

Young Drivers¹ in Maryland

Fast Facts 2007

- Thirty-two people are injured every day in Maryland as a result of a crash involving a young driver, on average. (Source: MAARS²)
- Every three days in Maryland, someone dies as a result of a young driver-involved crash, on average. (Source: MAARS)
- In 2007, there were 98 fatal crashes, 7,357 crashes involving injuries, and nearly 11,538 other reported crashes involving young drivers in Maryland. (Source: MAARS)
- The number of young driver-involved crashes in Maryland and the number of people injured in those crashes have decreased each year since 2003. (Source: MAARS)
- 16- and 17-year-old drivers represent only 1.6 of all licensed Maryland drivers, and approximately 1.3 percent of all miles driven³, but these drivers represent 11 percent of all driver fatalities, on average. (Source: MVA, NHTSA)
- In 2007, the last year for which complete data is available, 615 people were killed in vehicle crashes in Maryland. One-hundred twelve of these were killed in crashes involving young drivers aged 16 to 20 years, representing more than 18 percent of all our traffic-related deaths. (Source: SHA)
- In 2007, only 43 of those killed in young-driver involved crashes were the young drivers themselves. Sixty-nine others were killed as passengers of these drivers, as drivers or passengers of other vehicles, or as a pedestrian. (Source: SHA)
- Over the last ten years, 90% of the young drivers killed in fatal crashes were deemed to be at fault in those crashes. (Source: SHA)
- National data show that in 2006 young drivers between 15 and 20 years old had the highest fatal crash involvement rate of any age group with 59.5 fatal crashes per 100,000 licensed drivers. This rate is significantly higher than any other age group and more than double the rate for any age group 35 and older.⁴
- The leading contributing factors cited in police reports in young driver crashes in Maryland include: not paying attention, driving too fast for conditions, failure to yield right of way and following too closely.

¹ Young drivers ages 16-20

² Maryland Automated Accident Reporting System

³ Vehicle Miles Traveled figure from USDOT, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 1998.

⁴ Teen Driver Crashes: A Report to Congress, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, July 2008.

- There is greatly increased crash risk when teenage drivers transport passengers, and the more passengers, the greater the risk. Risk increases with one, two, or three or more passengers, such that when there are multiple passengers in the vehicle, crash risk is 3 to 5 times greater than when driving alone. (Traffic Safety Facts: Passenger Restrictions in Graduated Driver Licensing Programs, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, December 2007)
- A 2007 NHTSA research report concluded that passenger restrictions do reduce crashes and injury to young teens *without* measurably offsetting increases among other age groups.
- Passengers in the car with a new driver may not only distract the driver, but may actually encourage the driver “to take more risks than they ordinarily would — risks like driving faster and closer to the cars in front of them.” (“Observed effects of teenage passengers on the risky driving behavior of teenage drivers”, B. Simons-Morton et al. is published in *Accident Analysis & Prevention* 37 (2005).
- Seat belt use in Maryland well above the national average of 81%. According to the most recent NHTSA observational survey, 93.3% of drivers on Maryland roads are buckling up. (Source: NHTSA)
- According to a 2006 Maryland survey on traffic safety issues, more than 85% of respondents said they thought teens with provisional licenses should have restrictions for when, where, and under what conditions they can drive. (Source: *Monitoring the Future of Maryland: A Survey of Highway*, University of Maryland, 2006)
- According to the same survey 86% *parents of teen drivers* supported these restrictions. (Source: *Monitoring the Future of Maryland: A Survey of Highway*, University of Maryland, 2006)
- According to the same survey nearly 92% of all respondents said they supported a passenger restriction during the provisional license phase. (Source: *Monitoring the Future of Maryland: A Survey of Highway*, University of Maryland, 2006)