

Michigan Driver Education

Segment 2 Risk Awareness Fact Sheets



Michigan Department of State
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Michigan Driver Education Segment 2 Risk Awareness Fact Sheets

Foreword

The Michigan Driver Education Segment 2 curriculum objectives are centered on risk awareness factors for young drivers such as driving inexperience, passengers, road and weather conditions, impaired driving, distractions, and seat belt use. These fact sheets are supplemental materials to the prescribed curriculum used by Michigan driver education providers and instructors to assist them in teaching teens about teen driving risks. The overall goal is to help teens become safe drivers and to reduce teen traffic crashes, injuries, and fatalities.

Unless otherwise indicated, “young driver” statistics include drivers ages 16 and 17 and are from 2016-2020. All statistics come from Michigan Traffic Crash Facts at michigantrafficcrashfacts.org/, accessed August 27, 2021, unless otherwise noted.

Michigan Driver Education Segment 2 Risk Awareness Fact Sheets

Fact Sheet 1: Why Should Young Drivers aged 16 and 17 be Concerned?

Risk is the chance of death, injury, damage, or loss.

- 16,790 sixteen- and seventeen-year-old drivers were involved in a property damage, injury, or fatal crash each year.
- 10 percent of 16- and 17-year-old drivers were involved in a crash during the first three years of driving.
- 9.2 percent of 16-year-old drivers had a crash before his/her 17th birthday.
- 78 sixteen- and seventeen-year-olds were involved in a fatal crash either as a driver, passenger, bicyclist, or pedestrian each year.
- Approximately 27 young drivers in Michigan were involved in a fatal crash each year from 2016-2020.
- Major reasons for young driver crashes:
 - Inexperience
 - Failure to adjust speed adequately for traffic, curves, and slick surfaces.
 - Failure to recognize hazardous situations is the underlying error in most crashes.
 - Lack of attention to driving caused by distractions.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Identify and explain possible errors of inexperience.
2. Why are new drivers at such a higher risk compared to other age drivers?
3. How far-reaching is the impact when a young driver or passenger is killed in a crash?
4. What about the impact on a driver or passenger who survives a fatal crash?

Michigan Driver Education Segment 2 Risk Awareness Fact Sheets

Fact Sheet 2: When Do Young Driver Crashes Occur?

- Between 1996, when the first three-stage graduated driver licensing program was implemented in the United States, and 2015, teenage crash deaths declined by 53 percent (from 5,819 to 2,715).¹
- 50.4 percent of all young driver fatal crashes occurred in daylight.
- 31.4 percent of all young driver fatal crashes occurred in the dark on unlit roads.
- The most dangerous time of day for young driver fatal crashes is the three-hour period after school (2:00 PM to 5:00 PM).
- 16.8 percent of young driver fatal crashes occurred between 9:00 PM and Midnight.
- 14.6 percent of young driver fatal crashes occurred between Midnight and 6:00 AM.
- 30.7 percent of young driver fatal crashes occurred on Friday and Saturday.
- Nationwide, more than 30 percent of deaths involving teen drivers occurs during what's called the "100 Deadliest Days" - a period that runs from Memorial Day to Labor Day.²
- Over the five-year period from 2016-2020, the highest number of young driver fatal crashes (16) occurred in June.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. What is Michigan's Level 2 Intermediate License nighttime driving restriction? Why does it make sense?
2. Why is the "after school" period the most dangerous for young driver fatal crashes? How can you reduce your risk when driving after school?
3. Why is 9:00 PM to 6:00 am another dangerous period for young drivers? How can you reduce your risk when driving during this time?
4. Why is May through September a dangerous time period for young driver fatal crashes? What can you do to reduce your risk?

¹Traffic Injury Research Foundation GDL Framework <https://gdlframework.tirf.ca/module/the-issue/effectiveness-of-gdl-programs/#ref1>, accessed September 13, 2021.

²American Automobile Association: *The 100 Deadliest Days for Teen Drivers Have Begun*, June 2, 2021.

Michigan Driver Education
Segment 2 Risk Awareness Fact Sheets

Fact Sheet 3: Where Do Young Driver Crashes Occur?

- 92.0 percent of all young driver fatal crashes occurred on roadways with a speed limit of 55 MPH or less.
- 13.9 percent of young driver fatal crashes occurred on roadways with a speed limit of 35 MPH or less.
- 68.6 percent of young driver fatal crashes occurred on county roads or city streets.
- 5.1 percent of young driver fatal crashes occurred on interstate highways.
- Compared to older drivers, younger drivers are more likely to be involved in crashes where the road conditions are wet, icy, snowy, or the road is mud, dirt, or gravel.
- 68.6 percent of young driver fatal crashes occurred on sections of roadway where no traffic control devices are in effect.
- 47.4 percent of young driver fatal crashes occurred while driving a vehicle on a straight-away.
- 19.7 percent of young driver fatal crashes occurred at stop signs.
- 10.2 percent of young driver fatal crashes occurred on roadways where traffic control devices are in effect.
- 5.8 percent of young drivers in fatal crashes occurred while the young driver was making a left turn.
- 2.9 percent of young driver fatal crashes occurred while driving on a curve.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. How do speed limits affect young driver crashes?
2. How can you reduce your crash risk when driving on county roads? City streets?
3. Why are fatal crashes on interstate highways lower for young drivers?
4. Why do younger drivers experience more crashes than older drivers in various driving situations (e.g., snow, gravel, wet)?
5. What sections of the roadway do you consider most dangerous in the areas where you typically drive? How can you reduce your risk when driving in these areas?

Michigan Driver Education Segment 2 Risk Awareness Fact Sheets

Fact Sheet 4: Young Drivers + Passengers = Increased Risk

- Compared to driving with no passengers, a 16- or 17-year-old driver's risk of death per mile driven:³
 - Increases 44 percent when carrying one passenger younger than 21 (and no older passengers)
 - Doubles when carrying two passengers younger than 21 (and no older passengers)
 - Quadruples when carrying three or more passengers younger than 21 (and no older passengers)
- The young driver is killed in approximately one-third of all fatal crashes involving young drivers.
- In fatal crashes involving young drivers, passengers in the young driver's vehicle accounted for 50 percent of the fatalities.
- With other teens in the car, male drivers were nearly 6 times as likely to perform an illegal maneuver and twice as likely to drive aggressively before crashing than when driving alone.⁴

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. How do you reduce distraction while driving when you have peer passengers in your vehicle?
2. Being a passenger in a young driver's vehicle is more dangerous than being the driver. How do you reduce your risk when you are a passenger in a young driver's vehicle?
3. What have you discussed with your parents about limiting the number of passengers in your vehicle?
4. What is Michigan's Level 2 Intermediate License passenger restriction? Why does it make sense?

³ Tefft, B.C., Williams, A.F. & Grabowski, J.G. (2012). Teen Driver Risk in Relation to Age and Number of Passengers (Technical Report). Washington, D.C.: AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety.

⁴ Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) Passengers Fact Sheet.

https://www.michigan.gov/documents/msp/2020_OHSP_100Day_FactSheet_V3.1_Passengers_FINAL_696013_7.pdf
Accessed December 15, 2021.

**Michigan Driver Education
Segment 2 Risk Awareness Fact Sheets**

Fact Sheet 5: What Types of Vehicle(s) Are Young Drivers Driving?

- In fatal crashes involving young drivers, 74.5 percent of the vehicles driven by young drivers are 10 years old or older.
- In fatal crashes involving young drivers, 35.8 percent of the vehicles driven by young drivers are 15 years old or older.
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- One year after licensure, only 35 percent of young drivers are driving the types of vehicles recommended for them – midsize or large passenger cars.⁵

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Which is safer an older vehicle or a newer one? Why?
2. If you will be driving an older vehicle, what measures can you take to be safer?
3. What types of vehicles do you drive? What safety features do your vehicles have (i.e., antilock brakes, air bags, stability control, etc.)?
4. Visit these sites to learn about the crashworthiness and safety features of the vehicle you will be driving with your Level 2 Intermediate License:
 - Insurance Institute of Highway Safety iihs.org/ratings/default.aspx
 - National Highway Traffic Safety Administration www.safercar.gov
 - MyCarDoesWhat.org

⁵ Vehicles Driven by Teenagers in Their First Year of Licensure Allan F. Williams, William A. Leaf, Bruce G. Simons-Morton & Jessica L. Hartos; Pages 23-30 | Received 17 Aug 2005, Accepted 13 Oct 2005, Published online: 15 Aug 2006.

**Michigan Driver Education
Segment 2 Risk Awareness Fact Sheets**

Fact Sheet 6: In What Types of Crashes are Young Drivers Involved?

- In fatal crashes involving young drivers, 62.8 percent involved two or more vehicles.
- In fatal crashes involving young drivers, 36.5 percent were single vehicle incidents, compared to 49.1 percent for all Michigan driver fatal crashes.
- In fatal crashes involving young drivers, 17.5 percent were head-on with another vehicle.
- In fatal crashes involving young drivers, 2.9 percent were rear-end crashes.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Why are most fatal crashes involving young drivers multi-vehicle crashes?
2. What types of crashes are most likely to result in a fatality for young drivers? Why?

Michigan Driver Education
Segment 2 Risk Awareness Fact Sheets

Fact Sheet 7: What are the Road and Weather Conditions in Fatal Crashes?

- In fatal crashes involving young drivers, 79.6 percent occurred during fair weather conditions.
- In fatal crashes involving young drivers, 70.1 percent occurred on a dry road surface.
- In fatal crashes involving young drivers, 13.9 percent occurred on wet roads.
- In fatal crashes involving young drivers, 11.7 percent occurred during rainy weather conditions.
- In fatal crashes involving young drivers, 8.8 percent occurred during snowy weather conditions and 4.4 percent occurred on icy roads.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. What is the significance that most young driver fatal crashes occur on dry road surfaces and with fair weather conditions?
2. Do adverse weather and road conditions affect teen driver risk? Why?
3. What experience do you have driving in wet conditions? snowy or icy? What did you do differently to drive more safely in those conditions?

Michigan Driver Education Segment 2 Risk Awareness Fact Sheets

Fact Sheet 8: What Other Factors Contribute to Young Driver Fatal Crashes?

- In Michigan, 58.4 percent of the young drivers involved in fatal crashes were male drivers, while 41.6 percent were female drivers.
- People not wearing a seat belt are 30 times more likely to be ejected from a vehicle in a crash. More than 75 percent of those ejected during a fatal crash died from their injuries.⁶
- Seat belts increase the chances of surviving a crash by nearly 50 percent.⁷
- In Michigan, 10.8 percent of all young passenger vehicle drivers involved in fatal crashes were not using a seat belt.
- In Michigan 9.5 percent of all young drivers involved in fatal crashes had been drinking alcohol, compared to 16.7 percent for all drivers in fatal crashes.
- In Michigan 14.6 percent of all young drivers involved in fatal crashes had been using drugs, compared to 13.7 percent for all drivers in fatal crashes.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Why are more young male drivers involved in fatal crashes than young female drivers?
2. Why do some teenage drivers choose not to wear a seat belt? Is it a “smart” thing to do? How will you address this when you are the driver?
3. Why are there fewer alcohol-related fatal crashes involving young drivers?
4. What are the consequences for being convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol? Marijuana?

⁶ OHSP Seat Belts Fact Sheet,
https://www.michigan.gov/documents/msp/2020_OHSP_100Day_FactSheet_V3.1_SeatBelts_FINAL_696014_7.pdf,
Accessed December 1, 2021.

⁷ OHSP Seat Belts Fact Sheet.

Michigan Driver Education Segment 2 Risk Awareness Fact Sheets

Fact Sheet 9: How Big a Factor Are Distractions?

- Distracted driving is any activity that diverts attention from driving, including talking or texting on your phone, eating and drinking, talking to people in your vehicle, fiddling with the stereo, entertainment, or navigation system — anything that takes your attention away from the task of safe driving.⁸
- Sending or reading a text takes your eyes off the road for 5 seconds. At 55 mph, that's like driving the length of an entire football field with your eyes closed.⁹
- 1 out of 3 teens who text says they've done so while driving, which increases crash risk by 23 times.¹⁰
- In crashes from 2016-2020 where a young motor vehicle driver was distracted, 58.9 percent were rear-end crashes.
- 6.1 percent of young drivers were distracted in Michigan crashes.
- Of the distracted young drivers in Michigan, 14.1 percent were distracted by a cell phone.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. What is the Michigan law regarding mobile phone use? Texting while driving?
2. Do you think you will be tempted to use your phone while driving?
3. Research reveals that young drivers' brains may not be fully developed until the age of 25. As a young driver, what impact might this have on your ability to drive safely?
4. What steps will you take to remain focused while driving?
5. Do you think that distractions are more or less likely to cause problems for inexperienced drivers? Why?

⁸ National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) <https://www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/distracted-driving>
Accessed December 10, 2021.

⁹ NHTSA <https://www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/distracted-driving> Accessed December 10, 2021.

¹⁰ OHSP Distracted Driving Fact Sheet

https://www.michigan.gov/documents/msp/2020_OHSP_100Day_FactSheet_V3.1_DistractedDriving_FINAL_696011_7.pdf Accessed December 15, 2021.

**Michigan Driver Education
Segment 2 Risk Awareness Fact Sheets**

Profile of a Michigan Fatal Crash Involving a Young Driver

Male driver

Level 2 Intermediate License within past six months

Driving on a dry county road during daylight

Straight stretch of roadway without a traffic control device present

Peer passengers in the vehicle

Distractions present

Failure to recognize a hazardous situation

Multi-vehicle crash occurs

Passenger is killed