

Safe Driving Teen Monthly Bulletin

Volume 126, Issue 91

February 2012

January 2012 A Deadly Month For Teens

January has been a deadly month for teens in the US with more than fifty teen deaths and over sixty injuries.

Source: <http://www.google.com> ♦

Lessons Learned

While teen deaths behind the wheel have gone down over the last couple of years, the teen death rate is still too high. The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles reported that, between January 1st and January 24th, eleven teens had died in that state compared to just

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 January 2012 A Deadly Month For Teens
- 2 Teenager killed, four injured in collision
- 3 Tips for Parents: Cell Phone Use by Pedestrians



\$2 Off!
Special Offer!

Enter coupon code

NL9330

Valid until February, 29, 2012
Go to www.LowestPriceTrafficSchool.com
and save today!

Sponsored by

LowestPriceTrafficSchool.com

1-800-Pay-1495

Published by the National Safety Commission
For Teens and their Parents



three the year before

(<http://www.wset.com/story/16607794/teen-driver-deaths-up-in-virginia>). Missouri's first official traffic death of the year was a 19 year old girl.

It is hard to tell if a trend has started but whether the death rates have changed or not, there are still too many teens dying on the road.

A simple Google search of teens killed in January revealed that forty eight teens died in motor vehicle collisions during the month. The Google search is not a scientific survey and it didn't turn up all of the collisions cited by the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles so it is safe to say that many more teens were killed than were reported in this search. This search didn't include teen passengers killed while an adult was at the wheel or teens that were killed in multiple car crashes where an adult was deemed to be at fault for causing the collision. It only included crashes in which the teen driver was alleged to have been at fault.

The article search did show that teens are making the same poor decisions and it supports the figures from scientific surveys in regard to teen crashes. In the fifty crashes noted:

- 34 teen drivers were killed
- 14 passengers were killed
- 15 teen drivers were injured
- 45 passengers were injured
- 2 people in other vehicles were killed as the result of the teen's mistake.
- 5 people in other vehicles were injured
- 74% of the crashes were single vehicle crashes
- Seat belts were not used in 24% of the crashes
- High speed was considered to be the contributing factor in 42% of the crashes
- 74% of the crashes involved loss of control of the vehicle by the teen driver (Loss of control is generally caused by a driver distraction in which the driver leaves the road and tries to over-correct, or when the driver is driving too fast for conditions and fails to negotiate a curve or turn, or a combination of high speed and a driver distraction.)
- 2 crashes resulted when the driver swerved to avoid hitting an animal and lost control
- Alcohol use was considered to be the contributing factor in 6 of the crashes.
- 4 crashes involved failure to yield to other vehicles.
- 1 crash involved a train hitting a vehicle when the teen driver tried to beat a train to a railroad crossing.

- Texting was deemed to be the main factor in one crash
- In 14 of the crashes, the vehicle was carrying 3 or more occupants.
- In 2 of the crashes, there were 5 occupants in the vehicle
- Texas led the other states with 12 teen deaths

This unscientific article search shows that the statistics on teen driving hold up. Most teen driving crashes are single vehicle crashes and the main causes for teen driving deaths are speeding, driver distraction, lack of seat belt use, and use of alcohol or other drugs.

Graduated Licensing Laws (GDL) are designed to limit the number of passengers a teen driver can carry and to try to limit distractions by prohibiting use of cell phones. Violating traffic laws can result in suspension of a teen driver's license. Both parents and teens should know and understand their state's Graduated Licensing Laws and parents should enforce them.



Teenager killed, four injured in collision

North Carolina Highway Patrol confirmed a teenager died and four others were injured after a single-vehicle accident in Union County Friday night.

Source: <http://www.wsocvtv.com> ♦

Lessons Learned

It has long been known that the more teenagers you put in a car, the greater the chances of a serious collision. When a teen driver has more than one passenger in the car, use of seat belts by the occupants is reduced and there are more distractions to divert the teen driver's attention from the road. Male teen drivers especially, when accompanied by an audience, have a tendency to want to show off behind the wheel. Add night time driving and it becomes a recipe for disaster.

In this case, in violation of North Carolina's Graduated Licensing Law (GDL), the 17 year old driver was carrying four teen passengers in a pickup truck. North Carolina's GDL law limits drivers under the age of 18 to no more than one passenger unless the driver is accompanied by a supervising licensed driver over the age of 21.

Investigators say high speed was most likely the major contributing factor to this collision. The driver failed to negotiate a curve, swerved, hit a ditch and then overturned flipping several times before coming to rest upside down.

According to the article, only one teen, a 16 year old back seat passenger was wearing a seat belt. The driver and three other passengers were ejected from the vehicle. The teen that died was pinned beneath the truck.

The other three who were ejected had to be transported to the hospital with serious injuries. The 16 year old girl who was wearing her seat belt received only minor injuries and was treated and released at the scene.

GDL laws have been proven effective in dramatically reducing the teen death rate over the past several years but they only work when they are obeyed. Parents need to know the GDL laws and prevent their teen drivers from carrying more than the allowed number of passengers. Parents also need to know when their teen will be a passenger that their teen will be the only passenger or prevent them from going.

Tips for Parents: Cell Phone Use By Pedestrians

We have heard a lot about the dangers of cell phone use and texting by drivers but the use of those devices by pedestrians can be just as dangerous. The Governor's Highway Safety Association released a report last year that showed, while the death rate for drivers is declining, the death rate for pedestrians is increasing.

Several studies have shown that cell phone use by pedestrians increases their likelihood of being hit by a car when crossing the street.

Studies show that pedestrians who are using cell phones, texting or listening to music tend to:

Want to pass
your DMV Exam
the first time?

Take the DMV Exam Prep Course
at
LowestPriceTrafficSchool.com



- Walk slower;

I [passed my Learner's Permit Test](#) the first time! A grea

OUR CUSTOMERS SAY

OUR CUSTOMERS SAY



I [passed my Learner's Permit Test](#) the first time! A great way to study. Many thanks for your excellent course.