

# Why do most 16-year-olds drive like they're *missing a part of their brain?*



BECAUSE THEY ARE.



Even bright, mature teenagers sometimes do things that are "stupid." But it's not really their fault. It's because their brain hasn't finished developing.

The missing part is called the dorsal lateral prefrontal cortex, and it plays a critical role in teens' decision-making and understanding of future consequences. Problem is, it doesn't fully develop until their 20s. **This is one of the reasons why 16-year-old drivers have crash rates three times higher than 17-year-olds and five times higher than 18-year-olds.**

Car crashes kill more than 4,000 teens every year. And injure nearly 400,000. Is there a way for teens to get their driving experience more safely? Is there a way their brains

can be given the time to mature as completely as their bodies? Allstate thinks so.

#### SUPPORT THE STANDUP ACT

The STANDUP Act\* (H.R. 1895) creates a National Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) law that would give teens on-the-road experience gradually while helping them avoid risky conditions. **When states have implemented comprehensive GDL programs, the number of fatal crashes among 16-year-old drivers has fallen by almost 40%.**

**Let's help our teenagers not miss out on tomorrow just because they have something missing today.** Please tell your congressional representatives that you support the STANDUP Act. **Go to [allstate.com/STANDUP](http://allstate.com/STANDUP).**

*It's time to make the world a safer place to drive.* That's Allstate's Stand.



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\* The STANDUP Act is the Safe Teen And Novice Driver Uniform Protection Act of 2009.

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Sources: National Science Teacher Association, 2007; U.S. Department of Transportation National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 2007; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2007 and 2008