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### **Summer is Most Dangerous for Teen Car Accidents**

Summer is great for a lot of things. Along with warm weather and an uptick in recreational events, teens get a whole three months off from school. But new research has shown that the summer months are also the most dangerous for teen drivers. A new AAA report, for example, found that seven of the most fatal days for teen drivers occur in the summer months between Memorial Day and Labor Day. And between 2005 and 2009, 7,300 teens were killed in summer car accidents, an average of 422 per month. These are daunting statistics, and parents, teens, and local governments should do everything they can to improve teen car safety this summer.

One of the best ways to do this is to educate your teen about the dangers of summer driving. For example, there are nearly twice as many car accident deaths during the summer months as the rest of the year combined, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Association. And according to research by the Washington Regional Alcohol Program, teens are responsible for nearly 50 percent more drunk driving accidents during the summer than the rest of the year.

“Parents should not underestimate the critical role they play in keeping their kids safe, especially during these high-risk months,” said AAA Vice President of Public Affairs Kathleen Marvaso. “With the majority of the most dangerous days falling during the traditional summer vacation months, parents must realize that there is no summer break from safety and be vigilant about remaining involved and enforcing rules with their teens.”

There are a few great ways to increase auto safety awareness among teens and reduce the chances of a summer car accident. First, draft a parent-teen safe driving contract that rewards the driver for safe behavior and implements penalties for distracted driving, speeding, and driving recklessly. Teens should also look out for some informative summer safety events, including Teen Driving Safety Week and On the Road, Off the Phone Week, both sponsored by the National Safety Council. Also keep in mind that the summer is a great time to study for a teen’s drivers license test and even get his or her license if age permits.

So have a great time this summer. But remember that whether you’re a parent or a teen, it’s essential to stay safe as a driver and passenger behind the wheel to prevent accidents.

#### **More information:**

<http://www.gjel.com/news/california-teen-driver-summer-safety-statistics-resources.html>  
<http://www.gjel.com/blog/parents-summer-months-are-the-most-dangerous-for-teen-drivers.html>  
<http://www.gjel.com/news/safe-driving-contract.html>