



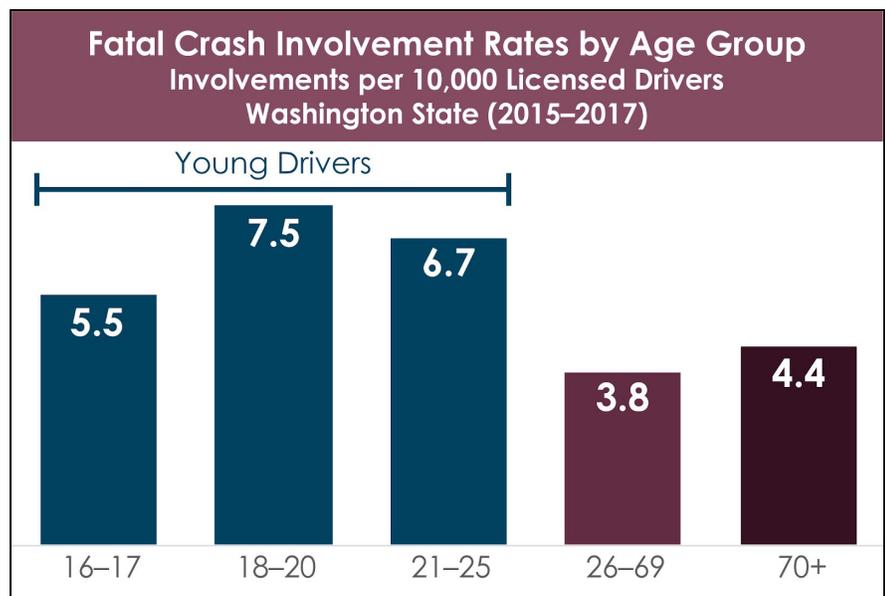
Washington State Strategic Highway Safety Plan 2019: Young Drivers
Learn More - Page 110 of the Plan

Challenge: Compared to the average driver, young drivers are more than twice as likely to be in a crash resulting in either a fatality or serious injury.

While young drivers make up just 13.5 percent of the driving population, they were involved in 31 percent of all fatalities and 34 percent of all serious injuries in 2015–2017.

Young drivers are defined as those between the ages of 16 and 25. This 10-year age span has three distinct sub-groups:

- Drivers 16- and 17-years-old: Includes newly licensed drivers under the Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) program. This group represents the largest number of newly licensed drivers annually in Washington.
- Drivers aged 18–20: This group includes newly licensed drivers who are not subject to driver training and GDL restrictions, as well as drivers who were licensed at 16 or 17 under the GDL.
- Drivers aged 21–25: This group often has driving experience but are of legal drinking age and are more likely to drive impaired.



Strategies and Objectives for Positive Change:

WTSC is working with the [Center for Health and Safety Culture](#) to build tools to bolster the skills of parents to improve driving behaviors among their children as they learn to drive. These tools are based on a positive culture framework that develops the social and emotional skills of children (as well as the adults).

Other key strategies for young drivers include:

- Improve the GDL law
- Publicize and enforce safety belt laws



What You Can Do:

- Support the strategies for reducing distraction – see page 118
- Use communication materials focused on Teen Driver Safety and the 100 Deadliest Days of Summer found on www.WTSCpartners.com
- Involve parents
- Make traffic safety culture change – see page 28