

SPREAD THE WORD

Relationship to Family and Consumer Science



BEHIND THE WHEEL

THE EPIDEMIC

Motor vehicle crashes are the number one killer of teens in America, resulting in more than half of all teen deaths in the U.S each year.

Teens are at more of a risk of dying in car crashes, being 10 times more likely to die in a car accident than the average driver.

Approximately 6000 teens die each year in motor vehicle accidents, the equivalent of loading a commercial jet full of teens and crashing it once a week, every week. For every teen that is killed in an accident, about 100 are injured. Some of these injuries, such as burns, or loss of limbs, or even paralysis can drastically change a person's life.

Inexperience kills

The less experience a teen driver has, the more likely they are to be involved in a motor vehicle crash. Teens should avoid the five major risks to teen drivers:

1. Night Driving
2. Distractions
3. Speeding
4. Seat Belts
5. Drugs and alcohol

Night driving is the number one cause to motor vehicle crashes to teens. There are many reasons night driving is number one, it is more difficult to see, the lights of other cars, and various other things contribute to the accidents.

Special points of interest:

- Driving at Night
- Distractions
- Speeding
- Not wearing seat belts
- Alcohol

TEENS IN THE DRIVER SEAT

America's first peer-to-peer safety program for young drivers, Teens in the Driver Seat focuses on students spreading the message to their peers. Thanks to the Teens in the Driver's seat website and various other means, the

information is being spread to teens across Texas. Information from the sight and other various flyers contributes to the information gathered in this article. The program started in San Antonio Texas, and is

the only program of its kind. The amount of traffic to t-driver.com has gone up 1500 percent in the last year. That's approximately 3000 visitors per month! Both administrators and students are eager to try the program.

Evidence of Problem-solving Skills

1. Step one: Identify and analyze the problem.

- Car crashes are the number one killer of teens in America. Too many teens are unaware of the risks of driving

2. Step two: Collect and analyze the data.

- On average, 6,000 teens die in car crashes each year in America. That is similar to crashing a 737 jet filled with high school students once every week.

- Teenagers are 10 times more likely to die in a car crash than adults in their 30's. Teenagers have less experience driving, and are unaware of how to deal with distractions.

- Teenage drivers make up 15% of all car crashes in America. Out of 100 car crashes, 15 of those will involve a teen driver.

- Out of 272 Winnsboro High School students, 53% use their phones while driving. Of those students surveyed, 43% of the students text while driving.

3. Step three: Consider possible solutions.

Solution 1: Identify a group of people to get the message out to teen drivers, that they will listen to.

Solution 2: Let them know the top 5 causes of teen car crashes.

Solution 3: Develop several technological projects to help educate teens about driving safely.

Evidence of Problem-solving Skills Continued

4. Step four: Choose best plan.

- Teach the teen driver's about the top 5 risks of driving that include driving at night, distractions, speeding, not wearing seatbelts, and alcohol. Plan monthly activities to continually emphasize safe driving practices by teens in the Winnsboro community.

5. Step five: Implement the plan.

- Research teen traffic safety.
- Kick off "Green Week".
- Post the Top 5 around the school.
- Host a myspace page that teens can visit to see the top 5 and to learn how to avoid being a statistic.
- Announce the leading causes of car crashes on the intercom.
- Create a video to broadcast on the school television station and to launch on Youtube.com.
- Relate traffic safety to all areas of academics.

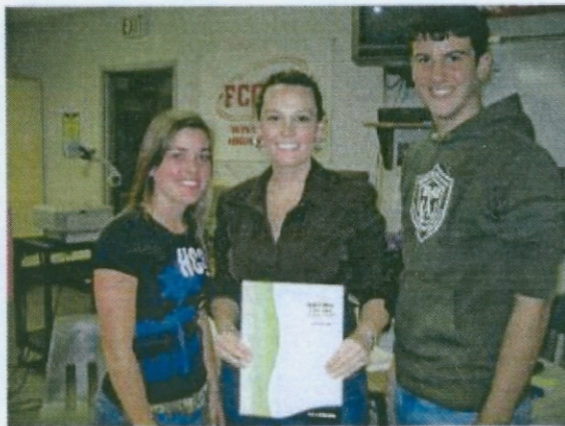
6. Step six: Observe, evaluate, and adjust.

- Observe the changes in the statistics and in the driving behaviors of the teen drivers.
- Evaluate the changes to determine if the changes are negative or positive.
- Adjust to the changes by coming up with new ideas to get teens attention about the avoidable risks of being a teen driver.

Calendar of Events

November

- Met with Christie Madsen from Texas Transportation Institute to plan “Teens in the Driver Seat” project and order promotional items.
- 16th of each month wear green and send e-mail or myspace message to all friends with safe driving tip.



- For Thanksgiving- make sashes with Indian names. WRITE seatbelt safety message on sash.
Ex: “Big Bear rides with seatbelt on”



December

- Plan and make materials for “Teen in the Driver Seat Kick off Green Week”
 - Signs for all WHS doors
 - Clock signs
 - Restroom signs
 - Candy with signs for each student (1st Block teachers pass one out each day of kick off week.
 - Safe driving tip announcements were made daily during the week on the School Public Address System



- Wrap large boxes and give to all 1st block teachers to open and read to their class. Inside the box the papers say “the best gift you can have this season is a safe arrival at your destination.”



- Parking lot Check Day we stood in the WHS parking lot and checked seatbelt use. People using seatbelts got “smartie” candy. People without seatbelts were given “dumb dumb” suckers and a note explaining hour seatbelts save lives.
- 16th of each month wear green and send e-mail or myspace message to all friends with safe driving tip.

January

- “Start the new year with new habits” Classes made posters and hung up around school.
- New Years Resolution banner



- 16th of each month wear green and send e-mail or myspace message to all friends with safe driving tip.
- Make myspace page for project
- Develop school website for FCCLA publicizing “Teens in the Driver Seat.”
- Make video promoting “Teens in the Driver Seat 5 safety tips.”
- Publish video on utube.
- Televisе video on WHS Channel One TV



February

- Wax lips with notes- “Pucker up, Buckle up, and be my Valentine.”



- 16th of each month wear green and send e-mail or myspace message to all friends with safe driving tip.
- Develop graphics for billboard design that will be advertised in Winnsboro.

March

- 16th of each month wear green and send e-mail or myspace message to all friends with safe driving tip.
- For St. Patrick's Day- distribute Green Beads with an attached note listing top 5 reason for tee car crashes
- Sponsor “Who Can Wear the Most Green” competition. The winner receives Teens in the Driver Seat T-Shirt



April

- Design and make flyers that list specific driver laws and place on cars in the WHS parking lot. "Don't be a FOOL, follow the rules."
- 16th of each month wear green and send e-mail or myspace message to all friends with safe driving tip.
- For Easter, make decals with teen driver safety tips and place on plastic eggs. Fill the eggs with Jolly Rancher candy with notes that read "Be JOLLY, drive without distractions."



May

- 16th of each month wear green and send e-mail or myspace message to all friends with safe driving tip.
- For Mother's Day, sell promise flowers complete with technology generated notes that read, "this flower is my way of saying I promise to drive safely so that I can see you every Mother's Day from now on."
- To celebrate the end of the school and the project, we are planning an FCCLA party. FCCLA members will wear their Teens in the Driver Seat t-shirt. Every type of food will have a note that encourages safe teen driving practices. We will end the celebration with a cake decorated with a picture of FCCLA members and the 5 teen safety tips for driving. We will design the cake on the computer. One of our FCCLA members works in the Brookshire's Bakery and will teach us how to make the edible cake picture.



Technology Used

• Use of E-Mail

On the **16th** of every month, Winnsboro High School teens forward Teens In The Driver Seat safety messages to everyone in their entire contact list.

For example:

- 470 students and faculty
- An average of 33 e-mail contacts each
- Would equal 15,510 safe driving messages would be sent monthly

