

### Did you know?



**April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month.** According to Distraction.gov "71% of teens and young people say they have composed/sent Short Message Service (SMS) messages while driving.

- 78% of teens and young adults say they have read an SMS message while driving.
- 10% of all drivers under the age of 20 involved in fatal crashes were reported as distracted at the time of the crash. This age group has the largest proportion of drivers who were distracted."
- For more information on distracted driving, visit [www.distraction.gov](http://www.distraction.gov).

**According to the National Conference of State Legislators** "in 2011, 4,612 motorcyclists were killed in crashes and 81,000 were injured.

- Michigan allows riders 21 years and older to ride without helmets if they carry medical insurance, and/or pass a motorcycle safety course."
- For more information, visit: <http://www.ncsl.org/research/transportation/current-state-motorcycle-helmet-laws-and-fatality-rates.aspx>.

**As stated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** "helmets are estimated to prevent 37 percent of crash deaths among motorcycle riders and 41 percent of crash deaths for motorcycle passengers."

- To learn more about helmet safety, visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/Features/dsMotorcycleSafety/>.

**In 2010**, motorcycle-related traumatic brain injuries resulted in 30 fatalities and 333 hospitalizations in Michigan.

### Want can you as an educator do?

**Distracted Driving:** According to Distraction.gov "educators play a crucial role in helping students develop safe driving habits that can last a lifetime. As an educator you can:

- *Run a Pledge Drive:* Give people the facts on distracted driving and help them commit to phone-free driving.
- *Spread the Word:* Encourage the school to hang posters, incorporate messages or videos about distracted driving in morning announcements and school newspapers.
- *Get Parents Involved:* Send a letter home to parents that urges them to talk about the dangers of distracted driving with their teens."
- For more tips for teen drivers, visit: [http://www.michigan.gov/msp/0,4643,7-123-64773\\_22760-73212--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/msp/0,4643,7-123-64773_22760-73212--,00.html).

**Motorcycle Helmets:** Encourage students who do drive motorcycles to:

- Always wear a Department of Transportation (DOT)-approved helmet.
- Never ride a motorcycle after drinking and don't let friends ride impaired.
- Avoid tailgating.
- Maintain a safe speed and exercise caution when traveling over slippery surfaces or gravel.

**To find ideas, suggestions, and activities for brain injury prevention, visit** <http://biامي.fyrian.com/prevention-for-educators>.

### Want to learn more?

- To learn more about TBI and to earn **free** continuing education credits, please visit the MDCH training website at [www.mitbitraining.org](http://www.mitbitraining.org). If you have questions, comments, or concerns, please email [info@mitbitraining.org](mailto:info@mitbitraining.org).