

Motor Vehicle Occupant Safety

Young children, teens & adults

Month, Day, 2017

ISSUE BRIEF

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◆ Facts about motor vehicle crashes

In the United States...

- More than 32,000 people are killed and two million are injured each year from motor vehicle crashes.
- Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death during the first three decades of life.
- The crash death rate was more than twice the average of other high-income countries in 2013.

In Iowa... [insert facts about your state]

- Between 2003 – 2012, over 3,160 motor vehicle occupants were killed.
- The rate of motor vehicle occupant death in 2012 for all ages was higher than the national rate (8.7 per 100,000 in Iowa compared to 7 per 100,000 nationally).
- Among motor vehicle occupant deaths in 2015, 45% were not adequately restrained.

◆ Policies to promote motor vehicle occupant safety

- **Child restraint laws** require approved restraint devices appropriate for child's age, weight and height. Best practices: rear-facing child safety seats until age two; five-point harness until at least age four; and booster seats to at least age eight or until seat belt fits correctly.
- **Graduated Driver License programs** give new teen drivers a provisional license to drive without supervision under low risk driving conditions. This license can restrict things like nighttime driving and driving with teen passengers.
- **Distracted driving laws** ban texting and using a hand-held phone while driving and have increased penalties, such as like higher fines or making violations a primary offense.
- **Primary seat belt laws** allow police officers to stop and ticket someone for not using a seat belt, rather than only if the driver has been pulled over for another reason. Best practices include driver and all passengers, including back-seat ones.
- **Drunk driving laws** include ignition interlocks installed in cars of to measure alcohol on the driver's breath who has been convicted of Operating While Intoxicated (OWI).

Does Iowa have this?

*rear-facing until age 1 and 20 lbs; booster seat until age 5



*has both night and teen passenger restrictions



*bans texting while driving & primary offense



* only covers drivers and front seat passengers



◆ Examples of prevention

- **Educational & incentive-based programs** that give prizes/coupons for correctly using car seats
- **Short-term, high visibility enforcement** like checkpoints and saturation patrols
- **Car seat distribution & education programs** that give access to car seats and teach proper use/installation
- **Mass media campaigns** to spread messages about the dangers of impaired driving

◆ Resources & Partners

⇒ This template was designed by the University of Iowa Injury Prevention Research Center. Other partners: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Safe States Alliance; National Highway Traffic Safety Administration; Safe Kids Worldwide

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Example: *Photo by Anthony Auston* <http://bit.ly/2fSSbtZ/> CC BY

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Where you can get facts about motor vehicle crashes in your state:

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

<https://www.cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety/seatbelts/states.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety/seatbelts/states-data-tables.html>

<https://wisqars.cdc.gov:8443/cdcMapFramework/>

<https://www-fars.nhtsa.dot.gov//QueryTool/QuerySection/SelectYear.aspx>

Where you can information about motor vehicle safety policies in your state:

The CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety/seatbelts/states.html>

The website of your state's legislature. For example: (Iowa's) <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/>

The website of your state department of transportation

Reports from you state's College of Public Health

For information on ignition interlock laws: <https://www.intoxalock.com/find-state-requirements>

Other helpful resources:

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA): <https://www.nhtsa.gov/>

Safe Kids Worldwide: https://www.safekids.org/?gclid=EAlaIqObChMIpJa-8ayC1gIVyUoNCh2jPwAaEAAYASAAEgIUy_D_BwE