



“Making it Click” - Why the DCTMA & PHMC Care About Teen Driving Safety

Facts & Figures

Despite the progress in child passenger safety, teens that are not properly restrained continue to be seriously injured in crashes. Such injuries are tragic and preventable. Here are some facts and figures on teenage seat belt use.

According to the US Department of Transportation ...

- Teens have the highest fatality rate in motor vehicle crashes than any other age group.
- While teens are learning the new skills needed for driving, many frequently engage in high-risk behaviors, such as speeding and/or driving after using alcohol or drugs. Studies also have shown that teens may be easily distracted while driving.
- One key reason for high traffic fatalities among this age group is that they have lower safety belt use rates than adults.
- Because teens have an increased exposure to potentially fatal traffic crashes, it is imperative that efforts to increase safety belt use among this age group be given the highest priority.
- Nearly two-thirds (60 percent) of passenger vehicle occupants killed in traffic crashes are unrestrained.
- Research has shown that lap/shoulder belts, when used properly, reduce the risk of fatal injury to front-seat passenger car occupants by 45 percent and the risk of moderate to critical injury by 50 percent.
- Safety belt usage saves society an estimated \$50 billion annually in medical care, lost productivity, and other injury-related costs.

According to Children’s Hospital of Pennsylvania (CHOP) ...

- Unfortunately, a 2002 study of seat belt use by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety found nearly half of all teenagers don't buckle up, even when an adult is in the vehicle. Consequently, in 2001, two-thirds of the teens killed in crashes were not wearing seat belts.
- Teens are more likely to have crashes due to lack of driving experience and a tendency to take more risks while driving.
- A teenager’s chance of being involved in a crash is four times that of an older driver.