

## **PARENTS CAN IMPACT TEEN TRAFFIC SAFETY**

- Talk with your teen about safe and unsafe driving behaviors.
- Discuss teen driving laws and their importance
- Extend the period of supervised driving. Teen drivers are inexperienced and need ongoing instruction throughout the first years of driving.
- Have your teen practice driving on different types of roads and in different driving conditions.
- Enforce the teen passenger restrictions. Crash risks go up significantly for teen drivers when other teens are in the car.
- Make sure your teen isn't driving in the dark for the first few months after he or she gets a license and enforce the teen curfew law.
- Don't allow your teen to use a cell phone or participate in other distracting behaviors while driving.
- Insist your teen always obeys the speed limit. Over 50% of all fatal teen crashes are caused by speeding.
- Be sure that your teen is well rested before hitting the road.
- Discuss what to do in potentially dangerous driving situations like poor weather conditions, rough roads, heavy traffic and running off the road.
- Lead by example. Your teens will mimic your driving behaviors.
- Ask your teen questions and be ready to listen.
- Create a Parent-Teen Driving Agreement.
- Remember that you are an influential person in your teen's life and what you say and do makes an impact.