

Steering teen drivers in the right direction

Toolkit offers facts, tips, and resources to help parents talk to their teens about driving safely



The Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) and its traffic safety partners have launched an online resource packet to help parents talk to their teens about the importance of driving safely.

The Teen Driving Parental Toolkit, a collaboration between the OHSP, AAA Michigan, and the Michigan departments of State and Health & Human Services, provides useful information and resources that parents can utilize to help teach their teens safe-driving habits.

Katie Bower, OHSP director, said the 11-page kit is a powerful tool that provides concerned parents with relevant information and resources to have meaningful conversations with their teen drivers about the importance of driving safely and responsibly.

“Motor vehicle crashes are one of the leading causes of death for teens 15 to 18 years old in the United States,” Bower said. “Because of their lack of experience, teen drivers are at a

greater risk of being killed or injured in a crash. That is why it is so important to have useful resources, such as the toolkit, to help parents encourage safe-driving practices.”

According to the University of Michigan



Data shows that teens with actively involved parents are half as likely to be involved in a crash.

Transportation Research Institute, in 2021 there were 483,132 licensed drivers aged 15 to 20, which represents 6.7 percent of Michigan drivers.

In 2021, teens and young adults aged 15 to 20 accounted for 9.1 percent (103) of all traffic fatalities in Michigan, with 63.1 percent (65) of those deaths being the driver. That is an increase over 2020 when that same age group accounted for 7.3 percent (79) of

MAKE SURE YOUR TEEN DRIVER IS PREPARED...

...WITH A PROPERLY MAINTAINED VEHICLE

Check to make sure the teen driver has a good track record. That means a good number of years that have been without any accidents, violations, or tickets. Also, check to make sure the teen driver has a good record of driving safely.

...WITH AN EMERGENCY KIT

Check to make sure the teen driver has a good track record. That means a good number of years that have been without any accidents, violations, or tickets. Also, check to make sure the teen driver has a good record of driving safely.

...BY KNOWING THEIR VEHICLE

Check to make sure the teen driver has a good track record. That means a good number of years that have been without any accidents, violations, or tickets. Also, check to make sure the teen driver has a good record of driving safely.

PARENTS: GET INVOLVED

TEEN DRIVERS WITH ACTIVELY INVOLVED PARENTS ARE:

- HALF AS LIKELY to be involved in a crash
- 71% LESS LIKELY to be involved in a crash
- 30% LESS LIKELY to be involved in a crash
- 50% MORE LIKELY to be involved in a crash

BE THE DRIVER YOU WANT YOUR TEEN TO BE

GRADUATED DRIVER LICENSING (DDL)

KEEP WATCHING & RIDE

INCREASE TEEN'S CRASH RISK

The Toolkit offers a wealth of resources for parents and their teen drivers.

DEFENSIVE DRIVING PROGRAMS FOR YOUR TEEN

YOUR TEEN'S SKILLS ARE RESPONSIBLE AND

TEEN BACK STREET SURVIVAL

TEEN DRIVING SKILLS FOR LIFE (TDSL)

ADVANCED TEEN DRIVING PROGRAM

USE THESE RESOURCES TO HELP YOUR TEEN DRIVER

Use this toolkit of fact sheets and resource links to guide your teens along the road to safer driving. The kit includes:

- TEEN DRIVER'S CRASH RISK - Parents can help their teens understand the risks of driving and how to stay safe.
- TEEN DRIVER'S CRASH RISK - Parents can help their teens understand the risks of driving and how to stay safe.
- TEEN DRIVER'S CRASH RISK - Parents can help their teens understand the risks of driving and how to stay safe.
- TEEN DRIVER'S CRASH RISK - Parents can help their teens understand the risks of driving and how to stay safe.
- TEEN DRIVER'S CRASH RISK - Parents can help their teens understand the risks of driving and how to stay safe.
- TEEN DRIVER'S CRASH RISK - Parents can help their teens understand the risks of driving and how to stay safe.
- TEEN DRIVER'S CRASH RISK - Parents can help their teens understand the risks of driving and how to stay safe.
- TEEN DRIVER'S CRASH RISK - Parents can help their teens understand the risks of driving and how to stay safe.

To view the online Teen Driving Parental Toolkit, [click here.](#)

Michigan Traffic Crash Facts in 30th year

Beginning with the 1992 edition, the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute (UMTRI) began producing the Michigan Traffic Crash Facts (MTCF) publication for the OHSP. Now, 30 years later, UMTRI is preparing to produce the 2022 edition of MTCF.

UMTRI developed the MTCF website,

MichiganTrafficCrashFacts.org, in 2004, and a data query tool was added to the website in 2006. The MTCF website provides users with annual official Michigan crash data for public use. In keeping with its publication-based origins, there is an extensive publications section that contains crash data statistics

See MTCF page 2

Connect with the OHSP



www.facebook.com/miohsp

www.twitter.com/miohsp

www.youtube.com/ohsp

www.michigan.gov/ohsp

BE ALERT DURING HARVEST

As harvest season enters its final weeks across Michigan, please be an alert and patient driver if you encounter a tractor or other slow-moving farm equipment. Farmers will often move over when it is safe to pass. Before passing, always signal, check your mirrors, and move to the passing lane to make sure the road is clear.

Keeping your aging drivers safe

In Michigan, drivers aged 65 and older represent the fastest-growing segment of the state's population. Mobility for aging drivers is an important topic to bring up and discuss among family members.

The OHSP recently debuted three informational videos to help families learn how to keep their aging drivers safe behind the wheel, as well as where to turn when their driving skills deteriorate.

Presented by Stacey Ruff, a doctor and geriatric specialist at BSHS Beaumont Health, the videos provide a wealth of resources and information in three segments to aid elderly drivers and their families talk about this vital issue.

To view the videos, click the links:

[“Discussing Competency”](#)
[“Physician’s Statement”](#)
[“Request Evaluation”](#)



For more information, visit [Michigan.gov/AgingDriver](https://www.michigan.gov/AgingDriver)

MTCF from page 1

dating back to 1952. Publications range from fact sheets highlighting results on key topics to a comprehensive statewide crash report, county- and community-specific crash reports, crash profiles, crash density maps, and much more.

Using the MTCF data query tool, it is possible to select data from a specific time frame or location in the state of Michigan, going back to 2004. The pre-built crash data filters come directly from the police officer crash reports. Depending on what is selected, crash, unit, and/or person counts are always on display. A query can be displayed on a map of Michigan, with color coding based on hot spots related to that query. Query results can also be viewed and downloaded as bar charts, pie charts, timelines, tables, lists, and calendars. In addition, individual redacted crash reports can be viewed or downloaded in small batches directly from the current selection.

In September 2022, several new features were added to the MTCF data query tool. On the “Crash Map” output, users now have the option to view crashes by time of day, month, or year with a sliding interval. That allows users to view different patterns on a map over time. A new “Trend” output has been created so users can view a bar

chart and table of the filtered data on the same page when multiple crash years are selected. Utilizing that output, users can view trends over time and by month for a specific value of the variable of interest. A much-anticipated new feature is the ability to enable “Advanced Filtering” with “OR group” filter selection.

That enables the user to create more complex queries with groupings of filters applying “OR” or “AND” filter selection. For example, if a user is interested in all impaired-driving crashes, they can select “Crash: Drinking” OR “Crash: Drug Use” together to select all crashes that involved either drinking or drug use.

Any questions about these new features or general MTCF questions can be directed to mtcf-info@umich.edu.

The MTCF website is a five-time winner of the “Best Traffic Records Web Page” award presented by the Association of Transportation Safety Information Professionals.

In 2020, the Governor’s Traffic Safety Advisory Commission (GTSAC) honored MTCF with the “Richard H. Austin Long-Term Service Award” for its contributions and commitment to traffic safety efforts in Michigan.

TOOLKIT from page 1

all traffic fatalities, with 51.9 percent (41) of those deaths being the driver.

Risk-taking behaviors, such as speeding or distracted driving, and inexperience are the primary factors contributing to teen-driver fatalities.

The OHSP also produced a video, [Put Your Foot Down](#), to encourage parents to talk to their teens about the dangers of speeding. Studies show that teen drivers whose parents put their foot down are only half as likely to be involved in a crash.

Michigan has adopted Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) laws for teen drivers as a way to promote safety behind the wheel. GDL programs limit high-risk driving and can reduce teen crash risk by as much as 50 percent. For more on the GDL, visit www.michigan.gov/teendriver.



Exploring the three phases of OWI investigations

By Kinga Canike and Ken Stecker
Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan

A court case is only as good as its investigation. Therefore, law enforcement must do a thorough and complete operating while intoxicated (OWI) investigation each and every time so prosecutors stand a better chance of securing convictions at trial.

Every OWI investigation should consist of the following three phases.

Phase 1: Vehicle in Motion

In this phase, the officer is observing how the vehicle is being operated and how it stops when pulled over, during which time the officer may see initial signs of a possible OWI violation.

Listed below are 24 cues that police may use to detect impaired drivers. The driving cues were developed from a list of more than 100 cues that have been found to predict Blood Alcohol Concentrations (BAC) of .08 percent or greater.¹

Problems Maintaining Proper Lane Position

1. Weaving;
2. Swerving;
3. Weaving across lane lines;
4. Straddling a lane line;
5. Drifting;
6. Turning with a wide radius; and
7. Almost striking another vehicle or other object.

Problems With Speed and Braking

8. Stopping problems (too far, too short, or too jerky);
9. Accelerating or decelerating for no apparent reason;
10. Varying speed; and
11. Slow speed (10+ mph under limit).

Vigilance Problems

12. Driving in opposing lanes or wrong way on one-way;
13. Slow response to traffic signals;
14. Slow or failure to respond to an officer's signals;



15. Stopping in lane for no apparent reason;
16. Driving without headlights at night; and
17. Failure to signal or signal inconsistent with action.

Judgment Problems

18. Following too closely;
19. Improper or unsafe lane change;
20. Illegal or improper turn (too fast, jerky, sharp, etc.);
21. Driving on other than the designated roadway;
22. Stopping inappropriately in response to officer;
23. Inappropriate or unusual behavior (throwing, arguing, etc.); and
24. Appearing to be impaired.

Studies have shown that there is a 65 percent probability that the driver is intoxicated if weaving plus one of the other listed cues are present.²

If any two cues other than weaving are present, the probability that the driver is intoxicated is at least 50 percent.³ The presence of some cues alone (such as swerving, accelerating for no reason, or driving on other than the designated roadway) have probabilities greater than 70 percent.⁴

Phase 2: Personal Contact

In this phase, the officer is determining, based upon face-to-face interview and observation of the driver, whether there is sufficient reason to instruct the suspect to step out from the vehicle.

Face-to-face observation and interview of the driver allows the officer to use three senses to gather evidence of alcohol and/or drug influence:

Sight: Bloodshot eyes, soiled clothing, fumbling fingers, alcohol containers, drugs or drug paraphernalia, bruises, bumps or scratches, unusual actions.

Hearing: Slurred speech, admission of drinking, inconsistent responses, abusive language, unusual statements.

Smell: Alcohol, marijuana, "cover up" odors like breath sprays, unusual odors.

Pre-Exit Questioning of the Driver

Asking for two things simultaneously, be alert for the driver who:

- Forgets to produce both documents; produces documents other than the ones requested; fails to see requested documents while searching through wallet or purse; fumbles or drops wallet or purse; is unable to grasp documents using fingertips.

See OWI page 4

OWI from page 3

Asking questions, be alert for the driver who:

- Ignores the question and concentrates only on the license, insurance, and registration search; forgets to resume the search after answering the question; supplies a grossly incorrect answer to the question.

Asking unusual questions:

- For example, while holding the driver's license, the officer may ask the driver, "What is your middle name?"

Exit Sequence:

Be alert to the driver who:

- Shows angry or unusual reactions, cannot follow instructions, cannot open the door, leaves the vehicle in gear, "climbs" out of vehicle, leans against vehicle, keeps hands on vehicle for balance.

Proper face-to-face observation and interview of a driver requires the ability to recognize the sensory evidence of alcohol and/or drug influence and the ability to describe that evidence clearly and convincingly.

Phase 3: Pre-Arrest Screening

In this phase, the officer administers the three scientifically validated psychophysical Standardized Field Sobriety Tests (SFSTs).

Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus (HGN) Test—The HGN test is the most reliable field sobriety test. HGN refers to an involuntary jerking occurring as the eyes gaze toward the side. Involuntary jerking of the eyes becomes readily noticeable when a person is impaired.

In administering the HGN test, the officer has the suspect follow the motion of a small stimulus (approximately 12-15 inches from the subject's face) with the eyes only. The stimulus may be the tip of a pen or penlight.

When the HGN test is administered, the officer always begins with the subject's left eye.

Each eye is examined for three specific clues.

- As the eye moves from side to side, does it move smoothly or does it jerk noticeably?
- When the eye moves as far to the side as possible and is kept at that position for several seconds (minimum of four seconds), does it jerk distinctly?
- As the eye moves toward the side, does it start to jerk prior to a 45-degree angle?

The maximum number of clues that appear in one eye is three. The maximum total number for any subject is six. Research

shows that if four or more clues are evident, the test is 88 percent reliable at indicating a person's BAC is .08 grams or higher.⁵

Walk and Turn (WAT)—A WAT test is a divided-attention test consisting of two stages: the instruction stage and the walking stage.

The WAT test consists of eight clues:

1. Can't balance during instructions;
2. Starts too soon;
3. Stops while walking;
4. Does not touch heel-to-toe;
5. Steps off line;
6. Uses arms to balance;
7. Loses balance on turn or turns incorrectly; and
8. Takes the wrong number of steps.

Research shows that if a subject exhibits two or more of the clues, the test is 79 percent reliable at indicating a person's BAC is .08 grams or higher.⁶

One-Leg Stand (OLS)—The OLS is a divided-attention test consisting of two stages: the instruction stage and the balance and counting stage.

The OLS consists of four clues:

1. Sways while balancing;
2. Uses arms to balance;
3. Hops; and
4. Puts foot down.

Research shows that, when the suspect produces two or more clues, the test is 83 percent reliable at indicating a person's BAC is .08 grams or higher.⁷

Preliminary Breath Test (PBT)—The basic purpose of a PBT is to demonstrate the association of alcohol with the observable evidence of the subject's impairment. The PBT result is only one of many factors the officer considers in determining whether the subject should be arrested for OWI. It should never be the sole basis for an OWI arrest. In Michigan, the PBT has evidentiary limitations.

¹ <https://bit.ly/3EadjZ7>

² Id.

³ Id.

⁴ Id.

⁵ <https://bit.ly/3fKcpcc>

⁶ Id.

⁷ Id.

The Arrest Decision

Your arrest/no arrest decision is "based on the totality of the circumstances" of the three phases of an OWI investigation. If all the evidence, taken together, establishes probable cause to believe an OWI has been committed, you should arrest the subject for OWI.

Make the right choice for everyone.

DRIVE SOBER

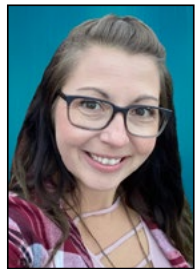


INSIDE THE OHSP

OHSP WELCOMES

Joy Marks joined the OHSP in October as an accounting technician.

Before coming to the OHSP, Joy was with the Michigan Department of Transportation for 7.5 years working in its Financial Operations Division. Previously, she was in the Army, stationed at Fort Campbell before being deployed to Afghanistan and serving as a 92A Automated Logistical Specialist.



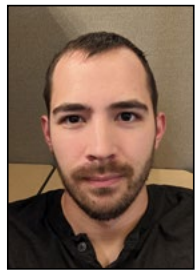
Joy, who earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Ferris State University, is the mother of two boys, aged 3 and 10. She enjoys spending time with family and camping at Silver Lake.

Josh Schneider recently joined the OHSP as its new grant system analyst.

He comes to the OHSP Planning and Administration Section from the Cone Top Brewery Museum in Vicksburg.

Josh earned a master of public history degree from Western Michigan University and a bachelor of arts degree in history from Aquinas College. He met his wife at school in Grand Rapids, and they lived there until buying a house in the Lansing area last year. They have a one-year-old son and have another baby on the way.

Josh is a lifelong fan of baseball and the Detroit Tigers. Recently, the family has been watching playoff baseball and keeping up with the new season of *Survivor*.



OHSP VIDEO FILES

The OHSP has released two animated videos that help drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians better understand how to navigate safely around work zones and in roundabouts. To view, click on the links:

["Safety in Work Zones for Drivers, Bicyclists and Pedestrians"](#)

["Safety in Roundabouts for Drivers, Bicyclists and Pedestrians"](#)



STAFF PROFILE

Alicia Sledge

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT SECTION MANAGER

What do you like most about your job?

I like knowing that the work that we do is helping to positively impact the lives of others.

What are you most proud of at work?

I'm always proud to see the growth of OHSP staff and in the expansion of programming efforts to keep people alive. Our work is not always celebrated, but knowing what we do is saving lives is good enough for me.

What are your interests and hobbies?

I LOOOOOVE my family, friends, food, and fun times. Most of the time that includes travel, shopping, gaming, TV/movies, casinos/bingo, and of course, food.

I also love my peace-and-quiet time at home, where I can be a couch potato and enjoy mindless but entertaining TV, with snacks nearby.

What is your favorite vacation spot?

Right now, my favorite vacation spot is Florida to visit my son, daughter-in-law, and grandchildren. Otherwise, I enjoy any sunny destination—with good food. =)



What personal achievement are you most proud of?

My children. I am so proud to see the great people that my son and daughter have become. They will always be my little babies—although they are 32 and 30 years old.

What's something people don't know about you?

I love to cook "experiments," which are recipes that look delicious, so I try to re-create them. My most recent experiment was a chicken stir-fry, which came out good. Next will be an Irish Soda Bread. I had never heard of this and don't know what it is, but I will find out soon. Wish me luck!

Ford Driving Skills holds free training for teens in Detroit

On October 22-23, Ford Driving Skills for Life (FDSFL) held a free hands-on clinic for teen drivers at Belle Isle in Detroit.

Instructors taught key skills, such as speed and space management, as well as vehicle handling. Traffic safety experts also highlighted the dangers of distracted and impaired driving. Using teaching tools such as impairment goggles in simulated exercises, teens were able to see how dangerous excessive alcohol consumption could be in a real driving situation.

For more information about FDSFL, [click here](#). For more teen-driving resources, visit www.michigan.gov/TeenSafeDriving.



FALL DRE SCHOOL GRADUATES 17



Seventeen law enforcement officers from across Michigan recently completed this year's Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) School.

Seven troopers, six deputy sheriffs, and four local officers completed the training to become certified DREs.

The classroom portion of the training was held in September and took place in Auburn Hills, followed by Field Certification training, which was held in October and took place

in Jacksonville, Florida. In addition, three prosecutors audited the classroom segment to enhance their knowledge of DRE and the training involved.

The DRE program offers an academically challenging curriculum developed to enhance officer's ability to identify, evaluate, and document suspected drug impairment.

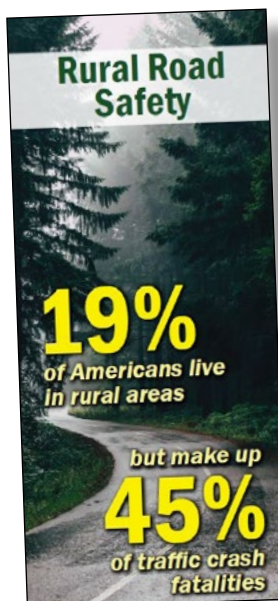
The next DRE school will take place in March/April of 2023.

November

- Nov. 1 - April 2023: *Buckle Up in Your Truck*
- Nov. 1 - March 2023: Third District IMPACT (Impaired Driving Action Team) enforcement

December

- Dec. 5-9: Older Driver Awareness Week
- Dec. 1 - February 2023: Speed enforcement
- Dec. 16 - Jan. 1, 2023: *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over* enforcement



Brochures highlight rural road safety, deer-vehicle crashes

The OHSP recently produced a new brochure that provides drivers with information and suggestions on how to travel safely on rural roadways. In addition, the *Watch for Deer All Year* brochure was redesigned and expanded to include information on what to do if you do hit a deer.

The free brochures can be ordered through the OHSP online catalog of traffic safety materials. Click here to reach [the OHSP materials page](#), where you can review the items available and also place an order using a PDF form.

