

Street Smart High 2019

Information for parents

Help your child be Street Smart

The facts

On average 83 drivers under the age of 25 were killed on South Australian roads each year between 2013 and 2017

Learner drivers have few crashes because they are always under supervision. But, once they have passed their test, and can drive unsupervised, their chances of crashing increases dramatically.

- Once a young driver gains their P-plates, their crash risk increases 20–30 times.
- Male drivers aged 16–19 are 34 per cent more likely to be involved in a crash than females of the same age, despite there only being 5 per cent more licence holders.
- Between 2013 and 2017, 3,560 18 year olds were involved in a crash compared to 2,043 48 year olds.

Why?

Lack of experience

As new drivers gain more driving experience their crash rate begins to fall.

Attitude

Young drivers, especially men, tend to be over confident and are more likely to drive in risky ways: too fast, too close to the vehicle in front and dangerous overtaking. Young drivers consistently rate their own performance as above average and are more likely to regard 'good' driving as the ability to master the controls of the car at higher speeds.

Hazard perception

Young drivers often have excellent vehicle control skills and fast reactions. But, they are poor at identifying potential hazards and assessing risk, and tend to overestimate their ability to avoid hazards and crashes. It takes new drivers up to two seconds longer to react to hazardous situations than more experienced drivers.

Peer pressure

Young drivers, especially men, who carry friends are more likely to have a crash.

So what can I do?

The role of parents cannot be underestimated in our efforts to reduce the road toll. Parents are key influencers in the development of safe driver beliefs, attitudes and actions. So what can you do to help your child be a safer, smarter driver?

- If your child is driving unsafely, talk to them about your concerns and why it's important to take road safety seriously.
- When your child begins to drive unsupervised, set boundaries so that they are clear as to what your expectations are.
- Encourage them to drive safely and to speak up if they feel their friends are driving unsafely.