

TEEN DRIVER SAFETY FACT SHEET

NATIONAL TEEN DRIVER'S SAFETY WEEK IS OCT. 16 – 22, 2011

BURDEN OF TEEN DRIVING-RELATED INJURIES

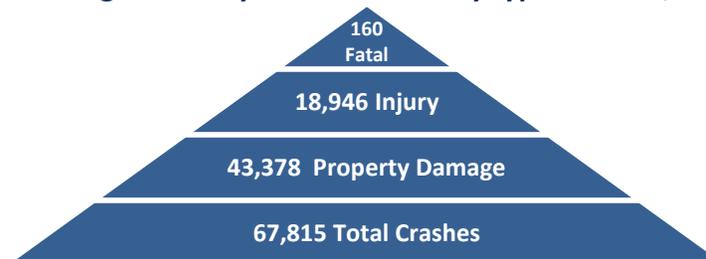
In Ohio and across the country, motor vehicle crashes kill more teens than any other cause of death. Every year in the United States, approximately 5,300 teens are killed, 21,000 are hospitalized, and 400,000 are injured because of motor vehicle crashes.¹



In Ohio, during 2010:²

- 114 youth *occupants* aged 16 – 20 were killed and 16,041 were injured in crashes – these figures represent 11.5 percent and 15.1 percent of the total motor vehicle-related deaths and injuries, respectively, among Ohioans of all ages in 2010.
- Of the 114 *occupant* deaths, 73 were to drivers and 41 to passengers.
- 160 drivers aged 16 to 20 were involved in fatal crashes where they either caused a fatality or died themselves.
- There were 67,815 total crashes involving drivers aged 16 – 20.

Number of drivers aged 16-20 years in crashes by type of crash, Ohio 2010*



*Source: Ohio Traffic Crash Facts, 2010

RISK FACTORS

There are many well-known factors that raise a teen driver's risk of being killed in a crash:

- **Speed** – 14.5% of fatal crashes in 2010 were caused by speeding and/or unsafe speed.²
- **Alcohol** - During 2010 in Ohio:²
 - Alcohol-impaired teen drivers were responsible for 38 deaths and 676 injuries. Drivers accounted for 23 of these deaths and the passengers 12. The majority (65%) of the deaths were among those aged 19 and 20.
 - 400 alcohol-impaired teen drivers suffered injuries, as did 184 of their passengers and 92 others.

TEEN DRIVING RISK FACTORS CONTINUED:

- 934 teens aged 16-20 were injured (171 suffered incapacitating injuries) and 47 were killed in alcohol-related crashes.

Youthful drivers aged 16-20 years in alcohol-related and all crashes, Ohio, 2010*

Drivers aged 16-20 years in Crashes	Number Involved	Number in Error	Percent in Error
Alcohol-impaired drivers in crashes	1,151	1,104	95%
Alcohol-impaired drivers in fatal crashes	37	32	86%

*Source: Ohio Traffic Crash Facts, 2010

- **Not wearing a seat belt** - Of the 114 occupants aged 16-20 who were killed in traffic crashes, only 29.4% were restrained, compared with 82.9% of the 16,041 injured occupants who were restrained at the time of the crash.²
- **Driving at night** – The fatal crash rate of 16-year-olds is nearly twice as high at night.³
- **Driver distractions** such as talking on a cell phone and carrying multiple peer passengers are risky. Teen passengers and cell phones are two distractions proven to kill teens.⁴ Two or more peer passengers more than triples the risk of a fatal crash with a teen at the wheel.⁵ The risk is not just for the driver: Most teen passengers who die in crashes are riding with a teen driver.



Studies confirm: Teen Drivers + Peer Passengers = Higher Fatal Crash Risk*



2 or more passengers = 3x Fatal Crash Risk

*Teen Driver Source; Research Put Into Action, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Research Institute

RIDE LIKE A FRIEND

Ride Like A Friend. Drive Like You Care.

Ride Like A Friend. Drive Like You Care (RLAF) is a school-based initiative focused on the relationship between teen drivers and their teen passengers that was developed by the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Research Institute and State Farm. Improving the safety of teen driving with peer passengers is at the heart of RLAF. The program aims to 1) build

awareness about teen drivers' motor vehicle crash (MVC) risks involving passengers in their car and 2) establish beliefs and behaviors among teen drivers and passengers that promote safe driving.

Key activities to keep teens safe include:

1. Distractions are deadly for teen drivers. They are one of the key factors that lead to crashes, and car crashes are the leading killer of teens.
2. Peer passengers are a major factor in fatal teen crashes. Just one teen passenger doubles the risk a teen driver will get in a fatal crash. Having three or more peer passengers quadruples the risk.
3. Few teens know about this risk. Only 1 in 10 teens consider the presence of peer passengers to influence their safety.
4. Teens can "ride like a friend" by wearing a seat belt, reducing distractions, respecting the driver, and helping the driver if asked. These safe passenger behaviors will help reduce crash risk and injuries and deaths if crashes do occur.
5. Teens should limit peer passengers during the first year of independent driving. Fatal crash risk hits a lifetime high in the first six months of driving alone. Teen drivers should have no passengers under age 21 during the first six months after licensure, and no more than one peer passenger for the second six months.
6. Teen passengers should not ride with novice drivers. Most teen passengers that die on the road were riding with teen drivers. Teens should not ride with their peers until they have been driving on their own for at least six months.

REFERENCES:

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- ² Ohio Traffic Crash Facts, 2010, http://ohiohighwaysafetyoffice.ohio.gov/otso_annual_crash_facts.stm
- ³ Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS). Beginning Teenage Drivers. 2007. Available at: http://www.iihs.org/brochures/pdf/beginning_drivers.pdf. Accessed April 7, 2010.
- ⁴ Winston FK, et al. Eds. Driving Through the Eyes of Teens, A Closer Look. Published by The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and State Farm Insurance Companies®. 2009⁴
- ⁵ Teen Driver Source, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia website http://www.teendriversource.org/support_gov