



GEORGIA TRAFFIC SAFETY QUICK FACTS: 2021

YOUNG DRIVERS (AGE 15-20 YEARS)

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

Young driver motor vehicle crashes are **preventable**. There are effective strategies that can improve the safety of young drivers on the road. **Young 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**.

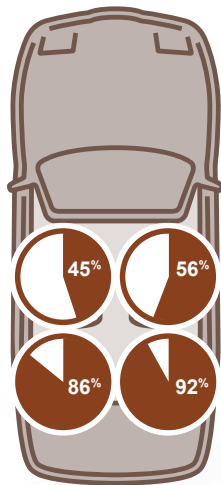
THE NUMBERS

In 2021...



215 young drivers were involved in a **fatal motor vehicle crash**, of these drivers, **93** died.

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



\$206 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.

27% INCREASE



of young drivers involved in fatal crashes increased by 27% from 2019 to 2021.

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 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, having no distractions, focusing 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.



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF HIGHWAY SAFETY

2021 GEORGIA QUICK FACTS

Young Drivers

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

- **10%** of all drivers involved in fatal crashes
- **18%** of all drivers involved in serious injury crashes, and
- **8%** of all drivers involved in traffic crashes.

Injuries

Among all serious injuries involving young drivers, **56%** were occupants in the vehicle operated by the young driver and **44%** 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 traffic-related 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 **occurred at night**.

Distracted Young Drivers

37% of young drivers involved in a motor vehicle crash were confirmed or suspected of distracted driving.

Single Vehicle Crashes

Half 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, cumulating 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/>