

COMMUNITY SAFETY

INDICATOR: VEHICLE CRASHES, UNDER-AGE DRINKERS

MEASURE

The proportion of total alcohol-related vehicular crashes involving registered drivers age 16-20 years occurring in Montcalm County.

WHY IS THIS INDICATOR IMPORTANT?

Michigan is one of several states that has enacted a graduated driver licensing system (1998) in an attempt to reduce crashes and injuries involving teen drivers. In July of 2003, the Michigan Department of State launched its "We Check to Protect!" public awareness campaign highlighting a new law (vertical drivers license for youth under 21) designed to keep Michigan's youth safe on and off the roads. However, the proportion of teen drivers involved in alcohol-related crashes continues to be of concern since the minimum legal drinking age (MLDA) laws prohibit the sale of alcohol to persons under the age of 21.

HOW WELL IS THE MONTCALM COUNTY DOING?

Both Michigan and Montcalm County have witnessed a decrease in the number of vehicular crashes by drinking drivers age 16-20 yrs over the period 1999 to 2009. Despite the decrease, this age group has accounted for 11.3% of Michigan crashes and 13.1% of Montcalm County crashes involving a drinking driver for the period 1999-2009. For Montcalm County, the number of crashes for 16-20 year-olds fell below double digits for the most recent two years data is available (2008 & 2009). The average rate of alcohol-related crashes for this age group for the period 1999-2009 was 3.6 per 1,000 persons age 16-20 years.

GOAL FOR MONTCALM COUNTY

Reduce the proportion of vehicular crashes involving a drinking driver among youth age 16-20 yrs. below 10% of total crashes or below the MI rate, whichever is less.

	16-20 yrs	21-24 yrs	25-34 yrs	35-44 yrs	45+ yrs	M.C. Total	% change
1999	20	24	45	36	21	146	
2000	29	21	43	44	28	165	13.0%
2001	18	27	25	38	18	126	-23.6%
2002	24	27	43	32	26	152	20.6%
2003	13	25	24	23	18	103	-32.2%
2004	21	20	19	15	22	97	-5.8%
2005	11	28	21	24	26	110	13.4%
2007	15	9	21	5	19	69	-37.3%
2008	6	23	26	18	22	95	37.7%
2009	7	22	24	16	23	92	-3.2%

Source: Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning, Michigan Traffic Crash Facts report. 2006 data was not available.

