

INSURANCE INSTITUTE FOR HIGHWAY SAFETY

NEWS RELEASE

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SUMMERTIME MEANS MORE CAR CRASH DEATHS AMONG TEENAGERS, ESPECIALLY 16 YEAR-OLDS

ARLINGTON, VA – As predictable as summer sun is the tragic increase in crashes that kill 16-year-old drivers and their peers. This summer has been no exception. From Seattle to the rural roads of Georgia, 16-year-old drivers are crashing and killing themselves, their friends, and motorists in other vehicles. A widely publicized collision in a Maryland suburb of Washington, D.C. in July, for example,

16-YEAR-OLD DRIVER DEATHS 1992-96		
	Number of Deaths	Percent Distribution
January	151	6
February	152	6
March	163	7
April	160	7
May	180	8
June	236	10
July	229	10
August	237	10
September	207	9
October	218	9
November	207	9
December	200	9

involved a car flipping onto a truck and killing three people. A few days later, three more Maryland teens died when they crashed into a tree.

The numbers confirm that crashes like these do increase during summer months. Nationwide, about 38 percent more deaths of teenage drivers occur during June-August than during the preceding three months.

"Many of these crashes share predictable characteristics," Institute senior vice president Allan Williams points out. "Speeding often is a factor. The teenagers aren't using safety belts. The crashes occur mostly at night, with a car full of other teenagers accompanying the brand new driver."

End of 1-page release on fatal crashes involving 16-year-old drivers.

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