

Announcement

National Teen Driver Safety Week — October 19–25, 2014

During 2003–2012, the number of teens aged 13–19 years who died in motor vehicle crashes declined by 50%, from 5,718 to 2,823 (1). During the same period, the rate of passenger vehicle drivers aged 16–19 years involved in fatal crashes decreased by 52%, from 35.1 to 16.8 per 100,000 persons (1). Despite these encouraging trends, motor vehicle crashes remain the leading cause of death for teens. Among teens who died in passenger vehicle crashes in 2012, approximately 60% were not wearing a seat belt (1). Parents can be good role models by always wearing their seat belts and insisting that their teen drivers and all of their passengers always buckle up.

Graduated driver licensing (GDL) programs are widely credited with contributing to declines in teen crash deaths. Evaluations of GDL programs have demonstrated a 20%–40% reduction in crash risk among the youngest drivers (2,3). GDL programs provide longer practice periods, limit driving under high-risk conditions for newly licensed drivers, and require greater participation of parents in their teen's learning-to-drive process.

This year, during National Teen Driver Safety Week, CDC is releasing an updated Parents Are the Key campaign website, available at <http://www.cdc.gov/parentsarethekey>. Using the science behind GDL, Parents Are the Key provides families with tools and tips to help keep their teen drivers safe, including a parent-teen driving agreement. Additional information regarding National Teen Driver Safety Week is available from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration at <http://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/teens>.

References

1. Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. Fatality facts 2010: teenagers 2012. Arlington, VA: Insurance Institute for Highway Safety; 2014. Available at <http://www.iihs.org/iihs/topics/t/teenagers/fatalityfacts/teenagers/2012>.
2. Shope J. Graduated driver licensing: review of evaluation results since 2002. *J Safety Res* 2007;38:165–75.
3. Zhu M, Cummings P, Zhao S, Coben JH, Smith GS. The association of graduated driver licensing with miles driven and fatal crash rates per miles driven among adolescents. *Inj Prev* 2014; February 13, 2014 [Epub ahead of print].

Erratum

Vol. 63, No. 40

In the Notice to Readers, “*MMWR in Brief* Republished in *American Journal of Public Health*,” on page 908, in the second paragraph, the first Internet link in the third sentence was incorrect. The sentence should read as follows: “That summary was republished online by *AJPH* on October 8 (available at <http://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/pdf/10.2105/AJPH.2014.10411e13>), along with an editorial describing the collaboration (available at <http://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/pdf/10.2105/AJPH.2014.302321>).”