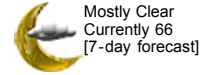




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Too many young drivers still dying in crashes, physician-led group says

By [Shane Graber](#)

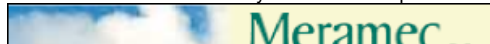
ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH
06/29/2006

The number of wrecks in which young drivers were killed dropped significantly in Missouri and Illinois in 2004 compared to the figures in 1994.

A physician-led safety group called End Needless Death on Our Roadway released an analysis Wednesday that reported that drivers aged 16-20 still account for about 20 percent of road fatalities nationwide.

The group, based in Elmhurst, Ill., is working with the National Safety Council to address youth-related driving fatalities. The two organizations are seeking to get states and traffic safety advocates to participate in a comprehensive survey of youth driving programs.

"The continuing high number of deaths cannot be acceptable to anyone," John Ulczycki, director of the National Safety Council's transportation safety group, said in news release.



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Older Adults Living Life to the Fullest

"Young drivers are involved in 20 percent of all fatal motor vehicle crashes, even though they comprise just 6 percent of the driving population."

Their report states that Missouri's average of about 22 percent in 2004 was still above the national average. But comparing 1994 to 2004, the number of drivers 20 years old or younger who died in wrecks decreased to 243 from 296.

In Illinois in 2004, 254 drivers who were killed in wrecks in 2004 were 16-20. The number for 1994 was 350.

The advocacy group has called on all states to participate in a survey to analyze driving problems among youth.

In 2004, 757 young drivers died in California wrecks, the highest number of any state that year. North Dakota had the fewest with 11, compared to a figure of 16 from 10 years earlier.

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