

# WORLD & NATION

WEDNESDAY,  
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## Old

Press

**Alma:** Train hits bus,  
and injuring 212

**BAIRES** — A train  
into a bus trying to beat  
the railroad tracks during  
in the Argentine capital  
ramming the vehicle into  
and then striking another  
ative head-on. At least  
le, including the bus dri-  
killed and 212 injured,  
said. Video of the crash  
bus driving around a  
wered barrier despite  
ights that warned of the  
train.

**Al-Qaida seeks  
r Arab uprisings**

In a message Tuesday  
e Sept. 11 anniversary,  
ought to claim credit for  
Arab uprisings, saying  
attacks on the United  
ed the way for the "Arab  
weeping the region. The  
rest transforming the

## Limits on young drivers may be backfiring

■ A study suggests the deaths they reduce could be offset by a rise in fatal crashes among older teens.

**By LINDSEY TANNER**

Associated Press

**CHICAGO** — Strong driver's license laws have led to fewer fatal crashes among 16-year-olds but with a disturbing side effect — more fatal accidents among 18-year-olds, a nationwide study found.

Many states require young drivers to get extensive experience, including driving with an adult, before getting a full license. But in most states those laws only apply to those younger than 18. The new study suggests some teens

are just putting off getting a license until they turn 18 — meaning they have little experience and higher odds for a deadly crash.

"There's an incentive right now to skip out and just wait until you're 18," said Scott Masten, the study's lead author and a researcher with California's Department of Motor Vehicles. "In most states you don't even need to have driver education or driver training" if you obtain a license at 18, he said.

"I was actually bummed by my own findings — to find out we're offsetting the benefits" in young drivers so much, he said. "It was quite unexpected."

The study examined fatal crashes from 1986 to 2007 involving 16- to 19-year-olds. Results appear in today's

Journal of the American Medical Association.

Most previous studies have also linked graduated licensing programs with a decline in fatal crash rates among young teens, but evidence on effects in older teens is mixed.

A journal editorial by researchers with the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety said the potential effects in older teens "is a serious issue deserving attention by researchers and policymakers." The editorial noted that New Jersey is one of the few states where graduated driver's licensing restrictions apply to all first-time applicants younger than 21. That has led to lower crash rates among 17- and 18-year-olds.

Whether these programs should be

extended to include older teens merits further study, the editorial said.

The study authors analyzed fatal crash data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and information on each state's licensing programs.

Comparing states with the most restrictions versus those with the weakest laws or no restrictions, there were 26 percent fewer fatal crashes involving 16-year-old drivers; but among 18-year-old drivers, there were 12 percent more fatal crashes. The differences are estimates, taking into account factors that would also influence fatal crash rates, including seat belt laws, changes in minimum speed limits, and the fact that 18-year-old drivers outnumber 16-year-old drivers.

## Attack on U.S. Embassy,

## Iran court sets bail to