



Quick Notes

from the Idaho Office of Highway Safety

March 25, 2013

REGISTER NOW

www.highwaysafetysummit.com

May 1-2, 2013.

Idaho Transportation Department - PO Box 7129 – Boise, ID 83707-1129

P: (208) 334-8100 F: (208) 334-4430 -- www.itd.idaho.gov/ohs

Fatalities for 2013 = 21

Message from the Highway Safety Manager

Hi Highway Safety Partners:

At the end of last year my sister Teresa and her college age daughter Anna came to visit me from Seattle. Since they flew to Boise I let her use one of my cars. After a couple of days she commented about the nice features of the car, but commented that she could not get rid of the "annoying dinging noise" and wondered if I had a solution. I stood at a crossroad. Indeed I had the easy solution, but would it be the right one that would have lasting positive impact?

I did not have much time to think, but did take the opportunity for some positive education on the benefits of clicking your seat belt every time and how I was very concerned for her well-being and wanted her to be part of my life for a long time. I *think* she was listening.

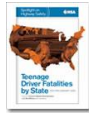
Teresa came back to Boise last Friday in her big suburban type vehicle. Anna was along and proudly reported her mother is now wearing her seat belt every time and (get this) is telling everyone her car does not move unless everyone is buckled in. What? This is my sister? Indeed it is true.

The reason I am telling this story is not that Brent did some good deed, but to convey that you never know when opportunity will appear to make a positive impact on highway safety. It does not matter if those opportunities come along in the form of education, engineering, enforcement or emergency medical services. The fact is that change can come about in little steps, and over time all the little steps added together makes for positive lasting changes that improves the quality of our lives. It will take most of us to embrace those positive opportunities and become engaged if we are going to see a lasting change in highway safety culture. By making a decision to reach out and engage others, the everlasting change can be huge. Together we can make a sustained difference as we all continue our journey Toward Zero Deaths on our roadways.

Brent Jennings, PE
Highway Safety Manager
brent.jennings@itd.idaho.gov

Teenage Driver Fatalities by State: 2012 Preliminary Data

Published February 2013



[Download Report](#) 

[183 KB, 14 pgs.]

News Release: [New Study: Teen Driver Deaths Increase in 2012](#) (Feb. 26, 2013)

Preliminary data indicate deaths of 16- and 17-year-old drivers are up 19 percent between the first six months of 2011 and the first six months of 2012. The data was provided by [GHSA members](#), who were surveyed in late 2012. All 50 states and the District of Columbia responded to the survey. This report analyzes the data provided.

If the final 2012 data follows this trend, then 2012 would be the second year in a row of increases in teen driver deaths, following eight years of decline. (GHSA had predicted the 2011 increase in teen driver deaths in [a similar report](#) last year).

The recent increase in teen driver deaths is presumably related to the partial economic recovery that has taken place, leading to more teens on the road and greater exposure to risk. Another possible explanation is that fewer states have been strengthening their [Graduated Driver Licensing systems](#) in recent years.

Renewed efforts to achieve further reductions in teen driver deaths include: strengthening [GDL systems](#) (and improving compliance with existing provisions); improved driver education and training programs; scientifically-based evaluation of the many programs addressing young drivers; and concentration of resources on those shown to have positive effects.

Pot Smoking Could Affect Driving for Weeks, Researchers Suggest

[The Car Connection- Car research made easy March 4, 2013.](#)

Does marijuana affect driving safety, and if so, how dangerous are pot-smoking drivers?

There's definitely evidence to suggest recent use might, even at somewhat low levels, increase the chances of an accident. But with recreational use now legal in Colorado and Washington, and medical use now allowed in a number of other states, what are 'safe' driving levels of THC (the active ingredient), and for how long after smoking should one be considered impaired?

According to new research appearing in [Clinical Chemistry \(full study\)](#), the journal of the American Association of Clinical Chemistry (AACC), cannabis can be detected in the blood, at a level that might affect driving, for weeks after the last 'intake.'

A Parent's Guide to Playing It Safe With Kids and Cars

Did you know three out of every four car seats are used incorrectly? The consequences can be devastating. In fact, vehicle crashes are one of the leading causes of death for children between 1 and 13 years old.



This booklet - [A Parent's Guide to Playing It Safe with Kids and Cars](#) - is designed to equip you with easy-to-understand information about today's vehicle safety features, car seats and how to keep your kids safe in and around vehicles.

In addition to an extensive list of vehicle makes and models and their safety features, you'll find an illustration with safety features that help protect your children; guidelines for choosing the right car seat; an explanation of ease-of-use ratings to help you evaluate car seat features; tips for installing car seats properly; and dangers in and around vehicles

To get you started, here's a preview of *Playing It Safe with Kids and Cars*:

Always Remember:

- Use a car seat for every trip - even when you're just going down the street.
- Select a car seat based on your child's age and size, and always follow the manufacturer's directions.
- Make sure your car seat is compatible with your vehicle by checking the car seat manufacturer's instructions.
- Keep kids in the back seat at least through age 12.

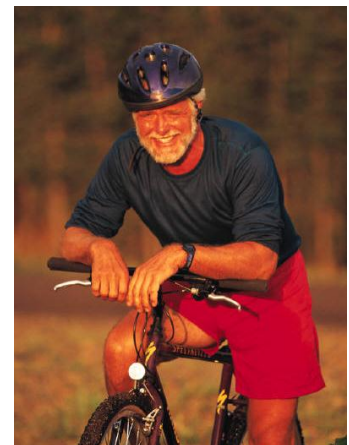
Additional resources can be found at www.safercar.gov.

Bicycle/Pedestrian Important Safety Reminders

With Spring finally here, we need to be reminded that there will be more pedestrian traffic on the roads and sidewalks. Here are some important safety reminders for bicyclists and motor vehicle operators.

All bicyclists should wear properly fitted bicycle helmets every time they ride. A helmet is the single most effective way to prevent head injury resulting from a bicycle crash.

Bicyclists are considered vehicle operators; they are required to obey the same rules of the road as other vehicle operators, including obeying traffic signs, signals, and lane markings. When cycling in the street, cyclists must ride in the same direction as traffic.



Drivers of motor vehicles need to share the road with bicyclists. Be courteous—allow at least three feet clearance when passing a bicyclist on the road, look for cyclists before opening a car door or pulling out from a parking space, and yield to cyclists at intersections and as directed by signs and signals. Be especially watchful for cyclists when making turns, either left or right.

Bicyclists should increase their visibility to drivers by wearing fluorescent or brightly colored clothing during the day, dawn, and dusk. To be noticed when riding at night, use a front light and a red reflector or flashing rear light, and use retro-reflective tape or markings on equipment or clothing.

Please make yourself and others aware of these simple reminders so that so that we all can have a safe and fun summer.

Motorcycle Safety

Spring is back and with it, motorcycles will be back on the roads. Idaho STAR, the state's motorcycle safety program, held a Spring Opener to kick off the motorcycle riding season and to reach riders with information to prevent crashes. The event was hosted and co-sponsored by High Desert Harley-Davidson in Meridian on Saturday, March 16, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Spring Opener included riding demonstrations, handouts, giveaways, and information about the factors involved in Idaho's motorcycle crashes. The focus was be on what riders can do to avoid those crashes. The event is free and open to the public.

"Fatalities in Idaho have been steadily declining for the last few years, thanks, in part, to motorcycle awareness campaigns," said Stacey "Ax" Axmaker, STAR Program Director. "We want to keep reminding riders about the importance of practice, training and keeping your riding skills sharp, and the Spring Openers are one more way to reach the riders of Idaho."

A review of all 7,738 motorcycle crashes statewide from 1996 – 2010 indicates that STAR training is associated with a 79 percent reduced crash risk and an 89 percent reduction in the risk of a fatal crash. "With numbers like this," said Axmaker, "we know that we can help our Idaho riders prevent crashes; we just need to reach them."

Rider training is not just for new riders; Idaho STAR has courses for all levels of riders and will be demonstrating some of the more advanced riding skills and techniques at the Spring Openers. This year, the program started three new courses to reach new and veteran riders (Introduction to Riding, Braking Skills Practice, and Cornering Skills Practice), offering a total of eight different courses.

The Idaho STAR Motorcycle Safety Program was established to reduce crashes and fatalities involving motorcyclists, primarily through rider training and education programs. STAR provides training for all levels of experience and ability, from people just thinking about buying a motorcycle, all the way up to expert riders.

You can find more information about Idaho STAR by calling them at 888-280-STAR, visit them online at idahostar.org, or find them at www.facebook.com/IdahoSTAR, and www.youtube.com/IdahoSTARProgram.

About Idaho STAR: The Idaho STAR Motorcycle Safety Program is an Idaho Division of Professional-Technical Education program and operates through the College of Southern Idaho. STAR is accredited by the National Association of State Motorcycle Safety Administrators (SMSA). STAR training is associated with a 79 percent reduced crash risk and an 89 percent reduction in the risk of a fatal crash. STAR provides courses for all levels of riders, taught by Idaho certified instructors.

Beyond the Traffic Stop Award Nomination

Do you know of an individual you would like to nominate for their work performed above and beyond the traffic stop? The Office of Highway Safety and the Law Enforcement Liaisons (LEL's) would like to give special recognition to those individuals and agencies during the 2012 Highway Safety summit on May 1-2, 2013. The **nomination deadline - Monday, April 15, 2013**. E-mail nomination to lisa.losness@itd.idaho.gov.

To make a nomination please provide the following information:

Agency: _____

Agency Chief / Sheriff: _____

Officer Name (if nominating an officer.) _____

Brief description of the traffic stop and the work that took it beyond... *i.e. did the stop lead to an arrest of a felon, a drug bust or other extraordinary work, this must be the result of a single stop, not the culmination of a year's worth.* _____

Submitted by: _____

Date: _____

Register now for the next webinar in the *Preventing Underage Drinking*

series sponsored by the federal Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Prevention of Underage Drinking



(ICCPUD). ICCPUD member agencies hosting this event are the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the Office of National Drug Control Policy, and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

When: April 17, 2013, 2:00 to 3:15 p.m. EDT

Who: A panel of national experts on underage drinking prevention:

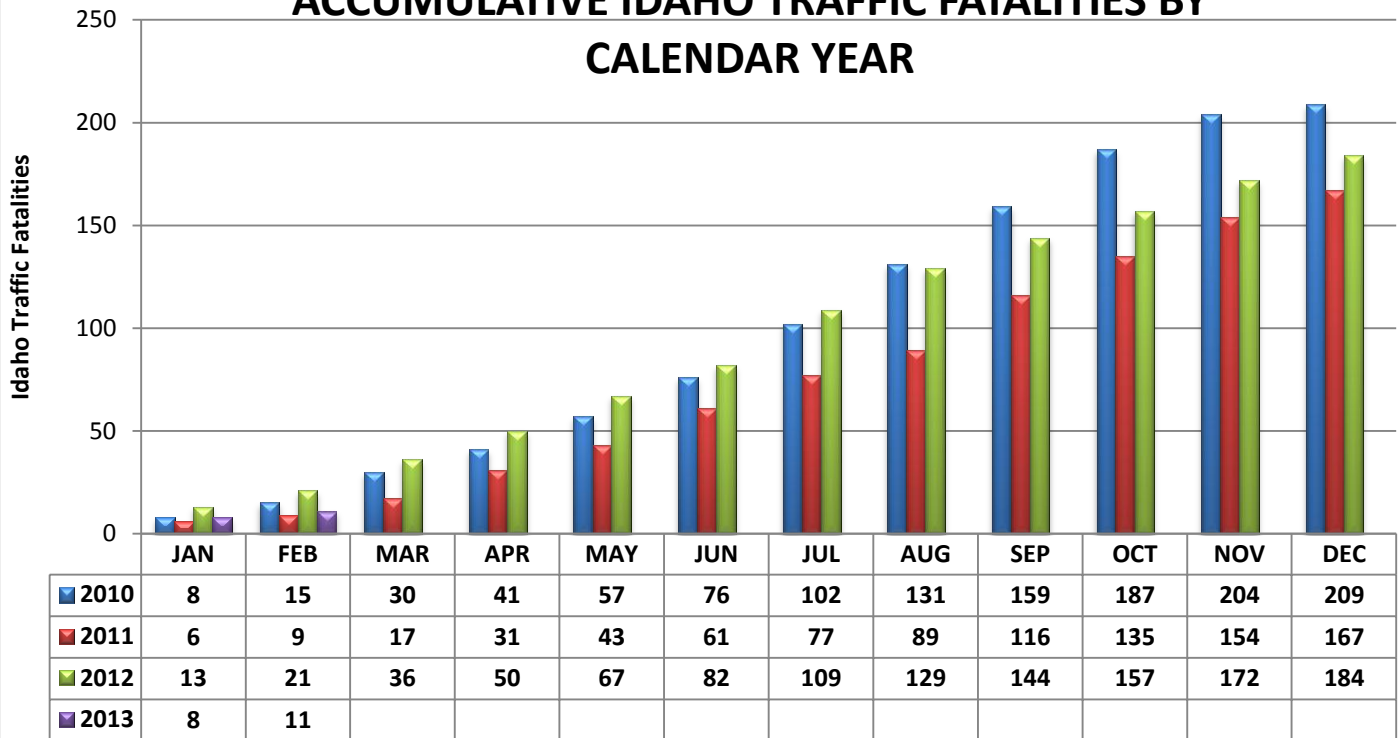
- Frances M. Harding, Director of the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, SAMHSA;
- Kelli A. Komro, Ph.D., M.P.H., Professor in the Department of Health Outcomes and Policy within the College of Medicine and the Associate Director of the Institute for Child Health Policy at the University of Florida;
- Robert F. Saltz, Ph.D., Senior Scientist for the Prevention Research Center in Berkeley, California; and
- Richard Spoth, Ph.D., F. Wendell Miller Senior Prevention Scientist and Director of the Partnerships in Prevention Science Institute, Iowa State University.

Why: Nearly 10 million 12- to 20-year-olds in the United States are underage drinkers. Underage drinking poses serious negative consequences for individuals, families, and communities. This webinar series features national leaders and experts discussing the extent and nature of the problem, lessons from recent research, and evidence-based strategies for addressing underage drinking.

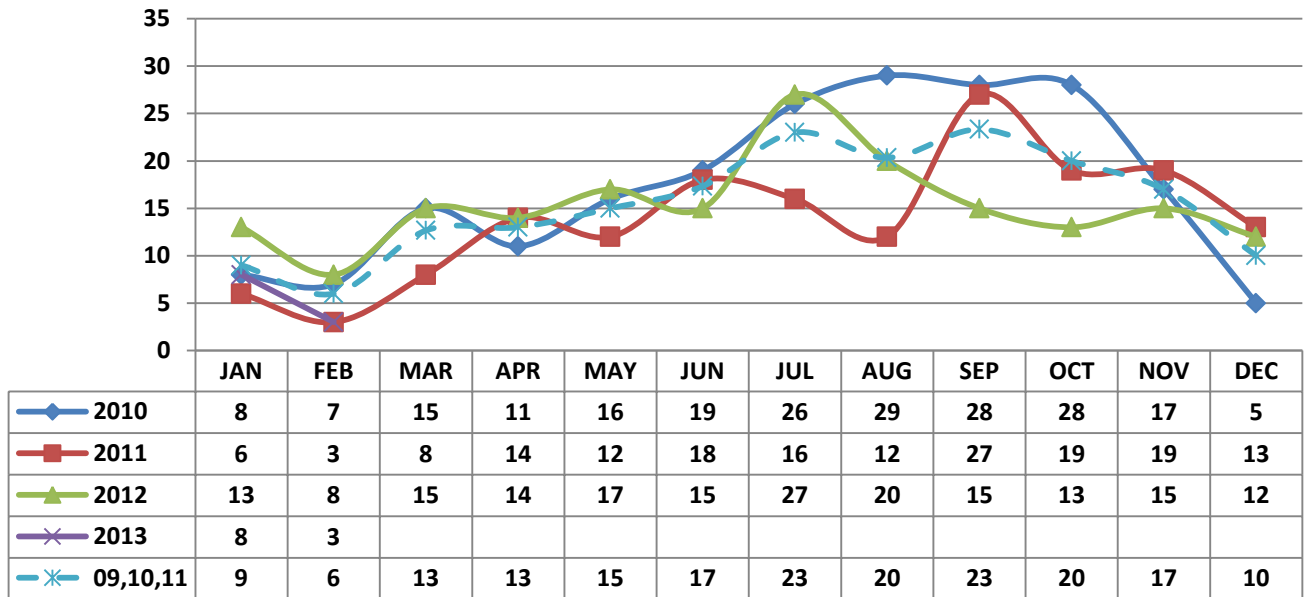
What: In this webinar, national experts will expand on the "shape of the solution" to underage drinking introduced by Ms. Harding during the first webinar in the series. The discussion will focus on evidence-based strategies for preventing underage drinking that are age and culturally appropriate and address both individual and environmental factors. Following their presentations, panelists will engage with participants in a live question-and-answer period.

Where: To find more information and to register, please visit www.stopalcoholabuse.gov.

ACCUMULATIVE IDAHO TRAFFIC FATALITIES BY CALENDAR YEAR



IDAHO MONTHLY TRAFFIC FATALITIES



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

If you would like to add an event to the calendar, please send an e-mail with the event details to lisa.losness@itd.idaho.gov

| Date | Event Description, Location |
|------------------------|--|
| 2013 | |
| Mar 23 | Alive at 25 , Meridian Police Dept., www.idsafedriver.org |
| Mar 26 | Alive at 25 , Orofino High School, www.idsafedriver.org |
| Apr 1 | Alive at 25 , Meridian Police Dept., www.idsafedriver.org |
| April 5-14 | Aggressive Driving – Statewide Traffic Enforcement Mobilization |
| Apr 20 | Alive at 25 , Idaho State Police Region 4, www.idsafedriver.org |
| May 1-2, 2013 | HIGHWAY SAFETY SUMMIT – Coeur d’Alene, Idaho |
| May 11 | Alive at 25 , Idaho State Police Region 4, www.idsafedriver.org |
| May 20 – June 2 | Seat Belt – Statewide Traffic Enforcement Mobilization |
| May 28 | Alive at 25 , Orofino High School, www.idsafedriver.org |
| June 29 – July 12 | Impaired Driving - Statewide Traffic Enforcement Mobilization |
| July 19 – Aug 4 | Aggressive Driving – Statewide Traffic Enforcement Mobilization |
| July 30 | Alive at 25 , Orofino High School, www.idsafedriver.org |
| Aug 7-12 | Bicycle/Pedestrian – Statewide Traffic Enforcement Mobilization |
| Aug 25 – Sept 8 | Impaired Driving - Statewide Traffic Enforcement Mobilization |
| Sept 24 | Alive at 25 , Orofino High School, www.idsafedriver.org |
| Dec 3 | Alive at 25 , Orofino High School, www.idsafedriver.org |

Quick Reference Guide – click on the topic to go directly to website.

[OHS](#), Office of Highway Safety

[ITD](#), Idaho Transportation Department

[NHTSA](#), National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[FHWA](#), Federal Highway Administration

[2011 Idaho Crash Report](#)

| Program Area | Idaho State Links | Federal Links |
|--------------------------|---|--|
| Impaired Driving | | http://www.nhtsa.gov/Impaired |
| Distracted Driving | http://www.itd.idaho.gov/ohs/DistractedDriving.htm | http://distraction.gov/ |
| Teen Drivers | http://www.idahoteendiving.org/ | http://www.nhtsa.gov/Teen-Drivers |
| Bike & Pedestrian Safety | http://www.itd.idaho.gov/bike_ped/index_new2.htm | http://www.nhtsa.gov/Pedestrians http://www.nhtsa.gov/Bicycles |
| Seat Belt Safety | http://www.itd.idaho.gov/ohs/ClickIt/ClickIt2.htm | http://www.nhtsa.gov/Driving+Safety/Occupant+Protection |
| Child Passenger Safety | http://www.itd.idaho.gov/ohs/ChildSafety/index.html | http://www.nhtsa.gov/Safety/CPS |
| Aggressive Driving | http://itd.idaho.gov/ohs/Aggressive.htm | http://www.nhtsa.gov/Aggressive |
| Motorcycles | www.idahostar.org | http://www.nhtsa.gov/Safety/Motorcycles |
| Senior/Mature Drivers | | http://www.nhtsa.gov/Senior-Drivers |
| Lane Departure | http://itd.idaho.gov/info/home_articles/safety_plan.htm | http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/roadway_dept |