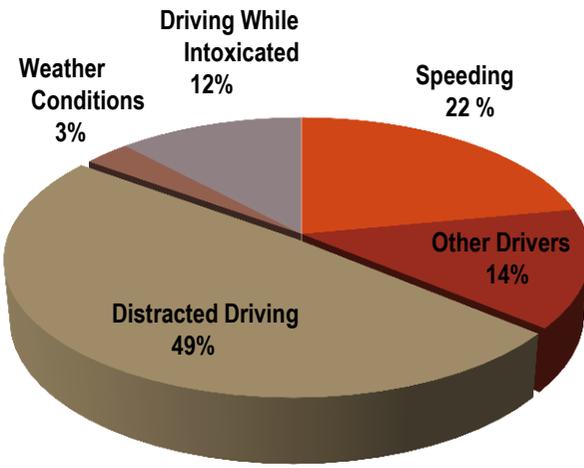


## Parent's Behind The Wheel Fears



You've spent a lifetime helping your child grow and learn while most importantly-**keeping them safe**. A right of passage as they get older is the freedom and independence of having a driver's license. However, with it comes a tremendous amount of risk and potential disaster. Have **YOU** prepared them for this challenging time? Have you done everything you could? Have you sought out sound advice about the dangers of driving as a teen driver before they hit the road alone?

**Their life could depend upon it.**

## Do You Know Why They Crash?

### LACK OF EXPERIENCE

Don't perceive risks  
Minimal hands-on supervised practice

### Distractions:

- Multiple teen passengers
- Cell phone/electronic devices
- Music
- Eating/Drinking

Overconfidence

Impaired (alcohol/drugs)

Drowsy Driving

Speeding

Emotionally Charged (anger)

Various road types/conditions

Overcorrecting

## Do You Know Where They Crash?

Rural roads (includes gravel)  
(single vehicle lane departures)  
80% of IA roads considered rural  
Urban roads (intersections)  
Predominately at night

Sources- NHTSA/FARS

## What You Can Do NOW To Help

Talk to your teen about safe driving;  
Set a positive example; Be a role model;  
**Don't take their abilities for granted;**

### Your Responsibilities:

#### Before Driver Education:

- Talk safety/traffic laws
- Set the example
- LET THEM DRIVE**
- Mentor/coach them
- Set rules/boundaries

#### During Driver Education:

- LET THEM DRIVE**
- Meet the Driver Education instructor
- Talk traffic safety & discuss what they're learning
- Mentor/coach them
- Be an active supporter

#### After Driver Education:

- LET THEM DRIVE**
- Ride with them
- Talk traffic safety/traffic laws
- Stay engaged with them

#### Beyond the Intermediate License:

- Stay current with traffic laws
  - Ride with them
  - Talk traffic safety/laws
  - Reinforce good driving behavior
- Don't take their abilities for granted.***

## Iowa Traffic Laws

(Iowa Code 321)

### Current Seat Belt Law;

- Mandatory for all front seat occupants & rear passengers under 18 years old

### Electronic Devices (cell phones, etc.)

- No electronic devices used (under 18)
- No wireless or corded connections with radios (under 18)
- Only manufacturer equipment used
- No texting (all ages)

### Graduated Driver License (GDL):

- 3 stage licensing program

#### -Learner's Permit (age 14-16)

must be held for 12 months)

- Supervised driving required (20 hrs- at least 2 hours at night)

-Must have prior to driver education

#### -Intermediate License (16-17 yr. old)

- Supervised driving required (10 hrs- at least 2 hours at night)

-Passenger restriction

-Only 1 unrelated teen passenger for the first 6 month\*

\* (Waiverable by parent/guardian)

- Restricted driving times (curfew)

#### -Full License (18 years +)

- Full driving privileges with no restrictions.

## PARENTS..... YOU HOLD THE KEYS TO YOUR TEEN'S SUCCESS AND SAFETY!



### Reality Check:

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for 15 to 20 year olds.

Nearly 50% of fatalities are NOT buckled.

Multiple teen passengers is the main distraction for young drivers.

*You model behavior for teens.*



## PARENT INVOLVEMENT WITH TEEN DRIVERS



**WHAT YOU NEED TO  
KNOW AND DO  
TO HELP YOUR  
TEEN SURVIVE THE  
DRIVE.**



Iowa Department of Public Safety  
Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau