

# Fact Sheet: Motor Vehicle Crash Disparities— Tennessee Teen Drivers

The purpose of this fact sheet is to provide information regarding the risk factors for teen motor vehicle crashes. Teen crashes are preventable and parents can take steps to reduce crash risk factors by utilizing the information below.

## Why Focus on Teen Motor Vehicle Crashes?

Motor vehicle crashes (MVC) are a leading cause of death for U.S. teens. Teen motor vehicle crashes are preventable, and proven strategies can improve the safety of young drivers on the road. In 2018, almost 2400 teens in the United States aged 13-19 were killed. ([CDC WISQUARS 2019](#))

## Teen MVC Equity Data

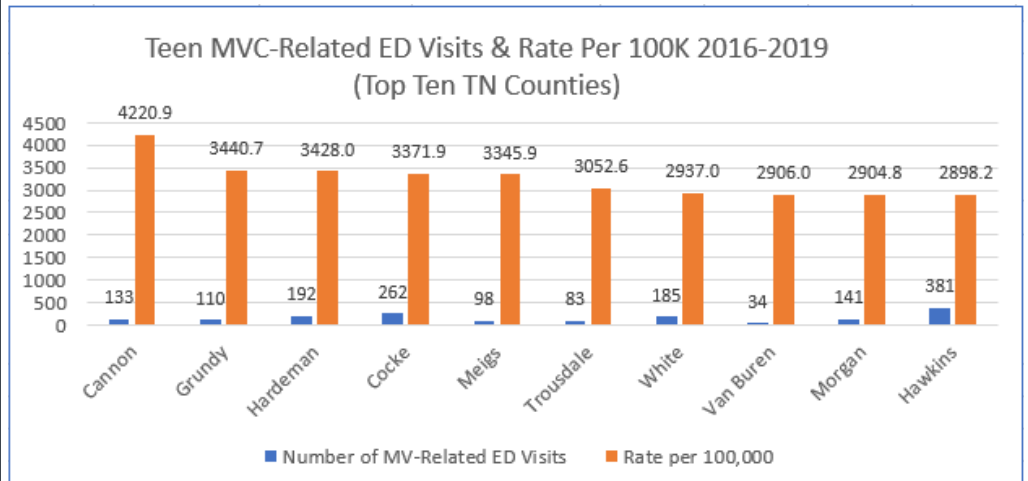
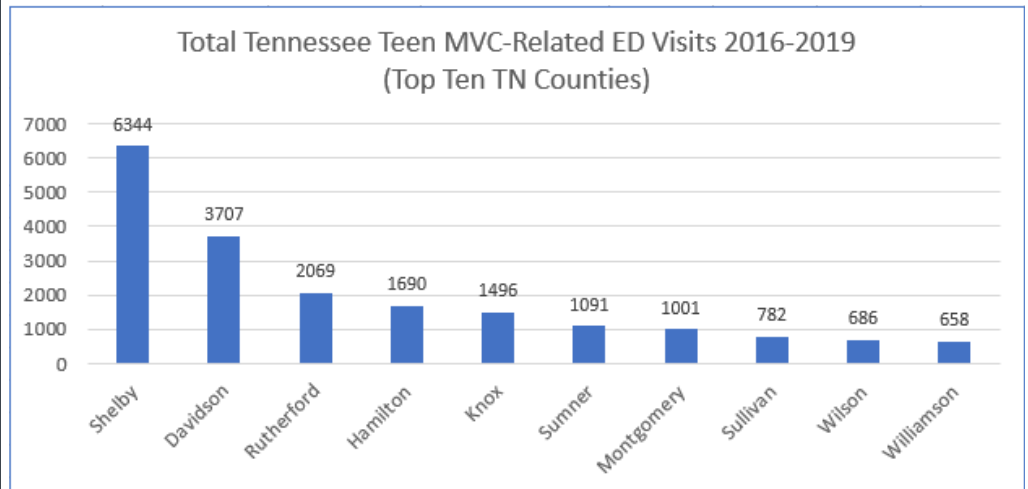
- Male teens die at more than twice the rate of females due to MVC.\*
- While more white teens die from MVC, white and black teens die at the same rate due to MVC.\*
- Male teens (17%) are most likely to report they rarely or never wear seat belts.\*\*
- Female students (44%) are most likely to report texting or e-mailing while driving.\*\*
- Teen MVC occur more on roads than highways, streets, and other areas such as home, creek, parkway, alleyway, bridge, yard, woods, railroad crossings & golf clubs.\*
- Metro counties have the highest number of crash related teen emergency department (ED) visits, rural counties have higher rates of ED visits. (See graphics)

## Teen Crash Risk Factors:

- Driving newly licensed
- Driving with teen passengers
- Driving at high speeds
- Driving at night
- Driving distracted or impaired
- Driving unrestrained

Tennessee teen motor vehicle crash (MVC) deaths increased from 65 to 77 from 2015 to 2019, and teen MVC death rates have been consistently higher than the national average from 2015 to 2019.\*

Teen motor vehicle crash (MVC) related emergency department (ED) visits are more frequent in many metro counties, but high rates are found rural counties (see graphics below)\*



For more information, contact Terrence Love at [Terrence.Love@tn.gov](mailto:Terrence.Love@tn.gov)



Data Source: \*Tennessee Department of Health, Division of Vital Records & Statistics, Death Statistical System. \*\* 2019 Tennessee Youth Risk Behavior Survey



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