

### Teenage Drivers and Their Electronic Devices

*Submitted by Carmen Morrow,  
Hutchinson High School*

Most of us are aware that Minnesota banned drivers from texting four years ago. That Minnesota law prohibits drivers from using a "wireless communication device" to read, send or compose electronic messages. These include texts, e-mails, Web pages and other similar data while a vehicle is part of traffic. However, many forget that this ban include being at an intersection stopped at a red light.

#### A summary of things drivers can do and not do while driving:

##### It is illegal to:

- Read or send e-mails
- Access Web pages
- Be on Facebook
- Read, compose or send texts

##### For adult drivers, it is legal to:

- Talk on the cell phone
- Dial a phone
- Communicate "hands-free"

**Handheld cell phones are banned for novice drivers in Minnesota - drivers under the age of 18 with learner's permits or intermediate licenses.**

\$120.00 fine is typical for drivers that are using an electronic device.

Full article:

<http://m.startribune.com/news/?id=151263725>



### Teens and Technology

This crash course in the most popular communication tools used by teens today offers guidance and advice to help parents monitor their teen's activities on these devices.

[Begin Course »](#)

**Crash Course For Parents:** An introduction to your teen and the [technology world](#)

**Social Networking:** Social networking sites like MySpace and Facebook are popular online hotspots. [Find out why teens are so hooked.](#)

**Cell Phones:** Cell phone technology now allows teens to stay connected with friends and family, but can also be easily misused. [Find out how.](#)

**Music and Online Vides:** Do you know what videos your kids are watching online? Have you listened to the lyrics of the songs they are downloading? [Here's what you've been missing.](#)

# PARENT THE POWER OF PARENTS YOUR CHILD

## Parenting & Prevention Newsletter



Email us at: [mcleodmeada@yahoo.com](mailto:mcleodmeada@yahoo.com)

<http://mcleodmeada.org/>

### Friends' Parents Can Sway Teens' Odds for Drinking, Smoking

Everyone knows teen behavior is highly influenced by their friends, but a new study finds even a friend's parents can influence whether or not a teen drinks alcohol or uses drugs.

If the parents of your teen's friends are unaware of their child's drug or alcohol use, or worse, condone it, that may make your child more likely to partake as well, the study found.

Full article:

<http://news.yahoo.com/friends-parents-sway-teens-odds-drinking-smoking-210612034.html>

### How To Keep Your Kids Drug-Free This Summer

By [Michelle Randall](#)

- Each day in June, July and August, approximately 6,100 youth try marijuana for the first time, a 40% increase over the remainder of the year.
- The number of new underage drinkers and cigarette smokers also jumps during the summer months.
- According to approximately 30% of teens are offered drugs in middle school and high school.
- Every day, 8,000 kids take their first drink of alcohol or use an illicit drug for the first time.
- More than 40% of those who start drinking at age 14 or younger developed alcohol dependence, compared with 10% of those who began drinking at age 20 or older.
- During the summer months, when there is a decrease in supervision, teens are often faced with an increase in peer pressure situations that lead to first-time drug and alcohol use.

**Encourage teens to get a summer job or do community service:**

Give teens the opportunity to gain real-world experience and independence, while keeping them away from drugs and alcohol.

**Sign them up for a camp or summer sport:** Give youth the opportunity to enjoy their summer vacation with their peers in a safe, supervised environment.

#### Daily check-ins:

Parents are encouraged to check-in with their teens throughout the day, to know where they are and who they are with at all times.

#### Be aware of what is in your home:

Teens are more likely to abuse substances that are easily accessible to them.

#### Have open dialogue:

Engage teens in an open conversation, express concerns about behavior and discuss the risks involved with drug and alcohol use, teens are able to share their experiences with peer pressure and exposure to substances.

[www.howtolearn.com](http://www.howtolearn.com)

### Minnesota's Biggest Killer of Teens: Traffic Crashes

As prom and high school graduation celebrations ramp up, the Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS) Office of Traffic Safety is reminding parents and caregivers about the importance of talking with teenagers to reinforce teen driving laws, and to set their own family driving rules. Traffic crashes are the leading cause of death for Minnesota teens. "The biggest reason they (teens) die is not buckling up," says Gordy Pehrson, DPS Office of Traffic Safety. "Parents have a great responsibility to be engaged and monitor their teens' driving, especially during their first year of driving when there is the greatest risk of crashes."

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### Role of Parents and Safe Teen Driving

- Reinforce teen driving laws
- Continue to provide supervised experience for their teen driver
- Encourage teens to speak up in a vehicle when they don't feel safe.
- Agree to provide a safe ride for their teen anytime and anywhere needed.
- Know where the teen is going, who they are going with, and tell the teen when they are expected to be home.

**Underage Drinking:** While alcohol-use is not a significant factor in teen crashes, parents should understand the rules and consequences of underage drinking.

**Providing Alcohol to Minors:** Adults providers can be held responsible and suffer serious criminal, legal, and financial consequences including: felony charges and prison time in cases of death; civil liability charges in cases of injury, property damage or death; and increased insurance rates.

### Brief Computer-Assisted Screening and Advice in Primary Care Shows Promise in Reducing Teen Substance Abuse Community

A new study shows that a computer-facilitated Screening and Brief Advice system tested with teens in the United States and Prague promoted reductions in use of alcohol and marijuana, respectively, for up to one year.

Teens completed a computerized screening questionnaire and viewed the results as well as scientific information and real-life stories illustrating substance use harms before a healthcare provider office visit. Clinicians then received screening results and talking points to assist in providing the patient brief advice during the visit.

Research has shown that screening and brief interventions within primary care settings can reduce substance abuse in adults, but little research exists on the effectiveness of these quick screens in teens. Since adolescence is typically when substance abuse and addiction take hold, using screening tools with this population offers opportunities to intervene early and prevent substance use disorders or their escalation.



### Social Networking & Teen Drug Use: Tremendous Potential to Help -- and Harm

*By Arline Kaplan*

Preliminary research indicates that use of online social networking sites, such as Facebook, by adolescents who are receiving treatment for substance use disorders can negatively affect their care.

David Tran, a candidate for both a Doctor of Medicine and Masters' Degree in Public Policy at UCLA, shared the results of his study that analyzed exposure to drug-related cues on social networking sites and their effects on adolescents in substance abuse treatment.

Full article:

<http://www.psychiatrytimes.com/conference-reports/apa2012/content/article/10168/2069931>

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NELSON PHOTOGRAPHY

## UNDERAGE DRINKING PARTY? CONSIDER US INVITED!

Law enforcement officers throughout McLeod County are committed to preventing underage drinking and to identifying those who provide alcohol to youth.



Methamphetamine Education and Drug Awareness Coalition of McLeod County (MEADA)

Funded in part by ONDCP/SAMHSA SP12409-8



## BATTLE OF THE BANDS/MUSICAL TALENT COMPETITION

THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, 2012

3:00PM - 7:00PM MCLEOD COUNTY FAIR

Sponsored by MEADA of McLeod County  
Methamphetamine Education and Drug Awareness (MEADA)  
Coalition of McLeod County, MN

### 6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL REGISTRATION GUIDELINES

**Performance format:** Each band will play two songs (max total of ten minutes for both songs) in front of a live audience and judges to determine a winning band.

- Solo acts are acceptable but the individual must play an instrument.
- Bands may have up to 5 members within the age of 12- 20 yrs. old.
- Large cash prizes awarded. 1<sup>st</sup> place \$350.00, 2<sup>nd</sup> place \$200.00, crowd favorite \$100.00 and best original song \$50.00 All participants receive a t-shirt.

**Registration requirements:** See MEADA web site for registration forms and further detail:  
<http://mcleodmeada.org/>

Contact Corey with any questions at 320.583.7472 or email [Corey@yfcminnesota.com](mailto:Corey@yfcminnesota.com)