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## **State Roads Deadly for Teens**

Wisconsin is the fourth-deadliest state in the nation for traffic fatalities caused by drivers age 20 and younger, according to a report issued by two physician-led groups in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

The annual list of deadliest states for fatalities caused by young drivers is published by the groups End Needless Death on our Roadways and the Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma.

The list is based on 2005 data, the most recent available.

That year, 19.5 percent of Wisconsin traffic fatalities involved drivers ages 16 to 20, up from 18.6 percent in 2004, when Wisconsin was ranked 37<sup>th</sup> in the nation.

Only 6 percent of Wisconsin's driving population is 16 to 20 years old, but they caused nearly 20 percent of all fatal car crashes.

## **New Licensing Law Helps**

Since implementing the Graduated Driver Licensing Law in 2000, Wisconsin has seen a decrease in the percentage of fatal and non-fatal crashes with teen drivers, the Journal Sentinel said.

The law requires young drivers to have an additional 30 hours of practice behind the wheel, with at least 10 of those at night, and to hold an instructional permit for at least six months before applying for a probationary license.

With a probationary driver's license, young drivers are not allowed to drive between midnight and 5 a.m., except for school or work, and can take only one passenger in the car, other than a family member, for the first nine months. These restrictions are then lifted for the drivers who are conviction-free or who turn 18.

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