Colorado

Youth Partnership for Health
The Colorado Teen Driving Alliance (CTDA) engages a group called the Youth Partnership for Health, which is a group of energetic young 13-19 years olds, from across Colorado who are enthusiastic about shaping how Colorado responds to important youth issues. They work directly with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to inform its efforts and efforts of other state leaders. They are willing to talk about hard issues, learn about health and other youth issues, and dedicate weekend hours to this important work. The CTDA consults with the Youth Partnership for Health to inform teen driving materials (including distracted and impaired driving).

Youth Intern Program
The Colorado Department of Public Health has a youth intern program. There are currently two paid youth advisers in our division, who are available to work with programs that target youth. Recently, we have been working with one of these advisers to figure out ways to better engage youth in our teen driving work. We are exploring the idea of providing technical assistance to local community coalitions on how to involve youth in their local work, as well as strategies to ensure the Colorado Department of Transportation involves youth when developing youth media campaigns.

Public Service Announcement Competition for Youth
In 2009 when Colorado's texting and driving ban went into effect, the CTDA held a contest for youth to come up with PSAs and print media to support the new law. The winning PSAs and print materials were used throughout the state.

Drive Smart Colorado High School Challenge
Drive Smart Colorado, which is based in the Colorado Springs area, has run a high school challenge program for the last 30 years or so that has been very effective locally and reaches about 25,000 students a year. Students work together to design a 8-10 week motor vehicle safety program (sometimes on seat belts, distracted driving, impaired driving, etc) for their school. The youth have some guidance and some required activities that are in support of state or local policies, but largely are left to design their challenge. Sometimes this does mean that they want a crash car or similar types of things that by themselves are not evidence-based strategies. However, this is a long campaign with evaluation tied to it (seat belt checks or other types of observational surveys) and it is completely youth driven. Each year about 34 schools compete with each other to have the best seat belt use rate and the most comprehensive program. The most successful schools work on things like school-seat belt policies and other types of organizational policy strategies. Since the program continues year after year, I think the youth have been able shift social norms around motor vehicle safety within their schools. Colorado Springs, which has the biggest population in Colorado, consistently has the highest teen seat belt use rate in the state and I think it is in large part due to this program and the work that the youth have done over the years. You can find more information about this program here: http://www.drivesmartcolorado.com/programs/teens/high-school-public-safety-challenge/
**MADD Programs**
MADD Colorado has a youth advisory council that meets once a month. Right now the group is made up of high school students and one recent high school grad. They try to organize things in their schools and get out in the community to do education about underage drinking. Upcoming project will likely be visits to retailers to remind them about the importance of ID checks, 3rd party, shoulder tap, etc. MADD Colorado also offers a general alcohol education class in schools upon request.

**Maryland**

**After-Prom Parties - Maryland**
After Prom events are organized independently by schools throughout the state of Maryland. They are organized as a safe alternative to the private post-prom parties that could include alcohol or other drug use.

Parent organizations have made the After Prom events enticing to the students, inspiring student participation by offering great food, movies, and extra-ordinary prizes available throughout the night with the best and most expensive prizes awarded at the very end of the event.

In many jurisdictions across the state, planning officials work collaboratively with their PTA Councils, the school system, county government, the Maryland Highway Safety Office and others. "After Prom parties help increase awareness about the dangers of drug and alcohol use, and drinking and driving, and have become a safe alternative to other potentially dangerous activities on what should be a fun and memorable night for our county's teens," said Mary T. Phelan, a Howard County police spokeswoman (Baltimore Sun, April 2014).

Contact Christina C. Sinz, Occupant Protection & Distracted Driving Program Manager for the Maryland Highway Safety Office at csinz@mva.maryland.gov or 410-728-7265 for more information.

**Maryland Teen Safe Driving Coalition**
This coalition is composed of more than 40 individuals and organizations committed to helping teens leverage the proven principles of Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL). They are affiliated with state and local government, law enforcement and public health agencies, traffic safety and injury prevention organizations, academia and businesses. They are also teens, parents and crash victims. The Coalition meets regularly to discuss teen driving issues and identify opportunities to partner on projects to reduce teen crashes and fatalities.

Contact Coalition Leader Cathy Gillen at cathy@thegillengroup.com or 443-463-4449 for more information.

**Meritus Hospital, Washington County**
In the past several years teen driving safety has been the target of prevention efforts by the Trauma and Emergency Services Department and Corporate Communications of Meritus Health in Hagerstown, Maryland. Along with community partners such as local TV and radio stations, EMS, Washington County public school system, insurance companies, the cinema, banks, The State Police, phone companies and an auto dealership, they created the “Stay Alive Don’t Text and Drive” informational campaign. They began with a widespread campaign on the dangers of texting and driving, getting their message out through high schools, the hospital, and listeners of popular radio stations. They also conducted a contest for teens to design a t-shirt with a theme of ‘Don’t text and drive.’ The winning design was printed on thousands of t-shirts and given out to youth. Another component of the campaign was for youth to pledge to not text and drive; over 12,000 students in 2 counties signed this pledge at displays held during football games and their lunch hours. More recently the campaign was expanded to the adjoining public schools in Frederick County.
Hospital emergency staff have also taught small groups of students to be safer passengers, including the topics of not distracting the driver, what to do if they are in an unsafe driving situation, and how to properly buckle up. There are plans to teach this class to more youth groups in community settings.

Program contact: Kelly Llewellyn, BSN, RN, EMS Administrative Specialist, Meritus Health
Kelly.llewellyn@meritushealth.com or 301-790-8378

**Partnership for a Safer Maryland (PSM)**
The PSM provided one mini-grant in 2014 to support educating and raising awareness among teens across the state of Maryland and among teen drivers from surrounding states about the dangers of distracted driving. The Center for Injury Prevention and Policy (CIPP) summer high school students from the National Youth Leadership Forum (NYLF) and the Georgetown University Program for High School students visit the University of Maryland Trauma Center in groups of 40-55 for 4 hours to learn about various careers in the hospital. Students also get an opportunity to learn about current medical breakthroughs and research projects, and they receive prevention messages, on topics such as distracted driving. They also hear various trauma survivors share their story.

Contact PSM Program Manager Kathleen Brown at Kathleen.brown@safermaryland.org or 443-204-1467 for more information.

**Youth Distracted and Impaired Driving Prevention Efforts by the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services System (MIEMSS)**
Youth ages 8-16 buckle up less than younger children and often have other behaviors that increase their risk of injury or death in motor vehicles—prior to them becoming drivers. The Be-Tween Riding and Driving program addresses these issues by having emergency nurses and safety advocates educate groups of youth ages 10 to 15 years to ride more safely in vehicles. The two hour community-based program builds on youths’ interest in becoming drivers in the near-future and uses a variety of educational techniques including: YouTube and other videos, discussion, hands-on practice, role plays, and games. An optional component is parents’ participation in a safe driving pledge along with their kids, adapted from the Safe Kids Worldwide program, “Countdown2Drive.”

Other interventions from MIEMSS include regular postings to our website and social media outlets with safety messages on occupant protection and safety.

Contact Susanne Ogaitis-Jones, MSPH, CPST/I for more information. sogaitisjones@miemss.org; 410-706-8647 or MIEMSS.org/EMSCwww/CPSHome.htm

**Minnesota**

**B4 U Drive: Teens Reaching Tweens/Teen Safe Driving: A Peer Education Program**
These peer lead programs provide education tools teens can use to talk to tweens (12-14) and other teens about driving dangers and risky behaviors. The task of reinforcing safe driving messages – especially to this at-risk group is vital to providing a foundation to help them drive safer.

**New Jersey**

**Making an Informed Decision**
We visit high schools throughout our catchment area with an assembly program called *Making an Informed Decision*. Through PPP and storytelling tools, we show teens, parents, and educators what will happen (from a trauma perspective) should they make the decision to drink and drive, or engage in distracting behaviors behind the wheel.
We bring a trauma resuscitation reenactment to their auditorium, up close and personal. We also partner with a number of law enforcement agencies to present a full day program at some schools. We utilize additional impact speakers and an outdoor program featuring golf carts, fatal vision goggles, cell phones, etc., as well as a mock crash.

For more information visit:
- http://safetextingcampaign.com/

**North Dakota**

**Alive at 25 Defensive Driving Course**
The North Dakota Safety Council (Non-Profit Organization) offers the National Safety Council's 4 hour Alive at 25 Defensive Driving Course throughout the state. The course is approved in ND for an insurance discount and point reduction but was created to reduce teen fatalities. The course talks about peer pressure, distractions, cell phone, texting, and has role playing activities. The class is taught as a public class, within several driver education programs and in a few schools as part of the school curriculum.

**Vermont**

**Turn off Texting**
“Turn Off Texting demonstration raises awareness about the dangers of distracted driving by putting students behind the wheel of a golf cart to navigate a course of cones while texting. It’s a unique, memorable and effective experience for participants, and the demonstration is provided free of charge through a grant from the Governor’s Highway Safety Program and support from generous sponsors.

‘This exercise really helped to show me how many people I would have killed if I texted and drove.’ — Peoples Academy student at a YSC Turn Off Texting demonstration

“Turn Off Texting was started by the Vermont Department of Motor Vehicles in 2009 and has been presented by the Youth Safety Council of Vermont since 2011.” For more information, visit: