

# Youth Transportation Safety (0-14)

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## The Problem

- The highest cause, on a whole, of death and injury to children ages 0-14 is motor vehicle crashes. To effect the greatest change, program areas that impact youth should be coordinated.
  - Greatest cause of crashes involving fatalities and injuries is overwhelmingly, speed too fast for conditions.
  - When a child is killed in an alcohol-related crash, 77% of the time the child is in the vehicle with the intoxicated driver.
- Recent years have seen no youth safety forums organized to discuss problems, share ideas, develop consensus on difficult issue, and devise strategies for future safety initiatives.
- The Healthy Kids Learn Better Partnership has included Transportation Safety Division as an additional partner in their collaboration with other state agencies to connect health and education for students and build supportive funding, leadership and policy. However, heavy emphasis is placed on other health issues, rather than the leading reason for children not making it to school.

## Oregon Crashes, 2001-2004

	96-00 Average	2001	2002	2003	2004	% Change 2001-2004
Fatalities, ages 0-4	10	9	4	9	11	22.2%
Fatalities, ages 5-9	9	11	6	8	11	0.0%
Fatalities, ages 10-14	12	16	11	11	11	-31.3%
Total	31	36	21	28	33	-8.3%
Injuries, ages 0-4	788	490	467	476	519	5.9%
Injuries, ages 5-9	964	744	770	748	739	-0.7%
Injuries, ages 10-14	1,265	994	998	963	871	-12.4%
Total	3,017	2,228	2,235	2,187	2,129	-4.4%

Source: Crash Analysis and Reporting, Oregon Department of Transportation

## Goal

- To reduce the number of fatalities of children ages 0-14 to 18 by 2010.
- To reduce the number of injuries of children ages 0-14 to 1,785 by 2010.

## Performance Measures

- To reduce the number of crash-related fatalities of children ages 0-14 to 20 by December 31, 2006.
- To reduce the number of crash-related injuries of children 0-14 to 2,100 by December 31, 2006.

## **Strategies**

- Continue to support and help enact laws impacting children in the 0-14 portion of the Youth Program in upcoming legislative sessions.
- Continue to provide a comprehensive and coordinated public information and education campaign on the causes of high motor vehicle crash rates for this age group. Additionally, continue to target occupant protection education and parental responsibility messages through media efforts for youth aged 0-14.
- Encourage communication among youth traffic safety program providers and coalitions through the continued development of a youth task force.
- Collaborate with Oregon Medical Association, Oregon Health Division, and local physician offices and partner with school districts and “Safe Routes to School” organizations to address family education issues of youth aged 0-14 in traffic safety.
- Continue to incorporate NHTSA Youth Assessment recommendations specific to the 0-14 age level:
  - Assist law enforcement in targeting areas where greatest number of speed related collisions are occurring.
  - Advocate on behalf of children in the planning and design of transportation routes through appropriate channels in state government.
  - Develop a comprehensive, coordinated plan for youth traffic safety.