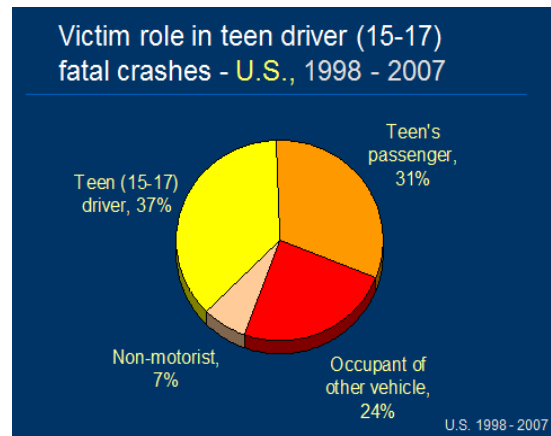
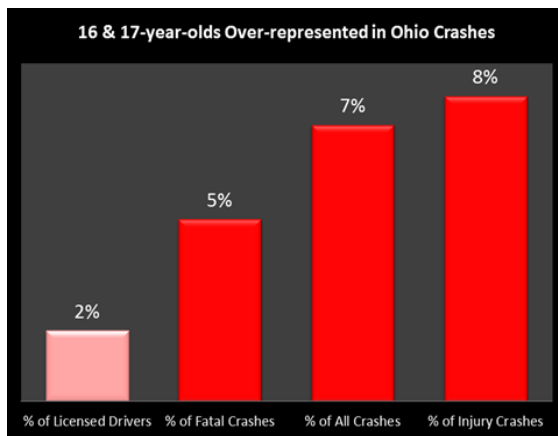




Fact Sheet

Teen Driving, Graduated Driver Licensing & Ohio House Bill 204

1. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), motor vehicle crashes are, by far, the number one killer of teens. Young people die in car crashes three times more often than from firearms, the second most common cause of death.
2. In Ohio, 16 and 17 year-old drivers are heavily overrepresented in injury, fatal and total crashes, according to the Ohio Department of Transportation:



3. According to FARS data for 1998-2007, 61 percent of all fatalities involving a teen driver were someone other than the teen driver: a passenger, someone in another vehicle, a pedestrian or other non-motorist. Teen drivers impact the safety of everyone.
4. The principal reason why motor vehicle crashes are the number one killer of teens is their lack of driving experience. Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) systems – when appropriately structured – are the most effective way to reduce crashes among new drivers. GDL programs work by ensuring new teenage drivers to gain important driving experience under relatively safe conditions.
5. The proposed 10 p.m. night driving limitation for newly licensed drivers is NOT A CURFEW. By definition, a curfew would require teen drivers to be home by a certain time. The night driving is ONLY a limitation on UNSUPERVISED driving after 10 p.m. Teens continue to get to where they need and want to go the same way they did before the restriction took effect: driving, with a supervising adult; riding with an adult; riding with older, licensed teens or siblings, etc.
6. Reporters often use headlines, “new law gets tough on teens,” or refer to improvements as punishment. This is not accurate. Being “tough” or “punishing” is what our state has been doing by not providing adequate “protection” for teen drivers and those with whom they come in contact. Changes in the law will “protect,” not get “tough” or “punish.”



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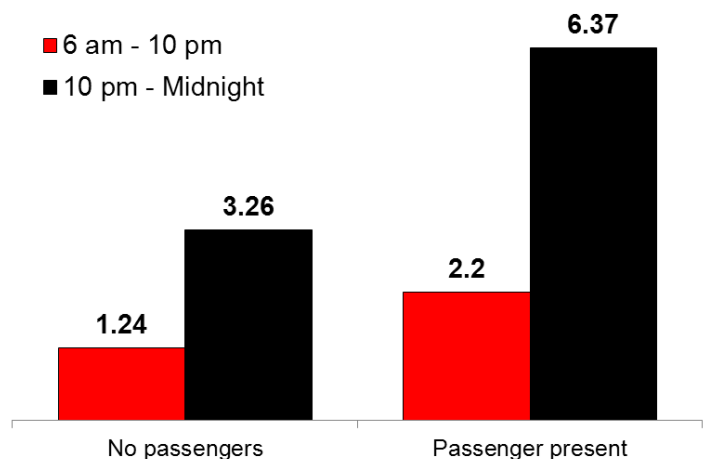
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7. Why limit passengers and nighttime driving for newly licensed teenage drivers?

The purpose of the provisional license is to ensure that teens who have just finished a learner period – and have never been allowed to drive without an adult in the car – are not immediately faced with the most dangerous driving conditions when they begin driving without an adult. This gives them time to gain experience and adjust to driving on their own in relatively safer conditions. This is the reason for limits on young passengers and on driving after 10 p.m. during the probationary license period.

- A study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* showed the importance of having both these limits while drivers develop their skills and judgment. The figure below shows that without such limits, fatality rates for 16- & 17-year-old drivers are much higher.
- Compared to daytime driving, teens were more than 2.5 times more likely to be killed between 10 pm and Midnight, whether they have passengers or not.
- Compared to having no passengers, teens with a passenger were 77% more likely to be killed during daytime driving and 95% more likely to be killed from 10 to midnight.
- The following chart of night driving crashes by the hour illustrates why the current midnight driving restriction is ineffective, and why a 10 p.m. or earlier restriction is needed and would significantly reduce crashes involving 16 and 17 year-old drivers:

Teenage driver death rate* by time of day and presence of passengers



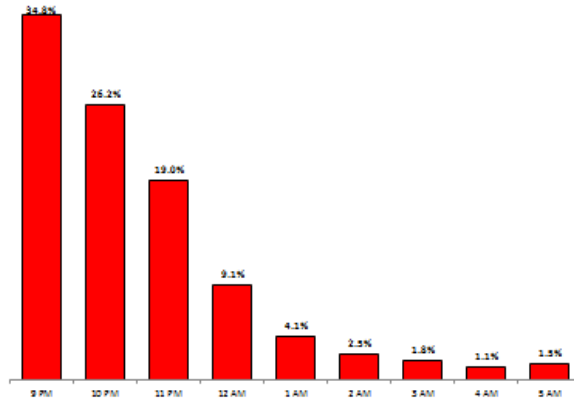
Source: Chen et al., (2000) JAMA.



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% of Night Driving Crashes by Hour Ohio 16 Year-Old Drivers, 2008-2012



8. The night driving proposal does not create something new to which parents and teen drivers must do. Prior to the restriction, teens were either driving to work, church or school activities with a supervising adult at all times. Under the new proposal, this procedure continues for a while longer for driving after 10 p.m., but this is not something new to them.
9. And according to a survey by the Center for the Study of Young Drivers, Univ. of North Carolina, of Ohio parents with newly licensed teen drivers, 90 percent think Ohio should limit driving after 10 p.m. for all beginning teen drivers, work or school activities exempted.
10. In the same survey, 81 percent of parents favored limiting passengers for beginning 17 year-old drivers, exempting family members.
11. On both questions there was no statistically significant difference between the attitudes of parents on these questions from the most urban to the most rural parts of Ohio. In other words, parents in Ohio, no matter where they live, are equally concerned and protective of their new teen drivers.
12. Parents see GDL licensing rules as extremely helpful to them. In numerous studies of parent opinions they are extremely supportive, 80 percent or higher, including night driving and passenger limits. Parents see it as the state helping them, not interfering.

Useful Resources

AAA and the AAA Foundation have developed the following teen driver resources:

- TeenDriving.AAA.com – This AAA site provides state-specific information to help parents and their teens navigate the learning-to-drive process. Tailored content guides families through each step in the



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process, from teaching safe behaviors even before teens get learner's permits to keeping parents involved as teens begin driving on their own.

- [Driver-Zed](#) – This interactive risk-management training tool is designed to help teens recognize how to react in a variety of driving scenarios.
- [AAA StartSmart](#) – AAA StartSmart is an online program designed to help families get through the crucial period when teens are learning to drive, through a series of videos and e-newsletters based on a proven program from the National Institutes of Health. A key component is the AAA Parent-Teen Driving Agreement.
- [Dare To Prepare](#) – Dare to Prepare is a 90-minute pre-permit presentation for parents and teens to provide critical information families need to know before teens take the wheel. This presentation walks attendees through the steps necessary to obtain a permit and a driver's license, and offers useful tools to help families through the learning-to-drive process. A shorter online version of the program is now available at www.TeenDriving.AAA.com.

For more information about teen driver safety and the AAA Foundation's research in this area, please visit www.AAAFoundation.org and www.TeenDriving.AAA.com.