

# RAC free2go Young Driver Survey



RAC campaigns to help reduce the number of fatalities and serious injuries on WA roads. Seventeen to 21-year olds are overrepresented in the State's road safety statistics.

Last year, approximately 19 drivers in this age bracket died on our roads. This is 22% of all road fatalities in 2014, despite this age group making up only 12% of the WA population.

Each year, RAC surveys our State's young drivers to find out more about their behaviours and attitudes behind the wheel.

The findings of the survey will help RAC raise awareness on road safety issues and uncover the key issues facing road users in our State.

**Confidence is key.** WA's young drivers rate themselves highly when it comes to driving. 70% rated themselves

as good drivers and 18% rated themselves as excellent drivers. 72% said they rate their driving abilities as better than other motorists in their age group.

**Driven to distraction.** More than two thirds (72%) of young drivers said they have been distracted by an electronic billboard at least once over the past year.



**Need for speed.** Almost half (44%) of respondents said they have received a speeding fine since they got their licence.

**Honesty is the best policy.** Almost all of WA's young motorists said they were honest when it came to logging their driving hours. 89% said they didn't exaggerate any of their entries when completing the required hours of driving.

## Dangerous driving habits and attitudes

### Mobile phones

**81%** think driving while talking on a mobile phone is either very or extremely risky

**36%** admitted to driving while talking on a mobile phone

**93%** think driving while reading or sending a text message or email is very or extremely risky

**55%** admitted to driving while sending a text message or e-mail

### Alcohol

**15%** admitted to driving while over the legal blood alcohol limit

### Seatbelts

**73%** think driving without a seatbelt is very or extremely risky

### Speeding

**43%** think driving at 10km/h over the speed limit is very or extremely risky

**72%** admitted to driving 10km/h over the speed limit

### Driving tired

**84%** admitted to driving while tired or fatigued

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**Do as I say, not as I do.** A third of young drivers (34%) admitted to seeing their parent or guardian drive whilst talking on the phone; 20% said they have seen them drive whilst text messaging or emailing; almost two thirds (59%) said they have seen them speeding at more than 10km/h over the limit; and 15% said they have seen them drive when they suspect they are over the legal blood alcohol limit.



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**Older and wiser.** Young motorists believe that they will become better drivers as they get a bit older. 40% said 26-40 year olds are the safest WA drivers; 33% said its 41-60 year olds. Furthermore, 59% said they think 16-25 year olds are responsible for the most crashes on WA roads.

**59%**

**said they think 16-25 year olds are responsible for the most crashes on WA roads.**

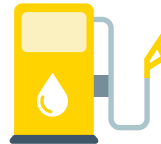
**Time for a change to licensing?** Only 11% of young drivers said they felt extremely capable managing potential road hazards after getting their P Plates; almost 40% said they don't feel the current driver's licence test is adequate to judge the abilities of an inexperienced driver on public roads; and 30% said they feel the need for additional driver training to prepare them for public roads.



**Only 11% of young drivers said they felt extremely capable managing potential road hazards after getting their P Plates.**

**Cramming in to cars.** When asked about situations where they planned to drive but ended up drinking more than they intended, the majority said they chose to get a lift home with someone else; however almost a third (29%) of young drivers admit they have been a passenger in a car where they suspect the driver is over

the legal blood alcohol limit; and a further 35% said they have been a passenger in an overloaded car where not everyone can wear a seatbelt.



**Young and responsible.** Almost all (91%) of young WA drivers currently own their own car. The majority check their car's tyres, oil, water, pop the bonnet and wash the car at least every two to three months. Almost two thirds (62%) get their car serviced every six months - with 32% supporting local business whilst doing so by going to an independent mechanic. 84% have comprehensive car insurance for the vehicle.

**Safety first.** When asked what was the most important factor in their decision to buy a car, safety features ranked highest; followed by fuel efficiency, reputation of the car manufacturer, the look of the car, performance/power, boot space, colour and carbon emissions. Ironically, despite Gen Y being touted as a tech-reliant generation, Bluetooth connectivity ranked lowest of the list of important features. Almost half (45%) of young drivers said they are driving a five-star safety rated car.

**61%**

**of young drivers said they don't know the safety rating of their car.**



**Fuel efficiency important for young drivers.** Almost half (45%) of WA's young motorists drive a small car such as a Hyundai Excel; almost a third (31%) drive a medium sized car like a Mitsubishi Lancer; while only 12% drive a large car such as a Holden Commodore.

**HELLO, MY NAME IS**

**30%**



**It's all in the name.**

Almost a third (30%) have a nickname for their car. Swifty is the most common nickname, followed by Felix, Suzie, Henry and Ruby.