Why all the fuss about impaired driving?
The statistics tell the story. In 2010, more than 10,000 people died in alcohol-impaired driving crashes.*

It gets worse. A teenage driver with a BAC in the 0.05 to 0.08 percent range is far more likely to be killed in a single-vehicle crash than a sober teen. In fact, it’s 17 times more likely for males and seven times more likely for females. At higher BACs, the death rate rises to 52 times more likely for males and 15 times more likely for females. Keep in mind that any blood alcohol level is strictly illegal (IIHS).

Is it worth it?
If those are your odds, we don’t think so.

Here are some sites that have more information for you.
MADD  www.madd.org
National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism www.niaaa.nih.gov/
National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign www.freevibe.com
Remove Intoxicated Drivers  www.rid-usa.org/
Students Against Destructive Decisions www.saddonline.com/
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services www.hhs.gov

geicoteendriving.com
It was a proud day for you. In fact, it was a great day. It was the
day you passed your driving exam and got your driver’s license.
Good for you. You did all the right things to pass. You studied.
You took the classes. You practiced behind the wheel.

Now, with your parents’ consent, you can go where you need to
go without relying on family and friends. Just think about it … the
freedom … the excitement … the independence.
And you can throw it all away with just one beer or by using
drugs that one time.

**Blood alcohol content (BAC) laws for teenagers**
The blood alcohol content (BAC) allowed by law in most states
is 0.08 percent. That’s for adults, age 21 or older. It’s an entirely
different set of laws if you’re under 21. For teenagers, ANY
blood alcohol level is strictly illegal. The reason is simple:
since you cannot legally drink alcoholic beverages, you should
always have zero BAC. If you get stopped with the smallest
amount of alcohol in your body, you can be treated exactly like
an adult with 0.08 percent BAC.

**Using drugs is always illegal**
At any age, using marijuana or any other drug is against the
law. Research shows that smoking pot affects concentration,
perception, coordination and reaction time. As a new driver,
you need all of these skills to be their sharpest for safe driving.

**Zero-tolerance laws**
All states have adopted zero-tolerance laws. What does zero-
tolerance mean to you? It means that if you are under 21, it is
illegal for you to drive with any measurable amount of alcohol
in your body. And remember, it is always illegal for you to drive
on drugs. The laws will be strictly enforced.

**What can happen?**
Laws vary by state, but in addition to suspension or revocation
of your driver’s license, the penalties for underage drinking and
driving and for drug-impaired driving can be severe.

- If you are caught using, or possessing alcohol or drugs, you
can face a fine and have your license suspended or revoked.
- If you drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs or
drive while intoxicated, you can be fined, or sentenced to
do community service, and have your license suspended
or revoked.
- If you have a fake i.d., you can be fined.
- If you tamper with your driver’s license, you can be heavily
fined and even face jail time.

It should be remembered as well that, in all states, repeated
offenses carry escalating penalties.

Other possible penalties for repeat offenders
- placement in a detention facility.
- placement in a residential facility.
- placement in a weekend intervention program
  for referrals to treatment.
- probation, which may include:
  - restricted access to or use of a car.
  - forbidden use of alcohol or illegal drugs.
  - limited access to certain places and persons.
  - mandatory submission to searches.
  - questioning and giving information about others.
  - mandatory permission required for travel.
  - a curfew.
  - providing blood samples or undergoing urine tests.

**Administrative license revocation**
Administrative license revocation (ALR) is a relatively new
tool that law enforcement officials use to combat drunk or
drug-impaired driving by both adult drivers and those under 21.
As of 2006, 41 states and the District of Columbia have ALR laws
that result in immediate license revocation based on a blood
alcohol concentration (BAC) > .08 or a breath-test refusal.

Though the language of these laws may vary by state, they
generally permit the arresting officer to serve the notice of
revocation (suspension), take the offender’s license, and issue a
temporary permit to drive. The driver will have an opportunity
for an administrative hearing. First-time offenders can be subject
to a 90-day license suspension, while repeat offenders can be
subject to at least a one-year suspension or revocation.

ALR laws are based on objective chemical tests (usually breath,
sometimes blood or urine). ALR allows law enforcement and
driver licensing authorities to revoke or suspend a driver’s license
swiftly, without long delays while awaiting a criminal trial. It is
based on the long-held principle that driving is a privilege, not
a right. The offender retains the right of due process through
an administrative appeal system.

**Costs add up**
Another thing to consider is the expense. What if you have to
get a lawyer? What will a suspension do to your insurance rates?
It could cause them to increase — assuming you can find a
company to insure you.