

# Traffic Crashes — # 1 Cause of Death For Teens



## Leading Causes of Death in Ohio's 15 – 19 year-olds in 2002.

Cause of Death	Number of Deaths
<b>Traffic Crashes</b>	<b>193</b>
<b>Suicide</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>Homicide</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Cancer</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Heart Disease</b>	<b>19</b>

## Parent Involvement Matters

Studies show that new drivers who are supervised have very few crashes. Developing necessary skills for safe driving is a complex task and can only be learned after many hours of practice. Driver's education is a first step, but a parent's role in teaching students to drive is crucial. Following are tips for parents.

- Require safety belt use at all times.
- When you drive, set a good example.
- Take time and practice with your teen while they have their permit and during their first year of licensed driving. Give positive feedback frequently and remain calm.
- Set a limit on the number of passengers in the car, especially multiple teens, to minimize distractions.
- Prohibit driving while excessively fatigued.
- Discuss the dangers and legal consequences of driving impaired.
- Take time to discuss driving rules and consequences. Strike a written contract between you and your teen.
- Expose your teen to different driving conditions including wet roads, snow, highways, rural and metro roadways, night driving, etc. Practice on roads unfamiliar to the teen.
- Choose vehicles for safety, not image.
- Allow brand new drivers to drive without supervision only when conditions are favorable. Gradually allow them to take on more driving situations.
- Review the Ohio Responsible Driver Handbook.

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