



Teen Driving Fact Sheet

- Vehicle crashes are the leading cause of teen fatalities.
- About 44% of all teen deaths were attributed to vehicle crashes (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, NHTSA, 2003).
- 61% of teenage passenger deaths happen when another teen was driving (Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, 2002).
- One out of every five licensed 16-year-old drivers will be in a vehicle crash (Insurance Institute for Highway Safety).
- The first year of unsupervised driving is the most dangerous.
- The crash risk for teens drops more than two-thirds after a new driver completes his or her first 1,500 miles of independent driving (McCart, Shabanova, & Leaf, 2001).
- Approximately two-thirds of teens killed in vehicle crashes in 2003 were not wearing seat belts (NHTSA).
- More more than one-third of teen driver fatalities involve speeding (NHTSA).

Greatest Risks for New Teen Drivers

- Lack of experience
- Speeding
- Distractions (cell phones, music, friends in car)
- Not wearing seat belt
- Impairment caused by drugs and alcohol