



DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES  
CENTER FOR TEEN SAFE DRIVING

**Breakdown of 48-Hour Teen Driver Suspension Reports**

Forms Received by DMV through January 8, 2009, 3:30 p.m.

Total reports received: 148

**GENDER**

Male: 99

Female: 49

**AGE**

17 years old: 88

16 years old: 60

**ACCIDENT REPORTED**

Yes: 17

No: 131

**VEHICLE TOWED**

Yes: 26

No: 122

**VIOLATIONS**

(Note: Some reports contain multiple violations)

Passenger Restrictions: 76

Night Curfew: 36

Speeding (over 20 mph): 30

Reckless Driving: 15

DUI - .02: 6

DUI: 4

Street Racing: 2

Unauthorized MV: 0

**Total violations: 169**

**PD/Troop(s) with most submitted reports:** Enfield (16), Farmington (13),  
Troop F (8), Simsbury (8)

## Update on Activities of DMV Center for Teen Safe Driving

DMV performed major public outreach on new laws through more than 200 community meetings as well as through distribution of brochures and posters, use of web materials, radio advertisements and press conferences. Sent information to high schools, police departments, state attorneys' offices and others.

DMV coordinated public notice with the state police and Connecticut Police Chiefs Association to emphasize Connecticut's first-in-the-nation 48-hour seizure of the driver's license for GDL and speeding violations.

- To date: 148 reports received since August 1, 2008. In these reports, 88 drivers were 17 years old and 60 drivers were 16 years old. The top four violations in order of ranking are: passenger restrictions, night curfew, speeding (over 20 mph) and reckless driving.
- Helped to prepare roll-call video for law enforcement to view to inform officers about the new laws. Video also was modified for distribution to high schools.
- Assisted with creating special insert and pullout card on new GDL and speeding violations for the Judicial Department's infractions booklet used by police when issuing a summons.

DMV has obtained the rights to distribute "Teens Driving Smart and Safe" as a required presentation in the state's new two-hour parent-teen segment of driver training. It contains information regarding a variety of information on laws and biological development parents should know that pertain to their soon-to-be young drivers. The video was produced by the DMV's partners in promoting safety at the Connecticut Children's Medical Center.

DMV is preparing to hire a consultant to review Connecticut's driver training curriculum used by driving schools. Scope of the work will be to:

- Examine all relevant studies related to driver education
- Review already established curriculum and standards used nationwide in other states
- Review all current curriculum on file at the DMV by driving schools and determine compliance with current laws and regulations
- Evaluate uses of technology to recommend its use in Connecticut for training of new drivers (i.e., interactive teaching materials, video games or simulators, etc.)
- Evaluate the best methods for teaching driver education to a) teenagers and b) adults over the age of 18 years-old.

Deliverables from the consultant:

- A specific set of up-to-date training standards Connecticut should adopt for the training of teen drivers and over-18-year-old drivers
- A report on whether a step-by-step curriculum is needed for all driving schools.

A step-by-step curriculum if there is a recommendation for one. DMV created immediate standards for a new two parent-teen driving segment that is now (as of August 1, 2008) part of driver training for all permit holders whether in professional schools or only home-trained by parents.

DMV will be working with researchers at Connecticut Children's Medical Center to evaluate the new parent-teen two-hour training program. The evaluation will involve reviewing a random sample of driving schools by examining program materials, tools and curriculum and through direct observation to document delivered content. Next it will include a survey of a random sample of parents exiting training to ask whether the curriculum standard followed, which objectives and topics were covered and was the parent or guardian satisfied with content, format, and delivery. A follow-up survey a month later may also occur to gauge parents' or guardians' use of material afterwards in discussions with teen drivers or decisions about driving privileges.

DMV received federal grants of \$100,000 for start-up outreach and another \$100,000 for outreach in federal fiscal year 08-09. In addition, received \$50,000 from the Office of Policy and Management. This money will be used to pay for media radio, television, cinema advertising and video production as well as consultant services for evaluating driver education.

DMV will be working with its partners at the Connecticut Children's Medical Center on linking current scientific knowledge, public policy, and communications in a new, strategic, and coordinated community effort. The collaboration, known as *The CT Partnership for Teen Driving Safety*, proposes to develop, implement, and evaluate a community based program to address the leading cause of death and injury for Connecticut teens. Key program elements will be Local coalition development, Peer-driven efforts, Parent mobilization, Healthcare community engagement and GDL law enforcement. The partnership proposed to select and recruit 2-3 intervention towns and match them with 2-3 control towns based upon similar demographic, educational; and socio-economic variables. The study plans to look at ways to organize and measure a systematic, and comprehensive, community wide effort to promote safe teen driving. By mobilizing across a wide spectrum of individuals and organizations, and promoting peer, parent, healthcare, and enforcement activities we hope to change the culture of teen driving and take the initiative against this largely preventable public health problem. By evaluating the impact we will be able to establish a model program that other communities can replicate.

DMV is also working with CCMC partners in a new educational approach that incorporates support for a driving simulator project to improve the methods currently in use to train novice teen drivers and reduce the unacceptably high rate of crashes. This information could be used to further develop training standards and approaches. The project will use 12

Connecticut high schools and their 3,600 16- and 17-year old drivers over two years. Each school will enroll 300 students to take part in the driving simulator training. Students will be randomized into one of two groups, intervention and control groups. The first simulator programs begin during this half of the school year.

DMV has sponsored a statewide contest for high school students to prepare a public service announcement commercial on safe teen driving. More than 60 entries have been filed. Winners will be announced at the end of February. The Allstate Foundation has agreed to provide cash prizes (\$2,500; \$1,500 and \$1,000) to the high schools of the students who produced the top three winning videos. WFSB has agreed to air the public service announcement.

DMV in May created a 14-member advisory board of teens from around the state who meet to offer advice to DMV on the new laws and different ways to address teen driving safety.

DMV is planning to create an advisory board on teen driving comprised of partners in safety from around the state.

## **Teen Safe Driving Communications Plan for High School Students**

Presented by the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles Teen Advisory Group

### **Strategy #1: Teen Safe Driving Group at Your School**

Most schools have SADD chapters and/or student councils in their schools but few have a teen safe driving group or club. Each high school in Connecticut should create a teen safe driving group in their school to help raise awareness about the dangers of teen driving and to promote the teen driving laws. The group could organize events all year long to spread the message about driving safely to their peers. Included in that list of events could be the activities listed below.

### **Strategy #2: School-Wide Announcements Over Intercom System**

One of the best ways to reach every single student in school is through the intercom system. Most high schools have morning and afternoon announcements. Choose one day of the week to make an announcement about teen safe driving, every week for the entire school year. Preferably, the announcement should be made in the afternoon, before teens get into their cars to drive home. The ideal day of the week for the announcements to be made would be either Thursday or Friday because most teens drive more on the weekends. The student making the announcement could be any student from the school, including: the class president, a member of the new teen safe driving group, a member of the SADD organization, a student involved in an accident, or a student affected by another person's poor driving. It would be best to switch announcers every week (or somewhat regularly) so the students stay interested. The message should be short, simple, and easy to understand. The student can read an interesting driving statistic, remind students to buckle up, or follow the teen driving laws.

### **Strategy #3: School-wide Poster Contest**

Launch a poster contest within your high school to promote Connecticut's teen safe driving laws. Consider making it mandatory (or for extra credit) in health class, gym class or art class. Also, advertise the contest throughout the entire school so every student can get involved. You can choose a specific theme for the posters or have different categories and a winner in each category. Suggestions for poster contest topics include:

- Curfew law
- Passenger restrictions law
- Buckle your seatbelt
- Don't drink and drive
- Dangers of Speeding

Make sure you create a list of criteria that must be followed to be eligible, such as size of poster, what materials can be used to create poster (markers, crayons, computer), no copy written material allowed, etc. Also let students know what criteria the posters will be judged on, such as creativity, impact of message, artistic quality, etc.

Create a judging panel for the posters made up of a teacher, a student, a law enforcement official, and an employee from the DMV. If funds are available at the school, the winning poster(s) can be enlarged or duplicated and placed around the school or within

the town. The first place winner(s) should be placed in a prominent place in the school such as the main entrance or the cafeteria. All of the other entries can be hung in the hallways. Reach out to your local paper to see if they would print the winning poster(s) in a special section of the paper as the reward for the winner(s) or think of another special prize for the winner(s).

#### **Strategy #4: Teen Safe Driving Banner**

Create a school banner that promotes teen safe driving. The banner could be a collage of the teen driving laws such as, the curfew or passenger restrictions laws, buckling your seatbelt, and/or the consequences of drinking and driving and speeding. The banner could be used in parades, at athletic events or placed in a prominent area at the entrance of the school.

#### **Strategy #5: School Athletic Event/ "Teen Driving Night"**

Hold a teen driving night at a well-attended, popular athletic event. Organize a special event during halftime, such as a shootout in basketball, catching a football, etc. Have students enter the contest by answering a teen driving question correctly. Donate a front row parking space to the winner. During the game, have brochures and other information available at the concession stand.

The cheerleaders or another organization can create a teen driving banner that the players can run through at the beginning of the game. The cheerleaders can also perform a teen safe driving cheer during halftime.

Have a booth set up at the entrance of the gymnasium, football field, etc. with brochures and fact sheets that students, teachers, and parents can read. Don't just educate the fans in teen safe driving, but educate the players as well. Have each team's captain(s) talk about teen safe driving and encourage team members to follow laws.

#### **Strategy #6 Teen Safe Driving Awareness Day**

Organize a teen safe driving awareness day, or better yet an awareness week. Get a group together and brainstorm different ways you could spread awareness. Here are a few ideas to get you started:

- Print out statistics in big, bold, letters and hang them up all over the hallways.
- Have a booth in the cafeteria with 5-question teen driving quizzes. Those who get all of the answers right will be entered into a raffle for a front row parking spot.
- If funds and resources available, organize a mock crash to symbolize the day.
- Coordinate guest speakers to come in that day/week (see assemblies below).
- Put teen driving brochures and fact sheets on the student cars in the parking lot.
- Organize a school-wide activity. Take students out of class and have them dress in all white. Let other students see that deaths due to unsafe driving could happen to anyone.
- Have a moment of silence for all of the teens who have passed away due to unsafe driving.

#### **Strategy #7 In the Classroom**

One of the best ways for students to get information is through the classroom. Have the administration require each first-period class donate 20 minutes a month to talk about teen safe driving and allow students to share their personal experiences.

Teachers can also give a 10-question quiz on an issue the students are studying in the class. The teacher can make the classroom very disruptive to see how well the children can concentrate. After the quiz the teacher can compare it to distracted driving.

### **Strategy #8 Guest Speaker Assemblies**

Organize a school-wide assembly that features one or more speakers to promote safe and responsible driving. Assemblies provide a cheap, easy and effective forum to send a direct message to a large group of people. The presenter(s) should be someone with special knowledge relating to teen driving.

While the speakers' backgrounds could vary, the overall message should highlight the importance of safe driving. Think locally when considering who the school can invite to speak. There may be people within your community that could offer a personal story with a connection to your town or school. The intended safety message may be more powerful if your audience can relate better to a person, place or thing within a presentation.

Here's a list of speakers you could invite to your school that should be able to deliver a clear and significant message:

- A teen, possibly from within your school, who can share a unique driving or passenger experience that underscores the need for responsible and safe operation of a motor vehicle.
- A member of the DMV's Teen Advisory Council to speak about why teenagers should take a more active role to promote safe driving.
- A local police officer who could speak to the enforcement of teen driving laws and possible consequences for violating the laws.
- A local EMT or firefighter who could talk about responding to accidents as a first-hand witness to teen driving crashes.
- A DMV staff member who can talk about the teen driving laws and the process for getting a driver's license.
- A parent who has lost a child due to a teen-driving related crash. One possibility could be Mourning Parents Act, Inc., otherwise known as IMPACT.
- A school administrator, teacher or guidance counselor who can relate a personal story of a former student who was involved in a serious motor vehicle crash.
- A representative from your local Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) or Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) who can speak about the missions of their respective organizations.
- Any person you can think of who can offer an interesting story or information that encourages teens to drive safe.