# Young Drivers and Motor Vehicle Accidents Stats & Facts



## **FACTS**

- 1. The presence of teen passengers increases the crash risk of unsupervised teen drivers. This risk increases with each additional teen passenger.
- 2. Teens are more likely than older drivers to underestimate or not be able to recognize dangerous situations.
- 3. Compared with other age groups, teens and young adults often have the lowest seat belt use rates.
- 4. Distraction negatively effects driving performance is dangerous for young, inexperienced drivers.
- 5. Teens are more likely than older drivers to speed and allow shorter headways (the distance from the front of one vehicle to the front of the next).
- 6. Drinking any amount of alcohol before driving increases crash risk among teen drivers as compared with older drivers. Teen drivers have a much higher risk for being involved in a crash than older drivers at the same blood alcohol concentration (BAC), even at BAC levels below the legal limit for adults.

## **STATS**

### Teen Drivers, Cell Phones, and Texting

- 8% of high school students nationwide have texted or e-mailed while driving.
- 12% of distracted drivers involved in fatal car accidents were teens ages 15 to 19.
- 56% of teens admit to talking on cell phones while driving.
- 13% of teens admit to texting while driving.
- 34% of teens age 16 and 17 admit that they send and respond to text messages while driving.
- 48% of kids ages 12 to 17 report being in a car when the driver was texting.

#### Underage Driving/ Drinking Stats

- About 1/4 of fatal teen car accidents involve underage drinking and driving. (MADD)
- About 8.2% of high school students reported driving a car or other vehicle one or more times when they had been drinking alcohol.
- 5% of 12th graders reported driving after drinking.
- Nearly 60% of young drivers involved in fatal drinking and driving crashes

didn't use a seat belt.