



**New York State
Governor's Traffic Safety Committee
Distracted Driving Outreach**



Lifesavers Conference
April 28, 2014
Sergeant Todd R. Engwer
Law Enforcement Liaison



**National Safety Council
Victim Advocate Grant**


- High Schools
- Victim Impact Panels
- Traffic Safety Professionals




How does this happen?

Networking

- GTSC Young Driver Toolkit
<http://www.safeny.ny.gov/SRO-Toolkit/default.html>
- NYS Traffic Supervisors
- Traffic Safety Boards
- Principal Group meetings
- SADD Chapters – Newsletter
- NSC media efforts



New York State State Agencies Search at NY.gov

Younger Driver

TRAFFIC SAFETY TOOL-KIT

- Home Page
- About Us
- Contacts
- Media
- Presentation Materials
- Publications (Print)
- Partner Programs
- Informational Websites
- Event Resources
- Data and Research
- Important Forms



Ritalin Vision Checks

Register Now
 Statewide Safe Driver School
 Webinars
 Fatal Vision Checks
 Parent Teen Driving Agreement
 Distracted Driving

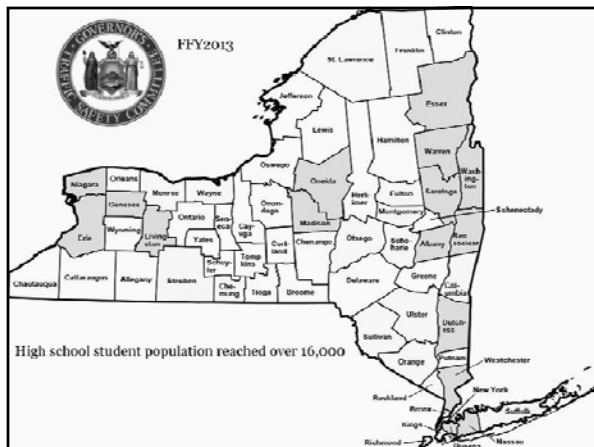
Welcome to the Younger Driver Traffic Safety Tool-Kit

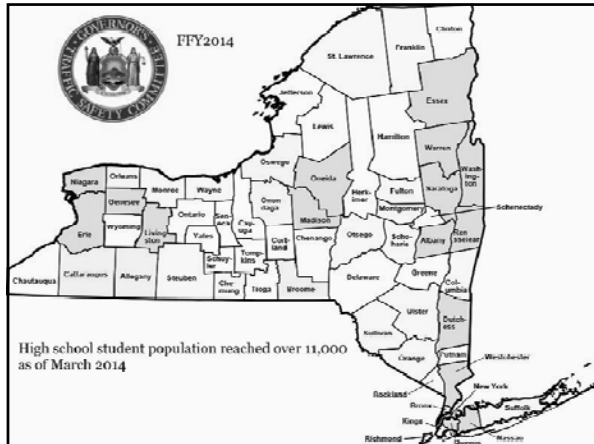
Since car crashes are a leading cause of death among teens in the US, parents, this is what you need to know about your teen drivers.

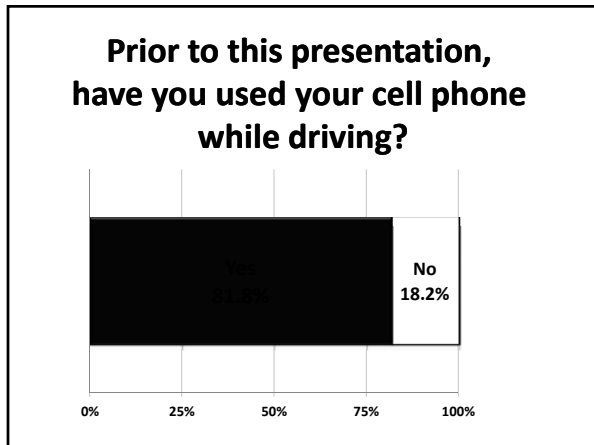
The most dangerous time of a teen driver's life is the first 12 months after receiving a license, as teen driver crashes are largely caused by driver inexperience. Inexperienced drivers can also be easily distracted, by passengers and by cell phone use. New York's graduated licensing law addresses some areas to improve teen driver safety, but parents need to do their part. Parents are a big influence on teen drivers, so be sure you are being a positive influence.

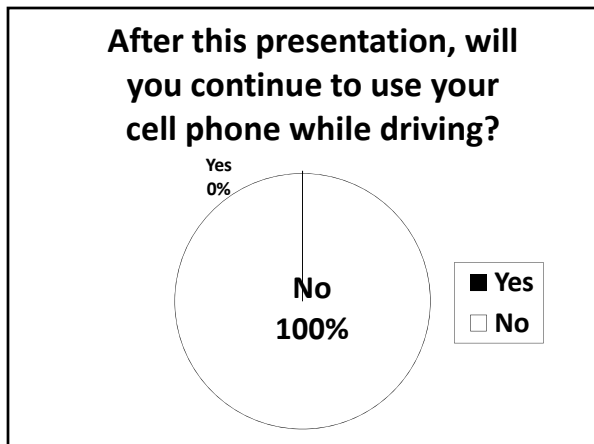
Please review the material here on our web site so you can help your child be a better – and safe, teen driver.











Participant Comments

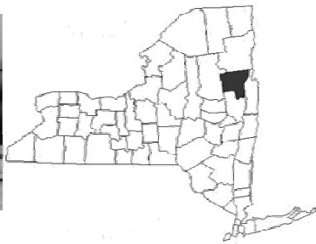
Student – “She is a beautiful person inside and out. I can promise, I will NEVER use my cell phone while driving”

VIP – “It’s all dangerous, but I am impacted. I am going to put my phone in the trunk when I get in the car.”

LE – “Very touching and emotional. Was a great presentation, nothing else needed.” Integration of Department values -100%



Warren County



Schools & VIP over 4,000 people

Victim Impact Program

- Distracted Driving Victim Impact Panel
- Saw increase in DD crashes & tickets
- Created Fall 2011 - Partnership with Courts
- Mandatory Attendance for DD plea reduction
- 40-50 offenders appearing per month
- \$25 fee for participants
- Jacy Good appearances



VIP Trends

- The number of DD tickets issued is stable
- Warren County referrals consistent
- Expanding to Washington County
- Plea offer based on the facts, circumstances, and prior history.
- Courts generally honor the plea offer
- Dutchess County Under 21 VIP



Perception

“The interesting thing was noting defendants reactions during attendance. Many offenders come to the panel with the attitude that they don’t belong there and it’s just a waste of everyone’s time. After listening to victims, like Jacy Good, many people approach us after and let us know they have a completely different opinion about distracted driving now.”

Chief William Valenza VIP Coordinator

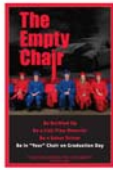
Additional Outreach

- NYS Magistrates Association
- NYS District Attorney Association
- NYS Driver & Traffic Safety Educators
- Driver Education Research Innovation Center



Curbing the trend

- Ford Driving Skills for Life
- GTSC Teen Driver Summit
- No Empty Chair Campaign
- Distracted Driving Billboards
- "Operation Hang Up" April 10-15, 2014



Constraints

- Scheduling conflicts
- Labor intensive/grant structure
- Funding



Changes to Laws

- **June 1, 2013** - increased to a 5 point violation
- **On July 1, 2013**, the following changes to the cell phone/texting laws for drivers with a probationary license, Class DJ, Class MJ or a learner permit took effect:
 - Conviction will result in a mandatory 60-day driver license or permit suspension.
 - Second conviction within six months will result in:
 - a revocation of at least 6 months of a probationary license, or
 - a revocation of at least 60 days for a Class DJ or MJ driver license.

Penalties

- On July 26, 2013 Governor Cuomo announced new minimum fines and higher maximum fines for distracted driving offenses:
 - For a first offense, the minimum fine is \$50 and maximum fine increases to \$150.
 - For a second offense committed within 18 months, the minimum fine is \$50 and the maximum fine increases to \$200.
 - For a third or subsequent offense committed within 18 months, the minimum fine is \$50 and the maximum fine increases to \$400.

“Texting Zones” September 2013

298 signs notifying motorists



91 texting locations on major highways

November 1, 2014

- Driver’s under age 21 convicted of texting while driving will have their license suspended for 120 days for the first offense
- Second offense – suspension of one year



Thank You!



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