



NEWS

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Physician Group & National Safety Council Issue Chilling List of Deadly States for Youth-Related Driving Fatalities *Write Prescription to Make Roads Safer For and From Teen Drivers*

For Immediate Release

Chicago, IL (6/27/05) – The physician-lead traffic safety advocacy group called End Needless Death on Our Roadways (END) and the National Safety Council today issued a ranking of the deadliest states in the country for youth-related driving fatalities. The list is based on the percent of young drivers involved in fatal crashes adjusted by each state's 16-20 year-old driving population.

The announcement came as the two groups presented their *Prescription for Teen Driver Safety*, a report on youth driving fatalities and prescription for making roadways safer for and from young drivers and as the National Safety Council unveiled *Family Guide to Teen Driver Safety*, a comprehensive guide for parents with teen drivers.

“We have learned much about teen driver safety. We have reviewed the science and we know what is proven to work in reducing teen fatalities,” according to John Ulczycki, Director – Transportation Safety Group of the National Safety Council. “State laws play an important role, but no matter where one resides, parents play the most important role in managing their children’s early driving experience,” Ulczycki continues.

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Nationwide, young drivers (16-20 years-old) make up six percent of the driving population yet they are involved in nearly twenty percent of all fatal motor vehicle crashes. “In 2003 alone, young drivers were involved in 8,455 fatal crashes. Tragically, many of these fatalities and serious injuries could have been prevented,” according to Dr. Thomas Esposito, Co–Chairperson of END and Director of Loyola University Medical Center’s Injury Analysis and Prevention Program.

“Youth-related driving fatalities are an epidemic in the United States. Nearly one out of every five traffic fatalities involves a driver between the age of 16 and 20 years old. Young drivers, their passengers and passengers in other vehicles are dying needlessly because many young motorists are not given proper guidance, or when unsupervised, choose to participate in unsafe driving behavior during their early driving experience,” he said.

“Statistics, however, only begin to tell the story of the devastation and needless death caused in motor vehicle crashes,” according to Dr. Andrea Barthwell, Co-Chairperson of END and former Deputy Director for Demand Reduction for the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy. “Everyday, doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals see the results of car crashes; broken lives and futures that will never be. All too often, they also see deadly crashes caused by a young driver,” she added.

“To address this crisis, END and the National Safety Council recommend that parents take pro-active steps. *A Prescription for Teen Driver Safety* is a simple, straightforward toolkit that parents and others can utilize before teens get behind the wheel,” Barthwell said. “Following these strict but reasonable guidelines will limit a young driver’s exposure at dangerous times and allow them to acquire vital driving experiences to help avoid a fatal tragedy,” she continued.

The *Prescription for Teen Driver Safety* toolkit provides recommendations including sample teen driving restrictions, state fatality data and ranking information and a youth driving fact sheet.

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Specific suggested recommendations include 30-50 practice hours of behind-the-wheel training with an adult (over age 21) licensed driver; holding a learner's permit for at least six months with no exceptions; passenger restrictions until age 18; mandatory safety belt use in all seating positions until age 18; unsupervised nighttime driving between 10:00pm and 5:00am is prohibited until age 18; and license denial for any alcohol violation.

The National Safety Council unveiled its new *Family Guide to Teen Driver Safety* to help parents manage their teen's driving.

"Created through generous funding from General Motors, Nationwide Insurance, DaimlerChrysler and the NHTSA, the *Family Guide* helps families to understand and manage the journey teens travel from beginner to independent driver," said Ulczykcki.

"The *Family Guide* is designed to reduce the anxiety and uncertainties parents of new drivers may feel and replace them with specific actions to manage the risks of teen driving," Ulczykcki said. National Safety Council chapters nationwide offer parent workshops about the family guide. Families interested in a copy of the *Family Guide* or in attending a local workshop can find more information at the National Safety Council's website at www.nsc.org/issues/teendriving.

The *Prescription for Teen Driver Safety* State Ranking and Analysis is attached. Information contained in the ranking and analysis is 2003 data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Fatality Analysis Reporting System and the Federal Highway Administration.

The physician and other healthcare provider members of END are committed to working with traffic safety advocates and others by providing leadership, expertise and knowledge in addressing and preventing dangerous driving behaviors. To download a copy of the *Prescription for Teen Driver Safety* toolkit or for more information, visit END's website at www.EndNeedlessDeath.org. The Coalition to End Needless Death on Our Roadways is funded in part by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

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[The National Safety Council](#) is a nonprofit, nongovernmental, international public service organization dedicated to protecting life and promoting health. Members of NSC include more than 45,000 businesses, labor organizations, schools, public agencies, private groups and individuals. Founded in 1913, and chartered by the U.S. Congress in 1953, the primary focus of the NSC is preventing injuries on highways and in homes, workplaces and communities.

State	Traffic Fatalities Involving at Least One 16-20 Year Old Driver per 100,000 16-20 Year Old Drivers	Total Traffic Fatalities Involving at Least One 16-20 Year Old Driver	Number of 16-20 Year Old Drivers	Total Traffic Fatalities All Ages	Percentage of Traffic Fatalities Involving at Least One 16-20 Year Old Driver	Index (Total U.S. = 100)	Rank (worst to best)
Dist.of Columbia	127.0	10	7,871	67	14.93%	186.4	1
North Carolina	103.9	306	294,511	1,531	19.99%	152.4	2
Mississippi	96.7	146	150,991	871	16.76%	141.9	3
Delaware	96.0	36	37,486	142	25.35%	140.9	4
Louisiana	95.7	182	190,081	894	20.36%	140.5	5
Nevada	94.5	74	78,277	368	20.11%	138.7	6
Florida	93.2	589	631,906	3,169	18.59%	136.7	7
Arizona	91.6	179	195,434	1,120	15.98%	134.4	8
Missouri	91.1	277	304,117	1,232	22.48%	133.6	9
Kentucky	89.8	158	176,015	928	17.03%	131.7	10
Georgia	89.7	313	348,974	1,603	19.53%	131.6	11
West Virginia	84.7	67	79,057	394	17.01%	124.3	12
Texas	83.1	784	943,530	3,675	21.33%	121.9	13
New Mexico	81.8	87	106,311	439	19.82%	120.1	14
Arkansas	81.7	117	143,240	627	18.66%	119.8	15
Montana	76.2	44	57,737	262	16.79%	111.8	16
Hawaii	75.7	32	42,287	135	23.70%	111.0	17
Alabama	75.5	207	274,235	1,001	20.68%	110.7	18
South Carolina	74.0	167	225,572	968	17.25%	108.6	19
Tennessee	74.0	213	287,707	1,193	17.85%	108.6	20
South Dakota	73.5	36	49,004	203	17.73%	107.8	21
Colorado	73.4	137	186,597	632	21.68%	107.7	22
Pennsylvania	72.6	331	456,175	1,577	20.99%	106.5	23
Rhode Island	70.9	26	36,691	104	25.00%	104.0	24
Wyoming	67.8	23	33,904	165	13.94%	99.5	25
Oregon	66.8	100	149,648	512	19.53%	98.0	26
Wisconsin	66.4	191	287,740	848	22.52%	97.4	27
Indiana	66.1	203	307,005	834	24.34%	97.0	28
Oklahoma	64.6	129	199,586	668	19.31%	94.8	29
Idaho	64.6	51	78,940	293	17.41%	94.8	30
Maine	64.5	38	58,892	207	18.36%	94.7	31
Minnesota	61.8	149	240,928	657	22.68%	90.7	32
North Dakota	61.7	26	42,120	105	24.76%	90.6	33
California	61.7	799	1,294,604	4,215	18.96%	90.5	34
Maryland	60.4	126	208,447	649	19.41%	88.7	35
Virginia	60.2	174	289,035	943	18.45%	88.3	36
Kansas	59.7	106	177,536	471	22.51%	87.6	37
Iowa	58.9	95	161,387	441	21.54%	86.4	38
Nebraska	58.3	68	116,676	293	23.21%	85.5	39
Ohio	56.0	287	512,481	1,277	22.47%	82.2	40
Illinois	55.1	323	586,607	1,451	22.26%	80.8	41
Washington	51.8	132	254,879	600	22.00%	76.0	42
Michigan	51.4	258	501,906	1,283	20.11%	75.4	43
Alaska	51.2	18	35,144	95	18.95%	75.1	44
Vermont	46.6	15	32,183	69	21.74%	68.4	45
Utah	44.5	72	161,757	309	23.30%	65.3	46
New York	43.1	257	596,965	1,491	17.24%	63.2	47
Connecticut	41.0	56	136,537	294	19.05%	60.2	48
New Jersey	40.0	122	305,183	747	16.33%	58.6	49
Massachusetts	36.1	95	263,247	462	20.56%	52.9	50
New Hampshire	35.8	24	67,087	127	18.90%	52.5	51
Total U.S.	68.2	8,455	12,404,230	42,643	19.83%	100.0	