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Estimated U.S. Teen Crash Deaths 2009

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Black boxes may lead to safer teen driving

□ May 27, 2009

Have you ever heard of a black box in airplanes? There may be similar technology in your car very soon. The SoberTeen Driving Insurance product will allow parents to see the driving patterns of their teen driver.

According to NewsTimes.com, the creator Mark Nowotarski, said the technology will let parents monitor their teen driver and may allow them to save ten to thirty percent on their car insurance.

So what exactly will this black box do? It will record anytime you break too quickly, speed or follow another car too close. It can also track cell phone use and driving under the influence of alcohol.

But are teens safer when they're watched?

The answer to that is yes, according to the Insurance Institute of Highway Safety (IIHS). Their study, [In-Vehicle Monitoring and the Driving Behavior of Teenagers](#) [PDF], found that "electronic monitoring of teenage drivers can reduce the incidence of risky behavior, especially seat belt nonuse, which declined in all treatment conditions."

A black box for teen drivers may be just what the doctor ordered, and when coupled with peer-to-peer programs like Teens in the Driver Seat, we could see an all-time low in teen car crashes.

What changes to the law do you agree with the most?

Increasing the number of hours of behind-the-wheel training	21.2%
Requiring an on-road driving test	45.5%
Doubling the term of GDL restrictions	15.2%
Don't have an opinion	18.2%