

Driver Education Statewide Talking Points and Stats



Stats

- Oregon drivers age 20 and under are involved in fatal and injury crashes at twice the rate of the populations as a whole.
- Preventable¹ car crashes are the leading cause of death for Oregon teens.
- The majority of teen driver crashes in Oregon are due to driver error and speeding.
- Oregon has more than 68,000 licensed or permit-holding drivers age 15 to 17. An additional 168,000 are 18 to 21 years old.
- The number of 16 year old drivers involved in a fatal or injury crash has dropped by 50 percent since 2000.

Safety tips, etc.

- Studies show that a teen’s likelihood of being in a crash can be dramatically reduced through quality driver education, effective laws and parent and community involvement.
- Whether or not you know a teen driver, you can still promote safe driving and prevent crashes.
- Support community driver safety and driver education efforts of your local schools, driver education providers, law enforcement and safety groups.
 - Talk to teens about the importance of riding with safe and sober drivers and buckling up.
 - Model safe driving behavior: buckle up, slow down, stay off the phone, drive sober.
 - If you are a parent, enroll your child in an approve driver education course; obey GDL restrictions and know who your children are riding with.



Here in Oregon, we’ve seen a big decrease in the number of crashes that involve young drivers. Since it started in 2000, Oregon’s graduated driver licensing program has also reduced crashes, convictions and suspensions according to the study.

“The study shows we are succeeding in making our newest drivers better and safer and dramatically reducing the potential negative impacts of teen driving,” [John Harvey]

“Working together with students, parents and communities we can keep this positive trend going.”

¹ Over 90% of crashes can be avoided with either more education or more time to act (slowing down). This is why we do not use the term “accidents” when discussing traffic related crashes.