

Minnesota Child Passenger Safety Law Update

Starting Aug. 1, 2024, Minnesota's car seat law is getting a makeover, and parents have plenty to catch up on. The new law states kids must remain rear-facing until a minimum of 2 years old. They must also have outgrown the rear-facing seat by height or weight before switching to a forward-facing car seat with an internal harness.

Every driver who transports a child or children under the age of 18 years in a motor vehicle is required to have the child or children restrained in a child safety seat or seat belt.



Minnesota Child Passenger Safety Law

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/169.685>

Changes effective August 1, 2024

If a child can be placed in more than one category, then the child must be placed in the more protective category.

 <p>REAR-FACING CAR SEAT</p>	<p>An infant under 2 years old must be secured in a rear-facing convertible or infant carrier seat.</p>
 <p>FORWARD-FACING CAR SEAT</p>	<p>A child at least 2 years old AND has outgrown the manufacturer's height or weight limits for a rear facing car seat must be secured in a forward facing car seat with internal harness.</p>
 <p>BOOSTER SEAT</p>	<p>Children at least 4 years old who have outgrown their forward facing car seat with internal harness must be secured by a belt-positioning booster seat using the lap and shoulder belt</p>
 <p>SEAT BELT</p>	<p>A child at least 9 years old or has outgrown their booster seat AND the child can pass the "5 Step Test" may be restrained by lap and shoulder belt if the child can be secured properly.</p>

A child under 13 years old, must sit in a back seat of a motor vehicle, if a rear seat is available, and be properly restrained.

Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over

"Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" is an annual enforcement event aimed at preventing impaired driving among motorists and truck drivers. This year, it goes into effect across the country from **August 16 to September 2, 2024**. During this period, law enforcement agencies step up patrols to identify and apprehend impaired drivers with the goal of raising awareness about the dangers of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs and encourage responsible behavior on the roads.

By the Numbers

531

PEOPLE DIED IN TRAFFIC CRASHES DURING 2021 LABOR DAY WEEKEND

41 %

INVOLVED A DRUNK DRIVER

27 %

INVOLVED A DRUNK DRIVER WITH A BAC OF .15 OR MORE

Enforcement Update:

- DWI (optional) Every Thursday-Saturday, May 9—Sept 2, 2024
- Speed: May 1– Sept 1, 2024
- DWI: Aug 16—Sept 2, 2024
- Move Over (optional) August 31, 2024
- Seat belts and child restraints: Sept 15-21, 2024

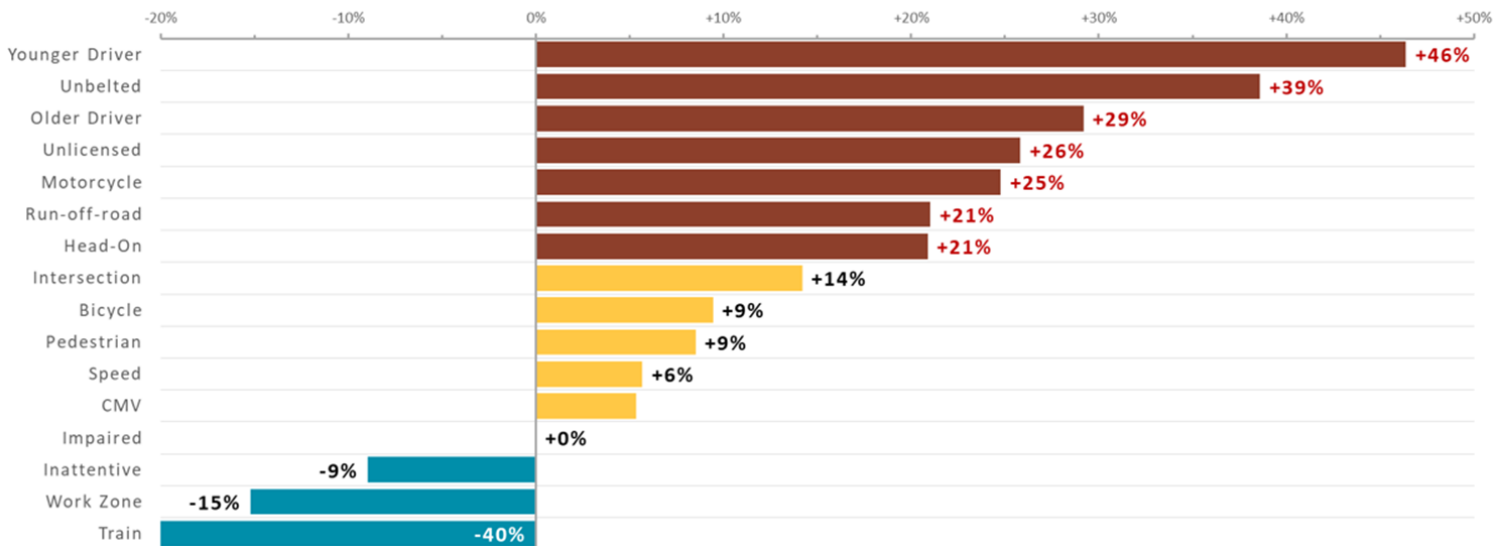


Impact Teen Drivers Education

The Impact Teen Drivers Train-the-Trainer training took place at the MnDOT Roseville headquarters on July 25, 2024. The training was for those TZD Coordinators, Minnesota State Troopers, and TZD partners that will be presenting the Impact Teen Drivers educational modules at the high schools. Currently, we have 46 trained ITD facilitators and have presented to 21 schools and 1400 students. Our goal is to build on those 21 schools each year to reach as many 10th grade students as possible each year. The graph below was obtained by the MnDOT safety group, which demonstrates that we are clearly on the right path as to where we need to focus our efforts.

2024 Percent Change in Fatal and Serious Injury Crashes by SHSP Focus Area (YTD)

2024 to 2017-2019 Average | MnDOT Office of Traffic Engineering, Jan 1 to Jun 26.



Mark your Calendars!

- Aug 14, 2024—NW Region Steering Meeting—Bemidji MnDOT Headquarters
- Oct 22 & 23, 2024—TZD State Conference—St. Cloud River’s Edge Convention Center
- Apr 30, 2025—Teen TZD Conference—Evangelical Free Church in TRF
- May 1, 2025—NW Regional Workshop—Thief River Falls Legacy Center

Toward Zero Deaths Northwest Regional Newsletter

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