



## Teen Driver Safety

Motor vehicle crashes (MVCs) are the leading cause of death for 16 to 20 year olds. Each year 5,500 teens die in MVCs, and other 450,000 are injured. Risk taking behavior contributes to this high accident rate, including use of cell phones, alcohol, marijuana, and prescription medications. The presence of passengers also is associated with increased likelihood of a MVC. Graduated driver licensing requirements and parental enforcement of safe driving strategies can lessen the chance that teens will be involved in a MVC. Child health providers play a critical role in counseling teens and their parents/care givers. They can help parents to closely manage their new teen driver by using a parent-teen safe driving contract, and they can support families in helping their teens practice safer driving and comply with safety laws through the provision of informational material.

The child health provider's role in promoting safe driving is addressed in the **Teen Driver Safety** module provided through the Educating Practices in the Community (EPIC) program presented in partnership with the Injury Prevention Center at Connecticut Children's Medical Center. A professional trainer will visit your practice at a time that is convenient for you and provide a brief presentation to you and your entire staff.

### Presentation Objectives

- Learn the facts about teen car crashes
- Learn about safety recommendations and laws governing teen driving
- Learn how to engage parents in supporting their teens' safe driving
- Integrate teen driver safety recommendations and strategies into anticipatory guidance

### EPIC provides:

- > Resource materials
- > Lunch or snack

