

# Teen Driving

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# Graduated Drivers License

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# Safe Kids Alabama

- Safe Kids Worldwide is a global organization dedicated to preventing injuries in children birth to 18 years, the number one killer of kids in the United States.
- Motor vehicle crashes has been the #1 killer of our children for many years. In 2020, fire arms became #1. Motor vehicle crashes is #2.



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# Objectives

- Participants will be able to identify the stages of Alabama's Graduated Driver's License Law
- Participants will be able to identify causes of teen crashes
- Participants will be able to explain what interventions can help reduce teen crashes



# Overview of talk

- Background
  - National teen driving and crash risk statistics
  - Groups at highest risk
  - Alabama's statistics
- What is GDL?
  - AAP Recommendations for GDL
  - Alabama's GDL
  - Efforts to increase awareness and communication about GDL
- Other methods to reduce teen's crash risk



# Background

- Motor vehicle crashes are the second leading cause of death for U.S. teens. Teen motor vehicle crashes are preventable, and proven strategies can improve the safety of young drivers on the road.

**10 Leading Causes of Injury Deaths by Age Group Highlighting Unintentional Injury Deaths, United States – 2018**

Rank	Age Groups										Total
	<1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	
1	Unintentional Suffocation 977	Unintentional Drowning 443	Unintentional MV Traffic 341	Suicide Suffocation 361	Unintentional MV Traffic 6,308	Unintentional Poisoning 15,353	Unintentional Poisoning 14,978	Unintentional Poisoning 13,620	Unintentional Poisoning 10,854	Unintentional Fall 32,522	Unintentional Poisoning 62,399
2	Homicide Unspecified 125	Unintentional MV Traffic 292	Unintentional Drowning 130	Unintentional MV Traffic 360	Unintentional Poisoning 4,245	Unintentional MV Traffic 6,886	Unintentional MV Traffic 5,068	Unintentional MV Traffic 5,328	Unintentional MV Traffic 5,629	Unintentional MV Traffic 7,697	Unintentional MV Traffic 37,991
3	Unintentional MV Traffic 80	Homicide Unspecified 152	Unintentional Fire/Burn 99	Suicide Firearm 202	Homicide Firearm 4,107	Homicide Firearm 4,348	Suicide Firearm 3,222	Suicide Firearm 3,787	Suicide Firearm 4,421	Suicide Firearm 6,375	Unintentional Fall 37,455
4	Homicide Other Spec., Classifiable 68	Unintentional Fire/Burn 123	Homicide Firearm 57	Homicide Firearm 134	Suicide Firearm 2,995	Suicide Firearm 3,429	Suicide Suffocation 2,688	Suicide Suffocation 2,481	Unintentional Fall 2,766	Unintentional Unspecified 4,607	Suicide Firearm 24,432
5	Undetermined Suffocation 45	Unintentional Suffocation 112	Unintentional Suffocation 30	Unintentional Drowning 86	Suicide Suffocation 2,237	Suicide Suffocation 3,117	Homicide Firearm 2,569	Suicide Poisoning 1,396	Suicide Suffocation 1,934	Unintentional Suffocation 3,793	Homicide Firearm 13,958
6	Unintentional Drowning 39	Unintentional Pedestrian, Other 70	Unintentional Other Land Transport 20	Unintentional Fire/Burn 52	Suicide Poisoning 454	Undetermined Poisoning 824	Suicide Poisoning 990	Homicide Firearm 1,382	Suicide Poisoning 1,491	Unintentional Poisoning 3,269	Suicide Suffocation 13,840
7	Homicide Suffocation 30	Homicide Other Spec., Classifiable 66	Homicide Unspecified 17	Unintentional Suffocation 43	Unintentional Drowning 431	Suicide Poisoning 753	Undetermined Poisoning 780	Unintentional Fall 1,131	Unintentional Suffocation 858	Adverse Effects 3,100	Unintentional Suffocation 6,701
8	Undetermined Unspecified 30	Homicide Firearm 54	Adverse Effects 16	Unintentional Other Land Transport 37	Homicide Cut/pierce 256	Unintentional Drowning 482	Unintentional Fall 502	Undetermined Poisoning 876	Homicide Firearm 802	Unintentional Fire/Burn 1,404	Suicide Poisoning 6,237
9	Unintentional Natural/Environment 22	Unintentional Natural/Environment 38	Unintentional Pedestrian, Other 15	Unintentional Poisoning 23	Undetermined Poisoning 224	Homicide Cut/Pierce 455	Unintentional Drowning 414	Unintentional Drowning 456	Adverse Effects 766	Suicide Poisoning 1,133	Unintentional Unspecified 6,082
10	Two Tied 18	Unintentional Firearm 30	Homicide Other Spec., NEC 14	Suicide Poisoning 20	Suicide Fall 205	Unintentional Fall 345	Homicide Cut/Pierce 340	Unintentional Suffocation 401	Undetermined Poisoning 704	Suicide Suffocation 1,014	Adverse Effects 4,604

Data Source: National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), National Vital Statistics System.  
Produced by: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, CDC using WISQARS™.

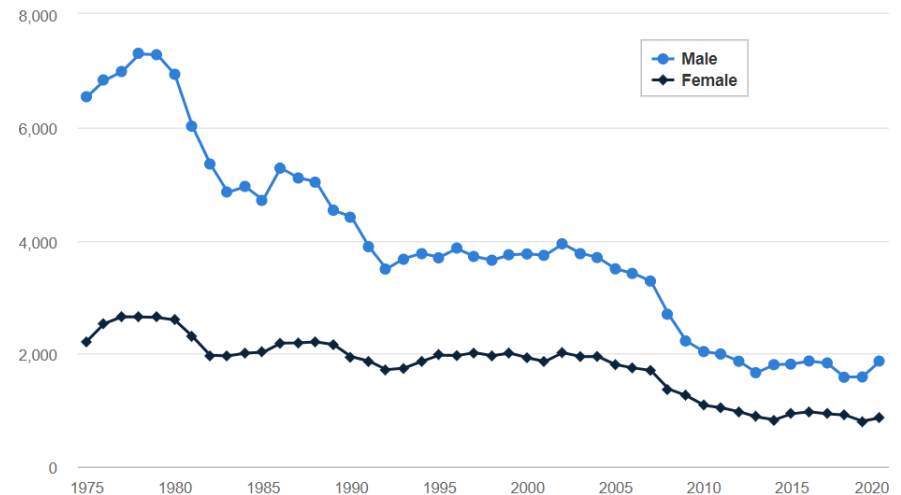


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# Background

- Teen driver fatalities across the nation have declined since 2002,
- A total of 2,738 teenagers ages 13-19 died in motor vehicle crashes in 2020. This is 69 percent fewer than in 1975 and 14 percent more than in 2019.\*
- The increase in deaths from 2019 to 2020 was larger among males than females. About 2 of every 3 teenagers killed in crashes in 2020 were males.\*
- In 2020, 56 percent of the deaths of teenage passengers in passenger vehicles occurred in vehicles driven by another teenager.
- At least 48% of teen drivers and passengers aged 16–19 years who died in passenger vehicle crashes in 2019 were not wearing a seat belt at the time of the crash.

Teenage motor vehicle crash deaths by sex, 1975-2020



\*based on analysis of data from the [U.S. Department of Transportation's](#) Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS). lihs.org



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# Background

- In 2019, Alabama saw 78 teenage road fatalities, giving the state a rate of 24.87 per 100,000 teens. Alabama is one of the worst states in the nation when it comes to teen road deaths, according to a new report. Alabama ranked **4th** in teen vehicle deaths across the nation.\*
- Based on 2020 data, AAA reports that deadly teen crashes per capita ranks Alabama **7th** highest state in the entire country.

\*Data is based on 2019 statistics from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety



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# Alabama Crash Statistics

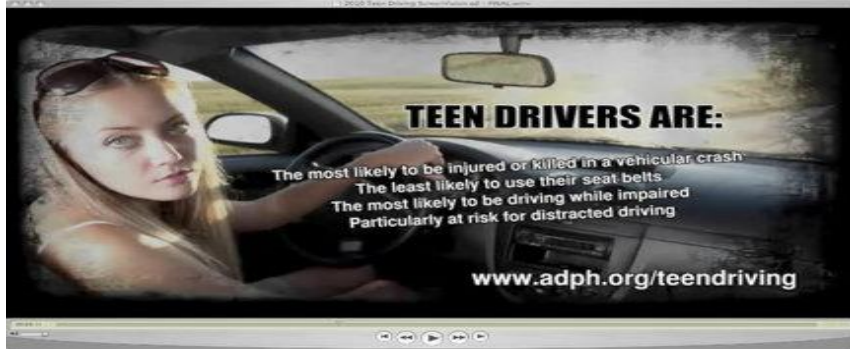
<b>Teen Drivers 16-19</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019*</b>	<b>Total</b>
Fatal	77	82	66	70	14	357
Incapacitating injuries	805	722	619	628	123	3,628
Non- incapacitation injuries	1669	1,611	1939	1,493	541	8,553
<b>Total Young Driver involved accidents with injury or death in ~5 years:</b>						<b>12,538</b>

\*2019 Numbers are from January 1 - April 30.



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# Why Should We Care?



What's the most dangerous things an Alabama teenager can do? Smoke? Drink? Skydive?

Actually, it is getting behind the wheel of a car.

Car crashes are one of the leading killers of teens in the state, and account for about half of all deaths of children younger than 18.

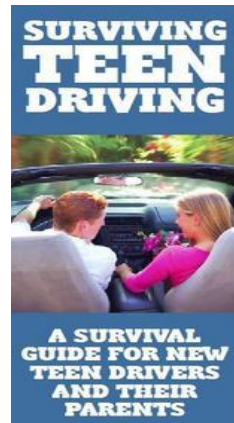
Alabama in 2010 was the second-worst state in the country when it comes to the rate of teenage driver fatalities per capita.

That's why, in 2010 when schools were back in session and the state's revised graduated drivers' license went into effect, the state health department started a campaign to educate residents about the risks of teen driving.

"I just really want to get parents of teen drivers, and teen drivers themselves, to talk about these issues," said Richard Burleson, past director of the Alabama Child Death Review System, a program of the Alabama Department of Public Health. This group looks at causes of death for children in the state and works to try to limit them.



August  
2010



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This death brings to seven the number of metro Birmingham area teens killed in traffic accidents in approximately 30 days.

Fall/Winter 2010

The Hoover High School sophomore killed in a wreck early Monday morning on Ross Bridge Parkway in Hoover was identified by the Jefferson County Coroner's Office as 15-year-old Natalie Jean Hurst. Hurst was the passenger in a 2008 Mazda 3 that crashed into a power pole in front of Deer Valley Elementary School and caught fire. The wreck was reported at 3:24 a.m. When emergency personnel arrive, Hurst's body was still in the vehicle. She was pronounced dead on the scene.

November 2010

ELMORE COUNTY, Ala. (WSFA) - The Alabama Law Enforcement Agency reports that a teenager was killed in a single-vehicle wreck in Elmore County. The wreck happened at about 6 p.m. Wednesday on Old Salem Road, approximately 10 miles south of Wetumpka. Troopers say a 16-year-old from Wetumpka was driving a Toyota Tundra that went off the road and struck a tree. Troopers say the vehicle then caught fire. The teen was pronounced dead at the scene.

March 2022



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**Alabaster, Ala. Less than a week after 17-year-old Camryn Callaway lost her life in a wreck on I-65 S just past the Pelham “tank farm” exit 242, Pelham Police have confirmed to CBS 42 what caused the crash: texting while driving. Callaway, a senior at Thompson High School, was killed when her vehicle ran into the back of an 18 wheeler last Thursday night.**

**February 2018**

**HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (WAFF) - A 14-year-old girl has died after a car crash. ALEA officials say the girl was riding with a 17-year-old driver just after 6:00 p.m. Monday when the car left the roadway, hit a tree, and overturned. The younger teen was taken to a nearby hospital where she died from her injuries. Police say the 17-year-old was flown to a local hospital to be treated. May 2022**

**GENEVA COUNTY, Ala. ([WDHN](#)) — Two teens from Hoover were killed in a Geneva County crash Thursday morning. According to Geneva County Coroner Donny Adkinson, 19-year-old Om Ashutosh Tamhane, and 18-year-old Madhav Praveen were killed at the intersection of Highway 153 and Highway 52 near Samson. March 2022**

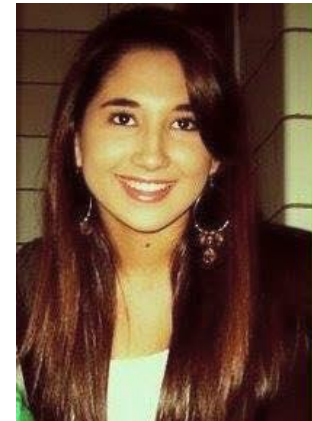


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# This is Why We Care



Camryn Callaway



Natalie Hurst



**100 DEADLIEST DAYS**  
MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP  
**FOR TEEN DRIVERS**



**'People are dying:' After teen's death, mother combating distracted driving.**

**- Michelle Lunsford**



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# Who is most at risk?

- **Males.** In 2019, the motor vehicle death rate for male drivers aged 16–19 was over two times higher than the death rate for female drivers of the same age.
- **Teens driving with teen or young adult passengers.** The presence of teen or young adult passengers increases the crash risk of unsupervised teen drivers. This risk increases with each additional teen or young adult.
- **Newly licensed teens.** Crash risk is particularly high during the first months of licensure.

from [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)



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# Risk Factors

## 8 Major Causes of Teen Driver Accidents (CDC)

1. Driver inexperience
2. Driving with teen passengers
3. Nighttime driving
4. Not using seat belts
5. Distracted driving
6. Drowsy driving
7. Reckless driving
8. Impaired driving



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# Risk factors for teens (CDC)

- Dangerous Situations
- Speeding.
- Distraction
- 3 times as likely to be involved in fatal nighttime crashes
- Crashes occurred on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday.





# Risk factors for teens (CDC)

- Drinking.
- Involved in fatal motor vehicle crashes had a BAC of 0.08% or higher.
- Killed in motor vehicle crashes after drinking and driving were not wearing a seat belt her.
- After alcohol, marijuana is the most common drug associated with impaired driving.<sup>16,18</sup>
- Marijuana has negative effects on judgment, motor coordination, decision-making, and reaction



# Risks: Distracted Driving

- What is distracted driving?
- There are 3 main types of distractions:
  - **Visual** – Takes your eyes off the road
  - **Manual** – Takes your hands off the wheel
  - **Cognitive** – Takes your mind off what you are doing

## 43 KEY SECONDS



Lutzie 43  
National  
symbol for  
distracted  
driving



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# Risk: Cell Phone Use



Cell Phone Use includes all 3 types of distractions



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# Teen's Brain-Driver Immaturity

- The teen brain is under development and does not mature until approximately 25 years old.
- The pre-frontal cortex is still forming during adolescence. This part of the brain is responsible for complex cognitive behaviors, personality expression, decision making, weighing consequences, and moderating social behavior. Reasoning and judgment are still being developed. The parts of the brain involved in keeping emotional, impulsive responses in check are still reaching maturity.
- This explains why teens are risk takers, especially males.
- As teens seek out new sensations and new experiences, their brains have trouble controlling these impulses and understanding the consequences of their actions.



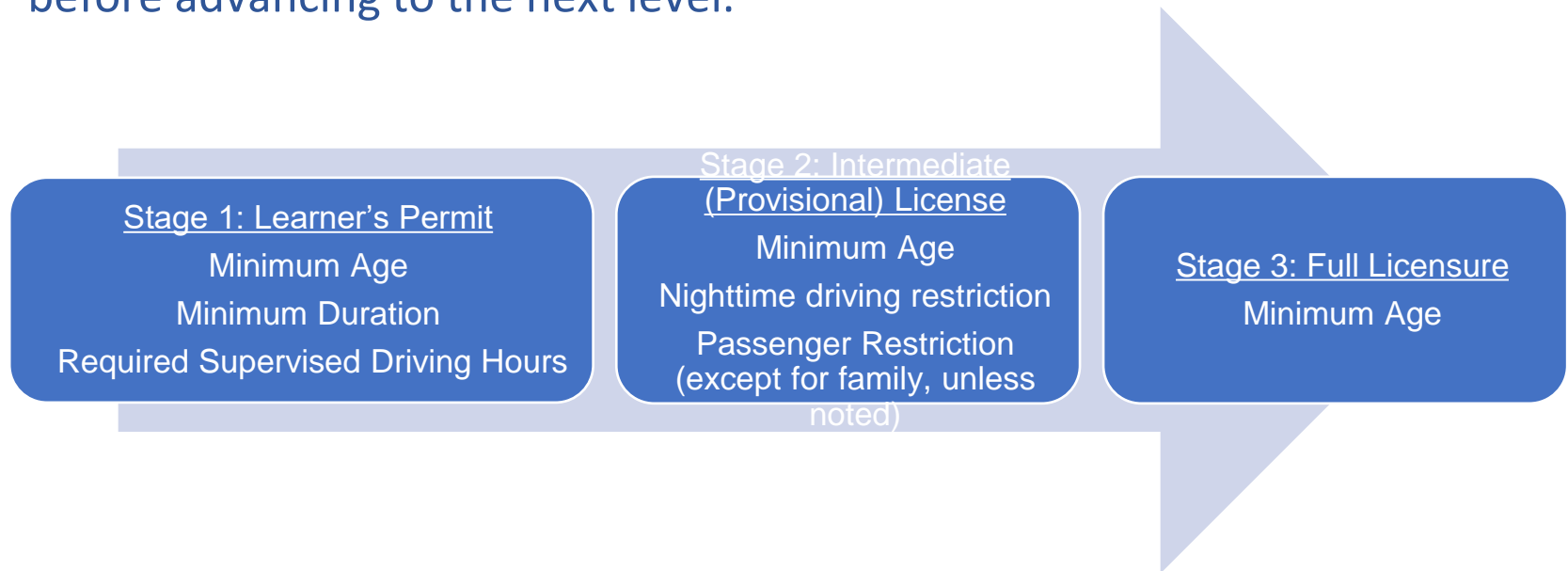
# What is Graduated Drivers License?



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# What is a Graduated Driver's Program (GDL)

GDL programs consist of three stages, identified by the type of license, provisions, and restrictions. Novice drivers 15 to 18 years old must demonstrate responsible driving behavior during each stage of licensing before advancing to the next level.



# Graduated Driver's License

Recommendations based on evidence based data.



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# GDL Recommendations Between Agencies

Stage	Recommendations	AAP (3 stage)	GHSO (3 stage)	NHTSA (3 stage)
I	Age	Minimum 16	Minimum age	Minimum 16
	Seat Belt Use	All occupants	Mandatory	All occupants
	Alcohol/Drug	Zero for alcohol and cannabis	Zero	Zero
	Permit Supervision		Program to support	Licensed Adult, age 21 or older
	Permit Supervised Hours	50 with 10 at night time	Adult Supervision	30-50
	Electronics	Prohibit cell phone	Prohibition on use of electronic devices	No portable electronic communication or entertainment devices
	Visual Distinctive License	yes	yes	yes
II	Passenger Restrictions	1	Restricted number	No more than 1 for first 12 months, then 2 until age 18
	Night time restrictions	12:00 am-5:00 am	Driving Restrictions	Licensed adult required in vehicle from 10:00 pm to 5:00 am with limited exceptions
III	Night time Restrictions	12:00 am to 5:00 am, Until 18		18





# AAP Recommendations

## Progress

- **1 state and DC** – laws include 7 of 9 AAP GDL recommendations
- **5 states** – laws include 6 of 9 AAP GDL recommendations
- **4 states** – laws include 5 of 7 AAP GDL recommendations

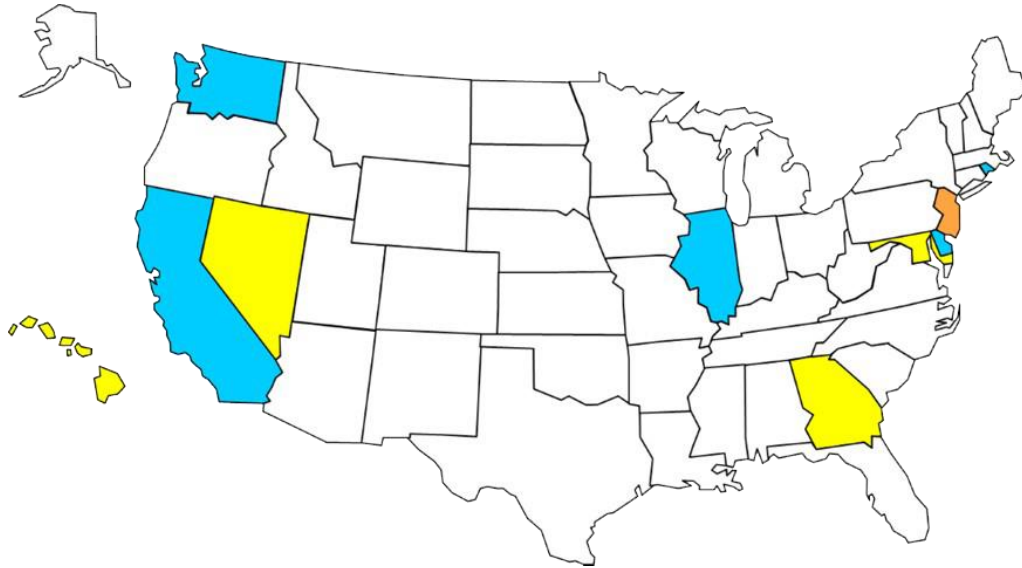


Figure from AAP website: <https://www.aap.org/en-us/advocacy-and-policy/state-advocacy/Documents/GDL.pdf>

American Academy  
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DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



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# AAP Recommendations for Members



## Pediatricians can do the following:

- Remind parents that their driving and behavior, including seat belt use and use of wireless technology in the car, serve as a powerful role.
- Assist parents in identifying adolescents with especially high driving risk.
- Become familiar with components of their state's specific GDL laws.
- Discuss distracted driving and responsible use of technology.
- Continue to counsel adolescents on seat belt use and the risk of alcohol-, illicit substance-, and medication-impaired driving.
- Encourage parents to practice driving with their teenagers in a variety of environments and for more than the state-required minimum number of hours.



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# Potential Content for Prelicensure Medical Visits

- Review general driving risks by age and experience.
- Review state-specific graduated licensing provisions.
- Discuss biological risk factors.
- Discuss cognitive concerns.
- Review medications, alcohol use, and other drug use.
- Discuss whether this teenager would benefit from an additional period of supervised driving or use of in-vehicle data recording technology.
- Facilitate a discussion of parent expectations and restrictions on teen driving.
- Discuss and promote the use of a parent–teen driving contract.



# Alabama Graduated Driver's License

First Enacted in Alabama in 2002 to include:

- Stage I- Learner's Permit
  - Must be at least 15 years old and accompanied with a licensed individual 21 years or older when driving
- Stage II- Restricted License
  - Must be at least 16 years old
  - Must have permission from parent or legal guardian
  - Must have documented 30 hours of supervised driving time by parent or certified driver's education instructor or through driver's education
- Stage III- Unrestricted/Full Privileges
  - Must be 17 years old and at least 6 months with a Stage II license
  - May be 18 years old



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# Alabama Graduated Driver's License

- **Revised in 2010 to include (restricted license level):**
  - May not have more than one passenger other than family members
  - May not drive from midnight-6 am unless: Accompanied by parent/legal guardian, licensed driver >21 years old with parent's consent
  - Going to/from school or religious activity
  - Going to/from place of employment
  - Driving for purpose of medical, fire or law enforcement related emergency
  - Driving to/from hunting or fishing activities
  - May not use handheld communication device while driving
- **Revised in 2015 to include:**
  - Must have 50 hours supervised driving time during Stage I to be able to advance to Stage II (no night time hours required) and Must have permission from parent, grandparent or legal guardian.
- **Revised in 2017 to include:**
  - All laws are now primarily enforced, with specific punitive outlines

**\*Alabama does not meet any of the AAP recommendations because of 1) age requirements, 2) lack of night time supervised hour requirements, and 3) handheld vs. non-handheld communication devices**



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# 2015 Revision of Alabama's GDL

- Alabama Safe Teen Driving Coalition fought to have the number of supervised driving hours increased from 30-50 hours. It took 2 legislative sessions to have the bill pass both the House and Senate. It was signed by the Governor in August 2015.
- There is evidence that more time spent driving with adult supervision equates to fewer teen crashes.
- Researchers say a teen needs 1,000 to 1,500 miles supervised prior to obtaining a Stage II license (restricted).



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# Alabama Has A GDL. Who Knows?

- Through formal and informal research, evidence found that not many people know that Alabama has a GDL, nor what it covers.
- Teens, Parents, Pediatricians, Law Enforcement, Nurses, School Personnel and Community Leaders that were surveyed could not state what was included in the GDL.



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# Children's of Alabama

- Teens were surveyed at Children's of Alabama and asked when or if they had talked with their physician about safe driving.
  - Only 11.5% of teens recalled their pediatrician discussing safe driving with them.
- Funded by the Allstate Foundation, the Alabama AAP created a coalition of interested stakeholders: the Alabama Safe Teen Driving Coalition.
- A series of Grand Rounds were conducted across the state
  - Pre- and post-tests were performed for the attendees at these conferences
  - Questions assessed knowledge of Alabama's GDL, driving contracts, adolescents seen per month, discussion with teens on safe driving



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# Children's of Alabama - Results

- A total of 147 pediatricians attended the sessions
- GDL:
  - Only 61% were aware that our state had a GDL before intervention
  - The number of pediatricians that knew GDL components increased from 21% before the educational intervention to 98.6% after the intervention.



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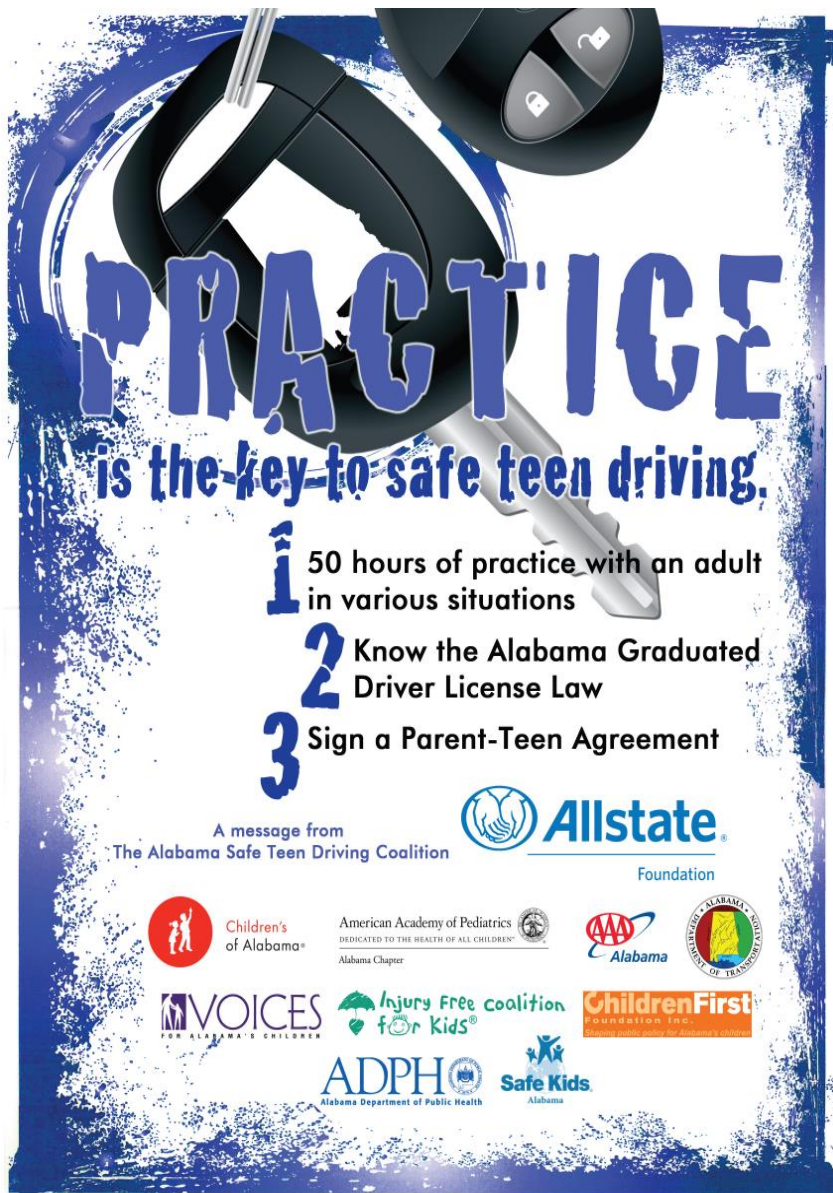
# Allstate Safe Teen Driving Grant

## Teen driving toolkit contains:

1. A letter from parents of teen driving tragedy that raises awareness of Alabama's GDL
2. List of risky behaviors often executed by distracted drivers, as well as statistics outlining the seriousness of the problem
3. Outline of Alabama's GDL
4. Teen Driving Agreement
5. 50 hour supervised driving log
6. List of resources for further information

The Toolkit was created by pediatricians that attended the AL AAP Spring Meeting to promote buy in.

[www.childrensal.org](http://www.childrensal.org)  
Search teen driving



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# Teen/Parent Driving Contract

Traffic crashes are the leading cause of death for teens and young adults. More than 3,800 young people die every year in car crashes and thousands more are injured. Parents can play an important role in reducing these numbers and keeping their teens alive. before you let your teen drive, set specific rules that must be followed.

- I, \_\_\_\_\_, will drive carefully and cautiously and will be courteous to other drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians at all times.
- I promise that I will obey all the rules of the road.
- Always wear a seat belt and make all my passengers buckle up.
- Obey all traffic lights, stop signs, other street signs, and road markings.
- Stay within the speed limit and drive safely.
- Never use the car to race or to try to impress others.
- Never give rides to hitchhikers.
- I promise that I will make sure I can stay focused on driving.
- Drive with both hands on the wheel.
- Never eat, drink, or use a mobile device while I drive.
- Drive only when I am alert and in emotional control.
- Call my parents for a ride home if I am impaired in any way that interferes with my ability to drive safely.
- I promise that I will respect laws about drugs and alcohol.
- Drive only when I am alcohol and drug free.
- Never allow any alcohol or illegal drugs in the car.
- Be a passenger only with drivers who are alcohol and drug free.
- I promise that I will be a responsible driver.



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# Teen/Parent Driving Contract

- Drive only when I have permission to use the car and I will not let anyone else drive the car unless I have permission.
- Drive someone else's car only if I have parental permission.
- Pay for all traffic citations or parking tickets.
- Complete my family responsibilities and maintain good grades at school as listed here: \_\_\_\_\_
- Contribute to the costs of gasoline, maintenance, and insurance as listed here: \_\_\_\_\_
- I agree to the following restrictions, but understand that these restrictions will be modified by my parents as I get more driving experience and demonstrate that I am a responsible driver.
- For the next \_\_\_\_\_ months, I will not drive after \_\_\_\_\_ pm.
- For the next \_\_\_\_\_ months, I will not transport more than \_\_\_\_\_ teen passengers (unless I am supervised by a responsible adult).
- For the next \_\_\_\_\_ months, I won't adjust the stereo or air conditioning/heater while the car is moving.
- For the next \_\_\_\_\_ months, I will not drive in bad weather.
- I understand that I am not permitted to drive to off-limit locations or on roads and highways as listed here: \_\_\_\_\_
- I agree to follow all the rules and restrictions in this contract. I understand that my parents will impose penalties (see below), including removal of my driving privileges, if I violate the contract. I also understand that my parents will allow me greater driving privileges as I become more experienced and as I demonstrate that I am always a safe and responsible driver.



# Teen/Parent Driving Contract

## PENALTIES FOR CONTRACT VIOLATIONS

- Drove after drinking alcohol or using drugs: No driving for \_\_\_\_\_ months
- Got ticket for speeding or moving violation: No driving for \_\_\_\_\_ months
- Drove after night driving curfew: No driving for \_\_\_\_\_ weeks/months
- Drove too many passengers: No driving for \_\_\_\_\_ weeks/months
- Broke promise about seat belts (self and others): No driving for \_\_\_\_\_ weeks/months
- Drove on a road or to an area that is off-limits: No driving for \_\_\_\_\_ weeks/months

## SIGNATURES

Driver \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent promise:

- I also agree to drive safely and to be an excellent role model.

Parent (or guardian) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



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# Other efforts to reduce teen driver crashes and mortality



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# Many parents don't realize it, but the #1 threat to their teen's safety is driving or riding in a car with a teen driver.

- Start talking with your child at minimum at age 13 when they can ride in front seat.
- Share your knowledge of the road.
- Know the Graduated Driver's License Law.
- Know the causes of teen crashes
- Let your teen with Stage I license, drive often and in various road conditions.
- Have a Teen/Parent Driving Contract



# Importance of Seat Belt Use

- Wearing a seat belt is the single most effective thing you can do to protect yourself in a crash.
- In 2020, **51%** of passenger vehicle occupants killed were unrestrained and **58%** of those killed during the nighttime were unrestrained.
- In 2020, only **57%** of 13 and 14 year old passengers killed in crashes were known to be unrestrained.
- Adults need to be role models. When parents do not always wear a seat belt, their children's use of seat belts decreases by **40%** (NHTSA).

**IN 2021**  
**Seat Belt Use**  
**Nationwide**  
**90.4%**



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## News

# Alabama changes seat belt law: Starting Sept. 1, 2019 all people in vehicles must be buckled up!

Buckling up can save lives. National Transportation Safety Board estimates seat belt usage in passenger vehicles saved almost 15,000 lives in 2017. More than half of all teens and adults aged 20-44 that died in crashes in 2016 were not buckled up.

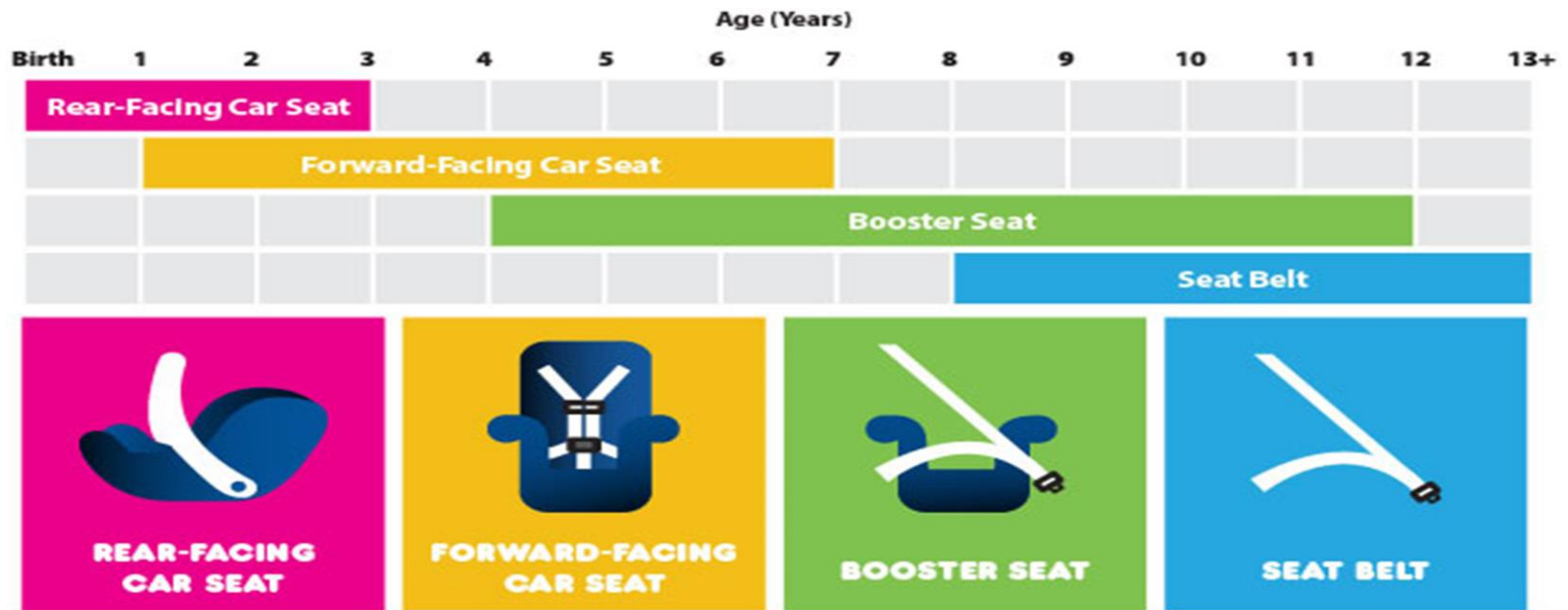
[Alabama Code Title 32. Motor Vehicles and Traffic § 32-5B-4](#)



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# Restraint Use

Everyone should be restrained in the appropriate restraint every ride every time.



# Preventing Drinking & Driving in Teens

- Minimum legal drinking age
- Zero tolerance laws
- Educational Programs
- Parental involvement



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Healthcare

School Staff



Teens/Peers

## Who Can Help Stop Impaired Driving? It's Not Just Alcohol, It's Drugs - Legal & Illegal



Parents/Adults



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# Teen Driving Safety Educational Programs



Through various grants beginning in 2009, COA with other stakeholders began having educational program in Jefferson County where schools were invited to bring students to an all day education program.

In 2015, through State Farm Insurance Grants, educational programs were hosted across the State. This program is called **#URKeys2Drv**



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# #URKeys2DRV



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# U TLK U TXT U CRSH

Activities include driving with DUI goggles while driving go karts, driving simulators, Express Oil teaching vehicle maintenance, law enforcement, trauma staff, nurses and local fire rescue presentation and more.



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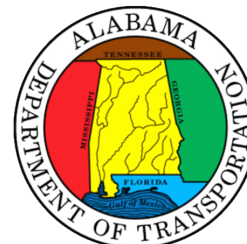
# High School Presentations



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# All Programs Require Many Partners



# Other Partners

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Alabama Chapter

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ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM

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SECONDS

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Thank you for your interest  
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205-638-6339



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# Questions



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