

MEDIA RELEASE

ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



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Free teen driving safety program



The free "What Do You Consider Lethal?" teen driving safety program meets Pennsylvania Health Education Standards and can be customized to accommodate different durations and audience sizes.

Erie, PA — For Teen Driver Safety Week (October 17-23, 2022), educators and parents are encouraged to take advantage of the free interactive program "What Do You Consider Lethal?" to educate teens about safe driving. Schools and organizations can request this free program from the Erie County Department of Health.

"The number one killer of teens in America is car crashes caused by reckless and distracted driving," said Alex Whipple, health educator. "To help students keep themselves and their friends safe on roadways, the program lists the dangers of reckless and distracted driving, the importance of good decision making, and of understanding and following the Graduated Driver Licensing law. There are also optional resources and modules for parents that can be done individually or with their teens."

"It was a great addition to my 10th grade safety education curriculum," said Rachael Canfield, safety education teacher at Fort LeBoeuf High School. "It not only provided in-depth information about the dangers of distracted driving, but the personal stories that were shared left a lasting impression on many of my students. I would highly recommend scheduling this program as a part of any driver's training program. "

Customizable

This evidence-based program from Impact Teen Drivers meets Pennsylvania Health Education Standards. Based on a school or organization's needs, it can be offered to students or youth with customizable time duration in classrooms, assembly-style, or as modules for individual study. It can be presented virtually or in-person by a health educator from the Erie County Department of Health or a member of the school's staff who has taken the free Train the Trainers program.

The program empowers youth to make good choices in a vehicle as both drivers and passengers. "A unique feature of the program is that it does not use scare tactics to deliver its message," said Whipple. "Instead, it uses engaging quizzes, interactive tools, and real stories of teens whose lives have been impacted by preventable car crashes. Impact Teen Drivers connects emotionally to motivate young people toward positive behavior change."

Scott Boyd, school counselor at McDowell High School, said, "Students walk away with important information that leaves a lasting impression on them, leading to more mindful driving habits."

To bring the "What Do You Consider Lethal?" program to your school or organization, contact 814-451-6549 or gcrankshaw@eriecountypa.gov.

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