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# IOWA YOUNG DRIVER FACT SHEET

July 2009

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- During 2007, a total of 6,552 drivers ages 16-20 were involved in fatal crashes nationwide; crashes which took the lives of 7,512 individuals.
- In 2008, 48 young people ages 15-20 were killed in Iowa fatal crashes; 65 people ages 15-20 were drivers in fatal crashes.
- For fatally injured young drivers, alcohol becomes an increasingly significant factor. In 2007, nearly 1/3 or 32% of all 20 year old drivers in fatal crashes nationwide were legally drunk as opposed to 11% of all 16 year olds.
- In 2007, Iowa drivers under age 21 represented 17% of all drinking drivers in fatal crashes while drivers ages 21-24 were the largest age group making up 21% of all drinking drivers in fatal crashes.
- As a group, teen and young adult drivers are at an elevated risk for fatalities and serious injuries in traffic crashes.
- Drivers ages 15-20 make up about 9% of Iowa licensed drivers but, in 2008, they constituted:
  - 11% of Iowa drivers in fatal crashes;
  - nearly 12% of Iowa's traffic fatality victims;
  - over 15% of Iowa drivers in serious injury crashes; and
  - over 16% of Iowans seriously injured in crashes.
- In 2008, 18-year olds had 15 fatalities and 65 serious injuries, more than any other single-age group.
- From 2000-2008, nearly 850 people ages 16-24 were killed in Iowa traffic crashes.
- During the 2000-2008 period, over 4,600 16-24 year olds were seriously injured in Iowa traffic crashes.
- Nearly 50,000 teens and young adults were injured in Iowa crashes from 2000-2008 with more than 4,500 injuries in 2008 alone.
- Drivers ages 16-24 typically represent over 30% of all Iowa drinking/impaired drivers in fatal and serious injury crashes.
- In 2008, the number of 15-20 year old traffic fatalities in Iowa declined 27% to 48, from 66 in 2007.

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**Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau**



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**Iowa Department of Public Safety**

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515-725-6123

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