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Study Reveals 1 in 25 Teens Drive Without a License

A study released in the November issue of Pediatrics and conducted by Center researchers focuses on an often-overlooked group of teen drivers: those without a license. The 2006 National Young Driver Survey (NYDS) of more than 5,500 teens across the country revealed that about 6 percent of students in grades 9 through 11 reported driving unsupervised without a license. However, according to the national fatality data, a full 20 percent of 14- to 18-year-old drivers involved in fatal crashes in 2006 did not have a license. This means unlicensed teens are significantly over-represented in fatal crashes. According to the NYDS, unlicensed teen drivers engage in more unsafe driving behaviors than those with a license, such as not wearing seat belts, driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol, and driving without a purpose. These behaviors are known to increase the likelihood of a crash becoming fatal. To learn more: Read the Health Day article Read the press release

Evaluating "Ride Like A Friend"

The Center’s Young Driver Research team recently completed a pilot site evaluation of “Ride Like A Friend/Drive like you Care,” an initiative designed to increase awareness of teen driver and passenger safety that took place during the second annual National Teen Driver Safety Week (NTDSW) in October. The peer-to-peer initiative involved two pilot high schools in Pennsylvania-Pennsbury and Radnor-representing a student population of more than 4,000. The pilot site evaluation included pre-surveys and post-surveys, post-campaign focus groups with student organizers, and key informant interviews with school leaders, administrators, teachers, and supporting community action group members. Results from the survey data, including changes in driver and passenger knowledge, attitudes, and behavioral intentions will be analyzed and used as input to future interventions, including activities during NTDSW. Next year’s NTDSW will take place October 18 to 24, 2009.

The research team engaged more than 700 teens to create content for the initiative. The online planner, www.ntdw2008.org, featured evidence-based and teen-informed messages and activities to help teens, parents, and schools/organizers take action to prevent teen driver crashes and injuries. More than 100 high schools, including the two pilot schools, used “Ride Like A Friend” online resources, including activities and materials to promote teen driver safety in their schools during NTDSW.

Walking to End Youth Violence

The Philadelphia Collaborative Violence Prevention Center (PCVPC) sponsored a team that walked a mile to eliminate youth violence. Held on October 25 at the Starfinder Urban Promise Center in Manayunk, PA, The Relay to End Youth Violence brought together community members, youth-serving organizations, adolescents, and teens to raise money and awareness of this growing problem in Philadelphia. For more information on the PCVPC, visit its recently launched website at www.chop.edu/pcvpc, which now includes violence prevention resources, updates on the Center’s research activities, data about violence prevention in Philadelphia, and much more.

Helping Families Cope With Injury

The Injury Center's Child and Adolescent Reaction to Injury and Trauma (CARIT) Research Program has reached an important milestone. It recently completed enrollment for the CBC-funded Stepped Preventive Care study, which was conducted over a two-year period. When follow-up data is complete, this study will increase researchers’ understanding of how to prevent traumatic stress symptoms in parents and children after injury. The study is evaluating screening tools and intervention methods to promote emotional recovery that are integrated into medical care following injury. Leading the effort is Nancy Kassam-Adams, PhD, director of behavioral science at the Center for Injury Research and Prevention and co-director of the Center for Pediatric Traumatic Stress at CHOP.

Research Sponsors Wanted

Our center is performing cutting-edge research on injury prevention in children. Doctors and researchers at the Center for Injury Research and Prevention partner with industry and academia to determine ways to prevent injuries and to effectively cope when injuries do occur. If you are interested in sponsoring our research, please call Karen Matthews, the Center’s administrative director, at 215-590-3118.

Recent Presentations from the Injury Center

- Balasubramanian S, Seearcist T, Hopely T, Sterner R, Maltese M, Constants E, Arbogast K. Cervical spine...
Recent Publications from the Injury Center