DISTRACTED DRIVING 101: INCORPORATING SAFE DRIVING IN SCHOOL PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS

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Goal of reducing roadway injuries & fatalities involving teen drivers

- Implement teen driving programming
- Distribute educational materials
- Promote teen driving education modules
- Review current school driving policies to find gaps
ODH was in search of a strong evidence-based education program.

Ohio was the first to get the state-specific parent & teen module.

- Now 13 state-specific modules available.
- Custom pre & post surveys.
- Including parents helps reinforce GDL restrictions.
PILOT PROJECT: SOLON HIGH SCHOOL

#1 PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL IN THE CLEVELAND AREA

#2 IN THE STATE

- Agreed to change school policy to incorporate use of the ITD GDL Module
  - Students required to take the module in order to receive their school parking pass
- Pre-observations done on students driving behaviors
- COVID halted post-observations

Ohio GDL Restrictions

- During your first year of probationary licensure:
  - Curfew between 12am-6am
  - Only 1 non-family member passenger w/o parental supervision
- During the second year of probationary licensure or until 18 years old:
  - Curfew between 1am-5am
  - May not transport more passengers than the number of installed safety belts in the vehicle
- Both curfews with exceptions for school, work, religious event or emergency
- All passengers must wear a seatbelt
• Pandemic created a shift in our teen driving audience
• Driving school curricula only briefly covers GDL restrictions
• 3 locations used the GDL Module as introductory course
• GDL brochures given to teens & their parents at driving schools throughout the county
• 1,003 GDL Module users from local high schools and driving schools from September 2020 - December 2021
Thank you for your commitment to stopping the #1 killer of teens—reckless & distracted driving.

The Modules
- Engage teens through interactive activities, knowledge checkpoints, and real stories of preventable distracted driving crashes.
- Educate teens about the four main types of distractions behind the wheel: visual, manual, cognitive, and auditory.
- Empower teens with evidence-based strategies that will help them make good choices whether as a driver or passenger.

Utilizing the Modules is Simple!
To disseminate these modules within your community, schools or teachers can simply share the following links through email, social media, school website, etc.

What Do You Consider Lethal? IEM
https://www.impactteendrivers.org/ema/do-you-consider-teen-ijm/register

Are We Living in a Dream World? IEM
https://www.impactteendrivers.org/ema/dream_world/teacher/register

Idea for Usage
We know how devastating it is for a community to lose a young person. See below for some ideas for how educators can seamlessly implement these modules to help stop the number one killer of young people.

- Utilize these modules as an assignment for a health or other relevant class
  - The modules have several corresponding lesson plans available at ImpactTeenDrivers.org that meet national health education standards
- Require students to take one of the modules to receive a school parking permit
  - High schools are in a unique position to contribute to a safety culture by implementing strategies and policies that support safe driving choices
- Share the modules with parents via social media and encourage them to take the modules with their teens
  - Parents are the #1 influencers of their teen’s attitudes and behaviors behind the wheel
- Utilize the modules with teachers and staff at an in-service meeting
  - Help ensure that educators understand the importance of making safe driving choices and are therefore able to encourage these behaviors on campus

Have questions or need support?
Feel free to contact us at info@ImpactTeenDrivers.org
ENGAGING HIGH SCHOOLS

• Starting the teen driving safety conversation at high schools can be the hardest part
  ◦ Find a solid school contact to help lead programming
• Attend school open houses & PTA meetings
  ◦ Parents are the key to change in high schools
• Present teen driving crash data specific to the school district to administrations, parents, & teens
Science of Attention & Your Brain Behind the Wheel

• Created to educate on how the brain works when multitasking
  – Signs of Attention is a 40 minute program while Your Brain Behind the Wheel is abbreviated to be done at tabling events
• 5 stations with 5-10 students at a time, 5-7 minutes spent at each
  – Station 1: Reaction Time, Station 2: Bean Bag Frenzy, Station 3: Dealing with Distractions, Station 4: Divided Attention, Station 5: Living with Brain Injury
• Teens will learn about reaction times, how the brain handles distractions, & how distractions affect reaction times
Project developed by the Teen Driving Subcommittee of the Ohio Child Injury Action Group (CIAG)

Each section contains targeted information that could be used for the specific types of interactions these groups have with teen drivers.

- School administrators, teachers, students, parents, and coaches/club leaders
- Toolkit includes social media, PA announcements, fact sheets, assignments, presentations, contracts, etc.
Teen Driving Media Contests

- Billboards, memes, & commercials
- Topic areas: seatbelt use, distracted driving, impaired driving
- Flyers are sent out to local high schools and posted on social media requesting submissions
THANK YOU!

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