

brain immaturity could explain teen crash rate

By most physical measures, teenagers should be the world's best drivers. Their muscles are supple, their reflexes quick, their senses at a lifetime peak. Yet car crashes kill more of them than any other cause -- a problem, some researchers believe, that is rooted in the adolescent brain.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A52687-2005Jan31.html?sub=AR>

Teenage Risk-Taking: Teenage Brains Really Are Different From Child Or Adult Brains

Many parents are convinced that the brains of their teenage offspring are different than those of children and adults. New data confirms that this is the case.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/03/080328112127.htm>

A Population-Based Study of Crashes Involving 16- and 17-Year-Old Drivers: The Potential Benefit of Graduated Driver Licensing Restrictions

Crashes that involve teenage drivers (TDs) have the highest fatality rate at night and are more often the result of driver error than are those that involve adult drivers. TDs are less likely than adult drivers to wear seatbelts. Furthermore, the presence of passengers increases the severity of crashes that involve TDs as well as the tendency of TDs to be cited for speeding or reckless driving. Finally, injuries sustained in crashes that involve TDs have a significant economic impact.

<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/107/4/632>

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