



# TEEN DRIVER SAFETY

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SAFETY



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For the purpose of this section, “teen” and “teenager” are defined as an individual between the ages of 16 to 19 years old, unless otherwise specified.

## HOW DOES THIS AFFECT THE UNITED STATES?

- In 2014, motor vehicle crashes was the leading cause of injury deaths for teenagers nationwide, accounting for 35 percent of injury-related deaths in this age group.<sup>1</sup>
- In 2014, 2,816 teen drivers were involved in fatal crashes in the United States. Drugs and alcohol were a factor in 18 percent of those crashes.<sup>2</sup>
- In 2014, 56 percent of teen passenger deaths in the United States occurred in motor vehicle crashes involving cars driven by a teen.<sup>3</sup>
- From 2008-2014, 1.9 million teenagers were injured in motor vehicle crashes in the United States. As a result of these injuries, 1.8 million of these teenagers were treated and released from emergency departments, while over 110,200 were hospitalized.<sup>1</sup>
- In 2010, motor vehicle crashes involving teen drivers cost the United States more than \$22 billion in total lifetime costs (medical costs and work loss).<sup>1</sup>

## HOW DOES THIS AFFECT MARYLAND?

- From 2008-2014, motor vehicle crashes were the leading cause of injury death for teenagers, with 279 deaths, a rate of 13 deaths per 100,000.<sup>1</sup>
- In 2014, 26 teen drivers were killed in Maryland. Drugs and alcohol were a factor in 3.8 percent of those crashes.<sup>2</sup>
- Table 1 displays trends of motor vehicle-related risk factors of Maryland youth from 2005-2014.<sup>4</sup>
- In 2013, motor vehicle crashes were the second leading cause of injury-related hospitalizations for people age 15-24, causing approximately 820 hospitalizations.<sup>5</sup>
- In 2013, motor vehicle crashes were the second leading cause of injury-related emergency room visits for people age 15-24, causing over 15,800 visits.<sup>5</sup>
- On average, motor vehicle crash-related deaths cost Maryland \$690 million total, 10 percent of which was attributed to teens 15-19 years of age (\$66 million).<sup>6</sup>

## HOW DO WE ADDRESS THIS PROBLEM?

- Enforcement of underage purchase, possession, and provision laws for youth access to alcohol can reduce alcohol-related crash involvement.<sup>7</sup>
- Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) has consistently been shown to substantially reduce crashes of 16- and 17-year-old drivers.<sup>8</sup> Strengthening and enforcement of GDL systems that contain passenger limits, night restrictions, and other components are effective measures.<sup>7,9</sup> The National Highway Traffic Safety Association (NHTSA) recommends 16 years as the age for receiving a learner’s permit; it is currently 15 years and 9 months in Maryland.<sup>7</sup>
- Enforcement of the primary seat belt law SB 87 in Maryland is important: primary seat belt laws are associated with increased seat belt utilization<sup>10</sup> and a decreased risk of fatalities.<sup>11</sup>
- Driver education on its own has not been demonstrated to reduce crashes among high school-aged drivers.<sup>12</sup>

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## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- International Institute for Highway Safety: <http://www.iihs.org/iihs/topics/t/teenagers/topicoverview>
- Johns Hopkins Center for Injury Research and Policy: [www.jhsph.edu/injuryCenter](http://www.jhsph.edu/injuryCenter)
- Maryland Department of Transportation: [www.mdot.state.md.us](http://www.mdot.state.md.us)
- Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration:  
<http://www.mva.maryland.gov/safety/mhso/benchmark-reports.htm>
- Meritus Health Trauma and Emergency Services in Hagerstown, MD is partnering with community organizations to raise awareness of the dangers of distracted driving in the public service campaign, “Stay Alive. Don’t Text and Drive.” <http://bit.ly/2a6u0oH>
- National Center for Injury Prevention and Control: CDC: [www.cdc.gov/injury](http://www.cdc.gov/injury)
- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration: [www.nhtsa.dot.gov](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov)
- The Maryland Teen Safe Driving Coalition, in partnership with The Allstate Foundation and the National Safety Council, is working to help teens build skill and minimize risk through the proven principles of Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL).  
<https://sites.google.com/site/mdteensafedrivingcoalition/>
- University of Maryland School of Medicine National Study Center for Trauma and Emergency Medical Systems: [http://medschool.umaryland.edu/NSC\\_Trauma.asp](http://medschool.umaryland.edu/NSC_Trauma.asp)

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