

Coordinator's Report

Jackson County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition

April 2009

DATA FOR DUMMIES

TEEN DRIVERS

Traffic crashes continue to be the leading cause of death and injury for young drivers.

- In 2007, drivers 16-24 years of age constituted 15% of all drivers, yet were involved in 37.9% of all crashes and 37.7% of fatal crashes.

RESOURCES AND NEWS

TEEN DRIVERS: What Can Parents Do to Help?

Below are suggestions to help parents of teenagers establish ground rules surrounding driving. These guidelines are in line with Michigan's graduated drivers licensing program.

- **Don't rely solely on drivers education**
 - Supplement drivers' education classes with knowledge you have personally gained in your years of driving.
 - Educate your teenager(s) about the use of cell phones, especially texting, while driving.
- **Know the law**
 - Become familiar with the Michigan graduated license requirements and restrictions by visiting the Michigan Department of State's website.
- **Restrict night driving and # of passengers**
 - Night time driving requires more skill
 - Crash risk for teenage drivers increase incrementally with 1, 2 or 3 or more passengers.
 - Talk with your teenager about the distractions that additional passengers can cause.
- **Supervise practice driving**
 - Plan a series of situations and scenarios for your teenage driver.
- **Remember that you're a role model**
 - Practice what you preach.
- **Require safety belt use**
- **Prohibit drinking**
- **Choose vehicles for safety, not image**

LOCAL SPOTLIGHTS

NO DRUNK DRIVING CRASHES OCCURRED ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY

St. Patrick's Day was relatively calm in Jackson County, with no serious bar fights, no drunk-driving crashes and just 10 arrests countywide.

Jackson City Police arrested four people for alleged drunken driving, while Jackson Sheriff's deputies lodged three, Blackman Township officers arrested two, and a State Trooper nabbed one suspected drunk driver, Undersheriff Tom Finco reported.

OTHER RECENT NEWS...

- Budweiser pulls out of Jackson summer concert series
- Michigan House of Representatives takes up smoking ban debate
- Keg Registration Bill entered in the Michigan House
- Governor wants bars to stay open till 4 a.m.

April is Alcohol Awareness Month

COALITION ACTIVITIES

- School Toolkit is currently being reviewed by Thrun Law Firm
- Website development is underway
- Tobacco vendor education underway

UPCOMING COALITION ACTIVITIES

April 13..... Strategic Planning Committee, 12:00-1:30, UW
April 21..... Mid-South Regional Data Committee, Lansing
April 23..... ATOD Committee, 11:00-12:15, UW
April 29..... Tobacco Free Michigan Meeting, Lansing
May 5..... Data Committee, 3:15-4:30, UW
May 11..... Strategic Planning Committee, 12:00-1:30, UW