

# California Unintentional Injury Prevention Strategic Plan Older Teen Aged Novice Drivers Taking Public Health Approach for GDL in California

March 27, 2017

By

Steve Barrow, Program Director

CA Coalition for Children's Safety and Health's AHEAD CA Program  
& Co-Chair CA Unintentional Injury Prevention Strategic Plan Project

[scbarrow88@gmail.com](mailto:scbarrow88@gmail.com)

# Presentation Overview

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Slide Number</b>
Platform for Taking on GDL Age Changes in California	3
Traffic Related Parts of the Project's Top Ten Issues Action Plan	4
AB 63 (Frazier) GDL Age Change Bill	6
How to Win AB 63	7
Messaging Issues	8
Unintentional Injury Platform and Why	9
Building a larger Choir of support	10
AB 63 (Frazier) GDL age change bill choir	13
CA DMV challenges taking GDL to age 21	14
Next Steps	15
Closing remarks	19

# Platform for Taking on GDL Age Changes in California

Part of larger public health unintentional injury prevention statewide project

CA Unintentional Injury Prevention Strategic Plan Project

Created in 2013

The two leading goals of the project:

- **Save CA Children and Youth lives and protect them from harm**
- **End Unintentional Injury's reign as the leading cause of death and hospitalization for CA's children and youth**

## Project's Top Ten Issue Action Plan Include Traffic Related Issues Teen Driver Safety and GDL Age Change Priority

It is the Goal of the California Unintentional Injury Prevention Strategic Plan Project Stakeholders to:

- Have all California novice teen drivers 16 to 21 years required to go through GDL
- Have all children grow up with an appreciation for and knowledge of safety, including driver safety, so they grow up supportive of GDL as a positive thing in their lives

# Traffic Related Parts of the Project's Top Ten Issues Action Plan

## Teen driver safety

- GDL age range legislation AB 63
- Institutionalize funding for front line “hands on” safety organizations
- Establish higher standards for driver education schools

## ● Bicycle safety

- Update CA's Bicycle Helmet Safety law
- Increase access to free or reduced cost helmets
- Incentives for local law enforcement and schools engaged in bike helmet safety

Pedestrian safety – Fully addressing “Hot Spots” -- Increase collaboration, communication and cooperation between traffic safety and road development and maintenance agencies

## AB 63 (Frazier) GDL Age Change Bill

- AB 63 moves CA's GDL program's age range from 18 to 21 years old
- Currently CA's GDL only covers 15 ½, 16 and 17 year old novice drivers
- CA DMV data show around 35% of CA teens wait until age 18 or older to obtain first drivers license
  - Economic reasons and some to avoid GDL
- AB 63 also contains funding mechanism to cover DMV implementing costs

## How to Win AB 63 – Need to Go Back to UI Prevention SP Project

- Creating new collaboration between unintentional injury prevention silos of interest
- Using a Public Health platform
- Involving unusual mix of public and private interests
- Collaboratively agreed on the Top Ten Issue areas to focus on
- Moving forward on multiple fronts including: legislation, courts, agency level policy initiatives, supporting coalition building at local level

# Messaging Issues

- Public Health Issue
- The numbers – In CA 2006-2013 more than 4,000 people were killed in motor vehicle crashes involving drivers ages 15 to 20
- The numbers – Teen driver involved crash kills more than 400 people a year
- The public cost -- Hospital and ER costs largely state and taxpayer burden
- Debunking myth GDL blocks access to driver's license and driving
- Downward pressure on auto insurance rates



# Bringing New Urgency to Unintentional Injury Prevention

- Traffic Related and Teen Driver Safety Issues Part of Larger Issues
- Unintentional injury is the leading cause of death and hospitalization for CA's children and youth
- Every ten years in CA Unintentional Injury causes the death of nearly 10,000 CA children and youth, hospitalizes 240,000 kids and teens, and sends more than 4 million children to the emergency room
- The initial hospital costs of unintentional injury in CA is more than \$617 million a year and \$3.4 billion when you combine medical and wage costs

## Another Way To Look At Childhood Unintentional Injury in CA

Each year in CA unintentional injury:

- Equivalent to the death of every child in three elementary schools
- Equivalent to sending every child from 60 elementary schools to the hospital
- Equivalent to sending every child from 1,000 elementary schools to the ER

# Initial Set of Project Stakeholders

Initial set of 70+ stakeholders – Example list of those represented:

- Children's Hospitals: Oakland, L. Packard, Central CA, LA, Shriners
- Public Health: Health Officers Assoc of CA, County Offices of Health
- Insurance Company Associations: Assoc CA Life Health Ins Co (ACLHIC), CA Assoc Health Plans
- State Agencies: Emergency Med Services Authority, CA Department Public Health Safe and Active Communities
- Federal Agencies: Consumer Product Safety Commission
- Healthcare: American Academy of Pediatricians – CA, Hospitals
- First Responders: EMSA, Firefighters,
- Children's Injury Prevention and Health and Safety Groups: Ex: Safe Kids CA, CA Coalition for Children's Safety and Health, Drowning Prevention Foundation, Childrens' Safety Network, KidAndCars.org, Impact Teen Drivers

# Continue Expanding Project's Stakeholder Roster

Examples:

- Property casualty insurance companies
- First responders
- Healthcare associations and unions
- Employers and corporations
- School superintendents, administrators, boards, teacher and parent/teacher organizations
- More levels of local law enforcement
- Sports leagues and organizations

# Using the Project as a Base AB 63 Will be Backed by Large Choir

Partial list of AB 63 support organizations:

- CA Association Highway Patrolmen
- Impact Teen Drivers
- CA Coalition for Children's Safety and Health
- Assoc CA Life Health Insurance Companies
- Allstate Insurance
- Personal Insurance Federation of CA
- American Academy of Pediatrics of CA
- CA Professional Firefighters
- National Safety Council
- Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety
- Safe Kids US and CA Chapters
- Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
- Health Officers Association of CA
- CA PTA
- Children's Hospitals – LA, Oakland, Central CA, L. Packard

## CA DMV challenges taking GDL to age 21

- DMV implementation work paid for
- CA DMV has long list of major systems upgrades on its plate: enhanced wireless phone use changes, updating CA DUI program, self driving vehicles, immigrant driver's licenses, etc.
- CA DMV software based on old Cobalt platform, limiting available staffing
- CA Governor very strict when it comes to allowing agencies to move forward independently in areas they have expertise in

## Next Steps for AB 63 GDL Age Change Bill

- Heard March 20 in Assembly Transportation Committee
- Five more Committee and Floor votes to pass CA Legislature
- Most difficult hurdle will be gaining Governor Browns Signature

## AB 63 GDL Bill – Check List of Other Issues

- Pressure to exempt teens volunteering for military service
- Addressing emancipated minors and GDL
- Cost of GDL for low income teens
- Primary stop for GDL violations – unauthorized passengers, hands free cell phone use
- Use of sticker's signifying vehicle driven by GDL driver
- Updating work or class schedule related allowed documentation



# More Complete Overview

## CA Unintentional Injury Prevention SP Project's home and structure

- Working Subcommittees organized around eight leading causes of Unintentional Injury
  - Traffic related (vehicle, bicycle, pedestrian)
  - Non-Traffic related (kids left in cars, backovers, frontovers)
  - Burns (home and kitchen fires)
  - Poisoning (primarily misuse of Rx meds)
  - Suffocation (primarily sleep suffocation infants and babies, ingestion small objects)
  - Drowning (residential pools and open bodies of water)
  - Falls (primarily window falls)
  - Sports related (primarily concussion, heat stroke and cardiac arrest)
- Subcommittee rosters made up of 44 experienced national, state and local safety experts
- Project housed under 501c3 CA Coalition for Children's Safety and Health (CCCSH)
- Admin and staffing through CCCSH AHEAD CA, a Program under CCCSH

# Current Actions and Activities

Legislation to put in place updated laws and institutionalize best practices

Examples:

- AB 2007 of 2016 sports concussion
- AB 63 GDL age change
- SB 442 Update Pool Safety Act

Pending:

- Bicycle helmet law update
- Window fall prevention
- Prescription med poisoning prevention

Initiatives

Examples

- Safety Seat Technicians
- Reinstate safety education in all school districts
- Reinstate fire district community education and community resource positions
- Support expansion sleep suffocation prevention local programs

## Closing Remarks

- Big tent approach
- Parents, caregivers and schools support is HUGE
- Local police need CEUs on GDL
- Get more employers involved – especially those who employ drivers
- Data, Data, Data - Agreeing on the numbers
- Understanding the media's viewpoint
- Recruit and maintain policymaker legislative and agency champions
- Going way upstream – Growing children's safety competency

# Questions