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## The Mountain State ranks below the national average in teens killed in traffic accidents.

Posted 6/30/2006 05:01 PM

**The National Safety Council ranks the state 47th in the percentage of traffic fatalities involving at least one 16-20 year old driver.**

Story by Jodi Juhl [Email](#) | [Bio](#)

A new survey by the National Safety Council shows West Virginia ahead of the curve in the percentage of teens involved in the state's overall number of traffic fatalities.

Nationwide, 16 to 20 year old drivers represent 6% of the population but are involved in 20% of the nation's fatal traffic accidents. In West Virginia that same group is involved in only 15.8% of traffic fatalities.

Huntington's traffic safety director says that while the Mountain State's showing is good, there are still too many teens dying on the nations roadways.

He says increased efforts to teach young people better driving habits have helped but by the time they learn what they need, they are ready to move on ushering in the next crop of teens.

Kendall says parents need to be careful about what they teach their children when the parent is driving a car. He says parents who speed and violate the law set an example their children will likely follow.

Kendall hopes the study calls attention to the need for a stronger focus on drivers' education programs in schools and more stringent requirements for granting drivers licenses in the first place.

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