



Don't Be A Dummy

You don't want to see the crashes this dummy has seen. Crashes **HURT**. Crashes **KILL**. So don't be a dummy. Be a smart, safe driver. Don't be a distracted driver. Don't drink and drive. Don't text and drive. **Stay alive!**

Here are some important statistics about you, your friends and your peers:

1. Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for 15 to 20 year olds in the United States, accounting for 40% of all teen deaths.
2. In 2008, 2730 teen drivers were killed and an additional 228,000 were injured nationwide.

In Tennessee, 94 young drivers were killed behind the wheel, 43 passengers of young drivers were killed, 41 young passengers of other vehicles were killed and 6 young non-occupants were killed for a total of 184 deaths.

3. Last year 7.5 young drivers died in a crash each day, which equates to another young driver dead in a crash every 3 hours and 12 minutes around the clock.
4. 31% of young drivers killed in motor vehicle crashes last year had been drinking.
5. Teenage drivers and passengers are among those least likely to wear their seat belts. Well over half were not wearing seat belts when they died.
6. Over 90% of teens admit to doing multiple tasks while driving, such as texting, talking on the cell phone, eating, playing loud music, channel surfing, and interacting with friends in the car even when they admit they find it distracting.
7. Text messaging causes reaction times to decline by 35% and steering control to decline by 91%. Drivers are eight times more likely to crash when texting than when not texting.
8. Young drivers are more likely than older drivers to speed and allow shorter headways (the distance from the front of one vehicle to the front of the next). The presence of male teenage passengers increases the likelihood of this risky driving behavior.
9. 56% of young drivers say they make and answer phone calls while driving. Talking on a cell phone can double the likelihood of an accident and can slow a young driver's reaction time to that of a 70-year-old.
10. 44% of teens admit they drove more safely without friends in the car.

Be smart and drive responsibly. Be a good friend and encourage your friends to drive safely and obey the laws too. **Stay alive!**

(For statistic sources contact The Crichton Group)

