Negative Consequences of Poor Driving Outcomes Reported by Adolescents With and Without ADHD

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Objective: Although adolescents with ADHD report less driving experience, a greater proportion of adolescents with ADHD report receiving at least one ticket; however, no study has examined the severity of infractions committed by adolescent drivers with ADHD.

Method: A total of 61 adolescents (28 ADHD, 33 controls) aged 16 to 17 with a valid driver’s license completed a self-report Driving History Questionnaire (DHQ), which asked about months of driving experience, negative driving outcomes, and severity of consequences.

Results: A greater proportion of adolescents with ADHD reported receiving fines, points on their driver’s license, and remedial driving class. Furthermore, adolescents with ADHD reported attending a greater number of hours in remedial driving class, and a greater expense associated with fines.

Conclusion: Importantly, ADHD-related negative driving outcomes manifest early in driving careers. Furthermore, increased negative consequences of poor and/or risky driving among adolescents with ADHD were evident despite having fewer months of independent driving.