Contributing factors to traffic injuries in adolescents
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Background
After 1970, road safety has been greatly improved in many highly motorized countries with a reduction of road accident fatalities between 50 and 80%. Yet, some road safety problems persist and seem to be almost impossible to solve. One of them is the high accident rate of young drivers, in particular young male drivers compared to the safest group of drivers. In Norway, this rate has been on same level the last 35 years. There is a need to understand which factors contribute to these persistent differences, and also develop effective prevention measures in reducing traffic injuries among adolescents.

Methods
Road safety problems can be classified in many ways. Through taxonomies combining contributing risk factors and dimensions of the problems, the difficulties with solving them can be assessed. Through literature reviews a Handbook of Road Safety Measures is under continuous development (English edition: https://www.toi.no/frontpage/the-handbook-of-road-safety-measures-new-edition-article27991-25.html). Some preventive measures regarding traffic injuries in adolescents have been found.

Results
The high risks of young drivers (in both sexes) are probably attributable to a powerful mixture of biological factors (hormones and brain development), over-optimistic self-assessments and being in a phase of life in which becoming independent, testing limits and rebelling against values is important. Those factors are hard to influence. Extensive research and experimentation on driver training has been done, so far with limited success. Some structural preventive measures indicate positive effects, as rewards system on speed reductions, and some with regards to driving license: suspension, age limits and graduation.

Conclusions
Main contributing factors to traffic injuries in adolescents seem to be of biological nature, hard to influence. Some structural preventive measures indicate positive effects, as rewards system for speed reductions, and with driving licenses.