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Text Size > A A A

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- > [Breaking News](#)
- > [Today's Digest](#)
- > [Week in Review](#)
- > [Email Updates](#)
- > [RSS Newsfeed](#)

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- > [Health & Medicine](#)
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- > [Plants & Animals](#)
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- > [Earth & Climate](#)
- > [Matter & Energy](#)
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- > [Environment](#)
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- > [Physics](#)
- > [Social Sciences](#)
- > [Technology](#)
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- > [Reproduction](#)
- > [Senses](#)
- > [Women's Health](#)
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- > [Graphics](#)
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- > [Internet](#)
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- > [Virtual Reality](#)
- > [more topics](#)

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- > [Engineering](#)
- > [Health Science](#)
- > [Mathematics](#)
- > [Physics](#)
- > [Psychology](#)

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- [Top News](#)
- [Business](#)
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- [Sports](#)
- [Quirks](#)

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- [Education](#)
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- [Health](#)
- [Human Interest](#)
- [Labour](#)
- [Lifestyle And Leisure](#)
- [Politics](#)
- [Religion And Belief](#)
- [Science And Technology](#)
- [Social Issue](#)
- [Sport](#)
- [Unrest, Conflicts And War](#)
- [Weather](#)

Advice to cut teen driving fatalities

WASHINGTON, July 1 (UPI) -- A physician-led traffic safety advocacy group and the National Safety Council have made recommendations to reduce teen driving fatalities.

End Needless Death on Our Roadways and the NSC said U.S. drivers ages 16 to 20 make up 6 percent of the driving population, but are involved in nearly 20 percent of all fatal motor vehicle crashes.

"We have learned much about teen driver safety. We have reviewed the science and we know what is proven to work in reducing teen fatalities," said John Ulczycki, director of the Transportation Safety Group of the National Safety Council. "State laws play an important role, but no matter where one resides, parents play the most important role in managing their children's early driving experience."

The groups advise that teen drivers should have 30 to 50 practice hours of behind-the-wheel training with a licensed driver over 21, and hold a learner's permit for at least six months. The report also urges restricting passengers in cars with teen drivers, and prohibiting teens under 18 from driving without supervision between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m.

The report recommends denying driver's licenses to teens for alcohol violations.

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