



THE FACTS ON TEEN DRIVING

Ready to write? Get started by checking out the facts that will bring credibility and accuracy to your story.

Teen Driving Stats

Did you know that motor vehicle crashes are the No.1 cause of death among American teens, outnumbering drugs, alcohol, violence and suicide each year?

- In 2008, more than 4,000 teens died in car crashes. That's an average of about 11 teen deaths on the road every day.¹
 - In 2008, 63 percent of teenage passenger deaths occurred in vehicles driven by another teen.¹
 - In 2007, 35 percent of 16-year-old drivers in fatal crashes were speeding.²
- About two out of every three teenagers killed in motor vehicle crashes in 2008 were males.¹
- Per mile driven, teen drivers ages 16 to 19 are four times more likely than older drivers to crash. That's a higher risk than any other age group.¹
- According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), teenage drivers and passengers are among those least likely to wear seat belts.
- More than 40 percent of teens *believe* that alcohol is a factor in most crashes involving teens; *in reality*, alcohol is involved in less than 25 percent of deadly teen crashes.³
- Certain times are just more dangerous for teen drivers.
 - 55 percent of teen crash deaths happen during the weekends (Friday – Sunday).¹
 - In 2008, 20 percent of teen car crash deaths occurred between 9 p.m. and midnight.¹
 - August, July, November, December and May had the highest number of teen crash deaths in 2008 (in descending order).¹

Damage Control

Nearly 40 percent of teens admit the main reason for risk-taking is not thinking about the consequences at that moment. Seriously injuring yourself, or someone else, is definitely scary, but have you thought of these consequences? Getting in a crash could mean:

- Damaging your reputation
- Getting a *really* expensive ticket
- Losing your license
- Being sued and going to court
- Paying for big lawyer bills, higher insurance rates or damaged property
- Not being able to get into college because of your record
- Going to jail, then not getting a job because you're a felon

References

1. Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS). <http://www.iihs.org/research/topics/teenagers.html>, Fatality Facts 2008, accessed September 15, 2009.
2. Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS). http://www.iihs.org/brochures/pdf/beginning_drivers.pdf.
3. The Allstate Foundation, "Shifting Teen Attitudes: The State of Teen Driving 2009".