



The Facts About Driving Risks

1. Drowsy Driving Facts

- Drowsy driving can be as dangerous as driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.
- Young drivers are four times more likely to have a sleep-related crash than drivers over the age of 30.
- Drivers who are sixteen - twenty years old are at a high risk for sleep related crashes because they tend to stay up late doing homework, working part-time jobs, or going out late with their friends.

The message should increase awareness of the dangers of driving when tired.

2. Safety Belt Use Facts

- Sixteen to twenty year olds are least likely to use safety belts than any other age group.
- Most sixteen to twenty year olds killed in crashes were not wearing safety belts.
- Drivers and passengers who are sixteen to twenty years old are less likely to buckle up when under the influence of alcohol.
- If thrown out of a vehicle in a crash, your chances of being killed are 25 times greater than if you stay inside.
- Unbuckled rear passengers can be "back seat bullets" and kill or seriously injure front seat passengers, even when they are buckled up.

The message should strongly encourage safety belt use by front and back seat passengers.

3. Speeding Facts

- Speeding is a major cause of crashes among teens under age 21.
- Penalties for speeding can cost you
 - Up to \$975.00
 - Having your license taken away
 - Jail time
- New drivers convicted of speeding will lose their license.

The message should discourage speeding by increasing awareness of the dangers and consequences of speeding.

4. Distracted Driving Facts

- Drivers between the ages of 16 and 21 are four times more likely to be involved in a distraction-related crash than any other age group.
- Studies show that using hand-held cell phones while driving can be dangerous. Drivers must take their eyes off the road while dialing and can become so absorbed in phone conversations that their ability to concentrate on the act of driving is severely impaired, placing vehicle occupants and pedestrians at risk of injury.
- Sixteen to twenty year olds are more likely to be distracted when traveling with other teens. Crash risk increases as the number of teen passengers increases.
- Most sixteen to twenty year old passenger deaths occur when another teen is driving.

The message should increase awareness of the increased crash risk associated with driving when distracted. Examples of distractions can include cell phone use, teen passengers, loud music, adjusting the stereo settings, eating, etc.

5. Impaired Driving Facts

- Drivers under the age of 21 who have a BAC of .02 to .07 can
 - Lose their license for six months
 - Pay \$225.00 in penalties and fees
- Drivers convicted of a DWI (a BAC of .08 or greater) can
 - Pay up to a \$5,000.00 fine
 - Serve a four year jail sentence
 - Lose their license for one year
- Sixteen to twenty year olds are more likely to be impaired with lower levels of alcohol use compared to older drivers.
- Beer and any other alcoholic beverages impair your ability to drive. Each of the following contains equal amounts of alcohol: 12 oz. of beer at 5% alcohol content, a 12 oz. wine cooler at 5% alcohol content, 5 oz. of wine at 12% alcohol content, and 1.5 oz. of liquor at 80 proof.
- Mixing alcohol with certain other drugs causes unpredictable increased impairment.
- Many prescription or over-the-counter drugs impair your ability to drive.
- Marijuana will affect the skills needed to drive safely: alertness, the ability to concentrate, coordination, and the ability to react quickly.

The message should increase awareness of the risks associated with alcohol/drug use and driving and discourage its use. The message can also discourage riding with someone who has been drinking alcohol or using drugs.

Useful Websites

- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration - www.nhtsa.dot.gov
- National Safety Council - www.nsc.org
- New York State Governor's Traffic Safety Committee - www.safeny.com
- New York State Department of Motor Vehicles - www.nysdmv.com
- New York State Association of Traffic Safety Boards - www.nysatsb.com