

More for Teens by Dr. Mark R. Horowitz

FATALITIES

- * Vehicle deaths/injuries are the biggest health threat to teenagers in the U.S.A., accounting for two out of five deaths among teens ages 16-19.
- * 14% of all deaths due to motor vehicle crashes are teenagers.
- * Of teen drivers fatally injured in vehicles, more than 1/3 were speed-related.
- * Among 16-20 year olds there are 23 driving fatalities each and every day.
- * 53% of teenage vehicle deaths occur on weekends (Friday-Sunday).
- * 43% of teenage motor vehicle deaths occur between 9 pm and 6 am.
- * If a 16-year-old driver brings along a friend, the death rate rises by nearly 40%.
- * If another joins them, the rate rises by 85%.
- * If there are four in the vehicle, the rates soar to 182% over driving alone.

CRASHES

- * Teenagers are involved in three times as many fatal crashes as other drivers.
- * Crashes involving young drivers typically are single-vehicle crashes, primarily run-off-the-road crashes, which involve driver error and/or speeding.
- * The risk of crash involvement per mile driven among 16-19 year-olds is four times the risk among older drivers. Risk is highest at age 16, and then 17.
- * In 2004 16-20 year-olds had 1,622,000 vehicle crashes: 4,444 crashes each day and 185 each and every hour and more than three crashes every minute.

ATTITUDE

- * Crash rates are high largely because of young drivers' immaturity combined with driving inexperience.
- * Immaturity is apparent in young drivers' risky driving practices such as speeding and tailgating.
- * Teenagers' lack of experience behind the wheel makes it difficult for them to recognize and respond to hazards.
- * Teens get in trouble trying to handle unusual driving situations, even small emergencies.