

Transportation

Transportation-related injuries occur during travel on the ground, in the air, and on open water. The vast majority of these deaths and injuries result from motor vehicle transportation.

What We Know

- Motor vehicle crashes resulted in 45,316 deaths and were the leading cause of death in the United States among persons ages 1–34 in 2006.
- The risk of motor vehicle crashes is higher among 16- to 19-year-olds than among any other age group.
- Approximately 5 deaths and 568 injuries occurred each day to children ages 14 years and younger as occupants in motor vehicle crashes in 2006.
- About 4.3 million persons—nearly 500 persons per hour—suffered nonfatal transportation-related injuries that required an emergency department visit in 2006.

Graduated drivers licensing (GDL) systems are designed to delay full licensure while allowing teens to get their initial driving experience under low-risk conditions. Research suggests that the most comprehensive GDL systems can reduce fatal crashes among 16-year-old drivers by 38 percent.



Research Focus	What We Want to Know	How This Research Will Help
Factors Influencing Strategy Implementation	What factors most influence successful implementation of strategies and policies to prevent alcohol-impaired driving?	This will improve distribution and adoption of existing and newly-identified effective interventions.
Child Occupant Safety Measures	What interventions are most effective for increasing correct and consistent use of age-appropriate child safety seats and booster seats? Is information about safety devices and correct use effectively communicated?	This will improve distribution and adoption of effective strategies. It will also improve communication efforts to special populations not reached by usual channels.
Crashes Among Adolescent Drivers	What combination of GDL components are most effective? Which risk factors commonly seen among young drivers and passengers can be effectively targeted to improve teen driver safety?	This will help promote widespread adoption of comprehensive GDL systems based on the most effective components. This will guide the implementation of programs that address the risk factors commonly seen among young drivers and passengers.
Pedestrian Injury	How can multidisciplinary approaches be used to reduce pedestrian injury? What are risk factors for groups in urban and rural settings?	We can identify pedestrian, driver, and road characteristics and other factors that should be addressed when implementing pedestrian injury prevention programs.
Research Translation	How can research be used to guide the formation of laws and regulations that encourage safe driving behavior? What approaches can be used to support successful policies, regulations, and enforcement?	We can determine which laws and regulations encourage drivers to adopt safer behavior and potentially reduce injury rates.



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