

**Give young drivers the
411
and help prevent a
911**

While young drivers (age 15 to 20) account for approximately 7% of the U.S. population, they represent 14% of the drivers in fatal crashes. Reasons for the high crash-rate include:

- ♦ Inexperience
- ♦ Risk-taking behavior
(speeding and improper passing)
- ♦ High-risk situations
(nighttime driving)
- ♦ Inattentiveness
- ♦ Alcohol use
- ♦ Illegal drug use
- ♦ Failure to wear a seat belt

*According to the Insurance
Institute for Highway
Safety, more teenage
passenger deaths occur
when a 16-year-old is
driving than when a person
of any other age is at the
wheel.*

For further information, please contact:

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Center for the Advancement of Public Health
MS 1F5
Fairfax, VA 22030-4444
(703) 993-3697 FAX (703) 993-3763

Check out our safety web site at:
www.safety.gmu.edu

For local information, please contact:
Your local Police Department
or Sheriff's Office

Northern Virginia:
Bob Weakley
Community Transportation Safety Program
6308 Grovedale Drive
Alexandria, VA 22310
(703) 313-9443

Shenandoah Valley:
Doug Stader
Community Transportation Safety Program
Transportation Safety Services
3281 Peoples Drive
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(540) 801-0374

Funded by a grant from
Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles

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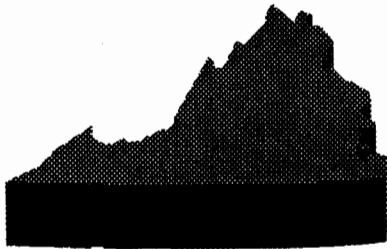
**on traffic
safety.**



IMPAIRED DRIVING

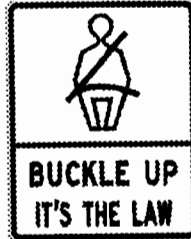
According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration:

- ◆ In 1998, there were 15,935 fatalities in alcohol-related crashes – an average of one alcohol-related fatality every 33 minutes.
- ◆ Among young drivers 15-20 years old, 25% of young male drivers and 12% of young female drivers involved in fatal crashes in 1998 had been drinking.
- ◆ In 1998, 21% of the young drivers (15-20 years old) who were killed in motor vehicle crashes were intoxicated.



In Virginia it is illegal for drivers under the age of 21 to drive with any amount of alcohol in their bodies.

SAFETY BELTS



According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration:

- ◆ Nearly two-thirds of passenger vehicle occupants killed in traffic crashes are unrestrained.

Drivers are less likely to use restraints when they have been drinking.

- ◆ In 1998, 71% of the young drivers of motor vehicles involved in fatal crashes who had been drinking were unrestrained.
- ◆ Of the young drivers who had been drinking and were killed in crashes in 1998, 80% were unrestrained.
- ◆ In 1998, only 39% of speeding passenger vehicle drivers under 21 years old who were involved in fatal crashes were wearing safety belts at the time of the crash.

SPEEDING

Speeding plays a dominant role in young driver crashes. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration:

Fatal crashes involving teen drivers are more likely to be single-vehicle crashes and are more likely to involve speeding than fatal crashes involving older drivers.

- ◆ In 1998, 37% of male drivers 15 to 20 years old involved in fatal crashes were speeding.
- ◆ The 1998 costs of all speeding-related crashes were estimated to be \$27.7 billion – \$52,607 per minute or \$877 per second.

