

Should the Driving Age Be Raised to Twenty-One?

Name:

Course:

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Date of Submission:

## SHOULD THE DRIVING AGE BE RAISED TO TWENTY-ONE?

**Introduction**

There is a clear connection between car accidents and the driving age and today this situation is considered to be an on the front burner issue in the USA. Almost all states have established the minimum driving age at 16 and pallid statistics admits that this age has an increasing incidence of car accidents – car crashes are among the main reasons of teen deaths. However, opponents of this decision highlight that the number of car accidents does not connected with the age of driver. There are plenty of arguments pro and against raising driving age and the question still remains open.

**Raising of the driving age to 21 decreases years of driving experience**

It is obvious that the years of driving experience before driver's twenty-first birthday improve the quality and skills of driving and as a result decrease car accident frequency and severity. Also there is always a possibility to be involved in a car accident that involves drivers of all ages so there is no reason when to receive driving license. More than that, the number of car crashes will increase and their level and consequences will be much higher due to lack of experience of drivers.

**Productivity of the regions may decrease**

Today many students of high schools and colleges use cars to get to their establishments of higher education. Not many states have efficient public transportation system, so it may affect educational process, plus, parents will have to drive their children to and from school spending too much time for that. Regions with established public transportation systems will also be affected by the change of the age as there is no infrastructure able to cope with increased traffic.

**Parents believe that keeping teens from driving would only make them less responsible**

Rising of the driving age makes teens dependent upon parents for almost everything until they finish school and college. And the very idea of age changing in light of proposition of lowering the drinking age to 18 seems strange. In addition, federal data statistics shows that drivers aged 25-45 are twice more likely to get involved in alcohol-caused car accidents in comparison with teen drivers.

Dr. Barbara Gaines, trauma director at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC thinks that on the one hand, keeping 16-years old from the wheel may be a sound idea, though it is not the only option.

**Alternative strategies to decrease the number of accidents with teens involved**

Graduated licensing is one of the most workable ways of declining teen crash rates – teens have to drive for some time with a parent or a responsible adult to get some experience before they drive solo. Such supervised driving dropped the car accident rate by 47% in Illinois after a year of increasing the number of hours of graduated licensing.

Harsher penalties for risky behaviors behind the wheel is another healthy option to protect teen drivers.

### **Conclusion**

Raising of the driving age may not solve all problems with car accidents with teens involved, more than that, it is likely to add some more issues connected with transportation. In order to improve the statistics and diminish risks it is better to take an advantage of a complex solutions that include education, penalties, improvement of the transportation system and encouragement of teens to be more responsible on the road.