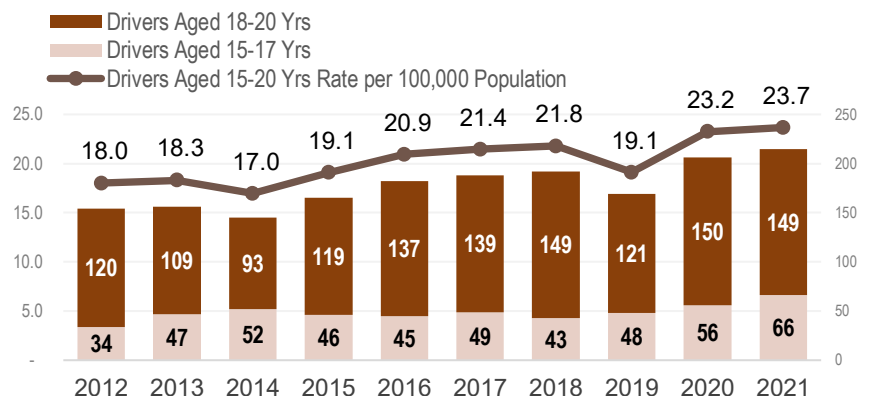
The term young driver refers to a person 15-to-20 years old operating a motor vehicle. *The involvement of young drivers in traffic crashes does not imply that young drivers caused the crash either by their actions or failure to act.*

This fact sheet contains information from the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS), Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) crash data modified by the Crash Outcomes Data Evaluation System (CODES) at the Department of Public Health (DPH), Georgia Department of Driver Services (DDS), Hospital Discharge Data, and Emergency Room Data. Refer to the 'data considerations' presented at the end of this publication for more information concerning the data.

Traffic Crashes Involving Young Drivers

In 2021, the number of young drivers (ages 15-to-20 years) involved in fatal crashes increased by 4 percent (from 206 drivers in 2020 to 215 drivers in 2021). During this same period, the rate of young drivers involved in fatal crashes per 100,000 population increased by 2 percent (from 23.2 to 23.7). Young drivers represented 8.2 percent of all drivers involved in fatal crashes in 2021—2.5 percent were 15-to-17 years of age, and 5.7 percent were 18-to-20 years of age. Figure 1 shows the number of young drivers involved in fatal crashes and the rate of young drivers involved in fatal crashes per 100,000 population between 2011 and 2020.

Figure 1. **Young Drivers (15-to-20 Years) Involved in Fatal Crashes and Rate per 100,000 Population, 2012–2021**



Source: FARS 2012-2021



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF HIGHWAY SAFETY

7 M.L.K. Jr Dr SE
Suite #643
Atlanta, GA 30334

(404) 656-6996
www.gahighwaysafety.org

Young drivers aged 15-to-20 years represented 8 percent of the state population and 8 percent of all licensed drivers. However, they represented 10 percent of all drivers involved in traffic crashes and 8 percent of all drivers involved in fatal crashes. In 2021:

- For every 100,000 traffic crashes involving drivers aged 15-to-20 years, 283.7 were fatal crashes.
- For every 100,000 licensed drivers aged 15-to-20 years, 33.9 drivers aged 15-to-20 years were involved in a fatal crash.
- For every 100,000 Georgia residents aged 15-to-20 years, 23.7 drivers aged 15-to-20 years were involved in a fatal crash.

In 2021, young drivers in the 18-to-20 age group experienced more than double the number of motor vehicle crashes and had a higher rate of involvement in fatal crashes compared to drivers in the 15-to-17 age group. The 15-to-17 age group had the second lowest rate of drivers involved in fatal crashes per licensed drivers and population compared to all other age groups (Table 1).

Table 1. **Drivers Involved in Fatal Crashes, by Age Group, 2021**

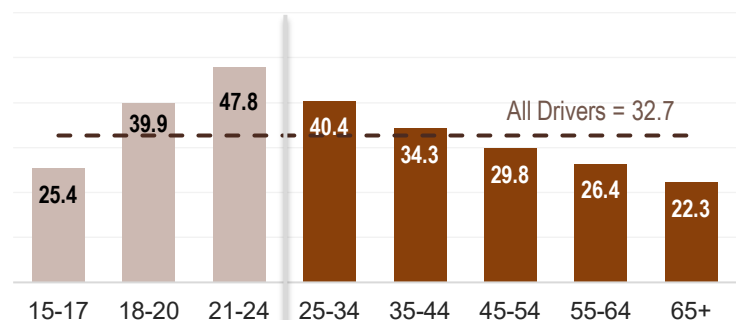
Age Group (Years)	Number of Drivers Involved		Licensed Drivers	Estimated Population	Rates of Drivers Involved in Fatal Crashes		
	Crashes	Fatal Crashes			Per 100,000 Crashes	Per 100,000 License	Per 100,000 Population
15-20	75,774	215	633,567	908,221	283.7	33.9	23.7
15-17	21,717	66	259,986	449,988	303.9	25.4	14.7
18-20	54,057	149	373,581	458,233	275.6	39.9	32.5
21-24	75,168	260	543,760	574,233	345.9	47.8	45.3
25-34	163,436	567	1,401,893	1,494,153	346.9	40.4	37.9
35-44	120,860	452	1,318,949	1,428,680	374.0	34.3	31.6
45-54	98,912	389	1,305,857	1,398,509	393.3	29.8	27.8
55-64	77,751	336	1,271,578	1,343,137	432.1	26.4	25.0
65+	58,851	341	1,531,994	1,584,071	579.4	22.3	21.5
TOTAL	715,646*	2,617*	8,007,598	10,799,566	365.7	32.7	24.2

*Totals include drivers 14 years or younger or with unreported age
Source: FARS 2021; CODES 2021; DDS 2021; OASIS 2021

Figure 2 displays the rate of drivers involved in fatal crashes per 100,000 licensed drivers by age group.

- Drivers in the 21-to-24 age group have the highest rate of involvement in fatal crashes compared to other age groups—47.8 drivers for every 100,000 licensed drivers aged 21-to-24.
- Conversely, drivers in the 15-to-17 age group have the second lowest rate of involvement in fatal crashes compared to other age groups—25.4 per 100,000 licensed drivers.

Figure 2. **Rate of Drivers Involved in Fatal Crashes per 100,000 Licensed Drivers by Age Group, 2021**



Source: FARS 2021, DDS 2021

Fatalities and Serious Injuries in Crashes Involving Young Drivers

Table 2 shows the number of total fatalities in crashes with young drivers between 2017 and 2021. In fatal crashes involving young drivers for the 5-year period from 2017 to 2021:

- Young drivers fatally injured increased by 20 percent (from 77 fatalities to 93 fatalities).
- Fatalities among the passengers of young drivers decreased by 25 percent (from 51 fatalities to 38 fatalities). The average age of the passengers riding with young drivers involved in fatal crashes increased from 21 years in 2017 to 24 years in 2021.
- Occupant fatalities of other vehicles not operated by the young driver increased by 4 percent (from 73 fatalities to 76 fatalities).
- Non-motorist fatalities – pedestrians, bicyclists, or other non-motorists – increased by 47 percent (from 15 fatalities to 22 fatalities).

Table 2. **Traffic Fatalities in Crashes Involving Young Drivers by Person Type and Year, 2017-2021**

Year	Young Drivers	Passengers of Young Drivers by Age				Occupants of Other Vehicles	Non-Motorists	Total
	(15 - 20)	< 15	15 - 20	21 +	Total			
2017	71	3	32	6	41	67	24	203
	35%	1%	16%	3%	20%	33%	12%	100%
2018	72	3	16	15	34	56	34	196
	37%	2%	8%	8%	17%	29%	17%	100%
2019	59	9	20	7	36	73	17	185
	32%	5%	11%	4%	19%	39%	9%	100%
2020	77	5	34	11	51*	73	15	216
	36%	2%	16%	5%	24%	34%	7%	100%
2021	93	3	21	13	38*	76	22	229
	41%	1%	9%	6%	17%	33%	10%	100%

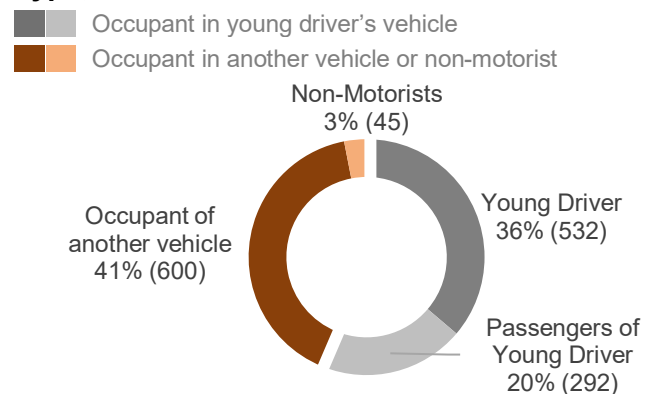
Note: Percent is calculated across the rows. * Includes passengers of unknown age.

Source: FARS 2017-2021

In 2021, there were 1,469 persons with suspected serious injuries involved in crashes that involved young drivers—16 percent of all serious injuries. Figure 3 shows the percentage of serious injuries among all persons involved in crashes with at least one young driver in 2021. Among all serious injuries involving young drivers:

- 56 percent were occupants in the vehicle operated by the young driver (represented by gray in Figure 3).
 - 36 percent were the young driver
 - 20 percent were the passengers of the young driver
- 44 percent were occupants of other vehicles or non-motorists (represented by brown in Figure 4).
 - 41 percent were occupants of vehicles that were *not* operated by a young driver
 - 3 percent were non-motorists (i.e., pedestrians or bicyclists)

Figure 3: **Percent of Persons Seriously Injured in Crashes Involving Young Drivers by Person Type, 2021**



1,469 Serious Injuries

Source: CODES 2021

Traffic-Related Injuries and Fatalities among the Young Population

In 2021, young persons aged 15-to-20 years represented 12 percent of all emergency room visits¹ (11,555 out of 93,536) and 8 percent of all hospitalizations (699 out of 8,598) related to motor vehicle traffic incidences. The total motor vehicle traffic-related hospitalization and emergency room charges among Georgia residents 15-to-20 years was \$206 million.

Table 3. **Number, Percent, and Rate of All Motor Vehicle Traffic-Related Emergency Room Visits, Hospitalizations, and Fatalities by Age Group, 2021**

Age Group	Emergency Room Visits			Hospitalizations			Traffic Fatalities		
	Number	Percent of Total	Rate per 100,000 Population	Number	Percent of Total	Rate per 100,000 Population	Number	Percent of Total	Rate per 100,000 Population
Less than 15	4,913	5%	237.5	61	1%	2.9	47	3%	2.3
15-20	11,555	12%	1272.3	699	8%	77.0	143	8%	15.7
15-17	3,871	4%	860.2	215	3%	47.8	44	2%	9.8
18-20	7,684	8%	1676.9	484	6%	105.6	97	5%	21.2
21-24	10,200	11%	1776.3	727	8%	126.6	160	9%	27.9
25-34	22,695	24%	1518.9	1,782	21%	119.3	352	20%	23.6
35-44	16,101	17%	1127.0	1388	16%	97.2	296	16%	20.7
45-54	11,960	13%	855.2	1193	14%	85.3	247	14%	17.7
55-64	9,236	10%	687.6	1175	14%	87.5	239	13%	17.8
65+	6,876	7%	434.1	1,573	18%	99.3	299	17%	18.9
Total	93,536	100%	990.5	8,598	100%	52.0	1,797*	100%	16.6

*Total includes fatalities with unreported or unknown age

Source: FARS 2021, OASIS 2021; Georgia Department of Public Health, Office of Health Indicators for Planning (OHIP) Hospital Inpatient Discharge and Emergency Room Visit Data.

¹ Hospitalization may include individuals who visited the emergency room. Emergency room visits may include individuals who discharged directly from the emergency room. Hospitalizations and emergency room visits are for Georgia residents only, while fatalities can be for persons out of state.

Restraint Use & Seatbelt Violations

Figure 4 shows percent of fatally injured passenger vehicle occupants (across all seating positions) who were unrestrained by age group and sex in 2021. Passenger vehicles include passenger cars, pickup trucks, SUVs, and vans. Based on known restraint use among young occupants of passenger vehicles aged 15-to-20 involved in fatal crashes between 2019 and 2021:

- **45 percent** of fatally injured, male occupants were unrestrained.
- **56 percent** of fatally injured, female occupants were unrestrained.
- **28 percent** of seriously injured² young drivers were unrestrained and **32 percent** of seriously injured young passengers were unrestrained (not shown in Figure 4).

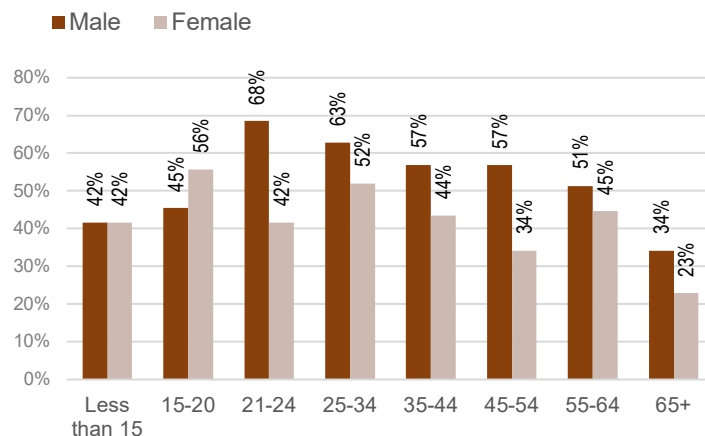
In 2021, young drivers represented 11 percent of all seatbelt violations and 7 percent of child safety seat violations. Young drivers may be cited and convicted for seatbelt or child safety seat violations for other occupants within their vehicle.

Seating Positions: Driving with Peers

Figure 5 displays the seating positions of young drivers' passengers ages 15-to-20 fatally injured that were unrestrained from 2017 to 2021.

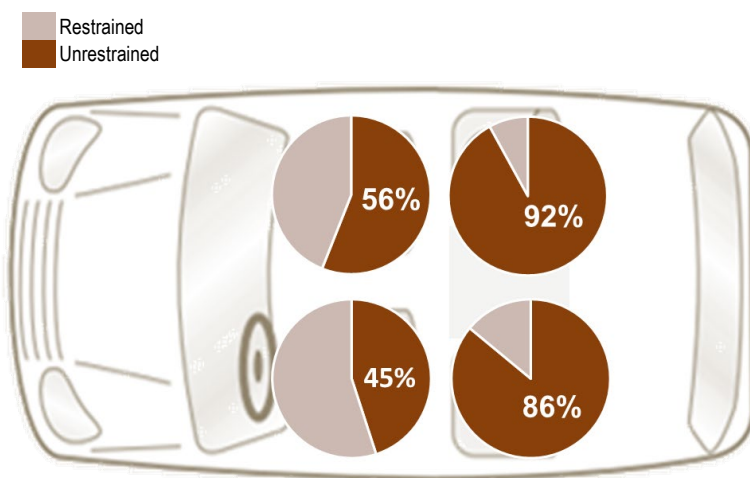
- **45 percent** of all fatally injured, young drivers aged 15-to-20 years old were unrestrained.
- **63 percent** of all occupants (regardless of seating position) riding with a young driver involved in a fatal crash were 15-to-20 years of age.
 - **56 percent** of fatally injured front seat passengers 15-to-20 years old were unrestrained.
 - **88 percent** of fatally injured backseat passengers aged 15-to-20 years were unrestrained.

Figure 4. **Percent of Fatally Injured Passenger Vehicle Occupants Unrestrained* in Traffic Crashes by Age Group and Sex, 2019-2021 (3-year period)**



*Based on known restraint use
Passenger vehicles include passenger cars, pickup trucks, SUVs, and vans.
Source: FARS 2021

Figure 5. **Percent of Fatally Injured Young Drivers and their Fatally Injured Passenger Occupants (Aged 15-to-20) Unrestrained* by Seating Position, 2017-2021**



*Based on known restraint use
Source: FARS 2017-2021

² Serious injuries are suspected serious injuries reported by law enforcement.

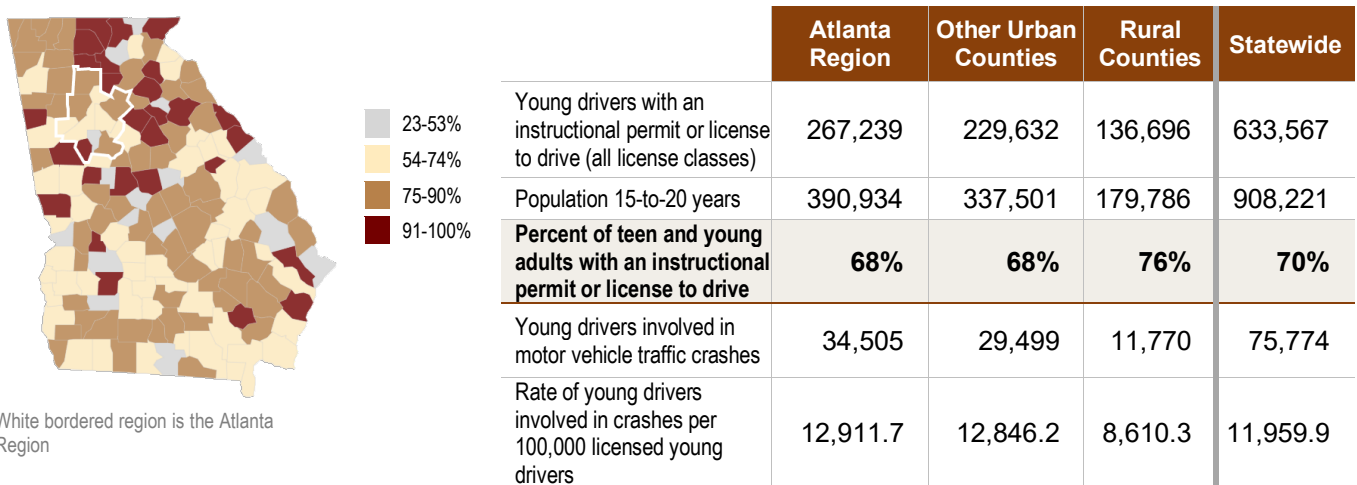
Young Driver Licensing

In Georgia, young drivers (15-to-17 years) generally obtain a license for the first time under a Graduated Driver’s Licensing (GDL) program to safely gain driving experience — this is known as Joshua’s Law³. Georgia young drivers hold either an instructional permit (issued to drivers at least 15 years), Class D (provisional license issued to drivers 17 years or younger), or a Class C license (issued to drivers 18 years or older without restrictions). Young drivers 18 years or older obtaining a license for the first time are not required to complete driver’s education under Georgia’s GDL program. In 2021:

- Young drivers (ages 15-to-20 years old) accounted for 8 percent (633,567 out of 8.0 million) of all licensed drivers.
- Across the state, 70 percent of all youth (ages 15-to-20 years old) held either an instructional permit or driver’s license.
- The percentage of teens and young adults that held an instructional permit or driver’s license in rural counties (76 percent) was higher compared to teens and young adults in the Atlanta region or other urban counties⁴ (68 percent).

Figure 6 presents the percentage of teens and young adults with an instructional permit or driver’s license⁵ by county.

Figure 6. **Percent of Teens and Young Adults (15-to-20 Years) with an Instructional Permit or License to Drive by County, 2021**



Source: DDS 2021, OASIS 2021

There are four approved methods for meeting Georgia’s GDL requirements. Each method consists of some combination of instruction (either classroom or online) at a DDS-approved school and supervised driving (either six hours of behind-the-wheel training with an approved DDS school instructor along with 40 hours of supervised driving with a parent/guardian, or completion of the Parent/Teen Driving Guide).

³ Senate Bill 226 (Article 10 of Chapter 21 of Title 15 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated)

⁴ Rural counties are counties that have a residential population less than 50,000 persons. This is different than roadway classifications where urban road systems can be located in urban clusters (or metropolitan areas) of at least 2,500 persons within the rural counties.

⁵ Class types include instructional permits, Class C, and Class D licenses.

The most common methods used to fulfill Joshua’s Law in 2021 were Method 4 and Method 1⁶.

- **56 percent** of young drivers obtained their Class D license using **Method 4** – completing a DDS-approved school **online course** and completing the **Parent/Teen Driving Guide** with no additional supervised driving required.
- **38 percent** of young drivers obtained their Class D license using **Method 1** – completing **30 hours of classroom instruction** at a DDS-approved school, **six hours of behind-the-wheel training** at a DDS-approved school, and **40 hours of supervised driving** with a parent or guardian.

According to the Georgia Driver’s Education Commission’s research study of Joshua’s Law⁷, young drivers that use Method 1 to complete the GDL requirement demonstrated better and safer driver outcomes in comparison with the other methods. These young drivers had fewer crashes and crashes with serious injuries or fatalities compared to other young drivers that completed the GDL requirement using other methods.

Table 4 shows the number of licenses issued to young drivers (15-to-20 years old) by age and license type in 2021. A greater proportion of licensed young drivers held a Class C or D license in rural counties compared to urban counties across **all** ages – indicative of them obtaining driving experiences earlier than their urban peers.

- **70 percent** of young drivers in rural counties held a Class C or D license compared to **68 percent** of young drivers in Atlanta and other urban regions.
- **32 percent** of young drivers in the Atlanta and other urban regions held an instructional permit compared to **30 percent** of young drivers in rural counties.

Table 4. **Urban vs. Rural Licensed Young Drivers (15-to-20 Years) by License Type, 2021**

Age (Years)	Atlanta and Other Urban Regions				Rural Region			
	Instructional Permit		License (Class C or D)		Instructional Permit		License (Class C or D)	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
15 years	46,994	100%	--	--	15,898	100%	--	--
16 years	43,151	60%	29,185	40%	10,587	50%	10,761	50%
17 years	29,620	36%	51,595	64%	6,158	28%	16,037	72%
18 years	18,281	20%	75,194	80%	3,513	14%	20,992	86%
19 years	12,948	13%	86,116	87%	2,555	10%	23,335	90%
20 years	10,047	10%	93,740	90%	2,065	8%	24,795	92%
TOTAL 15-to-20 years	161,041	32%	335,830	68%	40,776	30%	95,920	70%

Source: DDS 2021

⁶ Georgia Driver’s Education Commission. (2020, September). *Georgia Driver’s Education Commission Annual Report: Fiscal Year 2021*. Georgia Governor’s Office of Highway Safety. <http://www.gahighwaysafety.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/gdec-annual-report-fy2021.pdf>

⁷ Georgia Driver’s Education Commission. (2021, March). *Georgia Driver’s Education Commission Grant Scholarship Program & Joshua’s Law Evaluation Report*. Georgia Governor’s Office of Highway Safety. <http://www.gahighwaysafety.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/gdec-evaluation-report-executive-summary-final-.pdf>

Contributing Circumstances

In 2021, 86 percent of all crashes involving young drivers also involved other vehicles (multi-vehicle crashes), and 14 percent were single-vehicle crashes. The most common most harmful event in single-vehicle crashes was a confirmed inattentive driver (distraction).

The most common manner of collision in fatal and serious injury multi-vehicle crashes involving young drivers were angle collisions. Rear-end collisions were most common for all multi-vehicle traffic crashes involving young drivers. *The manner of collision is not vehicle specific and does not identify which vehicle or driver was at fault.* Table 4 below shows the highest-rank manner of collision for multi-vehicle traffic, injury, and fatal crashes that involve young drivers.

Table 5. **Highest Rank Manner of Collision for Multi-Vehicle Crashes Involving Young Drivers (15-20 Years) by Crash Type, 2021**

Rank	Fatal Crashes		Serious Injury Crashes		Traffic Crashes	
	Manner of Collision	% of crashes	Manner of Collision	% of crashes	Manner of Collision	% of crashes
1	Angle	43%	Angle	38%	Rear end (Front-to-rear)	40%
2	Head on (Front-to-front)	30%	*Not a collision with a motor vehicle	28%	Angle	31%
3	Rear end (Front-to-rear)	21%	Rear end (Front-to-rear)	14%	*Not a collision with a motor vehicle	13%
4	Sideswipe same direction	5%	Head on (Front-to-front)	13%	Sideswipe same direction	10%

* The first harmful event was not a collision with a motor vehicle in transport

Source: FARS 2021, CODES 2021

Young drivers losing control of their vehicle was the top contributing factor among drivers involved in single-vehicle crashes. In 2021, 50 percent of young drivers involved in single-vehicle crashes lost control of their vehicle moments before they crashed with an object other than another vehicle. The top contributing factors among young drivers and other drivers involved in multi-vehicle crashes were following too closely and failure to yield. *This does not imply that the young drivers or other drivers caused the crash either by their actions or failure to act.*

Table 6. **Top Contributing Factors with Crashes Involving Young Drivers (15-20 Years) by Number of Vehicles Involved and Person Type, 2021**

Rank	Single Vehicle Crashes		Multi-Vehicle Crashes			
	Young Driver		Young Driver		Other Driver	
	Description	% of drivers	Description	% of drivers	Description	% of drivers
1	Driver lost control	50%	Following too close	43%	Following too close	36%
2	Speeding / too fast for conditions	32%	Failed to yield	24%	Failed to yield	26%
3	Other	19%	Changed lanes improperly	10%	Changed lanes improperly	12%
4	Reaction to object or animal	9%	Other	5%	Other	8%

Source: CODES 2021

DISTRACTED DRIVING AMONG YOUNG DRIVERS

A distraction-related crash is any crash in which a driver was reported as a confirmed distracted driver or identified as a suspected distracted driver. Driver distraction occurs when drivers divert their attention from the driving task to focus on another activity. Often discussions regarding distracted driving center around cell phone use and texting; however, distracted driving also includes other distraction-related activities that are manual, visual, or cognitive. Many activities, particularly cell phone use, can include multiple types of distraction. In 2021, 37 percent of young drivers involved in motor vehicle traffic crashes were confirmed or suspected of distracted driving. Young drivers **aged 15-to-20 years** represented:

- **8 percent** of all licensed drivers;
- **14 percent** of all suspected or confirmed distracted drivers involved in crashes;
- **10 percent** of all confirmed distracted drivers involved in fatal crashes;
- **18 percent** of all drivers issued a distracted driver citation after a crash; and
- **9 percent** of all distracted driving convictions.

Table 7. Licensed Drivers, Confirmed or Suspected Distracted Drivers Involved in Types of Motor Vehicle (MV) Crashes, Distracted Driver Citations Issued after an MV Crash, Distracted Driver Convictions by Age Group, 2021

Age Group	Licensed Drivers	Confirmed or Suspected Distracted Driver Involved in a Crash	Confirmed Distracted Driver Involved in a <u>Fatal</u> Crash	Distracted Driver Citations Issued Post-Crash	Distracted Driver Convictions (Crash or Non-Crash)
15-24	15%	27%	20%	34%	22%
15-20	8%	14%	10%	18%	9%
21-24	7%	13%	9%	16%	13%
25-34	17%	25%	24%	28%	31%
35-44	16%	17%	15%	17%	22%
45-54	16%	13%	15%	11%	13%
55-64	16%	10%	9%	7%	8%
65+	20%	7%	16%	3%	3%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Note: Distracted driver convictions may or may not have resulted in a motor vehicle traffic crash. Percents are calculated using records with known age over 15 years. Source: DDS 2021, CODES 2021, FARS 2021

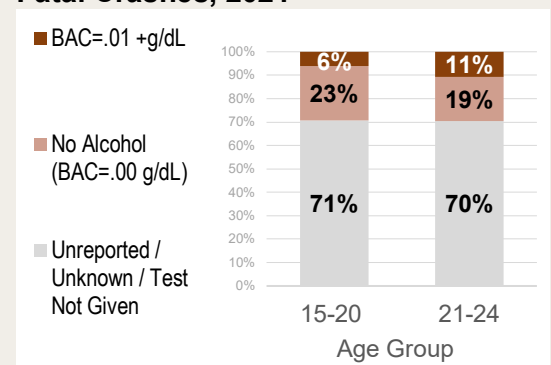
ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION AMONG YOUNG DRIVERS

Drivers are considered alcohol-impaired when their blood alcohol concentration (BAC) is 0.08 g/dL or higher. This does not imply that a crash or a fatality was caused by alcohol impairment.

In 2021:

- Of the **215** young drivers ages 15-to-20 years involved in fatal crashes in 2021, **29 percent** (63) had known BAC test results reported — **6 percent** (13) consumed alcohol (0.01+ g/dL BAC), and **4 percent** (9) had a BAC of 0.08+ g/dL.
- Of the **260** young adult drivers ages 21-to-24 years involved in fatal crashes, **30 percent** (77) had known BAC test results reported — **11 percent** (28) consumed alcohol, and **8 percent** (22) had a BAC of 0.08+ g/dL.

Figure 7. BAC of Young Drivers (15-to-20 and 21-to-24 Years) Involved in Fatal Crashes, 2021



Source: FARS 2021

Environmental Characteristics

Table 8 summarizes the environmental characteristics of where and when fatal crashes and traffic crashes involving young that occurred in 2021.

Fatal crashes and all traffic crashes involving young drivers have similar environmental characteristics, except for the predominant location of crashes and lighting conditions. In 2021:

- 44 percent of all *traffic crashes* involving young drivers occurred at an intersection or intersection-related location, and 72 percent of all *fatal crashes* involving young drivers occurred at non-intersections.
- 72 percent of all *traffic crashes* involving young drivers occurred in daylight conditions, and 54 percent of all *fatal crashes* involving young drivers occurred in dark conditions.

Among the *fatal* crashes that involved young drivers:

- 57 percent occurred during the weekday, and 43 percent occurred during the weekend; and,
- 68 percent occurred in clear weather conditions.

Table 8. **Motor Vehicle Crashes Involving Young Drivers (15-20 Years) by Environmental Characteristics, 2021**

Environmental Characteristics	Fatal Crashes Involving Young Drivers		Traffic Crashes Involving Young Drivers	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Location *				
Intersection (or related)	57	28%	30,873	44%
Non-Intersection	150	72%	30,747	43%
Other	-	-	8,716	12%
Unknown	-	-	421	1%
Light Conditions				
Dark	111	54%	17,624	25%
Daylight	92	44%	50,876	72%
Dawn	-	-	729	1%
Dusk	4	2%	1,182	2%
Day of Week / Time of Day *				
Weekday	119	57%	49,719	70%
6:00-11:59am	21	10%	11,637	16%
12:00-5:59pm	47	23%	25,933	37%
6:00-11:59pm	38	18%	10,474	15%
12:00-5:59am	13	6%	1,675	2%
Weekend	88	43%	21,038	30%
6:00-11:59am	6	3%	2,282	3%
12:00-5:59pm	21	10%	7,583	11%
6:00-11:59pm	39	19%	9,164	13%
12:00-5:59am	22	11%	2,009	3%
Weather Conditions				
Clear	141	68%	48,411	68%
Cloudy	41	20%	13,310	19%
Rain	22	11%	8,612	12%
Other	3	1%	424	1%
Season				
Winter (Jan, Feb, Dec)	52	25%	16,036	23%
Spring (Mar-May)	54	26%	17,532	25%
Summer (Jun-Aug)	53	26%	17,844	25%
Fall (Sept-Nov)	48	23%	19,345	27%

Weekday – 6:00 a.m. Monday to 5:59 p.m. Friday

Weekend – 6:00 p.m. Friday to 5:59 a.m. Monday

Daytime – 6:00 a.m. to 5:59 p.m.

Nighttime – 6:00 p.m. to 5:59 a.m.

*See data considerations for definitions of intersection and non-intersection locations

Source: CODES 2021, FARS 2021

Data Definitions and Considerations:

This fact sheet defines young drivers as persons 15 to 20 years old operating a motor vehicle. Young drivers' involvement in crashes does not imply they were "at fault" in the crash.

A traffic crash is defined as an incident that involved one or more motor vehicles where at least one vehicle was in transport and the crash originated on a public trafficway, such as a road or highway. Crashes that occurred on private property, including parking lots and driveways, are excluded.

Fatal crashes are defined as crashes that involve a motor vehicle traveling on a trafficway customarily open to the public and that resulted in the death of a motorist or a non-motorist within 30 days of the crash.

Serious injuries are those suspected serious injuries reported by law enforcement and used when any injury, other than fatal injury, prevents the injured person from walking, driving, or normally continuing the activities the person was capable of before the injury occurred.

Passenger vehicles are defined as passenger cars and light trucks (including vans, Sport Utility Vehicles, and pickup trucks).

The Department of Driver Services provided licensing data for the 2020 year. The driver licensing database is a live database system and represents the information at a point-in-time on the date of extraction.

There are three (3) types of licenses that young drivers can obtain in the state of Georgia. Young drivers at least 15 years of age can obtain an Instructional (Learners) Permit (Class CP). For young drivers less than 18 years of age (ages 16 and 17 years), the Class D Provisional Driver's License is the first driver's license they can obtain by satisfying one of the four methods to complete the Georgia GDL requirements. The Class C license can be issued to all drivers 18 years of age and older with no driver's education required.

For fatal crashes only, Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) values are imputed to address the problem of missing blood alcohol test results in the FARS data system. A multiple imputation methodology is employed to generate specific values of BAC for persons involved in fatal crashes. "No alcohol" refers to a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .00 grams per deciliter (g/dL). For motorists and non-motorists involved in a motor vehicle traffic crash that may or may not result in a fatal injury, many drivers confirmed or suspected of alcohol impairment will not have a BAC value reported in the police crash report. Drivers suspected of alcohol impairment may have an alcohol test administered; however, the results or findings were not validated or included in the final police crash report.

Police crash reports are reviewed in a post hoc analysis by the Governor's Office of Highway Safety, Georgia Department of Public Health, and the Georgia Department of Transportation using a jointly developed definition of suspected distracted driving based on multiple factors. The imputation of suspected distracted drivers includes drivers that indicate emotional distress and evidence of driver inattention and distraction. The imputation removes driver contributing factors that include drug/alcohol impairment, sleepiness/drowsiness, aggressive/reckless driving, and speeding. The CODES Analytical Reference Guide is available upon request.

Contributing circumstances capture the precrash elements or improper actions of persons (motorcycle operators, pedestrians, bicyclists, and other motorists) that may have caused the crash. Contributing factors in fatal and nonfatal crashes are often underreported in the datasets. There is at least one record per person involved in a fatal crash (FARS Data) and some missing records for persons involved in motor vehicle traffic crashes (Crash Data).

Rural counties are counties that have a population of less than 50,000 according to the United States decennial census of 2010 or any future such census (O.C.G.A. Section 31-6-2). This is different than roadway classifications where urban road systems can be located in urban clusters (or metropolitan areas) of at least 2,500 persons within the rural counties.

For More Information:

The two-page Quick Facts for young drivers can be found on the GOHS or DPH websites below:

- <https://www.gahighwaysafety.org/georgia-traffic-safety-facts/>
- <https://dph.georgia.gov/injury-epidemiology/crash-outcome-data-evaluation-survey-codes>

Other 2021 traffic safety facts are available online at the Georgia Governor's Office of Highway Safety and Crash Outcomes Data Evaluation Systems (CODES): Non-Motorist (Pedestrians and Bicyclists), Motorcycle Safety, Older Drivers, Distracted Drivers, Risky Driving, Large Trucks, and Occupant Protection.

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