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Saturday, Dec 03, 2005

## State

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Posted on Mon, Jun. 27, 2005

### Teen roadway deaths targeted

By **Gordon Dickson**  
 Star-Telegram Staff Writer

More than one in five fatal accidents in Texas involves a teen-ager, according to a report issued Monday by a nationwide group of physicians.

The group, Coalition to End Needless Death on Our Roadways, calls for parents to keep a close eye on young drivers during the Independence Day weekend.

About 21.3 percent of fatal Texas crashes involve at least one driver age 16 to 20. That is higher than the national average of 19.8 percent.

The numbers are startling because young drivers represent 6 percent of motorists, said Dr. Andrea Barthwell, co-chairwoman of the group.

"In teen-age years, some kids are thrill-seeking and risk-taking. If you've got a kid like that, you've got to know it," she said.

Statistics are based on federal data from 2003, the most recent year available.

The report, co-sponsored by the National Safety Council, recommends that parents require their children to have 30 to 50 hours of driving practice before being allowed to drive alone. A ban on night driving is also advised.

[www.endneedlessdeath.org](http://www.endneedlessdeath.org)

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