

**PLAY IT
SAFE,
GEORGIA!**

For Clinicians

TEEN DISTRACTED DRIVING

Georgia Chapter

American Academy of Pediatrics
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



Why We CARE

33 Georgia teens (age 15 to 19) died in motor vehicle collisions (MVCs) in 2020.

7% of all teen MVC fatalities involved distracted driving.

3X Teens between the ages of 16 and 19 face the highest risk of accidents of any age group and are nearly three times more likely to be in a fatal crash than those age 20 and older.



How to PLAY IT SAFE

Talk with parents and caregivers about having honest conversations with their teens.

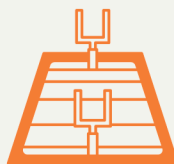
Teen drivers are less likely to text or use the phone if you discuss the risks of distracted driving with them.

Suggest making their talks open and honest, rather than seeming like you are chastising them before they even start. One good way to send them off: **"If you're distracted, no one's driving."**

Show them the facts. Like, **53% of those killed in teen distraction crashes were teens 15 to 19 years of age.**

Make the facts relatable: **DID YOU KNOW?**

You will travel the length of a football field in the time it takes you to read one text message when going 55 mph.



REMIND Caregivers to Set a Good Example

"They'll do what you do." Urge them to follow these practices to demonstrate how to be a smart driver:

- **Silence cell phones** and put them out of reach before starting to drive.
- Set GPS, music, and climate controls **before taking the car out of park.**
- If you need to use your phone, **wait until the car is safely stopped** to do so.

It's the Law in Georgia

All cellphone ban: Drivers younger than 18
Texting ban: All drivers



Give them the **TOOLKIT SHEET** for Parents and Caregivers—and **point out the sections** on How to Play It Safe and how to have honest conversations about distracted driving.

PLAY IT SAFE

with poison prevention, safe sleep, firearms, burn safety, and more in the **new Georgia AAP Toolkit—**
gaaap.org/play-it-safe/.

