

What Evaluations Tell Us About Longer Learner Periods



Are there safety benefits associated with a longer learner holding period?

Yes. In a recent review of the literature, Senserrick and Williams (2013) concluded that longer learner periods are associated with several benefits, including:

- A 7% to 13% reduction in the fatal crash rates among 15 to 17 year olds when the learner period is extended by 6 to 12 months.
- A 9% reduction in collision claims for 16 year olds by extending the learner period by 12 months.
- Up to a 16% reductions in crashes per licensee (intermediate and full license) in the learner period, a 27% reduction in crashes per capita, and a 31% reduction in crashes per driver (learners and licensed drivers) with a minimum learner period of 6 to 12 months.
- A 26% reduction in fatal crashes among 16 year olds and 17% for 17 year olds when setting a minimum learner period of 9 to 12 months.

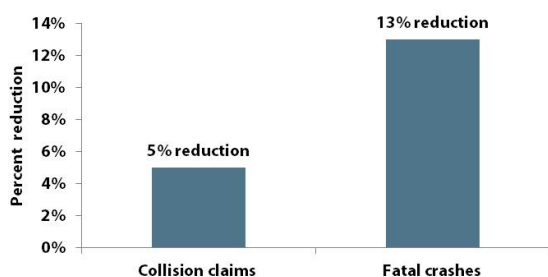
- A 50% lower casualty crash risk for 24 months compared to 6-9 months for 18 year old intermediate (provisional) drivers.
- Up to a 24% lower crash risk for 24 months compared to 6 months for intermediate (provisional) drivers.

According to a GDL crash reduction calculator available from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, it is possible to estimate the benefits of increasing the licensing age from 16 to 17, which would effectively mean a learner holding period of 12 months (or longer). Results suggest a 13% reduction in (teen driver) fatal crashes and a 5% reduction in collision claims.

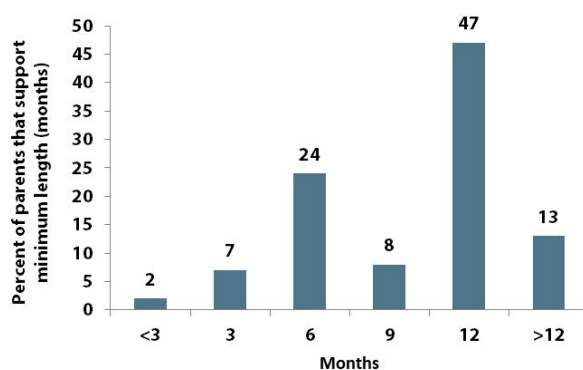
This calculator uses Institute research to show how different changes to state GDL provisions might affect fatal crash rates and collision claims among young drivers. It is available at: http://www.iihs.org/iihs/topics/laws/gdl_calculator?topicName=teenagers.



Benefits of increasing the licensing age from 16 to 17



Percent of parents that support minimum length (months)



Is there support for having a learner holding period of 12 months?

Yes. A nationally representative online survey in 2010 showed that parents of teens aged 15 to 18 years old supported a longer learner period. In fact, more than half of parents surveyed agreed teens should stay in the learner stage for at least a year (Williams et al. 2011).

Traffic Injury Research Foundation

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Traffic Injury Research Foundation (TIRF)
 171 Nepean Street, Suite 200
 Ottawa, Ontario K2P 0B4
 Phone: (877) 238-5235
 Fax: (613) 238-5292
 Email: tirf@tirf.ca
 Website: www.tirf.ca

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