Facts about motor vehicle crashes

In the United States...
- More than 32,000 people are killed and two million are injured each year from motor vehicle crashes.
- Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death during the first three decades of life.
- The crash death rate was more than twice the average of other high-income countries in 2013.

In Iowa... [insert facts about your state]
- Between 2003 – 2012, over 3,160 motor vehicle occupants were killed.
- The rate of motor vehicle occupant death in 2012 for all ages was higher than the national rate (8.7 per 100,000 in Iowa compared to 7 per 100,000 nationally).
- Among motor vehicle occupant deaths in 2015, 45% were not adequately restrained.

Policies to promote motor vehicle occupant safety

- Child restraint laws require approved restraint devices appropriate for child’s age, weight and height. Best practices: rear-facing child safety seats until age two; five-point harness until at least age four; and booster seats to at least age eight or until seat belt fits correctly.
- Graduated Driver License programs give new teen drivers a provisional license to drive without supervision under low risk driving conditions. This license can restrict things like nighttime driving and driving with teen passengers.
- Distracted driving laws ban texting and using a hand-held phone while driving and have increased penalties, such as like higher fines or making violations a primary offense.
- Primary seat belt laws allow police officers to stop and ticket someone for not using a seat belt, rather than only if the driver has been pulled over for another reason. Best practices include driver and all passengers, including back-seat ones.
- Drunk driving laws include ignition interlocks installed in cars of to measure alcohol on the driver’s breath who has been convicted of Operating While Intoxicated (OWI).

Does Iowa have this?
- *rear-facing until age 1 and 20 lbs; booster seat until age 5
- *has both night and teen passenger restrictions
- *bans texting while driving & primary offense
- * only covers drivers and front seat passengers

Examples of prevention

- Educational & incentive-based programs that give prizes/coupons for correctly using car seats
- Short-term, high visibility enforcement like checkpoints and saturation patrols
- Car seat distribution & education programs that give access to car seats and teach proper use/installation
- Mass media campaigns to spread messages about the dangers of impaired driving

Resources & Partners

This template was designed by the University of Iowa Injury Prevention Research Center. Other partners: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Safe States Alliance; National Highway Traffic Safety Administration; Safe Kids Worldwide
### In the masthead:
- Include title of brief and date.
- Include your organization's logo or use a photo.

### Example of sites where you can get free online photos:
- [www.flickr.com](http://www.flickr.com) You must give photo credit and include license. Example: Photo by Anthony Auston http://bit.ly/2fSSbtZ/ CC BY
- [Istock.com](http://www.istock.com)

### Where you can get facts about motor vehicle crashes in your state:
The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):
- [https://www.cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety/seatbelts/states.html](https://www.cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety/seatbelts/states.html)
- [https://www-fars.nhtsa.dot.gov//QueryTool/QuerySection>SelectYear.aspx](https://www-fars.nhtsa.dot.gov//QueryTool/QuerySection(SELECTYear.aspx)

### Where you can information about motor vehicle safety policies in your state:
The CDC: [https://www.cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety/seatbelts/states.html](https://www.cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety/seatbelts/states.html)
The website of your state’s legislature. For example: (Iowa’s) [https://www.legis.iowa.gov/](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/)
The website of your state department of transportation
Reports from you state’s College of Public Health
For information on ignition interlock laws: [https://www.intoxalock.com/find-state-requirements](https://www.intoxalock.com/find-state-requirements)

### Other helpful resources:
Safe Kids Worldwide: [https://www.safekids.org/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIpJa-8ayC1gIVyUoNCh2jPwAaEAAYASAAEgIy_Uy_D_BwE](https://www.safekids.org/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIpJa-8ayC1gIVyUoNCh2jPwAaEAAYASAAEgIy_Uy_D_BwE)