

POINT OF IMPACT
Parent Awareness Program

Strategies to Increase GDL Enforcement, Compliance and
the Passage of Stronger Laws

Mike Rugani, Research & Evaluation Manager
Minnesota Department of Public Safety,
Office of Traffic Safety
Michael.rugani@state.mn.us
(651) 201-7082

THE VISION

PARENTS:

- Primary Enforcers of GDL Laws
- Lack awareness of -
 - ✓ *Risks*
 - ✓ *Laws*
 - ✓ *Roles*
 - ✓ *Influences*
- Lack engagement & support

POINT OF IMPACT

**How can parents be effectively
engaged, educated,
motivated and supported?**

Offer structured community-based classroom
awareness training to parents of soon-to-be teen
drivers.

- ✓ Driver Education
- ✓ Law Enforcement

POINT OF IMPACT

OBJECTIVES

1. Increase parent awareness of today's teen driving risks and laws;
2. Increase parental understanding of the strong influence they have on their teen's driving behaviors, and;
3. Provide information and tools parents can use to help support their teen in driving safely.

EMPOWER PARENTS TO ACT!

POINT OF IMPACT

PROGRAM MODEL

- 90 Minute Class
- Parents and Pre-Licensed Teens
- PowerPoint
- 8-min. Video
- Printed Handouts
- Brochures
- Q & A
- Class Evaluation

POINT OF IMPACT

PILOT PROGRAMS

- ✓ 2012 & 2013
- ✓ 15 Greater Minnesota Communities
- ✓ Over 250 parents
- ✓ Pre- and post-class parent quizzes
- ✓ Class evaluations

POINT OF IMPACT

SHORT-TERM EVALUATION

- Surveyed parents pre- and post-class
- All questions showed improvement of knowledge
- The following question showed the greatest increase:
 - For the **second 6 months** of licensure, teen drivers are allowed only ____ passengers under age 20 unless accompanied by a parent/guardian.
a.) 0 b.) 1 c.) 2 **d.) 3** e.) 4 f.) No Limit
Pre: 23% Post: 80% (+57 percentage points)
- Demonstrates a much-improved awareness of the risk that as the number of passengers increases, so does the risk of crash

POINT OF IMPACT

POST-CLASS SURVEY RESULTS

- **99.5%** will use the information to help their teen become a safer driver
- **98%** rated the class “**excellent**” or “**good**”
- **98.5%** would recommend the class to other parents

POINT OF IMPACT

LONG-TERM EVALUATION

- Survey 700 parents
- Did they use tools and implement strategies taught in the class?
- Analyze three years of post-licensure citation & crash data for 700 teens whose parents attended a POI class
- Compare data to 700 teens whose parents didn’t attend a POI class

POINT OF IMPACT

ENHANCED GDL LEGISLATION

2012

- Parent Program information displayed at Regional Toward Zero Deaths (TZD) Workshop
- State Rep. Kim Norton expressed interest and received program information

2014

- Rep. Norton & Sen. Susan Kent authored legislation
- Passed in House & Senate
- **May 16, 2014** Gov. Mark Dayton signed into law

POINT OF IMPACT

ENHANCED GDL LEGISLATION

Effective January 1, 2015, all driver education providers **must** offer a supplemental parental curriculum to any parent/guardian who wishes to receive it

- Must be offered at least once a year
- Curricula were approved by the Driver & Vehicle Services division of the Department of Public Safety
- POI was used as the model when defining the curriculum

POINT OF IMPACT

ENHANCED GDL LEGISLATION

Per Minn. Stat., § 171.0701, the curriculum must:

- Be at least 90 minutes in length
- Be provided by or in the presence of a driver education instructor
- Provide information concerning GDL, novice driver safety risks, potential adult influences on teen driver behaviors, *and*
- Provide resources to parents

POINT OF IMPACT

ENHANCED GDL LEGISLATION

Increases minimum supervised driving hours to obtain a provisional driver's license

- Previously - 30 hours/10 at night
 - Verified by parent's signature
- Now - 50 hours/15 at night, if a parent doesn't attend a parent awareness class; *or* 40 hours/15 at night, if a parent attends a parent awareness class

POINT OF
IMPACT

ENHANCED GDL LEGISLATION

Requirement to record hours practicing

- A supervised driving log showing the dates and length of driving time for each supervised driving trip that is signed by a parent must be submitted when taking the driving test
- Log is added to the teen's driving record

POINT OF
IMPACT
