



Fact sheet – Young driver education

Number 16, 2016

Part of the [Tranzinfo Hot Topics](#) series, this fact sheet offers a selection of material highlighting recent research in young driver education.

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Evaluation of education programs - Australia

[The effectiveness of driver training/education as a road safety measure: 2016 edition/update](#)

RACV, 2016

Provides an up-to-date summary of Australian and international research on the effectiveness of driver training/education programs for learner drivers, young/recently-licensed drivers, and experienced drivers. Findings include: most conventional driver training/education contributes little to reductions in crash involvement or crash risk reduction among drivers of all age and experience groups.

[Difficulties in engaging novice disqualified drivers in a longitudinal study into their behaviours and attitudes](#)

Key, C & McMillan, S, *Australasian Road Safety Conference, 1st, 2015, Gold Coast, Qld, 2015*.

Describes the challenges involved in engaging South Australian drivers to participate in the 'ur choice' workshop for 16-25 yr-olds who have had their learner's permit or provisional driver licence disqualified.

[Examining novice education: what can we learn from a compulsory program delivered to both mature-age and young pre-learner licence drivers?](#)

Lennon, A & Bates, L, *Australasian Road Safety Conference, 1st, 2015, Gold Coast, Qld, 2015*.

Reports results from a qualitative evaluation of a compulsory pre-Learner driver education program in the Australian Capital Territory.

[Learner driver mentor programs: stakeholder perspectives on an ideal program](#)

Bates, L, Buckley, L, Soole, D, Reveruzzi, B & Watson, B, *Australasian Road Safety Conference, 1st, 2015, Gold Coast, Qld, 2015.*

Study investigated the development and operation of Learner Driver Mentor Programs (LDMPs) throughout Australia.

[Students' responses to the RACQ Docudrama program](#)

Lewis, I, Fleiter, J & Smith, J, *Australasian Road Safety Conference, 1st, 2015, Gold Coast, Qld, 2015.*

The aim of the study was to apply an extended Theory of Planned Behaviour framework to understand more about the extent to which the RACQ Docudrama program – a school-based education program - influenced individuals' intentions to speak up to a driver engaging in risky behaviours.

[The social impacts of a road safety education program](#)

Murray, D, *Australasian Road Safety Conference, 1st, 2015, Gold Coast, Qld, 2015.*

Around 50,000 senior high school students attend the RYDA program each year in Australia and New Zealand. During the recent RYDA revision process, data was collected on indirect impacts on road safety attitudes suggesting wider social value of the program. Stakeholders surveyed included teachers, parents, facilitators and community volunteers.

[Using humour in peer-education: trials and tribulations of an action research project](#)

Scott-Parker, B & Fox, T, *Australasian Road Safety Conference, 1st, 2015, Gold Coast, Qld, 2015.*

Provides an overview of a humorous peer education project on driver road safety issues and a reflection upon the difficulties and successes associated with engaging researchers, teachers, and youth.

[Evaluating a novice driver and pre-driver road safety intervention](#)

Glendon, AI et al., *Accident Analysis & Prevention*, vol. 64, March 2014

Intervention or evaluation studies represent a small proportion of traffic psychology research. The current study evaluated the effectiveness of a road safety intervention by measuring attitudes towards unsafe driving behaviours and risk perception.

['Fit to Drive': the making of meanings about young people, road safety and risk in a secondary school road safety program](#)

Kerry Montero, PhD Thesis, Monash University 2013.

Explores the ideas, beliefs and attitudes about risk and road use expressed by young people participating in the F2D workshops. Also examines the specific characteristics of the program that create the conditions for new understandings in its target group and how that contributes to its effectiveness as a schools-based intervention.

[Is there a case for driver training? A review of the efficacy of pre- and post-licence driver training](#)

Beanland, V et al., *Safety Science*, vol. 51, no. 1, January 2013

Although driver training programs are currently popular, the degree to which they reduce crash involvement remains ambiguous. This paper aims to determine how effective driver training has been in improving young novice drivers' on-road safety and to identify key research limitations.

[Preliminary evaluation of the impact of Keys2Drive on provisional driver safety](#)

Senserrick, T & Mitchell, R, *Transport and Road Safety (TARS) Research*, UNSW, 2013

Report details a preliminary evaluation study of the potential impact of Keys2Drive in achieving its key objectives: to provide a richer learner driver experience and to increase safety during the first six months of the provisional period.

[Driver Education and Training as evidence-based road safety Interventions](#)

Isler, RB & Starkey, NJ, *Australasian Road Safety Research, Policing and Education Conference 2012* 4 - 6 October 2012, Wellington, New Zealand

Reflects on the progress of driver education and training as evidence-based road safety interventions and discusses data from an online driver training initiative.

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Evaluation of education programs - Abroad

[Participation in driver education/training courses during graduated driver licensing, and the effect of a time-discount on subsequent traffic offenses: findings from the New Zealand drivers' study](#)

Begg, D & Brookland, R 2015, *Journal of Safety Research*, vol. 55, December, pp. 13-20.

Objective of the study was to examine participation in driver education courses and especially those that qualify for a time-discount; to compare the profiles of course participants with non-participants; to examine reasons for participation; and to examine the association between a time-discount and traffic offenses once fully licensed. The results of this study, when viewed in conjunction with other NZ crash evidence, indicate that a time-discount should not be given for completing a DDC or Street Talk course.

[Driver's ed significantly reduces teen crashes, tickets](#)

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 2015

Driver education programs reduce crashes and traffic violations among young drivers, according to a 2015 study by researchers at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

[Link to study](#)

[Training drivers to have the insight to avoid emergency situations, not the skills to overcome emergency situations](#)

International Road Federation, Road Safety Committee, Driver Behavior, Education and Training Subcommittee, 2014

Training programs aimed at enhancing the skills to regain control in emergency situations should not be included in basic driver education nor in post-test driver training programs.

[Impact of education and awareness programs on the usage and attitude towards texting while driving among young drivers](#)

Maheshwari, SK & D'Souza, KA, Hampton University, Hampton, VA, USA, 2014

Increased awareness of the danger of texting-while-driving is a positive sign. It indicates that repeated consistent messaging about danger of texting-while-driving may help in reducing the texting-while-driving among young drivers.

[Evaluating the effectiveness of a post-license education program for young novice drivers in Belgium](#)

Brijs, K et al., *Accident Analysis & Prevention*, vol. 66, May 2014, pp. 62-71.

The Goals for Driving Education (GDE) matrix shows that driver education must target both lower and higher levels of driver competences. Research has indicated that current education programs do not emphasize enough the higher levels, for example awareness and insight. On the Road (OtR), a Flemish post-license driver education program, is such an insight program that aims to target these higher levels. The program focus is on risky driving behaviour like speeding and drink driving. In addition, the program addresses risk detection and risk-related knowledge.

[Does drivers' education work?](#)

North Carolina Criminal Law: a UNC School of Government blog, 9 October 2014.

Argues that, despite the millions spent on driver's education programs in North Carolina every year for decades, it is still unclear whether driver's education has any effect on teen driving safety.

[Novice drivers : evidence review and evaluation: pre-driver education and training, graduated driver licensing, and the New Drivers Act](#)

Kinnear, N et al., Transport Research Laboratory, UK, 2013

The Austrian driver improvement course for young traffic offenders includes four sessions lasting three hours each in groups of four to ten offenders. The sessions are chaired by trained psychologists and a driving lesson with an instructor is also included between the first and second session. The design is "based on the assumption that, in most cases, collisions involving young drivers result from a misperception of risk and unfavourable attitudes". A further interesting concept in the Austrian example is that there are separate courses for drink driving offences and moving offences. In addition, novice drivers are placed on a remedial course after only one conviction.

[Research findings summary](#)

[Effectiveness of a brief parent-directed teen driver safety intervention \(Checkpoints\) delivered by driver education instructors](#)

Zakrajsek, JS et al., Journal of Adolescent Health, vol. 53, no. 1, July 2013, pp. 27-33.

The Checkpoints program (Checkpoints) uses a Parent-Teen Driving Agreement (PTDA) to help parents monitor teens' driving, and has shown efficacy in increasing parental restrictions on teens' driving and decreasing teens' risky driving.

[Evaluation of a program to enhance young drivers' safety in Israel](#)

Toledo, T et al., Accident Analysis & Prevention, vol. 45, March 2012, pp. 705-10.

Evaluation of an Israeli program which targets both young drivers and their parents. The results obtained indicate statistically significant lower crash records for young drivers who participated in the program.

[White paper on ADEPT Drivers' teenSMART program: safety performance](#)

Mayhew, D, Robertson, R & Vanlaar, W 2012, Traffic Injury Research Foundation (TIRF), US.

Assesses whether this training program reduces teen driver crashes, which is a stated objective and claim of the program. Supports the claim that teen drivers who take teenSMART have lower collision rates than those who do not.

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New research directions

CARRS-Q research:

[How sleepiness affects young daredevils' risky behaviour](#)

12 April 2016.

Project investigates how sleep deprivation may influence risky behaviours such as dangerous driving, violence, and substance use.

[Individual differences and the persuasiveness of road safety messages](#)

2016

Project aims to gain a greater understanding of how individual differences may influence the persuasiveness of road safety messages.

[Parents vital to policing young drivers: Have your say](#)

16 March 2016

Study will look at what parents in the ACT are doing to keep their children safe when they first get their licence, with research showing parents play a vital role in encouraging young drivers to obey the road rules.

[Evaluating public education messages aimed at social interactive technology use on smartphones among young drivers](#)

April 2016

This research aims to develop and evaluate public education messages accessed on Smartphones (e.g., texting, emailing) among young drivers aged 17 to 25 years.

[Further information](#)

[New study: is ACT Road Ready making young drivers safer?](#)

16 October 2016.

Investigates the effectiveness of the ACT's Road Ready driver education program.

[Shock horror: humour persuades young males to slow down](#)

20 April 2015

Graphic, strong threat or fear-based anti-speeding advertising campaigns are less likely to influence young males, a high-risk group over-represented in the nation's road toll, QUT research has found.

[Boredom blamed for young male risk taking: CARRS-Q study](#)

15 June 2015

Young males are prone to boredom while driving, according to this study which looks at using gadgets and games behind the wheel to make risky drivers safer on the roads.

[Why so angry? Researchers try to get in the minds of young drivers](#)

Brisbane Times, 3 October 2015

Queensland researchers are using a driving simulator to investigate the range of emotions young men feel and how they respond when faced with challenging situations on the road.

[Young drivers don't see dangers of driving tired: CARRS-Q study](#)

14 October 2015

Drivers are more likely to get behind the wheel drowsy than drunk despite it being just as dangerous, and the worst offenders are those under 30.

[Young Drivers](#) (webpage)

Complete list of in-progress CARRS-Q research projects on young drivers.

Other research:

[Do parents and learner drivers see the same road?](#)

12 February 2016

P-plate drivers will get the chance to test their skills in a road environment simulator at the University of the Sunshine Coast's Sippy Downs campus to contribute to latest safety research by senior academic Dr Bridie Scott-Parker.

[Research to look at whether recording driver behaviour makes young motorists safer](#)

Sydney Morning Herald, 28 July 2015

Researchers from the University of Melbourne will investigate whether feedback from in-vehicle telematic devices and financial incentives cause young motorists to drive more safely.

[The driver, the road, the rules ... and the rest? A systems-based approach to young driver road safety](#)

Scott-Parker, B, Goode, N & Salmon, P, Accident Analysis & Prevention, vol. 74, January 2015, pp. 297-305

This paper argues that for substantial improvements to be made in young driver road safety, what has been learnt from driver-centric research needs to be integrated into a systems approach, thus providing a holistic appraisal of the young driver road safety problem. Only then will more effective opportunities and avenues for intervention be realised.

[Evaluating a model linking assessed parent factors to four domains of youth risky driving](#)

Schmidt, S, Morrongiello, BA & Colwell, SR, Accident Analysis & Prevention, vol. 69, August 2014

Research has consistently shown that driver education programs do not result in safer youth driving. Indeed, the biggest predictor of collisions involving youth is parental history of collisions. The current study examined how parental modeling of and teaching about risky driving behaviours related to youth practices within four domains of risky driving (aggressive, substance use, distracted, moving violations), and evaluated whether the Prototype-Willingness Model explains links from parent to teen driving practices.

[Familial aspects of adolescents' driving](#)

Special issue of Accident Analysis & Prevention, vol. 69, 2014

[Can anti-speeding messages based on protection motivation theory influence reported speeding intentions?](#)

Glendon, AI & Walker, BL, Accident Analysis & Prevention, vol. 57, August 2013, pp. 67-79.

The study investigated the effects of anti-speeding messages based on protection motivation theory (PMT) components: severity, vulnerability, rewards, self-efficacy, response efficacy, and response cost, on reported speeding intentions. Protection motivation messages were found to be more effective than in-use anti-speeding messages.

["If they say go faster or something I'll probably go faster": Peer influence upon the risky driving behaviour of young novices](#)

Scott-Parker, B, Watson, B & King, MJ, *Proceedings of the 2013 Australasian Road Safety Research, Policing and Education Conference, 28th – 30th August, Brisbane, Queensland*

Research was undertaken to identify the nature and mechanisms of peer influence upon novice driver (16-25 years) behaviour to inform the design of more effective young driver countermeasures.

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Recent campaigns aimed at young drivers

[Awkward New Zealand safety video features burly Kiwi blokes accidentally holding hands](#)

Sydney Morning Herald, 31 March 2016

The New Zealand Transport Agency recently released a road safety video on driver distraction which has gone viral.

[Click here to view video](#)

[Positive behaviour to shape young drivers](#)

Transport Accident Commission media release, 8 April 2015

Victoria's Transport Accident Commission launched this 2015 campaign which focused on the role of parental driving behaviour in influencing the way their children drive.

[Campaign material](#)

[Using the un-dead to save the living: Driving Dead series hits its target](#)

Talking Transportation, 21 October 2015

A road safety campaign by the Illinois Department of Transportation featuring zombies - aimed at young men - has been successful on several social media platforms and launched its fourth instalment in October 2015.

[Campaign videos](#)

[Young drivers targeted in new safety campaign](#)

Queensland Government Ministerial Media Statement, 28 October 2015

A road safety campaign designed by young drivers will be developed into a social media campaign after winning the Queensland Government's first CO-LAB Youth innovation Challenge.

[More information about CO-LAB](#)

[Speed camera urban myths](#)

February 2014

The Victorian Government launched this 2014 Speed Camera Urban Myths campaign, aimed at young men, to highlight the effect that speed cameras have on fatality rates.

[Book into a Mate's Motel this Christmas](#)

Queensland Government Ministerial Media Statement, 7 December 2014

As part of the 'Join the Drive' Christmas road safety campaign, the Queensland Government encouraged young men to stay at a mate's house rather than drive home under the influence of alcohol.

[Campaign video](#)

[TAC campaign targets bloody idiots who drink drive this September](#)

Transport Accident Commission media release, 14 September 2013

This online infomercial from the Transport Accident Commission called 'Booze Busted' is aimed at young men aged 18-29 and highlights the personal financial costs of drink driving.

[Facebook integration helps stories strike at the heart of young Victorians](#)

Transport Accident Commission media release, 21 March 2013

The Transport Accident Commission launched this safety campaign targeting young drivers, featuring two online short films that integrate the user and their Facebook friends, with the aim of personalising the message.

[No more excuses: Get your hand off it](#)

Transport for NSW Media Release, 12 June 2013

The NSW Government launched this 2013 advertising campaign targeted at younger drivers warning against using mobile phones while driving.

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