MOBILITY SAFETY

Seat belts, sober drivers and phones down: Indiana teen driving data.

Know the Basics

The leading risks

Not wearing a seat belt, driving impaired or riding with an impaired driver, and distraction, especially phones.

Seat belts save lives

They're the single most effective way to survive a crash, in every seat, on every trip.

Impaired is impaired

Alcohol, cannabis and other drugs slow reaction time and weaken judgment.

Phones and focus

Reading a text for 5 seconds at 55 mph means driving the length of a football field without watching the road.

BY THE NUMBERS

87%

of Indiana high school students did **not** ride with a driver who had been drinking in the past month.

94%

of Indiana high school drivers did **not** drive after drinking in the past month.

56%

always wore a seat belt as a passenger, a slim majority.

Indiana Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2023

Data Check: Using These Numbers Right

- **Norms only work when the healthy behavior is the majority.** About 54% of Indiana high school drivers used apps while driving, so "most of us don't" isn't true. Use laws and skills instead.
- **Smaller survey, bigger swings.** Indiana's 2023 YRBS included about 1,000 students from 33 schools, so year-to-year changes can be large by chance.
- **Check who's counted.** Some questions include only students who drove, so the base group differs from question to question.

Laws & Safety in Indiana

- **Seat belts are required** for everyone in the vehicle, in every seat.
- **Hands-free only:** holding a phone while driving is illegal in Indiana. Drivers under 21 can't use a phone at all, except to call 911.
- **Under 21?** Driving with a blood alcohol level of 0.02% or higher is illegal.

Campaign Angles

- **Use the strong norms:** most Indiana teens don't ride with drinking drivers.
- **Seat belt checks** and pledge events build the slim majority into a strong one.
- **For phones, skip norms:** promote Do Not Disturb While Driving and passenger roles.

Sources: Indiana Youth Risk Behavior Survey 2023, Indiana Department of Health; Indiana Statewide Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup; NHTSA; Indiana Code.