Dirt Road Permit: Addressing Rural Driving Risks for Teens

Ryan Gellner
North Dakota Association of Counties
Traffic Safety Outreach Program
2017 North Dakota Crash Statistics:

- 115 Fatal Crashes
  - 103 Rural
  - 9 Urban
  - 3 Unknown
Teen Drivers in North Dakota:

Every 3 Hours:
- One Teen Driving Crash Occurs

Every 37 Days:
- One Teen Died in a Crash
### North Dakota Teen Driver Involvement in All Crashes, 2013-2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Crashes</th>
<th>Teen Driver Crashes</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>18,977</td>
<td>3,330</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>16,134</td>
<td>2,862</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>15,077</td>
<td>2,794</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>15,017</td>
<td>2,853</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>15,280</td>
<td>3,075</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### North Dakota Teen Driver Involvement in Fatal Crashes, 2013-2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Fatal Crashes</th>
<th>Teen Driver Fatal Crashes</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Understanding North Dakota’s Driving Culture

Presence and enforcement of laws
- Seat belts (Secondary)
- Teen driver safety
- Driver impairment
- Distracted driving

Passenger and driver behavior
Seatbelts in North Dakota

Every 7 Days:
- One Unbelted Occupant Died

Every 11 Days:
- One Unbelted Occupant was Ejected

North Dakota Percent of Restraint Use by Injury Classification, 2013-2017

- Fatal: 10.3%
- Serious Injury: 60.2%
- Non-serious Injury: 77.4%
- No Injury: 83.4%

- Belted: 29.5%
- Unbelted: 35.2%
- Unknown: 9.8%
- Unbelted: 11.7%
- Unknown: 13.7%
Seatbelts in ND

Every 7 Days:
• One Unbelted Occupant Died

Every 11 Days:
• One Unbelted Occupant was Ejected

Daytime Front Seat (Outboard Only) Passenger Vehicle Occupants Observed Aged 5 and Over, by Percent Restraint Use**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>North Dakota</th>
<th>USA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>77.7</td>
<td>87.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>86.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>80.4</td>
<td>88.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>82.8</td>
<td>90.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>79.3</td>
<td>89.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Best Practices
Graduated Drivers Licensing Laws:

Assessed all 50 states teen driving laws
  • Age 18 Unrestricted License
  • Passenger Restriction Provision
  • 50 hours of Supervised Driving Provision
  • 6-month Holding Period Provision
  • Minimum Age 16 for Learner’s Permit

Optimal Law, Good (5 optimal provisions), Caution (Between 4 and 2 optimal provisions), Danger (Less than 2 optimal provisions)
How Does North Dakota Stack Up

Permit age: 14 years

Restricted License: 15-16 years
- Only able to drive family members’ vehicle
- Number of passengers may not exceed seatbelts
- Under 16 years cannot drive between sunset (or 9pm) and 5am

Unrestricted License: 16 years
- Under 21 years, 0.02 BAC considered driving under the influence

Best Practices:
- Age 18 Unrestricted License
- Passenger Restriction Provision
- 50 hours of Supervised Driving Provision
- 6-month Holding Period Provision
- Minimum Age 16 for Learner’s Permit
Graduated Drivers License: Caution

Optimal Law, Good (5 optimal provisions), Caution (Between 4 and 2 optimal provisions), Danger (Less than 2 optimal provisions)
Impaired Driving: Danger

Optimal Law, Good (5 optimal provisions), Caution (Between 4 and 2 optimal provisions), Danger (Less than 2 optimal provisions)
Distracted Driving: Optimal

Optimal Law, Good (5 optimal provisions), Caution (Between 4 and 2 optimal provisions), Danger (Less than 2 optimal provisions)
Making a Change Through Collaboration

Impact
Teen Drivers

NDACo
NORTH DAKOTA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

ND DEPARTMENT of HEALTH
Impact Teen Drivers:

**Engage**

Engages participants using interactive tools, word play, and real stories that are relatable.

**Educate**

Educates participants on the different types of distracted driving: visual, manual, cognitive, and auditory.

**Empower**

Empowers participants to use evidence-based strategies and solutions to make safer choices behind the wheel.
Making an Impact in North Dakota

78 Schools Impacted
5,867 Students Impacted
4 Train the Trainer Workshops
85 Facilitates Trained
Changing the Driving Culture

Grassroots approach
Engaging teens and teen influencers
Talking to parents
Evidence-based practices
Graduated Drivers Licensing Laws
Changing Perceptions in North Dakota

Perception of Behavior Control Before and After Program

- Seatbelts Important
- Speeding Lethal
- Simple Behaviors Lethal
- Cell Phone Lethal
- Texting Lethal
- Nighttime Driving Dangerous
- Too Many Passengers Lethal
- Rowdy Passengers Lethal
- Traffic Laws Important

Mean Response Before
Mean Response After
Changing Behaviors in North Dakota

Behavior Intentions Before and After Program

Make Safe Choices as Driver
Mean Response Before 4.4
Mean Response After 4.8

Speak Up as Passenger
Mean Response Before 3.8
Mean Response After 4.6
Challenges

- Evolving driving culture
- Engaging parents
- Safety over convenience
What Works

Framing Distracted Driving As A Public Health Crisis

Multi-Faceted Approach

Never Too Early To Start The Conversation

Impact Teen Drivers
Thank You!

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