



Driving Angels Teen Driving Program: A Multidisciplinary Approach



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Background/Purpose

Driving Angels program started in 2007 by peers of 2 young teens who lost their lives in the same motor vehicle crash.

After another teen death in 2009, the program expanded to include community resources from the local police, fire and level I trauma center. It aims to reduce distracted and impaired driving while stressing seatbelt use. In addition to its emphasis on the observation of all traffic laws pertaining to their age group, Driving Angels educates teen drivers on safe driving practices.

The purpose of this study was to evaluate if the Driving Angels Teen Driving Program multidisciplinary approach is effective at modifying risky driving behaviors.

Setting/Sample

Held in a community center. The sample included 114 drivers ages 16-18 who had demonstrated risky driving behavior or volunteered to attend over a 15 month period.

Results: comparing the pre and post questionnaires

Question	Improved Response as a result of the program	P-Value from McNemar test
If a driver is operating the vehicle in a reckless or inappropriate manner, I would ask them to stop the car and let me out.	36%	0.0023
I never use my cellphone to send or respond to text messages while driving.	27%	0.0347
I keep my cell phone out of reach while driving.	38%	<0.0001
I never reach for objects while I am driving a car.	42%	0.0002
I never change the radio station while driving a car.	48%	<0.0001
I never change the song on my smartphone while listening to music and driving a car.	43%	<0.0001
I maintain the posted speed limit while driving a vehicle.	39%	0.0043

Method

- The program was held 4 hours every other month
- Pre/Post and 3-month Likert scale questionnaires with the same 10 questions were administered
- Power Point presentations and lectures by
 - Parent of teen driving fatality
 - Traffic investigator
 - EMS
 - Trauma RN
 - Driving Angels high school student educators
- Use of a driving simulator

Discussion/Conclusion

- This is the first study in the literature to evaluate a multidisciplinary team behavior modification approach
- 7 questions showed improvement in behaviors between pre and post questionnaires
- 3 month questionnaire response was lower than anticipated
- Driving Angels program can successfully modify behaviors of teen drivers

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