

GDL TEEN CELL PHONE BAN LIVES SAVED ESTIMATE SUMMARY

GDL Estimate:

The National Safety Council (NSC) estimates of lives saved as a result of state GDL programs applies the results from a national review of state graduated driver licensing laws published by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. This study found that states with the most comprehensive graduated driver licensing programs had fatal crash reductions involving young drivers of 38%. The study found that greater reductions in fatal crashes occur as states increase the number of GDL components in their laws:

- States with one GDL component implemented experience 4% fewer fatal crashes,
- States with two or three GDL components implemented experience 10% fewer fatal crashes,
- States with four GDL components implemented experience 21% fewer fatal crashes,
- States with five GDL components implemented experience 38% fewer fatal crashes.

The lives saved estimates are generated using the GDL reduction estimates compared to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimate of the number of young driver related fatalities in each state. For example if a state had three GDL components the number of young driver related fatal crashes experience each year is likely to be 10% lower than if the state did not have a GDL program. In addition, if this state enhances its GDL program to include five or more components the annual reduction in future years would likely increase to 38%.

When the study was conducted, no state had 6 or 7 elements in its GDL laws. Thus, only states with as many as five elements could be measured. Since that time, several states have added sixth and/or seventh elements to their GDL laws. NSC believes each additional element of GDL has life-saving value, though the specific value of these elements is not yet known because so few states have them and they have not yet been measured. Not including an estimate of the value of states adding sixth and seventh elements to their laws might imply to some that when states add sixth and seventh elements, they do not have life-saving value. For purposes of establishing a national estimate of the benefit of GDL, NSC chose to use a 7% fatal crash reduction for the sixth and seventh element. This estimate is not based on actual data, but is chosen to illustrate that when states add sixth and seventh elements to their GDL laws, they do have some value, though that value has not yet been measured.

Teen Cell Phone Ban Lives Saved Estimate:

The National Safety Council estimates of lives saved as a result of state teen cell phone bans is based on the expectation that properly enforced cell phone bans will result in approximately a 40% reduction in teen cell phone use while driving. It is currently estimated that about 9% of drivers use cell phones at any given time (NHTSA estimate) and that about 21% of incidents are associated with cell phone use (NSC Estimate). If cell phone use among teens decreases by 40% the percent of teen crashes associated with cell phone use is estimated to decrease from 21% down to 14%. The lives saved estimates are generated using this reduction in the percent of cell phone related crashes, compared to the NHTSA estimate of the number of young driver related fatalities in each state.