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List of recommended teen vehicles shrinks for 2022 but still offers a variety of options

ARLINGTON, Va., and YONKERS, N.Y. — Supply constraints have made purchasing a new or used vehicle at the right price a challenging and time-consuming process. The task is even trickier when you're looking for a vehicle for a young driver.

Marketplace realities have shrunk the list of recommended vehicles for teens compiled by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) and Consumer Reports (CR). But, as this year's recommendations show, there are still a variety of affordable used and new models with a high level of safety and reliability.

This year's recommendations highlight 49 used models, starting from \$6,000 to \$19,900. That compares with 61 used models in 2021 and 65 in 2020.

Families that want to buy a new vehicle can choose among 21 models recommended for young drivers, ranging in base price from \$21,200 to \$38,900. That's fewer than the 29 new models recommended last year but more than the 18 recommended in 2020.

"We know firsthand how difficult it is to find the vehicle you want these days because we buy most of the vehicles that we crash-test from dealers just like everyone else," says IIHS Chief Research Officer David Zuby. "We hope this list takes some of the stress out of car shopping by identifying lots of safe, reliable options at reasonable prices."

"As the pandemic has altered both the way people travel and the way they spend, demand for reliable used cars is notably high — meaning it may be more challenging to make your budget meet your needs," says Jennifer Stockburger, Director of Operations at CR's Auto Test Center. "This list is designed to help you stretch your dollars further."

Although the recommendations are intended specifically for young drivers, they can be a resource for anyone looking for a safe, reliable and affordable vehicle. The new vehicle list 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.

Consumers who consult the list won't find any sports cars or other vehicles with excessive horsepower. These vehicles make it too easy to speed and can sometimes entice young drivers to show off. In addition, there are no minicars or vehicles under 2,750 pounds because small, light vehicles don't provide enough protection in multiple-vehicle crashes. The biggest, heaviest vehicles, including those in the large SUV class, have also been left off the list because they can be hard to handle and often have increased braking distances.

The list of recommended used vehicles is divided into Best Choices and Good Choices. Best Choices offer a slightly higher level of safety. This year there are 32 Best Choices and 17 Good Choices.

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 — moderate overlap front, original (31 mph) 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 or personal injury protection coverage. Both coverage types pay for injuries to occupants of the insured vehicle. 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.

The recommended new vehicles offer an even higher level of safety. All of them are winners of the 2022 IIHS *TOP SAFETY PICK* or *TOP SAFETY PICK+* award, meaning they have good ratings in six of the Institute's crashworthiness tests — driver- and passenger-side small overlap front, moderate overlap front, original (31 mph) side, roof strength, and head restraints — as well as advanced or superior ratings for front crash prevention and acceptable- or good-rated headlights.

Only 2022 vehicles that come with vehicle-to-vehicle automatic emergency braking as standard equipment are included in the recommendations. In cases in which acceptable or good headlights aren't standard, the list specifies the qualifying trim levels and options.

The new models are vehicles that CR has judged to be at the top of their respective classes. 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.

▶ **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.

RECOMMENDED USED VEHICLES FOR TEENS STARTING UNDER \$20,000

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 or 4 or 5 stars in the front and side tests under the old rating scheme. All come with standard electronic stability control and have a curb weight greater than 2,750 pounds.

In addition, all 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 April 28, 2022, 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 listed 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.

Best Choices — USED VEHICLES

In addition to the criteria listed above, Best Choice vehicles also 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 first-party injury coverages.

SMALL CARS

Ford C-Max Hybrid (2014-2015)	\$8,400
Mazda 3 sedan or hatchback (2014 or newer)	\$8,700
Chevrolet Volt (2014)	\$10,500
Subaru Impreza sedan or wagon (2015, 2018-2020)	\$11,000
Toyota Corolla hatchback (2019 or newer)	\$18,700
Honda Insight (2019 or newer)	\$19,800
Subaru Crosstrek (2018 or newer)	\$19,900

MIDSIZE CARS

Subaru Legacy (2013 or newer; built after August 2012)	\$8,300
Subaru Outback (2013 or newer; built after August 2012)	\$8,800
Volkswagen Passat (2015, 2017)	\$10,400
Mazda 6 (2014-19)	\$10,800
Toyota Prius v (2015-17)	\$12,400
Lincoln MKZ (2015 or newer)	\$13,200
Volvo S60 (2018)	\$19,100
Audi A6 (2016-19)	\$19,400

LARGE CARS

Toyota Avalon (2015 or newer)	\$15,700
Hyundai Genesis (2016)	\$18,100

SMALL SUVs

Mazda CX-5 (2014 or newer; built after October 2013)	\$10,200
Honda CR-V (2015 or newer)	\$14,900
Hyundai Kona (2018, 2021)	\$18,100
Mazda CX-3 (2019)	\$19,200
Volvo XC60 (2017)	\$19,400

MIDSIZE SUVs

Ford Edge (2015, 2020; built after May 2015)	\$12,900
Nissan Murano (2015 or newer)	\$14,700
Chevrolet Equinox (2017)	\$15,600
GMC Terrain (2017)	\$16,000
Lexus NX (2015 or newer)	\$16,700
Hyundai Santa Fe (2017-19; built after March 2016)	\$17,800
Toyota Highlander (2014 or newer)	\$17,800

MINIVANS

Toyota Sienna (2015-18)	\$14,700
Kia Sedona (2017)	\$15,200
Honda Odyssey (2017, 2020 or newer)	\$17,100

Good Choices — USED VEHICLES**SMALL CARS**

Mazda 3 sedan or hatchback (2011-13; built after December 2010)	\$6,000
Honda Civic sedan (2012-15, 2019 or newer)	\$7,100
Toyota Prius (2011 or newer)	\$8,100
Chevrolet Volt (2013)	\$8,800
Toyota Corolla sedan (2014 or newer)	\$10,900
Lexus CT200h (2012-13)	\$11,100

MIDSIZE CARS

Toyota Prius v (2012-14)	\$8,500
Toyota Camry (2012 or newer)	\$9,400
Honda Accord sedan (2012 or newer) or coupe (2013 or newer)	\$9,900
Volkswagen Jetta (2016)	\$10,900
Ford Fusion (2015, 2018)	\$12,200
BMW 3 series sedan (2016)	\$14,500
Nissan Altima (2017, 2020)	\$14,700

LARGE CARS

Ford Taurus (2011)	\$6,300
Hyundai Genesis (2011)	\$6,900
Toyota Avalon (2011-14)	\$9,400

SMALL SUV

Nissan Rogue (2014-20)	\$11,000
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RECOMMENDED NEW VEHICLES FOR TEENS (2022 MODELS)

All listed vehicles are winners of the 2022 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 medical payment or personal injury protection coverage 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 April 28, 2022, for the least expensive trim level that qualifies for the recommendation. If a particular option package is needed, the manufacturer's suggested retail price for that package has been added to the price. This information applies to 2022 models only.

Some listed 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.

SMALL CARS

Mazda 3 sedan or hatchback	\$21,200
Honda Insight	\$26,100

MIDSIZE CARS

Subaru Legacy	\$23,800
Kia K5	\$24,700
Subaru Outback	\$27,500
Lexus IS	\$38,900

SMALL SUVS

Chevrolet Trailblazer	\$21,900
Mazda CX-30	\$23,200
Hyundai Tucson	\$25,800
Mazda CX-5	\$26,800
Ford Bronco Sport	\$28,200
Buick Encore GX (Essence trim)	\$28,800
Toyota RAV4 (XLE, XLE Premium, SE, XSE, Adventure, Limited or TRD trims)	\$30,300
Honda CR-V (Hybrid EX, Hybrid EX-L, Touring or Hybrid Touring trims)	\$32,300

Lexus UX (with Triple Beam LED Headlamps with Auto-Leveling)	\$35,300
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MIDSIZE SUVS

Hyundai Santa Fe (built after July 2021)	\$27,800
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Hyundai Palisade	\$34,300
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Nissan Murano	\$35,000
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Mazda CX-9	\$35,700
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Toyota Highlander	\$37,100
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MINIVAN

Honda Odyssey	\$33,300
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