


Current Issues in Teen Driving

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Susan Ferguson, Ph.D.

INSURANCE INSTITUTE
FOR HIGHWAY SAFETY

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- W To what extent are current policies and interventions informed by issues of adolescent development?
 - W How might they be revised to take into account teen driving and adolescent development?

General principles

- W There are multiple influences on driving behavior (personality, development, demographic, vehicle and roadway environment, driving experience and ability)
- W Likely no single solution
- W Most effective solutions usually have not sought to change the manner in which teens drive but restrict when, where, and with whom allowed to drive


- W Current countermeasures predominantly based on highway safety risk factors
- W Have not relied heavily on adolescent development literature
- W Not often influenced by lessons from other injury prevention fields (e.g., longer-term comprehensive education programs)

Interventions empirically based, relying heavily on analyses of crash and injury risk

- W GDL laws and enforcement
- W Parental intervention to increase driving restrictions

Adolescent development and its potential impact on behavior

- W Behavior change difficult at all ages but particularly so for teens
- W Lifestyle factors different for teens
- W Young people may engage in risk taking because it has utility for them – peer approval, appearance of maturity, feelings of power and self-esteem, expression of independence
- W How do you elevate positive image of a “safe” driver among teens?



W What role can parents, teachers, and other adults play in building driving competencies and reducing risky behaviors among teens?

Parents can play an important role


- W Provide lengthy and varied opportunities to learn to drive
- W Determine licensing age
- W Impose and enforce restrictions on teen driving
- W Determine amount of driving exposure
- W Vehicle choice

Schools can play a role

- W Provide an environment that does not encourage driving
 - parking privileges e.g. cost and space
 - lunchtime policies

Factors in parental influence

- W Parental driving as a role model for teens
- W Parenting styles can be important, but may be difficult to change
- W Not all families are motivated
- W Those that are may have competition for time and attention



W What research is needed to move the field forward?

Research needs

Risk taking

- W Proximal influences on driving behavior – what happens in the vehicle prior to a crash
- W Distraction - propensity to engage in distracting activities, effects on crash risk, and solutions
- W Ways to reduce risk of teens traveling with teens – licensing policies, awareness of risk, in-vehicle monitoring

Research needs

Effects of interventions

W Licensing

- Extended learner periods and increased hours of practice driving
- Advanced driver education
- Road test difficulty and cost on age of licensure
- Parental and societal influences on timing of licensure
- Effects of variations in minimum permit and licensing ages


Research needs

Technology

- W Parental monitoring of teen driving (EDRs, cameras in cars) - parental interest, motivation, and efficacy
- W Economic incentives based on insurer monitoring of where and when driving takes place
- W Smart cards to prevent dangerous driving behaviors (speeding, drinking & driving, unlicensed, & nighttime driving)
- W Vehicle technology - ESC, adaptive cruise control, lane departure warning, intelligent speed adaptation etc.
- W Seat belt reminder or interlock systems

Research needs

- W Efficacy of longer term, multi-component, community-based interventions
 - Strong GDL laws
 - Improved driver education
 - Well publicized enforcement
 - Parent, peer, and school involvement



W What role can the media and public messaging about driving play in building driving competencies and reducing risky behaviors among teens?

Areas of potential media influence

- W To increase public and parental awareness of adolescent development and the teen driving problem
- W Persuasive communication targeted at young drivers, in concert with other countermeasures
- W Effects of entertainment media portrayals of risky driving on teen driver behavior
- W News media should provide salient details of crashes, including whether teens were complying with licensing and traffic laws

Barriers to change

- W Individual risk is relatively low
- W Mobility is highly prized
- W Even teens think they are above average drivers
- W Political leadership is key