

# CASE Newsletter

California Association for Safety Education Volume XXII, No. 1 - March 2012

## State Highway Safety Plan Reviewing 18-19 Year-Old Teen Driver Crash Issue

By Jerry Gaines, CASE Past President

At a recent meeting on February 9, 2012 of the Challenge #6 task force (focus on reducing young driver fatalities under the state's highway safety plan (SHSP), discussion took place on developing a legislative strategy for extending the Graduated License requirements to new drivers at age 18 and 19. Recent research has shown that apparent outcomes from the state's GDL law have reduced fatalities for new teen drivers aged 16 and 17, but have shown an increase in fatalities for teens who are waiting to get licensed at age 18 where they are not subject to GDL provisions to be licensed to drive.

SHSP task force member Gabe Roberson, from the Driving School Association of California, offered to initiate an action proposal for the task force seeking support at the Steering Committee Level and then to leadership level of the overall State Highway Safety Plan Program for the revision of the GDL in California.

Much discussion took place at the SHSP meeting on the research done to date on the topic of increased fatalities for late teens since the GDL has been enacted in California. Dr. Scott Masten, from the Department of Motor Vehicles presented a comprehensive report on research that has focused on the increase in teen fatalities of drivers 18 and 19 years old. Some of the data show the following:

1. From 2000-2008, more than 23,000 drivers and 14,000 passengers aged 16 to 19 years were killed.
2. Crashes are more common among 18 and 19 year old drivers.
3. Unlike in other countries, GDL programs in the U.S. apply only to beginning drivers younger than 18 years.
4. Fatal crash involvement increased from 28.2 per 100,000 person years in 16 year old drivers to 36.9 per 100,000 person years in 17 year olds before reaching a plateau of 46.2 per 100,000 person years in 18 year olds and 44.0 per 100,000 person years in 19 year olds.

5. Stronger GDL programs (relative to no GDL program) were statistically associated with lower fatal crash incidence only for 16 year old drivers.

6. Since enactment of the first program in 1996, GDL programs are estimated to have been associated with 1348 fewer fatal crashes involving 16 year old drivers but with 1086 more involving 18 year old drivers.

7. The study concludes with substantial reductions in incidence of fatal crashes among drivers to whom the protective elements of GDL most apply (16 year olds) but appear to be associated with somewhat higher fatal crash incidence among 18 year old drivers, who are not directly subject to GDL programs.

The discussion at this meeting was intense and comprehensive in regard to the prospect of seeking legislation to extend GDL to age 20. Concerns were expressed on added costs to older teens and their families where they would need to follow GDL guidelines for licensing (a political challenge). Questions remain on the validity of the research accounting for other variables that may be associated with increased fatalities for later-aged teen drivers. It was agreed to seek more input before moving forward on a legislative proposal in future months.

Following up after this meeting, contact was made with representatives of the Driving School Association of California to learn of interest in building a coalition around the issue of addressing late teen fatalities in California. Thought is being given to inviting various stakeholders within the traffic safety education community to a future forum to build awareness and strategy as it relates to the apparent impacts of the current California GDL program. More will be discussed on this issue at the upcoming CASE Conference in Ontario on March 17.



## New California Motor Vehicle Laws for 2012

*These new laws became effective on January 1, 2012:*



### Child Passenger Safety Seat

**law—SB 29 (Evans)**—Requires children to ride in either a car seat or booster seat until the age of eight, or until they reach a height of 4 feet 9 inches. This law also requires children who do not meet the age or height requirement to ride in the rear seat of a vehicle unless the vehicle has no back seats, the restraint system cannot be properly installed or the rear seats are already occupied by children under age eight. However, the law still maintains that a child may not ride in the front seat of a vehicle with an active passenger air-bag if they are under one year of age, less than 20 pounds, or riding in a rear-facing child safety seat.

**Double Parallel Solid White Lines—AB 1105 (Gordon)**—Vehicles will be prohibited from crossing double parallel solid white lines except where permitted.

**Reckless Driving Conviction—AB 520 (Ammiano)**—Anyone who is convicted of reckless driving under Section 23103.5 of the Vehicle Code can apply for a restricted driver license prior to the completion of their one-year suspension, provided they meet specified conditions, including the installation of an Ignition Interlock Device in their vehicle.

## 2012 CASE Conference

This year's conference will be at the Ontario Airport Sheraton Hotel in Ontario, Saturday March 17, 2012, from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. The hotel is located at 429 N. Vineyard Avenue. A free airport shuttle is available.

The discounted pre-registration deadline has passed, but you can still attend for a fee of \$165 for CASE members and \$205 for non-members. A registration form is provided below. The conference room rate is \$92, and the hotel reservations number is (866) 716-8122.



*It is said that if you line up all the cars in the world end to end, someone would be stupid enough to try and pass them.*

## Teacher Preparation Courses

For information on Driver Education teacher prep courses in the Northern California and Riverside areas, contact Anna Maria Toma at UC Riverside School of Extended Education (951) 827-1661.

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## CASE Calendar

**March 17, 2012** - 60th Annual CASE Conference, Ontario Airport Sheraton Hotel, Ontario, CA. Hotel reservations: (866) 716-8122. [www.casewebsite.org](http://www.casewebsite.org)

**May 2012** - National Youth Traffic Safety Month. Contact: [www.noys.org](http://www.noys.org)

**July 13-15, 2012** - NSSP Annual Teen Leadership Conference, Radisson Paper Valley Hotel, Appleton, Wisconsin. Contact: [www.adtsea.org](http://www.adtsea.org)

**July 15-18, 2012** - ADTSEA Conference, Radisson Paper Valley Hotel, Appleton, Wisconsin. Contact: [www.adtsea.org](http://www.adtsea.org)

## 2012 CASE Conference Registration Form

Mail check to: CASE Conference, 25 Shelbourne Place, San Mateo, CA 94402

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School District/Business \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fee Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$165 CASE members, \$205 non-members\*)

**School District Purchase Orders not accepted** (if your school district is paying for registration, a district check must be sent with this registration form attached).

\* \$205 fee includes one-year CASE membership

## Online Teen Driver Safety Resources

Compiled by Mark Taban, California Office of Traffic Safety

NHTSA	Teen Driver Safety	<a href="http://www.nhtsa.gov/Teen-Drivers">www.nhtsa.gov/Teen-Drivers</a>
NSC	Teen Driving	<a href="http://www.nsc.org/safety_road/teendriving/pages/teen_driving.aspx">www.nsc.org/safety_road/teendriving/pages/teen_driving.aspx</a>
DMV	California Teens	<a href="http://dmv.ca.gov/teenweb">dmv.ca.gov/teenweb</a>
CHP	Start Smart	<a href="http://www.chp.ca.gov/community/startsmart.html">www.chp.ca.gov/community/startsmart.html</a>
ABC	Teen Corner	<a href="http://www.abc.ca.gov/teencorner.htm">www.abc.ca.gov/teencorner.htm</a>
Impact Teen Driver	Impact Teen Drivers	<a href="http://impactteendrivers.org">impactteendrivers.org</a>
R U Lethal	R U Lethal	<a href="http://rulethal.com">rulethal.com</a>
Teens in the Driver Seat	Teens in the Driver Seat	<a href="http://www.t-driver.com">www.t-driver.com</a>
MADD	Underage Drinking Prevention	<a href="http://www.madd.org/local-offices/ca/youth-and-education.html">www.madd.org/local-offices/ca/youth-and-education.html</a>
AAA	Keys to Drive	<a href="http://teendriving.aaa.com/CA">teendriving.aaa.com/CA</a>
Allstate	Teen Driver Site	<a href="http://www.allstateteendriver.com">www.allstateteendriver.com</a>
Farmers	Driving Safety: The Y.E.S. Program	<a href="http://www.farmers.com/parents_yes.html">www.farmers.com/parents_yes.html</a>
Geico	Geico Teen Driving	<a href="http://www.geico.com/information/safety/auto/teendriving/parents">www.geico.com/information/safety/auto/teendriving/parents</a>
Liberty Mutual	Teen Driver	<a href="http://www.libertymutual-group.com/omapps/">www.libertymutual-group.com/omapps/</a>
Progressive	Teen Driver	<a href="http://www.progressive.com/vehicle-resources/teen-driving.aspx">www.progressive.com/vehicle-resources/teen-driving.aspx</a>
State Farm	“Stear Clear”	<a href="http://www.statefarm.com/insurance/auto_insurance/steerClear_online.asp">www.statefarm.com/insurance/auto_insurance/steerClear_online.asp</a>
Friday Night Live	California Advocates for Teen Driver Safety	<a href="http://www.royerstudios.com/Safe_Drv_Splsh.htm">www.royerstudios.com/Safe_Drv_Splsh.htm</a>
Adept Driver	Teen Smart	<a href="http://adeptdriver.com">adeptdriver.com</a>

## Warning for Teens About Possession of Alcohol

**IF YOU ARE CAUGHT WITH A FAKE ID** the penalty is a minimum \$250 fine and/or 24-32 hours of community service, or a maximum \$1,000 fine and/or six months in the county jail, PLUS...a one year suspension of your driver license. If you don't yet have one, you'll have to wait an extra year to get one.

**IF YOU ATTEMPT TO PURCHASE ALCOHOL** the penalty is a maximum \$100 fine and/or 24-32 hours of community service, PLUS... a one year suspension of your driver license. If you don't yet have one, you'll have to wait an extra year to get one.

**IF YOU ARE CAUGHT IN POSSESSION OF ALCOHOL** the penalty is a \$250 fine and 24-32 hours of community service, PLUS...a one year suspension of your driver license. If you don't yet have one, you'll have to wait an extra year to get one.

**IF YOU PURCHASE ALCOHOL** the fine is \$250 and/or 24-32 hours of community service, PLUS...a one year suspension of your driver license. If you don't yet have one, you'll have to wait an extra year to get one.

California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control

## Teen Driver Distractions: Friends in the Car

Recent research from the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and State Farm insurance reveal why teens' driving skills can lose control when friends are in the car. Two new studies published in the Journal of Adolescent Health focus on which teens are likely to drive with friends and how extra passengers can impair their driving before a crash.

In one study that surveyed 198 teen drivers, researchers found that those teens most likely to drive with multiple passengers were “thrill-seekers” who didn't accurately perceive the risks inherent in driving and suspect that their parents are not monitoring their behavior.

Fortunately, these teens are in the minority, says study author Jessica Mirman, behavioral researcher at the Center for Injury Research and Prevention (CIRP) at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Most teens reported an understanding for driving risks and rules set by their parents, according to the research.

In a second study, researchers analyzed a nationally representative sample of 677 teen drivers involved in serious crashes. They compared the likelihood of driver distraction and risk-taking just before the crash, when teens were driving with additional passengers and when they were solo.

Both male and female drivers were more likely to be distracted before a crash if they were accompanied by passengers. Of those drivers who reported being distracted by activity inside their car before a crash, 71% of males and 47% of females said they were distracted directly by their passengers.

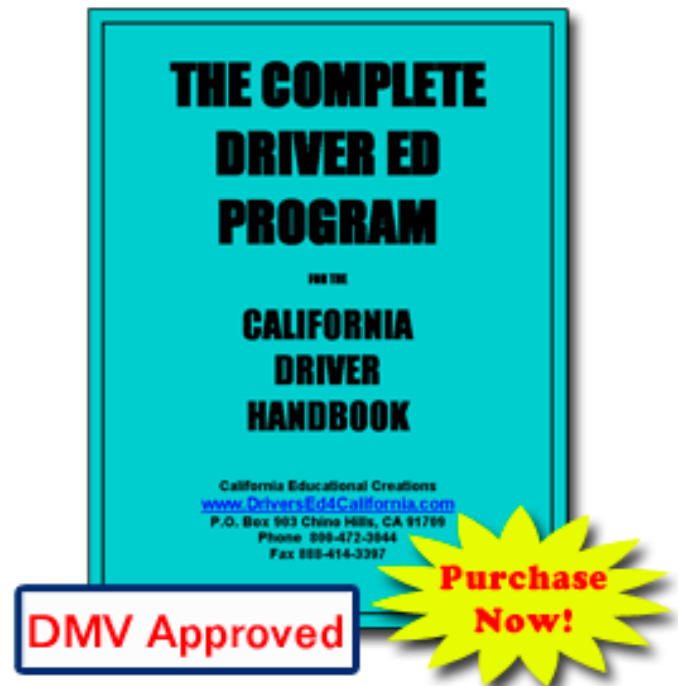
When compared with males driving alone, males with passengers were almost six times more likely to perform an illegal maneuver and more than twice as likely to drive aggressively before a crash. Overall, females rarely drove aggressively prior to a crash.

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