

Young Teen Drivers: Too Rational for Their Own Good?

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DETA
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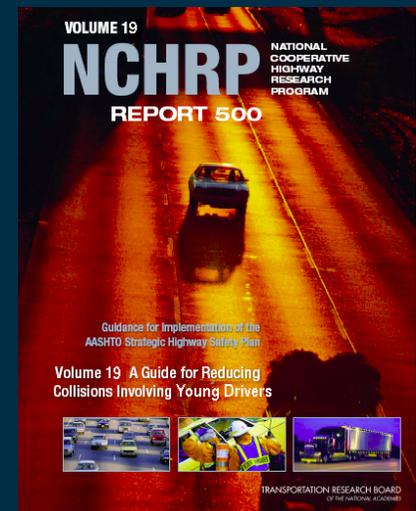
Itinerary

- What we've been up to
- What we're learning
- Implications for turning novices into “wise” drivers
- Discussion with webinar participants



CSYD Young Driver Studies

- GDL
 - Evaluations & helping states
- NCHRP/AASHTO Young Driver Guide
 - http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/nchrp/nchrp_rpt_500v19.pdf
- Parents' role in teen driving
 - Supervision
 - Monitoring





What is GDL, Really?

- Concept, not cafeteria
 - Licensing System
 - Not a law
 - Gain experience while minimizing risk
 - The best system is the one that most effectively achieves this – most practical experience with risk kept lowest – at the population (aggregate) level.
 - **See** <http://www.iihs.org/laws/graduatedLicenseIntro.aspx>



The nature of human behavior

- Dual process functioning
 - Most behavior is reactive, not reasoned
- Doing (well) without awareness
 - New Zealand driving simulator study
- Cognitive neuroscience & teen info processing
 - Teens don't think they're invincible
 - Overestimate risk
 - Process more 'rationally' than adults



History of Education

- Pre-industrial societies
- Industrial societies
- Training drivers – “Old School”



Crash Rates by Age





Parental supervision

- Human communication
 - Complex & imperfect
 - Parent-teen "disconnect"
 - Implications ...



“Have you talked with your [*teen/parents*] about whether [*he/she/you*] should use the phone while driving”

		Parent	
		Yes	No
Teen	Yes	82%	44%
	No	18%	56%

$$\kappa = .22$$



“Have you [*your parents*] placed restrictions on your [*teen’s*] phone use when driving”

		Parent	
		Yes	No
Teen	Yes	76%	35%
	No	24%	65%

$$\kappa = .34$$



Parental supervision complexities

- Observed instances of parent-teen communication
 - Ships passing in the night
 - Parent conveys “gist” understanding
 - Teen speaks of rational processing
 - Both are correct!



Parents – teens – driving

- What parents need to know - maybe
 - Nature of driving as human behavior
 - Reason young drivers crash
 - Difficulty of communication - general
 - Simply telling doesn't work
 - Ships passing in the night
 - Parent intuition vs. teen rationality
- What parents need to do
- How to get parents to do it



The discussion ...

- What can we tell parents
 - That they can say to/do with teens
 - That will effectively convey principle (gist) understanding?
 - Motorcyclist creed – “Ride as if everyone is trying to run you down” is an example of a simple, conceptual notion that contains lots of detail implications, but which can be remembered “in total,” rather than as a list of dozens of single actions one should take.