

Party Program

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A Brief Overview

The Prevent Alcohol and Risk Related Trauma in Youth also known as the PARTY Program is an educational tool aimed at teenagers.

The program is designed to prevent traumas and provide awareness about the consequences of distracted driving, driving too fast, as well as impaired driving.

Within the program teens are exposed to real life stories told by survivors in order to increase awareness of risks, emphasizing personal responsibilities, promoting safer choices.

History

Locally:

The Prince George Party Program began in 1997.

In 2002, the Prince George Safe Attitudes and Actions Society was formed with the intent to “promote injury and prevention among youth through reality education which increases awareness of risks and their possible impacts and emphasizes personal responsibility in making choices”.

Globally:

The Party Program was first formed in Toronto as an approach of educational awareness of injury and trauma amongst youth.

Health professionals such as Doctors, nurses, paramedics, medical staff, along with law enforcement, teachers, and survivors work with youth to educate them on how behaviours and decisions made in teenage years can lead to consequences that you may have to face for the rest of your life.

Currently there are over 100 licensed programs around the world, including Canada, the United States, Germany, Australia, Japan, and Brazil.

Retrieved from P.A.R.T.Y Program (2009)

Who, Where, When, What

40 grade 10 students from high schools in Prince George and surrounding areas meet at the University Hospital of Northern BC every Thursday throughout the school year for a day of presentations.

Students get a tour of the ICU, ER, Chapel and the Morgue.

Presenters include: RCMP member, ER physician, and trauma survivors.

The students get the opportunity to wear “drunk goggles” which allows them to picture how difficult small tasks can be, let alone larger tasks that lead to injuries.

Sharing of stories from people who have suffered injuries, describing their life changing consequences. Students are assigned pretend disabilities to deal with while eating lunch.

Goals of the Program

Encourages youth to think carefully about the choices they make in order to ensure their own safety and the safety of others. Reconsider risky behaviors in order to be safe such as:

- Driving under the influence of alcohol, or driving while suffering fatigue
- Speeding
- Using cell phones while driving
- Not wearing a helmet or seat belt
- Smoking
- Use of drugs

Retrieved from P.A.R.T.Y Program (2009)

Target Population

Currently: aimed at grade 10 students enrolled in Planning 10 as an optional field trip activity

Potentially: We believe the scope should be widened to incorporate those without the opportunity to participate, ie:

- College/university/high school students from out of town
- Home-schooled students
- Young adults who wish to learn more about the subject matter

Retrieved from P.A.R.T.Y Program (2009)

Why alter the target population?

Although it is important to instill knowledge prior to the legal drinking or driving ages, it is still beneficial to provide education to those who may be old enough to drink but unaware of the risks they pose.

Regarding cellphone use: some older adults don't comprehend the dangers of distracted driving

Some older students could benefit from the education: personal stories of survivors usually strike people the hardest

What works in the PARTY program?

The personal stories of survivors seems to be the most effective in those we've talked to who've experienced the programs.

Showing graphic pictures of the realities of car accidents is very memorable: creates a sight-mind connection of the risks

What Could Improve the PARTY Program?

Emphasize more on texting and driving, distracted driving.

- There could be an opportunity to have a guest speaker specifically talking about texting and driving accidents
- Graphic videos of accidents related to phone use could help push the point further

Widen the scope of the target population.

- Offer the program to people in the community other than just grade 10 students.
- Offer program in the Summer months as well, maybe kids camps or youth camps can go through it.
- Advertise more, posters up at college and university, pool, YMCA.

Let's have a show of hands...

Who thinks texting and driving is just as bad or worse as drunk driving? Keep your hands up.

Now out of those with their hands up... how many of you have ever texted while driving?

Statistics

Why place more emphasis on texting and driving?

A survey conducted on behalf of ICBC found that drivers consider texting and driving just as dangerous as drinking and driving, yet 40% of those who owned cellphones admit to using them while driving (Ipsos, 2012)

Texting increases crash risk up to 23 times (Canadian Automobile Association)

- Increasing awareness about the dangers of texting and driving could help reduce prevalence rate of crashes and fatalities

Statistics (cont.)

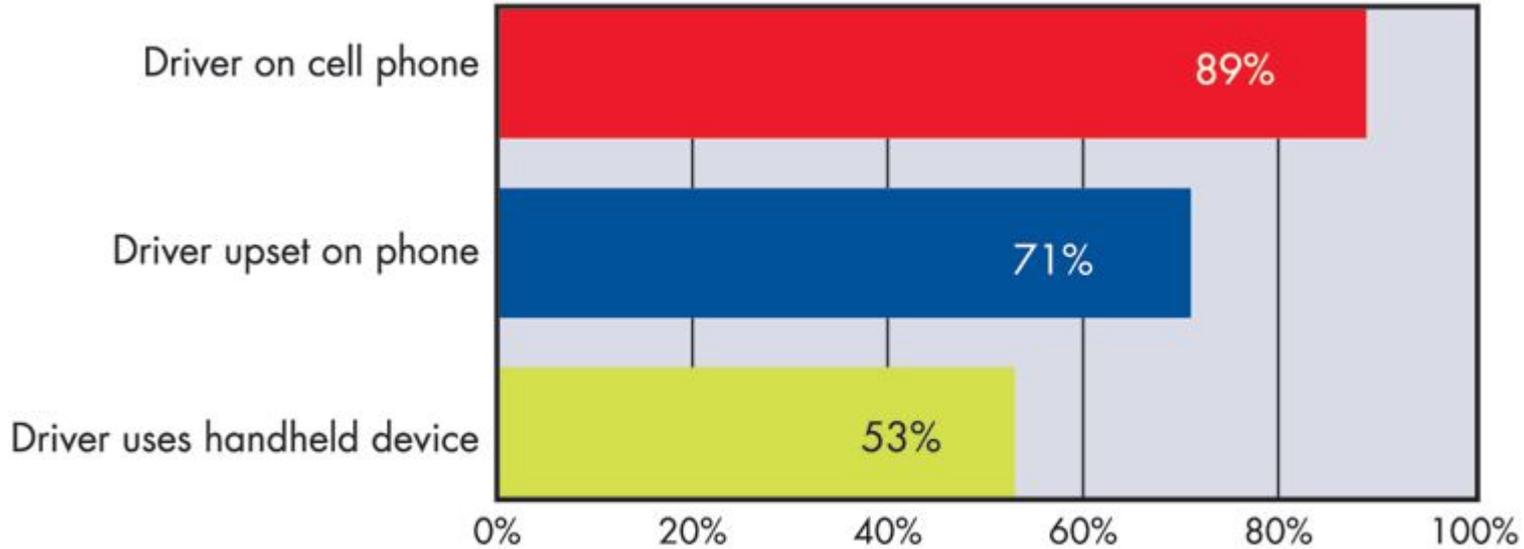
Why widen the scope of the target population?

“the highest proportion of distracted drivers involved in fatal crashes was in the under-20 age group (16%) followed by those aged 20 to 29 (13%)” (Transport Canada, 2011).

“drivers aged 30 to 39 were most likely to have been distracted by cell phones (24%) prior to fatal crashes” (Transport Canada, 2011).

- Although teen drivers were the highest population involved, those far out of highschool were a close second.
- Though it is not proven, adults were very likely to have caused accidents while distracted

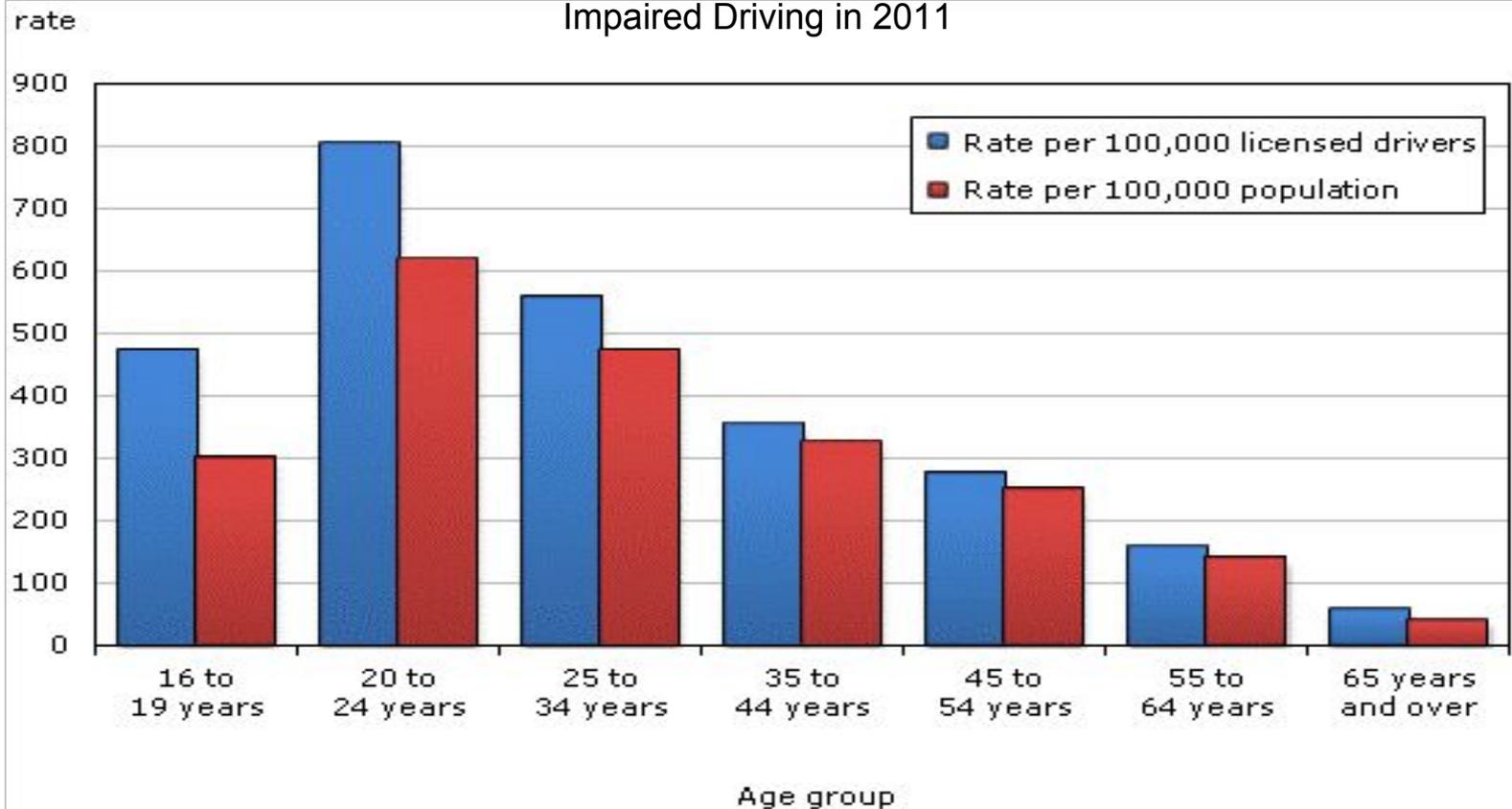
CELL PHONE USE



Percent of teens who report seeing these things
at least sometimes among teen drivers

Source: The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (2016)

Impaired Driving in 2011



Source: Data from Statistics Canada (2011)

References

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