
IOWA YOUNG DRIVER FACT SHEET

October 2011

- Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for U.S. teens accounting for more than one in three deaths in this age group.
- Nearly 11 teens are in fatal car crashes everyday on U.S. roads.
- During 2008, a total of 5,800 drivers ages 16-20 were involved in fatal crashes nationwide; crashes which took the lives of 6,400 individuals.
- In 2010, 53 young people, age 20 or younger, were killed in Iowa fatal crashes.
- For fatally injured young drivers, alcohol becomes an increasingly significant factor. In 2008, nearly 1/3 or 38% of all 20 year old drivers in fatal crashes nationwide were legally drunk as opposed to 10% of all 16 year olds.
- As a group, teen and young adult drivers are at an elevated risk for fatalities and serious injuries in traffic crashes. The following behavioral factors contribute to the risk: distracted driving, texting while driving, alcohol, speeding, no safety belts and inexperience.
- Drivers ages 15-20 make up about 9% of Iowa licensed drivers.
- The presence of teen passengers increases the crash risk of unsupervised teen drivers. This risk increases with the number of teen passengers.
- In 2008, 18-year olds had 15 fatalities and 65 serious injuries, more than any other single-age group.
- From 2000-2009, nearly 850 people ages 16-24 were killed in Iowa traffic crashes.
- During the 2000-2009 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.

Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau



Iowa Department of Public Safety

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