

A National Action Plan for Child Injury Prevention

Reducing Motor Vehicle-related Injuries in Teens

Motor vehicle crashes kill more teens in the United States than any other cause of death. **Approximately 2,500 teens ages 15-19 died in such crashes in 2011¹ and more than 360,000 other teens were injured²** (Ref: WISQARS). Most motor vehicle-related deaths and injuries are predictable and preventable.

A National Action Plan

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is committed to preventing child injury by promoting solutions that will save lives. The **National Action Plan for Child Injury Prevention** (NAP) was developed by CDC and more than 60 stakeholders to spark action across the nation. The overall goals of the NAP are to **raise awareness** about the problem of child injury and the effects on our nation, **offer solutions** by uniting stakeholders around a common set of goals and strategies, and **mobilize action** to reduce child injury and death.

The NAP contains six domains that include goals and actions based on what we know, where we need to go, and how we can get there. See below for examples of what we can do to further reduce motor vehicle-related injuries among children.

Data and Surveillance—includes the ongoing and systematic collection, analysis, and interpretation of child health data for planning, implementing, and evaluating injury prevention efforts.

- Enhance access, usability, and timeliness of Crash Outcome Data Evaluation Systems (CODES) (2) in states that have them, to document contributing factors to crashes involving teen drivers and the resulting severity and cost of associated injuries.
- Work with selected states to structure and link licensing, crash, and health care data bases in order to better document nonfatal teen driver crashes and more fully evaluate the effectiveness of graduated driver licensing systems. Examples of the needed driver information include driver examination results; issue dates for learner driver permit, intermediate license, and unrestricted license; license suspension information; violation and crash history.

Research—includes research gaps and priorities in risk factor identification, interventions, and program evaluation, and dissemination strategies needed to reduce injuries.

- Design, implement, and evaluate strategies to motivate and assist parents to closely supervise their newly licensed teen driver that are based on accepted adult learning principles.
- Evaluate the role and effectiveness of state driver license examinations in ensuring a basic level of knowledge and safety among newly-licensed teen drivers.



Communication—includes effective strategies to promote injury prevention to target audiences through designing messages and information and delivering them through relevant channels.

- Collaborate with police and media to personalize teen driver news stories and promote effective teen driver safety and enforcement programs.
- Encourage local media to report information on seat belt use, alcohol involvement, teen passenger presence and license status of the driver when reporting on teen driver crashes.
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Education and training—includes organized learning experiences for increasing knowledge, attitudes, and behavior change conducive to preventing injuries.

- Design, implement, and evaluate learning strategies to motivate and assist parents to closely supervise their newly licensed teen driver that are based on accepted adult learning principles.
- Encourage driver education programs to update their curriculum and number of practice driving hours to comply with current national guidelines established by the American Driver and Traffic Safety Education Association³.

Health systems and health care—includes the health infrastructure required to deliver quality care and clinical and community preventive services. Health care providers can:

- Counsel parents and teens to learn and follow state GDL laws⁴.

Encourage families to complete a **parent-teen driving agreement** that places restrictions on the common high-risk driving situations for teen drivers.

(Available at: www.cdc.gov/ParentsAreTheKey/pdf/Parent_Teen_Driving_Agreement-a.pdf)

Policy—includes laws, regulations, incentives, administrative actions, and voluntary practices that enable safer environments and decisions making.

- Support evidence-based strategies to reduce teen driver crash-related injuries, such as strong GDL systems and primary enforcement seat belt laws.
- Support improvement and enforcement of laws designed to limit the purchase, possession, and consumption of alcohol by underage adolescents.

Moving Forward Together

Everyone—parents, health care providers, educators, and community members—can take steps to prevent injury where they live, work, and play. We all have a part to play in the NAP and in protecting our children—America's future.

For your copy of the National Action Plan and to learn more about CDC's work in child injury prevention, visit www.cdc.gov/safecild/NAP

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