

Emphasis Area #6. Young Driver Crashes

Champion(s): David Huff, Montana Office of Public Instruction
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Objective: Reduce Young Driver (Under Age 21) Fatal and Incapacitating Injury Crashes

Performance Measures:

- Total annual young drivers in crashes.
- Annual young driver crash rate (per 1,000 licenses).
- Total annual young drivers in fatal crashes.
- Annual young driver fatal crash rate (per 1,000 licenses).

In Montana, in 2010, drivers under the age of 21 experienced 102 crashes per 1,000 licenses and 0.60 fatal crashes per 1,000 licenses. Graduated Drivers Licensing (GDL) requirements for new drivers went into effect July 1, 2006, which requires seatbelt use, limit the hours of unsupervised driving, and restricts the number and age of nonfamily passengers. It is expected that the GDL program will reduce these rates. New strategies focus on programs to support GDL implementation and expansion of drivers education programs.

Young Driver Crashes

New Strategies

Reduce Young Driver Crashes – New Strategies

CHAMPION(s): David Huff (OPI) dhuff@mt.gov (406) 444-4396 Fran Penner-Ray (OPI) fpenner-ray@mt.gov (406) 444-4432	Sponsoring Agency	Agency Contact	Implementation Approach – Action Steps	Coordination/ Outreach Efforts	Funding Approach/ Needs/Sources	Implementation Oversight	Evaluation/ Assessment Procedure
Reduce young driver (under age 21) fatal and incapacitating injury crashes	Implementation Team: David Huff & Fran Penner-Ray- Office of Public Instruction (OPI), Col. Tooley- Montana Highway Patrol(MHP), Lucy Take a Horse (Crow Tribe), Denice Harris-AAA, Steve Yeakel-MT Seatbelt Coalition, Judge Greg Mohr, Jim Carroll -Montana Traffic Education Association (MTEA), Greg Noose - DOJ_MVD, plus any others with expertise or interest.						
YD-1 Provide Tools and Incentives to Incorporate Traffic Safety Education in Elementary and Junior High Schools Reintroduce traffic safety education programs back into elementary and middle school curriculum. Middle school is important as it addresses the kids before they are even eligible for driver education.	Office of Public Instruction (OPI), Unidentified Community Organization	David Huff	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assess present K-8 traffic education (TE) efforts and needs through regional focus groups with teachers and principals. 2. Identify, Develop, Obtain, and Provide resources for K-8 TE programs. 3. Identify and coordinate with programs and partners to fund and deliver TE into schools. 	OPI -Health Enhancement and Safety Division; MDT-State Highway Traffic Safety Office (SHTSO); MT PTA; local community action groups; local law enforcement; MT Traffic Education Association (MTEA); Local Schools; 21st Century after school programs (OPI); others as identified in process. Board of Public Education passed Resolution of Support for K-8 Traffic Safety Education in 2008.	Unidentified at this time.	Unidentified at this time.	Develop survey/ report to be completed by sponsoring agency tasked with implementing this initiative.
YD-2 Primary Safety Belt Law/Child Passenger Safety Enact primary safety belt law.	OPI Health Enhancement and Safety Division, Traffic Education Unit	David Huff	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assist MT Seatbelt Coalition in efforts to educate the public on issues surrounding the passage of Primary Seatbelt Legislation through dissemination of informational materials. 2. Continue to circulate information and communicate efforts to young driver partners about legislative initiatives on primary seat belt law. Information and materials will continue to be distributed to the MTEA and to others who have identified themselves as interested parties. 	MTEA, Traffic Education teachers.	OPI Traffic Education – no additional funds needed.	OPI Traffic Education.	None.

Reduce Young Driver Crashes – New Strategies (continued)

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YD-3 Affordable/ Accessible Drivers Education at all Schools	MSU-Northern and OPI - Health Enhancement and Safety Division, Traffic Education Unit; State Highway Traffic Safety Office (MDT-SHTSO);	David Huff, Traffic Education Director, OPI; Priscilla Sinclair, Bureau Chief, MDT-SHTSO	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing recruitment of teachers for traffic education from schools on or near reservations; provide scholarships for training; assist schools in getting traffic education program approval. Sponsor bill increasing reimbursement to schools for traffic education to 50% average costs. Work with OPI Management, MDT Management and Department of Justice (DOJ) - Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) to explore need and funding options and put forth funding proposal. Rework administrative rules to allow additional options to become state approved traffic education teachers. 	MSU-Northern; OPI; High Schools on or near Crow, Northern Cheyenne and other Reservations; MDT-SHTSO. OPI Traffic Education Unit. DOJ, OPI, MTEA, other traffic safety partners.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Funding source not yet identified 3. Continue to work with MTEA and partners for funding solutions and ongoing legislative efforts to increase driver education funding to historic levels 50% of costs 	MSU-Northern. OPI Traffic Education Unit. State Traffic Education funds are distributed by the OPI.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Built into grant application (number new teachers, new programs). Percent attendance of existing traffic education teachers; Process evaluation by sponsor and advocates for future recommendations.
YD-4 Develop a Role and Strategy for Law Enforcement in Graduated Drivers License (GDL)	Montana Highway Patrol (MHP)	MHP	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A pilot GDL ticket book pamphlet is being tested with LE officers. This effort follows research and recommendation from law enforcement in regards to GDL education and enforcement with teens and parents. The updated reference in the 2010 Bond Book will enable law enforcement to cite and courts to adjudicate GDL offenses properly. 	OPI; MTEA; Montana Police Protection Association; Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association; DOJ – Motor Vehicles Division (MVD) and Attorney General (AG).	To be determined	MHP	Track numbers of GDL citations written.

Reduce Young Driver Crashes – New Strategies (continued)

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YD-5 Encourage Parent Involvement in Driver Education	OPI, MDT, MSU-N, MTEA	OPI	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to develop and promote materials to be used in driver education classes to provide parents better tools to provide supervised practice and to provide enforcement of GDL laws with own teen driver. Promote other traffic safety programs that include teens and parents as a target audience. 	OPI, MTEA, Implementation Team, and other safety stakeholders		OPI	
YD-6 Distracted Driving Explore ways to address distracted driving among young drivers.	Western Transportation Institute (WTI); Office of Public Instruction (OPI)	Nic Ward, WTI; David Huff, OPI	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Determine effective ways to educate and train young drivers to deal effectively with distractions. Explore research validated measures to incorporate into driver’s education. 	WTI, OPI.	Federal National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) funds.	WTI, OPI	