



# GEORGIA TRAFFIC SAFETY QUICK FACTS: 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 2018...

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



**72** young adult drivers died in motor vehicle crashes out of the **196** fatalities involving young adult drivers

**46%** of all young adult drivers fatally injured **did not wear a seatbelt**



**~\$147 million** total hospitalization charges for young adults involved in a crash who were seen or admitted to a hospital

**32%** INCREASE

# of young adult drivers involved in fatal crashes

2014 **145**

2018 **192**

## REDUCE YOUR RISK



**WEAR YOUR SEATBELT**



**DRIVE ALERT STAY FOCUSED**



**DRIVE UNIMPAIRED**  
(Alcohol, Drugs, or Drowsy)



**SLOW DOWN**

## YOUNG ADULT DRIVER INEXPERIENCE

- Failure to yield
- Following too close
- Overcorrecting
- Changing lanes improperly



## PREVENTION

- ☒ Increase parental involvement and compliance to Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) laws.
- ☒ 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.



## 2018 QUICK FACTS

### Young Adult Drivers

Young adult drivers accounted for **7%** of all Georgia licensed drivers but represented **9%** of all fatal crashes and **10%** of all motor vehicle crashes.

### Male Young Adult Drivers

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

### Injured Young Adult Occupants

Over **14,000** young adults were either seen or admitted to a hospital for a motor vehicle injury.

### Other People Involved

Of all fatalities involving young adult drivers, **17%** were pedestrians, bicyclists, or other non-motor vehicle occupants.

### 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.

### Single Vehicle Crashes

Single vehicle crashes involving young adult drivers were **5** times more likely to be fatal compared to crashes involving multiple vehicles.

Most single vehicle crashes involving young drivers are caused by driver-inexperience or distractions.

## 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.



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