

Views of Teenagers, and Parents of Teenagers, about Licensing Policies

Allan F. Williams | allan.f.williams@gmail.com

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Background

- ✘ Many changes in licensing policies have been made in the US in recent years, and more are being discussed
- ✘ Views of teenagers and parents of teenagers can inform debates about what licensing policies should be considered and how well they will be received and complied with if enacted
- ✘ Most teen and parent surveys about licensing policies were conducted back when GDL was first being introduced

Two separate studies

- ✘ Survey of 1,226 parents of 15-18 year-olds in February 2010, sponsored by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety
- ✘ Survey of 1,383 15-18 year-olds in November 2010, sponsored by the Allstate Foundation

Characteristics of the studies

- ✘ Online surveys conducted by Knowledge Networks based on their panel consisting of households recruited using probability-based sampling techniques
- ✘ Cell-phone-only households included; those without Internet access provided with laptops to complete online surveys
- ✘ Results weighted to represent US national population

Licensing age preferences

Percent of approving parents and teens

	parents	teens
Learner permit age 16 or older	66	46
Restricted licensing age 17 or older	53	27
Full license age 18 or older	53	30

Views of learner period policies

Percent of approving parents and teens

	parents	teens
Should last 1 year or more	60	34
>50 hours supervised driving	60	31
Require parent orientation course	70	60

Views of night restrictions

Percent of approving parents and teens

	parents	teens
Approve of restriction	90	78
Starting time 10 pm or earlier*	77	49
In place for one year or more*	53	37

*Based on those approving the restriction

Views of passenger restrictions

Percent of approving parents and teens

	parents	teens
Approve of restriction	89	57
Zero passenger limit*	38	28
In place for one year or more*	58	35

*Based on those approving the restriction

Views of cell phone and texting bans for teens

Percent of approving parents and teens

	parents	teens
Cell phone ban	96	85
Texting ban	98	93

Teens' view of "a single law that includes a learner period starting at age 16, limits on late night driving and passenger limits for new drivers, prohibition of cell phones and texting, and 18 for a full unrestricted license."

Strongly approve	34%
Somewhat approve	40%
Somewhat disapprove	18%
Strongly disapprove	9%

Requiring a license plate identifier for restricted license holders

Percent of approving parents and teens

parents	teens
65	50

Who should be covered by GDL rules

Percent of approving parents and teens

	parents	teens
Beginners < 18	39	53
Beginners < 21	21	14
Beginners < 25	4	1
All beginners	37	32

Overall conclusions

- ✦ Parents of teens support licensing policies that are as strong or stronger than exist in any state
- ✦ Teens themselves are not as supportive as parents of strong licensing policies, but there is evidence that they will support comprehensive policies likely to lead to further reductions in teen crash rates

Study qualifications

- ✦ These are national survey results. Views in individual states may differ markedly
- ✦ Parents tend to support policies for other teens more than for their own, e.g., parents of restricted license holders were least supportive of night and passenger restrictions
- ✦ Similarly, teens currently affected by policies were less likely to be in favor, e.g., restricted license holders were less likely to favor early starting times for night restrictions
- ✦ Also, teens no longer subject to the rules rated them more favorably, e.g., 18-year-olds were more favorable toward higher learner and restricted license age minimums

Teen licensure status

- ✦ Most teens said they wanted to get licensed as soon as legally possible
- ✦ However, many teens had not yet begun the licensing process, especially Hispanics
- ✦ Major barriers were costs, lack of available car, busy with other activities, car not needed for getting where they wanted, parents were too busy to supervise

License status by age

	age			
	15	16	17	18
Not started yet	73%	33%	24%	22%
Learner	24%	34%	21%	10%
Restricted	2%	19%	24%	6%
Full	1%	14%	31%	62%
