The Invisible Dead

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Did You Know That Young Drivers 16 to 24 Years of Age

- Represent 14% of all drivers
- Participate in 28% of all collisions
- Represent 21% of the people who die in crashes
- Represent 33% of people who die in crashes with fixed objects
- 29% of no collision crashes (rollovers and leaving the road)
- 25% of crashes with trains.
Did You Know That

- Every day 29 people between 16 and 24 years of age die in a traffic “accident”
- 29 set of parents will find out today they lost a child
- 29 Funeral homes will be contacted
- 29 Graves will be filled TODAY.
Did You Know That

- 111,000 Citizens died from all sources of accidental death
- 45,000 of those died in motor vehicle collision.
- 28% of all those collisions involved young drivers
- 21% of the people who died were young drivers.
Why are these the Invisible Dead?

- 50,000 citizens died during 10 years of the Vietnam war. There were marches on Washington, posters, ribbons, songs, celebrities, and a memorial.

- Young drivers die alone or in small groups, and small markers dot our roadways nationwide, yet there is no posters, ribbons, songs, marches, or celebrities working to eliminate this epidemic.
How Do You Make Something Invisible?

- If you want to make something Invisible make it someone else’s problem.
  
  Doug Adams.
Friends Can Save Friends

- Teens must make this an issue of their time.
- You can make a difference

Non Provisional Drivers make a contract with your friends that you will come and get them out of dangerous situations no questions asked, no lectures and no recriminations. Provisional Drivers make a contract with your parents.
Take Your Case to The Online Community

- Where are the songs or poems about the epidemic of teens fatalities?
- Where are the celebrities that make this epidemic their cause?
- Where are the Internet messages and movies calling attention to this epidemic of invisible dead.
It Is An Epidemic

- 29 young drivers a day equals 10,635 individuals per year.
- 5,000 Teens between the ages 16 and 18 die each year.
- If one chicken dies in this country, the press will panic about the arrival of bird flu, yet 10,000 young people can die every year and there is no national outcry.
- Teens must save Teens.
Highlight the highest risks to new drivers!

- Speed Kills
- Alcohol and Drugs Kill
- Distracted Driving Kills
- Multiple Teens in a vehicle dramatically increases crash risk

- Seatbelts save lives
Is it worth the risk?

- For every 10 miles per hour over 50 mph, the risk of death in a traffic crash is doubled.
- Going 10 miles at 50 mph takes 12 minutes
- 65 mph takes 9 min. 14 sec. 3x Risk of Death
- 75 mph takes 8 minutes 6X Risk Of Death
- 85 mph you save only 4 minutes and 57 seconds but your risk of death is 12 times as great.
Reducing Risk
No Alcohol Use

- 25% of teen drivers killed in 2002 crashes had BAC of .08 or higher

- .05 – .08 BAC increases fatality risk
  - 7x for females
  - 17x for males

- .08 – .10 BAC increases risk even more
  - 15x for females
  - 52x for males
Reducing Risk
Limit Passengers

Crashes per 10,000 trips

Driver Age 16-17
Driver Age 18-19
Driver Age 30-59

0 Passengers 1 Passenger 2 Passengers 3+ Passengers
Reducing Risk
Mandatory Seat Belt Use

Seat belts are effective in saving lives, but only if teens wear them.

- Teen victims wore safety belts (33%)
- Victims did not wear safety belts (67%)
Reducing Risk
Ban Cell Phone Use

- Scientific research shows:
  - Cell phones are significant distractions
  - Teen reaction times reduced with cell use
  - Hands-free does not reduce risk
  - 50% of a recent survey of teens admitted to sending a text message while driving.
Reducing Risk
Choose The Right Car

- Best choice for teens is “basic” car with excellent safety characteristics.
  - Size matters
  - Style/horsepower should not encourage “show off” behavior
Seat Belts Save Teen Lives

- Seat Belts are effective in preventing serious injury.

    YET

- Rollover Crashes are just 3% of Crashes
  Yet 33% of Passenger Fatalities
  72% of Rollover Fatalities were not belted.
Those are the facts

- Make the correct choice.
- Don’t ride with those that choose high risk
- Rescue each other from the real killer that stalks every young teen
- Spread the word among other teens and share the gift of life
- Remember you would be badly missed – Help us save others - make good choices and share ways to help others do the same.