

# New Teen Drivers and Their Parents: What They Know and What They Expect

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**Objectives:** To assess teens' and parents' knowledge of teen driver safety and to compare teens' and parents' expectations about learning to drive and acquiring a driver's license. **Methods:** A convenience sample of 613 Connecticut teens enrolled in commercial driving schools and one of their parents completed self-administered surveys. **Results:** Significant differences between teens and parent expectations were noted in practice driving with a parent, driving

to approved destinations, unlimited vehicle access, curfew, and teen passenger limits. **Conclusions:** The discrepancy between teens' and parents' expectations indicates the need to persuade and empower parents to manage their teen's driving experience more rigorously.

**Key words:** teen drivers, graduated licensing, driving risk, parental management, motor vehicle crashes

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