

MINUTES OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Les Donovan at 8:30 A.M. on January 17, 2008 in Room 527-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Peggy Palmer- excused
Greta Goodwin- excused

Committee staff present:

Hank Avila, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jill Shelley, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Mike Corrigan, Revisor of Statutes
Mary Jane Brueck, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee: None

Chairman Donovan opened the meeting. He announced that today's meeting was not intended to take any action on anything, but to introduce the new members of the committee.

Introductions:

Terry Heidner – new KDOT Legislative Liaison
Tom Whitaker – KS Motor Carriers Assn
Kevin Graves – also with the KS Motor Carriers Assn
Michelle Peterson
Carmen Alldritt – Dir. of Vehicles for Ks Dept of Revenue
interested in V.I.P., KCC issue, uniform carrier registration
Kelly Horton – in Dir of Vehicles office – works with the Vehicle Inventory System
Whitney Damron
Mary Jane Brueck, Committee Assistant
Jill Shelley, Legislative Research
Mike Corrigan – Revisor of Statutes

Sen. Donovan shared information Jill had gathered regarding the reduction of traffic fatalities through use of seat belts. Over past years the average of fatalities from traffic accidents was 465 per year. In 2007, it was 404; down about 15%. In deaths from traffic accidents, 76% were not wearing seat belts. Seat belts were not being worn by 85% of teenagers who were killed in traffic accidents. Two years ago we passed legislation requiring 4 to 7-year-olds to be in booster seats and belted in. Last year we passed a bill requiring 15 to 17-year-olds to always be belted no matter what seat they are occupying in the vehicle. Seat belt usage has risen from 54% to 61% to 75% in 2007. Thank you to the Transportation Committee for the good work to make this possible. (Attachment 1)

The schedule for 2008 does not have much on it as of now. The committee will not meet if there is nothing to meet about.

Two programs were adopted in 1999 and are due to expire in 2009. Because of those bills, Kansas' highways have moved from being in the bottom half of states with good highways to now being among the first 3 or 4 in the nation. Kansas had the 4th largest number of highway miles in the nation.

Sen. Donovan asked for other business. Sen. Schmidt asked if there was any update of the graduated drivers' license laws. The House will be discussing them next week.

With no further questions, Sen. Donovan closed the meeting at 9:00 a.m. There are no future meetings scheduled at this time.

updated

16 January 2008

In a telephone conversation last week, you asked about information on teens killed in traffic crashes and their use of safety restraints. Below is information I've found on this topic, mostly from the KDOT website and analysis of information there.

Because no official final summary for 2007 has yet been compiled (according to KDOT and Kansas Traffic Safety Resource Office officials), I reviewed the information about individual deaths reported at <http://www.ksdot.org/burTrafficSaf/fatalities/fatalitydetail07.asp>. Information from that source is summarized below. This information has significant limitations: (1) Only 371 of the 404 2007 fatalities given in the AP report are listed. (2) Per the KDOT website, "The ... information is preliminary; not all agencies are reported and details are subject to change upon completion of the officer's investigation."

Of the 371 listed in that report as killed,

- 53 were ages 14-20; 17 of the 26 before July 1 were not using safety restraints (65%), 15 of the 27 July 1 and later were not using safety restraints (56%)
- 5 were ages 9-13; 3 were not using safety restraints
- 9 were ages birth-8; 2 were not restrained.

Another report from KDOT showed these crash fatality statistics for 2006 and 2005:

In 2006, a total of 467 died:

- 60 ages 14-20 died; 42 of those (70%) did not use safety restraints
- 4 ages 9-13 died; none used safety restraints
- 5 ages birth-8 died; all were restrained

In 2005, a total of 428 died:

- 61 ages 14-20 died; 44 of those (72%) did not use safety restraints
- 7 ages 9-13 died; 4 of those were using safety restraints
- 12 ages 4-8 died; 7 were not wearing restraints
- 2 ages birth-3 died; both were restrained.

Information on safety restraint use over time (1996 through 2006) is quickly available at <http://www.ksdot.org/burTransPlan/prodinfo/accista.asp> - Safety Restraint Use.

Unfortunately, Kansas still lags behind the U.S. as a whole in seatbelt use by drivers and front-seat passengers, according to statistics published at <http://www.ksdot.org/burTrafficSaf/safblt/safbltusag.asp>. However, statistics published there do show usage by county and road type. Kansas Traffic Safety Resource Office officials said this information is not available specifically for teens and, because the survey is done in June and July, the statistics available cannot be used to show whether the seatbelt requirement for teens increased the percentage of seatbelt users.

I hope this information is helpful; please contact me if you need additional information on this topic. I look forward to seeing you later this week!

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Motor Vehicle Crash Fatality Summary 2006

	2006	2005
Month-to-Date Totals	467	428
Year-to-Date Totals	467	428
Safety Restraint Used	139	106
Safety Restraint NOT Used	235	253

Crash Type:

Motorcycle	66	43
Pedestrian	27	26
Animal Involved	2	1

Age Groups:

Birth - 3	3	2
Safety Restraint NOT Used	0	0
4 - 8	2	12
Safety Restraint NOT Used	0	7
9 - 13	4	7
Safety Restraint NOT Used	4	4
14 - 20	60	61
Safety Restraint NOT Used	42	44
21-70	245	232
Safety Restraint NOT Used	165	176
71+	60	45
Safety Restraint NOT Used	24	22

Road Categories:

Interstates	50	42
US and Kansas Routes	204	208
Non-Highways	213	178
Rural- Locations with less than 5,000 inhabitants, except those classified as rural by the U.S. Census Bureau.	364	335
Urban- Places of 5,000 or more inhabitants, and other areas classified as urban by the U.S. Census Bureau.	103	93

Year-to-Date

Fatalities	467	428
Fatal Crashes	426	384

	Fatal Crashes	Fatalities
2001	433	494
2002	445	507
2003	419	469
2004	384	428

Figures are preliminary--they include information reported from all Kansas law enforcement agencies as of the date of this report.

Updated April 11, 2007

Fatalities for 2007, recorded at http://www.ksdot.org/burTrafficSaf/fatalities/fatalitydetail07.asp , LKRD analysis									
	birth-3	4-8	9-13	14-20	21-70	71+	no age given	Totals	
Total Fatalities	5	4	5	53	267	36	1	371	
# in age group, safety restraint not used	1	1	3	32	136	15	0	188	50.7%
# in age group, safety restraint not mentioned	0	0	0	10	11	0	0	21	
to June 30, # in age group	5	3	2	26	130	19	0	185	
to June 30, # in age group, safety restraint not used	1	1	1	17	61	5	0	86	46.5%
to June 30, # in age group, safety restraint not mentioned	0	0	0	4	11	0	0	15	
July 1 and later, # in age group	0	1	3	27	137	17	1	186	
July 1 and later, # in age group, safety restraint not used	0	0	2	15	75	10	0	102	54.8%
July 1 and later, # in age group, safety restraint not mentioned	0	0	0	6	13	0	0	19	

1-3

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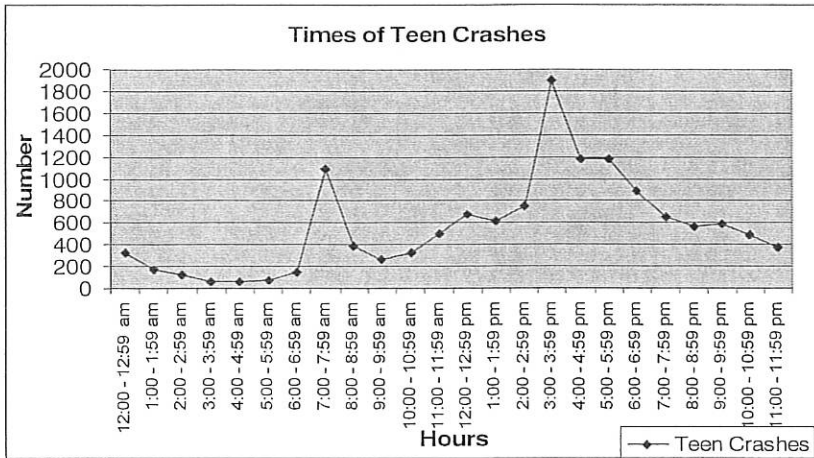
Teen Driving Statistics

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for ages 15 to 18.

Teen drivers account for 6.0% of all KS registered drivers but 20.0% of all crashes.

Top 5 Contributing Circumstances for fatalities: Inattention, Speed, DUI, Failure to yield, Disregard to road signs, markings

In 2006, 67.5% of all teen fatalities were not buckled up.

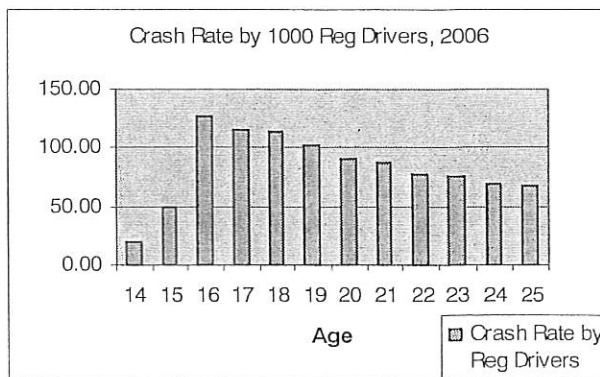
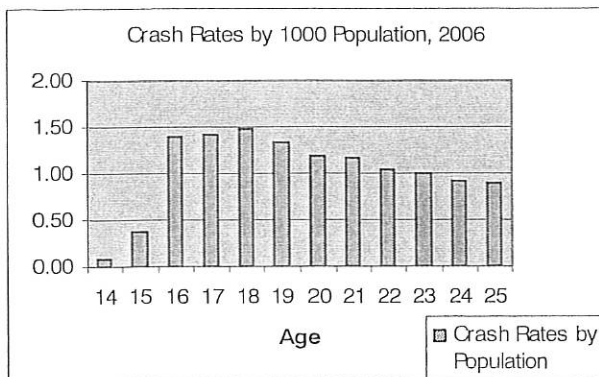


2006 Teen Drivers Statistics for KS

- a. 15yr old: 1,022 Crashes, 6 Killed, 288 Injured
- b. 16yr old: 3,820 Crashes, 18 Killed, 1,637 Injured
- c. 17yr old: 3,904 Crashes, 11 Killed, 1,633 Injured
- d. 18yr old: 4,048 Crashes, 18 Killed, 1,617 Injured

Driver Age	KS Licensed Drivers	Drivers in Accidents	% Drivers in Accidents	Youth (1-13) Passengers	Teen (14-19) Passengers	Adult (20+) Passengers
14	10,649	203	1.9%	70	80	102
15	20,689	1,047	5.1%	266	499	277
16	30,086	3,995	13.3%	799	2,252	697
17	33,790	4,027	11.9%	725	2,129	753
18	35,599	4,139	11.6%	720	1,764	939

Following charts describe the crash rates by age of drivers and by population and registered drivers.



2005 Age Summary

Ages 14 - 21

AGE	# Fatal Using Safety Restraint	# Fatal W/O Safety Restraint	Total Fatal	% Fatal Unbelted	% Fatal Belted
14	0	4	4	100%	0%
15	3	3	6	50%	50%
16	5	4	9	44%	56%
17	2	9	11	82%	18%
18	1	6	7	86%	14%
19	3	10	13	77%	23%
20	3	8	11	73%	27%
21	0	7	7	100%	0%