

MAKING NEVADA SAFER

GRADUATED DRIVER'S LICENSE

Nevada Advisory Committee on Traffic Safety
Policy Priority



Current Situation:

Too many young drivers ages 15 – 20 are dying on Nevada roads, and that number is on the rise.

- » As shown in the figure at the lower right corner of this page, between 27 and 40 young drivers died per year in Nevada between 2017 and 2021.
- » Nevada currently has some young driver laws, but other more comprehensive requirements for graduated driver's licenses (GDLs) are not included.

Recommended Solution:

Revise current GDL laws to include nationally recommended components.

- » GDL laws have been implemented nationally and internationally to protect both new and young drivers.

What Does this Mean for Nevada?

Young drivers are inexperienced on the road and often do not realize how dangerous certain driving behaviors, like improper seat belt use, can be.

Furthermore, distracted or inattentive driving has become a national epidemic, and young drivers are at the greatest risk. Currently, 38 states ban all cell phone use for GDL drivers.¹ Nevada is not one of them.



There is only 87% observed seat belt use among 16 to 24-year-olds—the lowest of any age group²



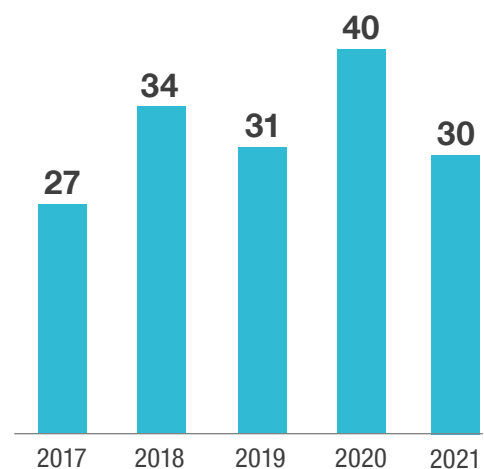
52% of young people involved in fatal crashes were unbuckled¹



Teens have the highest crash risk of any age group, and research confirms that distraction is often a factor¹



Current Nevada GDL laws do not specifically ban all cell phone use for drivers less than 18 years of age¹

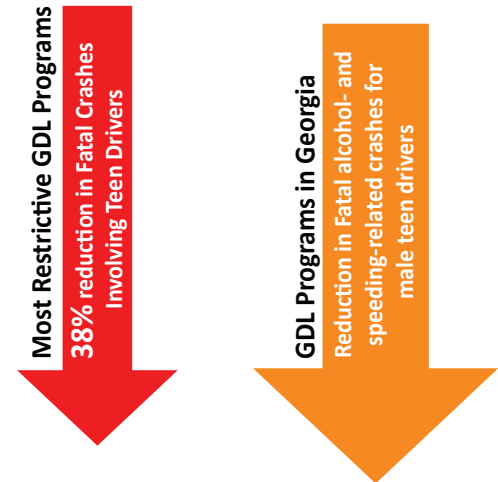


Fatalities Among Young Drivers in Nevada

Source: Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) for 2017-2020, Nevada State Data for 2021

Impacts of GDL Systems for New Drivers

GDL systems gradually increase the exposure of new drivers to more complex driving situations in as safe a manner as possible. New drivers are not just 16 or 17 years old, they are every age. With troubling national trends recently highlighted in the Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) report “Mission Not Accomplished: Teen Safe Driving, the Next Chapter,” it is clear that focus must be placed on all new drivers, not just teens. This data revealed that older teen drivers (18-20), were involved in 12% more fatal car crashes when compared to younger teen drivers (15-18). GHSA believes this upward trend is the result of teens waiting until they are 18 to get their license and bypassing GDL laws. By updating some of our laws, we can make sure that every driver who gets behind the wheel is educated and trained to avoid any behavior that could put their life at risk, including young drivers.



Source: NHTSA, 2022

References and Additional Resources

1. **National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)**
<https://www.nhtsa.gov/book/countermeasures/appendix/a6-young-drivers>
2. **Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS), 2020**
<https://www.iihs.org/topics/seat-belts#belt-use>

Proposed Policy Recommendations for Graduated Driver's License:

- 1 Change NRS 484B.165 to restrict all cell phone use, including hands-free devices, for drivers less than 18 years of age.
- 2 Amend NRS 484D.495 to include seat belt usage for young drivers and their passengers as a condition for continued licensure within Nevada's graduated driver licensing system.
- 3 Remove the age restriction to current GDL laws, thereby requiring all new drivers to obtain practical driving experience in a lower risk situation.

For more information contact:

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