

FIGURE 5.7 Is Your Brain Different When Driving Alone or With Friends?

Adults show activation of the prefrontal areas when driving, whereas adolescents show activation in areas that are associated with making a decision in a social context. The greater activation of these areas suggests that adolescents see risk taking as more rewarding in the presence of friends. The brain image in (a) shows left prefrontal differences in terms of age group. The brain image in (b) shows the areas affected in terms of age and peer presence. The graphs in (c) show the signal strength changes by group and peer presence.

Source: Chein et al. (2011).

