**BHEW Bulletin**

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**Drinking and Driving among Missouri Teens**



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* Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for teens aged 15-19[[1]](#endnote-1); in 2012, 127 Missouri teen drivers were killed in crashes[[2]](#endnote-2).
* Teenage drivers are ***17 times*** more likely to die in a crash when they have a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of above .08% than when they are sober[[3]](#endnote-3).
* According to the 2013 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS), about 1 in 5 Missouri high school students rode in a car with a driver who had been drinking alcohol in the past 30 days; among seniors, almost a third rode with a driver who had been drinking[[4]](#endnote-4).
* The number of Missouri high school students who reported that they drove under the influence doubled from 9th to 12th grade; about 1 in 7 high school seniors admitted to driving after drinking in the past 30 days4.
* Male students were 62% more likely than females to report driving after drinking; there were no gender differences in the percent who reported riding with a driver who had been drinking4.
* Studies show that alcohol retailer compliance checks, zero tolerance laws, graduated driver licensing systems, and parental involvement are all effective at reducing drinking and driving crashes among teens2.
* To see how various changes in state law could improve these statistics, check out <http://www.iihs.org/iihs/topics/laws/gdl_calculator?state=MO>
1. http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/departments/nrd-30/ncsa/STSI/29\_MO/2012/29\_MO\_2012.htm [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. <http://www.saferoads4teens.org/Missouri-0> [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. <http://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/TeenDrinkingAndDriving/index.html> [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. http://nccd.cdc.gov/youthonline/App/Default.aspx [↑](#endnote-ref-4)