



Youth Transportation Safety

Vehicle crashes have long been one of the leading causes of death for 11- to 25-year-olds. The Center for Transportation Youth Transportation Safety (YTS) team saves lives and prevents injury through education, empowerment and peer-led outreach.

WHAT WE KNOW

Understanding risk factors for youth



Whether they walk, bike, or drive, **youth are killed or injured on our nation's roads daily.**

fatal crash rate **TEENAGERS** > **AGE 20**

Due to inexperience, **the fatal crash rate for teenage drivers is about three times higher than for drivers over 20 years old,** (Centers for Disease Control).



In addition to inexperience, data has shown that five factors contribute most often to fatal or serious crashes among youth, including **distractions, driving at night, speeding and street racing, not wearing a seat belt, and driving after alcohol/drug use.**



Youth also face increased risk when encountering big rig trucks, trains, pedestrians and bicycle riders.



WHAT WE DO

Educate and empower communities to prevent youth car crashes

YTS utilizes evidence-based practices and data to empower youth to change risky driving behaviors amongst their peers. The program designs, develops, and implements resources that support peer-to-peer outreach. Additionally, we apply the traffic safety culture, positive youth development, and shared risk and protective factor frameworks to our work.

Our program has worked with more than 2,150 schools across the country for over 20 years, bringing traffic safety programming to school districts so teens and young adults can engage and inspire their peers.

Youth Transportation
SAFETY
 PROGRAM
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WHAT WE DELIVER

Science, support and research for peer-led programs

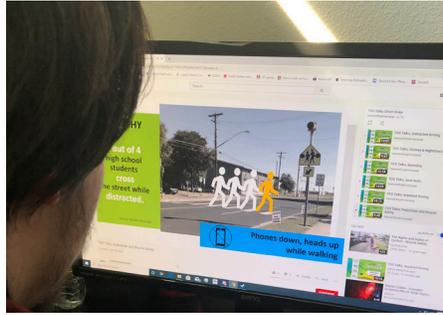


A Peer-to-Peer Traffic Safety Program for Teens

Car crashes are a leading cause of death for young people, accounting for nearly one-third of all teen deaths in America each year. On a per-mile-driven basis, teens are eight times more likely to die in their first six months of driving than adults. This project aims to make teens part of the solution by becoming traffic safety ambassadors in their community and on their campus by facilitating various outreach activities that address the top teen driver risks, including distractions, nighttime driving, speeding, low seat belt use and impairments. Our peer-to-peer program, Teens in the Driver Seat (TDS), has been sponsored by both public and private sector organizations to help develop and deploy education and outreach activities in 41 different states since 2002.

Applying Shared Risk and Protective Factors to Empower Youth and Adults

The YTS program conducts interdisciplinary research, exemplified by the Driver Behavior Change Seed Grant, Applying Shared Risk and Protective Factors project. Two agencies representing the transportation and public health sectors formed a core project team to develop and implement a traffic safety intervention guided by a public health model known as Shared Risk and Protective Factors (SRPF). In addition to focusing on the SRPF approach, work within the project scope aims to incorporate the theoretical framework known as the Theory of Planned Behavior. Staff developed a methodology for the intervention (e.g., adult and youth workshops) and pre- and post-survey evaluations to measure attitude, intention, perceived control and self-efficacy.



Statewide Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Education for Texas High Schools

Texas is ranked among the top three states for pedestrian fatalities (NHTSA, 2019). In 2021, there were 404 teen (ages 14-18 years old) pedestrian crashes in Texas and 30 teen pedestrian fatalities (Texas Department of Transportation's Crash Records Information System). This project provides pedestrian and bicycle safety resources to the TDS program and identifies underserved areas based on crash data and the historical impact of TDS. Deliverables include a teen pedestrian and bicycle crash dashboard, online learning games, printed resource kits for high schools and a peer-leader guide.



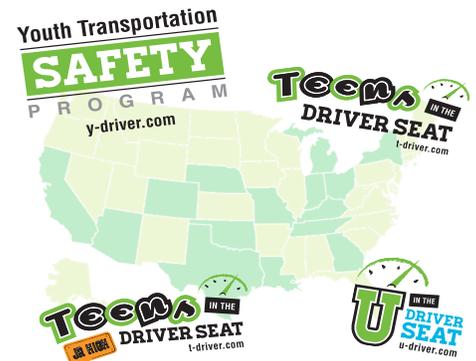
Statewide Traffic Safety Program for Colleges and Universities

There is a higher total number of fatalities for 20-24-year-olds than 10-19-year-olds, 4,283 vs 3,259 (NHTSA's Fatality Analysis Reporting System, 2021). This project aims to deliver traffic safety education to colleges and universities in Texas by providing free resource kits and empowering peer educators to do on-campus outreach. Efforts aim to raise awareness and change beliefs about alcohol and drug-impaired driving and the risks associated with these behaviors. In addition, groups are encouraged to raise awareness about distracted driving, speeding, nighttime driving and lack of seat belt use.



Promote Safe Vehicle and Nonvehicle Practices by Teens Around Commercial Motor Vehicles

In the U.S. between 2017 and Oct. 31, 2021, 1,399 drivers younger than 26 years old were involved in fatal crashes with a large motor vehicle. Additionally, young drivers in rural areas have higher percentages of involvement in fatal crashes involving large trucks compared to young drivers located in urban areas. This project brings commercial motor vehicle education and outreach to both TDS and U in the Driver Seat program schools. Efforts develop and deploy resources focused on work zone safety, targeting rural schools and encouraging partnerships with local partners.



 Center for Transportation Safety

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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