



# share the drive:

## The Whole Truth About Teen Driving

### RISK FACTORS

Alcohol is involved in about 16 percent of fatal crashes involving 16- and 17-year-old-drivers.\*

Hmmm. What causes the other 84 percent?

#### INEXPERIENCE

- About 900,000 U.S. teens report they were drivers in at least one crash within a 12-month period. That's the wrong kind of experience.
- The right kind of experience? A lot of supervised driving practice and then avoiding high-risk conditions for at least the first six months of driving alone.
- About two-thirds of fatal teen crashes involve driver error — making mistakes due to inexperience and distractions.

Teens need to help each other — give your friends time and space to learn to drive before pressuring them for rides, and never encourage risky driving. **How can you support your friends?**

#### DISTRACTIONS

- A teen driver's fatal crash risk increases by three to five times if there are two or more passengers in the car.
- A driver who talks on a mobile phone is four times more likely to be involved in a serious crash, regardless of whether the driver uses a hands-free cell.
- Your eyes and mind are off the road when using a wireless communication device. It's hard to be aware of the changing road environment — other vehicles, hazards, traffic patterns. As new drivers, you already have difficulty learning to recognize these things.

Most U.S. teens now know distractions can kill. Nobody is immune. **What are you doing to stop this?**

### THE FACTORS ABOVE CAUSE CRASHES. BUT WHAT KILLS?

#### LACK OF SEAT BELT USE

Teens not smart enough to wear seat belts in all seating positions are more likely to wind up in the crash statistics. Get over yourself and wear the seat belt every time you ride in a car.

Learn more about teen driver safety at [www.chop.edu/youngdrivers](http://www.chop.edu/youngdrivers).

*\*Due to enforced laws and effective awareness efforts, the U.S. has had a considerable decline in drunk driving-related crash fatalities. Continued effort is required to keep these numbers low and to achieve further reductions.*

[www.chop.edu/youngdrivers](http://www.chop.edu/youngdrivers)

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