

## **EMBARGOED UNTIL 12:01 A.M. ET, TUESDAY, MAY 23, 2023**

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### **IIHS, Consumer Reports update teen vehicle recommendations for 2023**

ARLINGTON, Va., and YONKERS, N.Y. — Families looking for a safe, practical set of wheels for a recent high school graduate or other young driver can choose among 46 used vehicles and 16 new ones on this year's teen vehicle list from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) and Consumer Reports (CR).

"As parents, we can't control what happens on the road once our teen driver pulls out of the driveway," says Jennifer Stockburger, director of operations at CR's Auto Test Center. "But we do have some say in the type of vehicle they drive off in, and that can make a huge difference. This list can help parents find vehicles that check all the boxes."

Finding an appropriate, affordable vehicle can be challenging, as prices for new and used vehicles remain stubbornly high. In contrast to previous years, all but a handful of the vehicles on this year's list of recommended vehicles for teens cost more than \$10,000.

"It's unfortunate that in recent years we've had to relax our price limits for this list, but we won't budge on the other criteria," said IIHS Chief Research Officer David Zuby. "With road safety statistics headed the wrong way, it's more important than ever that inexperienced, young drivers have vehicles with a high degree of occupant protection as well as good emergency handling, braking and reliability."

Overall traffic deaths have been rising in the last few years after decades of declines. Nearly 43,000 people died on the roads in 2021, a 10 percent increase over 2020. Teen road deaths have followed the same pattern, increasing 11 percent to 3,058 in 2021.

What makes a good teen vehicle? First of all, it should be fairly sedate. Off the bat, IIHS and CR exclude sports cars and other vehicles with excessive horsepower. These vehicles make it too easy to speed and can tempt young drivers to show off.

Secondly, it shouldn't be too small. The list has no minicars or vehicles under 2,750 pounds because small, light vehicles don't provide enough protection in multiple-vehicle crashes.

It also shouldn't be too big. Although it might be tempting to keep your child ensconced in a large SUV or pickup because it offers greater crash protection, those larger vehicles can be hard to handle and often have increased braking distances. They also pose more risk to others on the road, including pedestrians, bicyclists and people in smaller vehicles. Moderately sized vehicles provide a better balance of crash avoidance and crash protection.

When it comes to crash protection, there are different criteria for new and used vehicles. Older models are judged by the tests that IIHS was conducting when they were introduced.

Recommended used vehicles are divided into Best Choices, which this year range in price from \$7,800 to \$20,000, and Good Choices, which start at \$6,600 and go up to \$14,500. Best Choices offer a somewhat higher level of safety. This year there are 26 Best Choices and 20 Good Choices.

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Both groups have:

- standard electronic stability control
- above-average reliability, based on CR's member survey, for the majority of the years listed
- average or better scores from CR's emergency handling tests
- dry braking distances of less than 145 feet from 60 mph in CR's brake tests
- good ratings in four IIHS crashworthiness tests — original moderate overlap front, original side, roof strength and head restraints
- four or five stars from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (if rated)

In addition, the Best Choices have a good or acceptable rating in the IIHS driver-side small overlap front test, which was launched in 2012. The test replicates what happens when the front left corner of a vehicle collides with another vehicle or an object like a tree or utility pole.

The top tier of used vehicles also excludes vehicles that have substantially higher than average insurance claim rates under medical payment, personal injury protection or bodily injury liability coverage. The first two coverage types pay for injuries to occupants of the insured vehicle; the third one covers injuries to other road users. The Highway Loss Data Institute, an IIHS affiliate, collects and publishes insurance loss data by make and model every year. The results are adjusted for driver age, gender and other factors that could affect risk.

Recommended new vehicles are held to an even higher standard than the Best Choices of the used vehicles.

"If you're spending the money on a new vehicle that's likely to be in your family for many years, we want you to get the most safety available," Zuby said. "That means the highest ratings in our latest suite of tests."

This year's recommended new vehicles are all 2023 IIHS *TOP SAFETY PICK* or *TOP SAFETY PICK+* winners. That means they have good ratings in three frontal crash tests — driver- and passenger-side small overlap and the original moderate overlap — a good or acceptable rating in the updated side test, advanced or superior ratings for front crash prevention (including daytime pedestrian detection), and standard acceptable- or good-rated headlights. Injury claim rates from recent model years are also factored in.

The new vehicles, which range from \$23,000 to \$39,800, also rank at the top of their respective classes in CR's evaluations. They have average or better predicted reliability, and they meet the same criteria for emergency handling as the used vehicles. Compared with the used vehicles, they are held to a tighter braking distance requirement of 140 feet. They also receive a rating of good or better from CR for ease of use of their controls.

Although the recommendations are intended for young drivers, they can be a resource for anyone looking for a safe, reliable and affordable vehicle. The new-vehicle section is especially useful for parents of younger children who might be buying a vehicle for their own use with an eye toward handing it down to a new driver in the future.

▶ **See the following pages for the complete list of recommended vehicles.**

**For more information from IIHS, go to [iihs.org](https://www.iihs.org)**

The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) is an independent, nonprofit scientific and educational organization dedicated to reducing deaths, injuries and property damage from motor vehicle crashes through research and evaluation and through education of consumers, policymakers and safety professionals. IIHS is wholly supported by auto insurers.

**For more information from CR, go to [consumerreports.org](https://www.consumerreports.org)**

Consumer Reports is a nonprofit membership organization that works side by side with consumers to create a fairer, safer and healthier world. For 80 years, CR has provided evidence-based product testing and ratings, rigorous research, hard-hitting investigative journalism, public education and steadfast policy action on behalf of consumers' interests.

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## RECOMMENDED USED VEHICLES FOR TEENS STARTING AT \$20,000 OR LESS

All listed vehicles earn good ratings in the IIHS moderate overlap front, original (31 mph) side, roof strength and head restraint tests. If rated by NHTSA, they earn 4 or 5 stars overall. All come with standard electronic stability control and have a curb weight greater than 2,750 pounds. Recommended vehicles have above-average reliability scores from CR (4 or 5 out of 5) for the majority of model years listed and CR emergency handling scores greater than or equal to 3 out of 5. They also have dry braking distances (going from 60 mph to zero) of 145 feet or less.

Prices, provided by Kelley Blue Book and rounded to the nearest \$100, are average U.S. values from May 11, 2023, for the lowest trim level and earliest applicable model year. The estimates are based on the following criteria: vehicle in good condition, typical mileage and private party purchase.

Some models include a “built after” date. This applies when a manufacturer makes changes to improve safety in the middle of a model year. Information about when a specific vehicle was manufactured can be found on the certification label typically affixed to the driver door or near it.

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### Best Choices — USED VEHICLES

In addition to the criteria above, Best Choices have a good or acceptable rating in the IIHS driver-side small overlap crash test, and none of them have substantially higher than average insurance claim rates under injury coverages.

#### SMALL CARS

Mazda 3 sedan or hatchback (2014-20; built after October 2013)	<b>\$9,100</b>
Ford C-Max Hybrid (2014-16)	<b>\$10,000</b>
Toyota Prius (2014; built after November 2013)	<b>\$12,900</b>
Subaru Impreza sedan or wagon (2018, 2022)	<b>\$14,500</b>

#### MIDSIZE CARS

Subaru Legacy (2013-21; built after August 2012)	<b>\$7,800</b>
Mazda 6 (2014-18)	<b>\$10,200</b>
Subaru Outback (2015-18, 2022)	<b>\$12,200</b>
Toyota Prius v (2015-17)	<b>\$14,500</b>
Volkswagen Passat (2017)	<b>\$14,500</b>
BMW 3 series (2017 or newer; built after November 2016)	<b>\$16,500</b>

#### LARGE CARS

Toyota Avalon (2015 or newer)	<b>\$14,600</b>
Hyundai Genesis (2016)	<b>\$18,000</b>

#### SMALL SUVS

Volvo XC60 (2013, 2017)	<b>\$9,600</b>
Mazda CX-5 (2014 or newer; built after October 2013)	<b>\$11,800</b>
Mazda CX-3 (2016, 2019)	<b>\$13,900</b>
Honda CR-V (2015 or newer)	<b>\$15,200</b>
Honda HR-V (2017 or newer; built after March 2017)	<b>\$16,000</b>

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Toyota RAV4 (2015 or newer; built after November 2014)	<b>\$16,100</b>
Kia Niro Plug-In Hybrid (2018)	<b>\$18,900</b>
Subaru Forester (2018 or newer)	<b>\$20,000</b>

**MIDSIZE SUVS**

Nissan Murano (2015 or newer)	<b>\$12,400</b>
Hyundai Santa Fe Sport (2018)	<b>\$15,700</b>
Toyota Highlander (2014 or newer)	<b>\$17,100</b>
Acura RDX (2016 or newer)	<b>\$19,300</b>

**MINIVAN**

Toyota Sienna (2015-20)	<b>\$15,700</b>
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**PICKUP**

Toyota Tacoma extended cab or crew cab (2016 or newer)	<b>\$17,900</b>
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**Good Choices — USED VEHICLES****SMALL CARS**

Kia Soul (2013, 2017, 2019, 2021 or newer)	<b>\$6,600</b>
Toyota Corolla sedan (2013 or newer)	<b>\$9,700</b>
Chevrolet Volt (2013)	<b>\$10,300</b>
Honda Civic sedan (2013-15, 2020 or newer)	<b>\$10,400</b>
Toyota Prius (2013)	<b>\$11,700</b>

**MIDSIZE CARS**

Ford Fusion (2014, 2016)	<b>\$10,300</b>
Honda Accord coupe or sedan (2013 or newer)	<b>\$10,400</b>
Toyota Camry (2013 or newer)	<b>\$11,400</b>
Toyota Prius v (2013)	<b>\$12,000</b>
BMW 3 series sedan (2016)	<b>\$14,000</b>
Audi A4 (2015-16)	<b>\$14,200</b>

**LARGE CARS**

Hyundai Genesis (2013)	<b>\$10,000</b>
Audi A6 (2013-15)	<b>\$10,800</b>
Toyota Avalon (2013-14)	<b>\$11,700</b>

**SMALL SUVS**

Hyundai Tucson (2014)	<b>\$9,700</b>
Nissan Rogue (2015, 2017, 2021 or newer)	<b>\$11,900</b>
Honda CR-V (2013-14)	<b>\$12,400</b>

Toyota RAV4 (2013-14)	<b>\$14,100</b>
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### MIDSIZE SUVS

Acura RDX (2013-15)	<b>\$14,000</b>
Toyota Highlander (2013)	<b>\$14,500</b>

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## RECOMMENDED NEW VEHICLES FOR TEENS (2023 MODELS)

All listed vehicles are winners of the 2023 IIHS *TOP SAFETY PICK* or *TOP SAFETY PICK+* award and come with standard vehicle-to-vehicle automatic emergency braking.

In addition, all vehicles have average or better reliability, based on CR's member surveys; average or better scores from CR's emergency handling tests; and dry braking distances of less than 140 feet from 60 mph in CR's brake tests. They also receive a rating of good or better from CR for ease of use of their controls.

Vehicles that had substantially higher than average insurance claim rates under injury coverages in recent model years are excluded unless they have been redesigned.

Prices, rounded to the nearest \$100, reflect Kelley Blue Book New Car Fair Purchase Prices as of May 11, 2023, for the least expensive trim level that qualifies for the recommendation.

### SMALL CAR

Mazda 3 sedan or hatchback	<b>\$23,000</b>
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### MIDSIZE CARS

Subaru Legacy	<b>\$25,100</b>
Subaru Outback	<b>\$29,300</b>

### SMALL SUVS

Honda HR-V	<b>\$24,400</b>
Subaru Forester	<b>\$27,700</b>
Mazda CX-5	<b>\$27,800</b>
Mazda CX-50	<b>\$28,900</b>
Toyota RAV4	<b>\$29,300</b>
Honda CR-V	<b>\$29,700</b>
Lexus UX	<b>\$36,000</b>

### MIDSIZE SUVS

Subaru Ascent	<b>\$34,600</b>
Hyundai Palisade	<b>\$36,600</b>
Toyota Highlander	<b>\$37,100</b>
Mazda CX-9	<b>\$38,300</b>
Lexus NX	<b>\$39,800</b>

### MINIVAN

Honda Odyssey	<b>\$38,100</b>
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