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Spying or steering? Views of parents of young novice drivers on the use and ethics of driver-monitoring technologies

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Abstract

In-vehicle technologies that document driving practices have the potential to enhance the driving safety of young drivers, but their installation depends largely on their parents' willingness and raises ethical dilemmas. This study investigated, using closed and open-ended questions, the views of 906 parents of young drivers in Israel regarding their willingness to install such a technology, and their conceptions of social norms and ethical issues associated with the technology and of factors that would encourage or discourage parents to adopt it. Most believed parents should feel morally obligated to install it. When cost was not a consideration, most said they would, and believed other parents would be willing to install the technology. Fewer (about half) expressed willingness to install it after being told about its estimated cost. Monetary cost was rated as a barrier to install it by about half. Environmental considerations were viewed as an incentive. Parents who supported the installation believed it would serve as a trigger for parent–young driver communication but those who did not thought it would erode trust in the parent–young driver relationship. Most said parents should have access to the monitoring data. Policy implications regarding issues of privacy and resources for parents are discussed.

Research highlights

► Research highlights ► When not considering cost most parents express willingness to install the technology. ► Parents estimated relatively high willingness among parents to install the technology. ► Monetary cost rated as a barrier by about half of the parents. ► Most parents thought parents should feel obligated to install the technology. ► Parents thought the technology would force parents not to be oblivious. ► Objecting parents felt the technology erodes trust and confidence in young drivers. ► Parents who supported the technology thought it would enhance communication.

Keywords

- Young drivers;
- In-vehicle safety technologies;
- Parent–young driver communication;
- Survey method

Figures and tables from this article:

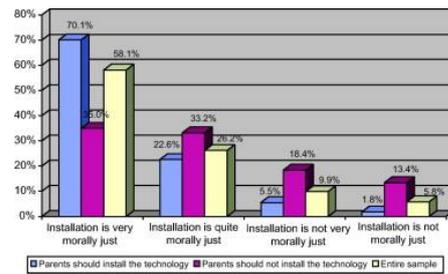


Fig. 1. Conceptions of whether it is morally justified to install the technology according to parents' views on whether parents should be obligated to install the technology.

[Figure options](#)

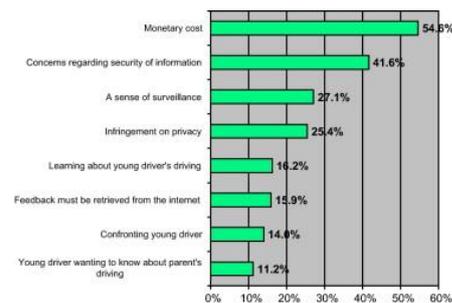


Fig. 2. Parents' conceptions of factors that would discourage them from installing the technology.

[Figure options](#)

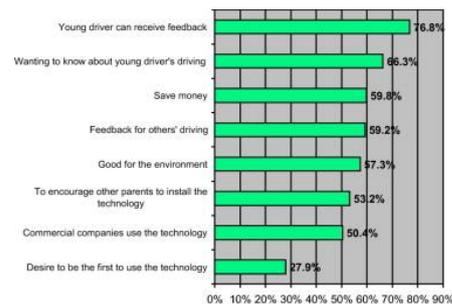


Fig. 3. Parents' conceptions of factors that would encourage them to install the technology.