FACT SHEET
Teen Driver Safety Week
October 16 – 22, 2016

The Situation:
• Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for teenagers in the United States.
• Teenage drivers have higher rates of crashes per driver and per mile driven than any drivers of any other age group.
• An estimated 970,000 young drivers aged 16 – 19 were involved in police-reported crashes in 2014, which:
  ▪ Resulted in 3,227 deaths and an estimated 399,500 injuries.
• All 50 states and the District of Columbia have implemented some form of a graduated driver licensing (GDL) system for young drivers.

Findings from Recent AAA Foundation Studies:
• 35% of 16-year-olds, 54% of 17-year-olds, 69% of 18-year-olds, and 79% of 19-year-olds reported having a driver’s license.
• Licensed drivers aged 16-19 reported spending an average of 42 minutes a day driving and drove an average of 26 miles daily.

• Distracting behavior was observed in the final seconds leading up to the crash in 59% of more than 2,200 crashes captured on in-vehicle video cameras; four times as many as reported by police.
• The most frequent distracting behaviors were:
  ▪ Interacting with passengers (15% of crashes)
  ▪ Cell phone use (12% of crashes)
• The proportion of all crashes that involved cell phone use was relatively flat over the study period, but in cell-phone-related crashes, the proportion that involved looking at or manipulating the phone as (opposed to talking or listening) increased from 71% in 2008 to 90% in 2014.

Teen Driver Crashes: 1994 – 2013
• The number of people killed annually in crashes involving drivers aged 15 – 19 declined by 56% over this time.
• The impact of teenage drivers extends well beyond teen drivers and their passengers:
  ▪ Nearly two-thirds of people injured or killed in a crash involving a teen driver are people other than the teen behind the wheel.
  ▪ 40% of people killed and 50% of people injured in crashes involving a teenage driver are people outside of the teen driver’s vehicle (pedestrians, occupants of other vehicles, etc.).
2016 Traffic Safety Culture Index

- Teens (aged 16-19) and Distracted Driving
  - 63% feel that typing texts or e-mails while driving is completely unacceptable, compared to 77% of drivers aged 35-55.
  - Only 32% feel that talking on a hand-held cell phone while driving is completely unacceptable, compared to 39% of drivers aged 35-55.
  - 41% reported sending a text message or e-mail while driving at least once in the past 30 days, similar to the 38% of drivers aged 35-55 who reported the same.
  - 68% reported having talked on a cell phone while driving, compared to 77% of those aged 35-55.
    - Among those that admitted talking on a cell phone while driving, 42% of teen drivers reported usually or always holding the phone in their hand, compared to 33% of drivers aged 35-55.

- Teens and Speeding
  - Teens and drivers aged 35-55 expressed similar views about speeding: nearly half feel that driving 15 mph over the speed limit on freeways is completely unacceptable, while slightly more than half expressed the same with regard to driving 10 mph over the speed limit on residential streets.
  - Similar proportions of teens and drivers aged 35-55 reported having driven 15 mph over the speed limit on a freeway (45% and 46%, respectively), as well as having driven 10 mph over the speed limit on a residential street (50% and 48%, respectively).

References:


Useful Resources:

AAA and the AAA Foundation have developed several resources for families with teen drivers:

**Driver-ZED** – An interactive risk-management training tool designed to help teens recognize how to react in a variety of driving scenarios.

**TeenDriving.AAA.com** – AAA site that provides state-specific information to help parents and their teens navigate the learning-to-drive process, and includes links to the above programs.

**StartSmart Online Parent Session** – Two-hour webinar that explains the licensing process and parents’ role, and demonstrates how to reinforce what your teen is learning in DE and how to maximize the practice driving that you’ll do with your teen.

*For more information about the AAA Foundation’s teen safety research, please visit [www.aaafoundation.org](http://www.aaafoundation.org).*