



Research in Action

A bimonthly e-newsletter from the Center for Injury Research and Prevention at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

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Support Parents As Driving Teachers

A new CHOP [Research Brief](#) illustrates the significant role that U.S. parents play in teaching their teens to drive, with 87 percent of teens saying they had a parent involved in teaching them to drive and 4 in 10 teens reporting only being taught by a parent. Given that most parents play a significant role in shaping how their children learn to drive, understanding how to best support parents is critical for producing safe and skilled teen drivers.

According to a new [CHOP study](#) recently published in the *Journal of Adolescent Research*, although parents can describe basic concepts their teen drivers need to master such as “paying attention” and “parking the car,” they tend not to mention specific driving skills needed to avoid crashing, such as scanning for hazards and managing speed for traffic and road conditions and specific ways in which teens learn these skills.

“Our research shows that, as a group, parents can paint a largely accurate picture of the challenges novice teen drivers face. What they tend not to mention are the specific skill deficits that lead to most teen crashes, such as poor scanning for hazards, as well as concrete ways to help teens learn these skills,” says Jessica H. Mirman, PhD, a developmental psychologist at CIRP and the study's lead author. “Every parent is different and they need tailored support, such as improved communication with certified driver education instructors, to help their teens develop the skills needed to become safe drivers.”

Together, this research confirms the need to complement training provided by certified driver education instructors with additional support for parents. High schools, home and school associations, churches, and employers are all potential dissemination avenues to busy parents. When reaching parents, consider using the evidence-informed learning modules from [Enhancing Education to Keep Teens Safe on the Road](#).

[Read about ways to support parents as driving teachers.](#)

Focus On:

National Teen Driver Safety Week (NTDSW)



With the popularity of campaigns like National Breast Cancer Awareness Month and American Diabetes Month, it's hard to believe that less than 10 years ago there was no time designated for the No. 1 killer of teens in the U.S. – car crashes. Since its inception in 2007, National Teen Driver Safety Week (NTDSW) has helped highlight the epidemic of teen driver-related crashes, which claim the lives of more than 3,000 teen drivers and their passengers each year.

In 2007 after a series of tragic crashes involving PA high school students, Representative Charlie Dent (R- PA), Senator Bob Casey (D- PA), and over 50 co-sponsors introduced the resolution to create NTDSW, held the third week of October each year. From its founding, NTDSW has been supported by the traffic safety experts at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) and State Farm Insurance Companies®. “It is so important for the public to know that crashes

Pennsylvania Passes GDL Provisions Proven to Reduce Crashes

This past month the Pennsylvania General Assembly voted to enact more comprehensive Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) policy to reduce teen driver-related crashes and deaths. Improvements to PA's teen driver safety law have been a long time in coming. State Rep. Kathy Watson (R-144th Dist.), who sponsored House Bill 9, has been working to get more effective teen driver safety legislation passed in the state since 2005.

When enacted, the law (called Lacey's Law) will limit teen drivers to one non-family passenger for the first six months after receiving a junior license. If they remain violation-free, teen drivers can carry no more than three non-family passengers until age 18. The law also will expand adult-supervised driver training from 50 to 65 hours, with 10 of those hours to include instruction at night and five in inclement weather, as well as make failure to use a seat belt a primary offense for all motor vehicle occupants under age 18.

"We applaud Representative Watson and her House and Senate colleagues who spent five years building support and consensus for a life-saving law that is grounded in research," says Suzanne Hill, the Center's director of Advocacy and Outreach. "Pennsylvania's teen driver safety stakeholders now need to support Lacey's Law with consistent messages to parents, teens, and law enforcement that explain the new provisions and how compliance can help prevent tragedies."

Several studies estimate a crash reduction of up to 40 percent in states with strong GDL laws. GDL is one of the few tools proven effective in reducing new teen driver crashes and deaths. The objective of GDL is to keep teens out of high risk driving situations while permitting them to gain on-road experience in lower risk conditions. While almost every state has some aspect of GDL in place, many do not have [laws considered optimal](#).

[Read more about the legislation.](#)

Center Plans to Accelerate Innovation in Online Health, Wellness and Safety

As part of its Accelerating Innovation Research program, the National Science Foundation (NSF) recently awarded CIRP a two-year grant to begin to develop an Online Health, Wellness and Safety Innovation Ecosystem. Initial partners with CIRP in the Ecosystem will be the [University City Science Center](#) and the [Center for Autonomic Computing at the University of Florida](#).

are a serious health concern for teens and that there are many positive steps that can be taken to reduce teen driver-related injuries and deaths," says Dennis Durbin, MD, MSCE, CIRP co-scientific director. "National Teen Driver Safety Week provides a platform to get this conversation started."

Over the past four years, the effort has gained momentum and the national spotlight with backing from celebrities such as Oprah Winfrey and Jesse McCartney. Each NTDSW has a theme supported by the latest research and current events that will resonate with parents, teens, driver education instructors, and all those with a stake in teen driver safety. Past themes have included passenger risks and distracted driving. This year's theme is supporting parents in teaching their teens to drive.

Recent CHOP research found that although parents are pivotal to the learning-to-drive process, they may not always have the tools and knowledge needed to be effective. Driver education instructors, policymakers, and educators all have a stake in supporting parents as driving teachers. There's no better time to take positive action than NTDSW 2011, which is being held now, from October 16 - 22. To download recent CHOP research, access other free tools and materials, and get ideas on ways to help parents, please visit [National Teen Driver Safety Week](#).

Getting Parents to Comply with AAP Recommendations

Dennis Durbin, MD, MSCE, shares his views on a recent University of Michigan survey that reports the majority of parents do not currently follow the "rear-facing to age two" recommendation from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). In March 2011, the AAP released a new [policy statement](#) concerning child passenger safety recommendations. As the lead author of the guidelines, Dr. Durbin says it will take time and a concerted effort by pediatricians and other groups to change the behavior of most parents.

[Read the article.](#)

Weighing In On How GDL Impacts Older Teens

“A dramatic shift is underway to move many aspects of health care and safety promotion from one-on-one provider/patient or trainer/trainee interactions to less costly online, self-directed applications,” says Flaura Winston, MD, PhD, CIRP co-scientific director. “There’s an urgent need to ensure that these applications are rigorously developed and evaluated. We are honored to be given this opportunity to accelerate the translation of behavioral and medical discoveries into commercially-viable, online applications proven effective in improving health, safety and wellness.”

NHTSA Administrator Visits CHOP



Center researchers recently welcomed David Strickland, administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), for a tour of CHOP and discussion about how CIRP’s interdisciplinary team can further support federal efforts to improve road safety for all. Pictured (L-R) are: Suzanne Hill, CIRP director of Advocacy and Outreach; Kristy Arbogast, PhD, CIRP director of Engineering, Flaura Winston, MD, PhD, CIRP co-scientific director; Peter Grollman, CHOP director of Government Affairs; David Strickland; Stephen Ridella, NHTSA Human Injury Research Division chief; and Matthew Maltese, PhD, a senior biomechanical research engineer at CHOP.

Visit Us On 

You can now access a variety of our evidence-based video resources on YouTube. The Center has three channels: **ChildPassengerSafety**, with a lineup of important child passenger safety (CPS) videos, including a podcast explaining the American Academy of Pediatrics’ new CPS recommendations

In this Associated Press article, CIRP Co-Scientific Director Flaura Winston, MD, PhD, comments on a new *JAMA* study that confirms the effectiveness of GDL for 16-year-old drivers but suggests a negative impact for 18-year-old drivers. Dr. Winston recommends that support and temporary restrictions may be needed for novice drivers of any age.

[Read the article.](#)

Support Our Center

The dedicated doctors, researchers, and outreach professionals at the Center for Injury Research and Prevention at CHOP are fighting to save the lives of children of all ages. But we need your help. To make a secure, on-line donation, please visit [The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Foundation Donation Page](#) and select “Center for Injury Research and Prevention” in the drop-down menu. You also may telephone the CHOP Foundation at 267-426-6500. For more information on our research and programs, please visit www.chop.edu/injury.

The Center's Websites

The Center for Injury Research and Prevention (www.chop.edu/injury)

Keeping Kids Safe in Crashes – English language (www.chop.edu/carseat)

Cómo Mantener a los Niños Fuera de Peligro Durante los Choques – Spanish language (www.chop.edu/asientos_infantiles)

Philadelphia Collaborative Violence Prevention Center (PCVPC) (www.phillyviolenceprevention.org)

After The Injury: Helping Parents Help Their Kids Recover (www.AfterTheInjury.org)

Ride Like A Friend (www.ridelikeafriend.org)

teendriversource.org (www.teendriversource.org)

and our popular crash simulations, **teendriversource**, with a wide array of teen driver safety-related segments, including a series for parents called “Communicating With Your Teen About Driving,” and **AfterTheInjury**, with videos supporting content found on AfterTheInjury.org, the award-winning website to help children recover after an injury. Video content on all three channels is updated regularly. Be sure to check back frequently.

[Subscribe to the ChildPassengerSafety channel.](#)

[Subscribe to the teendriversource channel.](#)

[Subscribe to the AfterTheInjury channel.](#)

Recent Center Publications

Koepsell TD, Rivara FP, Vavilala MS, Wang J, Temkin N, Jaffe KM, and Durbin DR. Incidence and [Descriptive Epidemiologic Features of Traumatic Brain Injury in King County, Washington](#). *Pediatrics*. October 3, 2011.

Ginsburg KR, et al. [Parents Teaching Teens to Drive: The Adolescent Perspective](#). Research Brief published by The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia and State Farm Insurance Companies® online at www.teendriversource.org. September 27, 2011.

McDonald CC, et al. [The Importance of Family to Youth Living in Violent Communities](#). *Journal of Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing*. September 2011.

Mirman JH, et al. [From Passengers to Drivers: Parent Perceptions About How Adolescents Learn to Drive](#). *Journal of Adolescent Research*. October 2011.

Wiebe DJ, et al. [Self-reported Violence-related Outcomes for Adolescents Within Eight Weeks of Emergency Department Treatment for Assault Injury](#). *Journal of Adolescent Health*. 2011; 49(4):440-442

Recent Center Presentations

Arbogast KA, Winston FK, Durbin D, Zonfrillo M, Maltese M. [Setting the Future Agenda for Child Occupant Protection](#). Research Workshop. Prato, Italy. September 12-13, 2011.

Arbogast KA, Belwadi A. [Evaluation of Hyperthermia Prevention Technology](#). Presentation to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Washington, DC. September 21, 2011.

Arbogast KA. [Pediatric Injury Biomechanics](#). Association for the Advancement of Automotive Medicine - Biomechanics Seminar. Paris, France. September 29-30, 2011.

Curry AE, Mirman JH, Kallan MJ, Durbin DR. [Peer Passengers: How Do They Increase Teen Driver Crash Risk?](#) Association for

the Advancement of Automotive Medicine Annual Conference.
Paris, France. October 2-5, 2011.

Durbin, D. What's Up With Occupant Protection Technology and Research? (presenter at session). Governors Highway Safety Association Annual Meeting. Cincinnati, Ohio. September 26, 2011.

Hill, SD. Enhancing Recruitment Methods for the National Child Occupant Special Study Child-focused Crash Surveillance System. Toyota Safety Technology Seminar. Ann Arbor, Michigan. September 13, 2011.

McGinley A. Minds Matter: Improving Pediatric Concussion Management. 2011 Conference of Research Experiences for Undergraduates. Arlington, VA. October 16. 2011.

Samuels M. Evaluation of Pediatric ATD Biofidelity. 2011 Conference of Research Experiences for Undergraduates. Arlington, VA. October 16. 2011.