

Parent-Teen Driver Meetings

Increasing Driving Safety for Rosemount Teens

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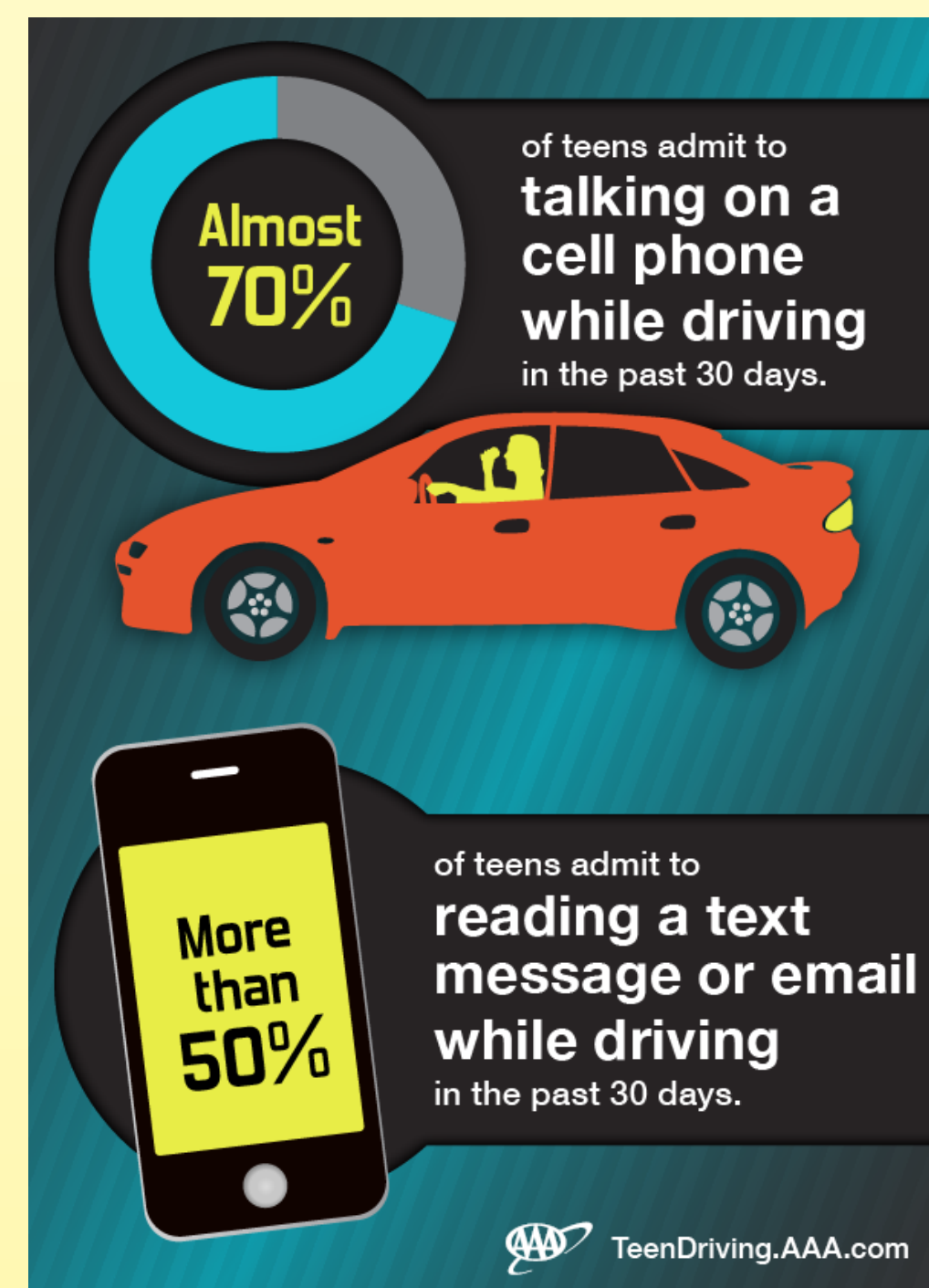
Background

Safe Driving Project in Rosemount

The City of Rosemount has a high school of approximately 2000 students. According to the 2010 Census, in Rosemount:

- 46.5% of the 7,587 households have children under the age of 18;
- 30.7% of the residents of Rosemount are under the age of 18.

Furthermore, the population of Rosemount is expected to double the size of its population by 2040 (Resilient Communities Project, 2014-15). All this means is that in the upcoming years, there will be a large population of current and future teen drivers. With a higher population density, the likelihood of accidents occurring and resident casualties also increases. While there is a state-mandated curriculum that must be met in all driver's education classes that includes talking about risks, a supplementary program appears to be necessary. Teenaged driving has become a growing concern for the city of Rosemount.



The Issue

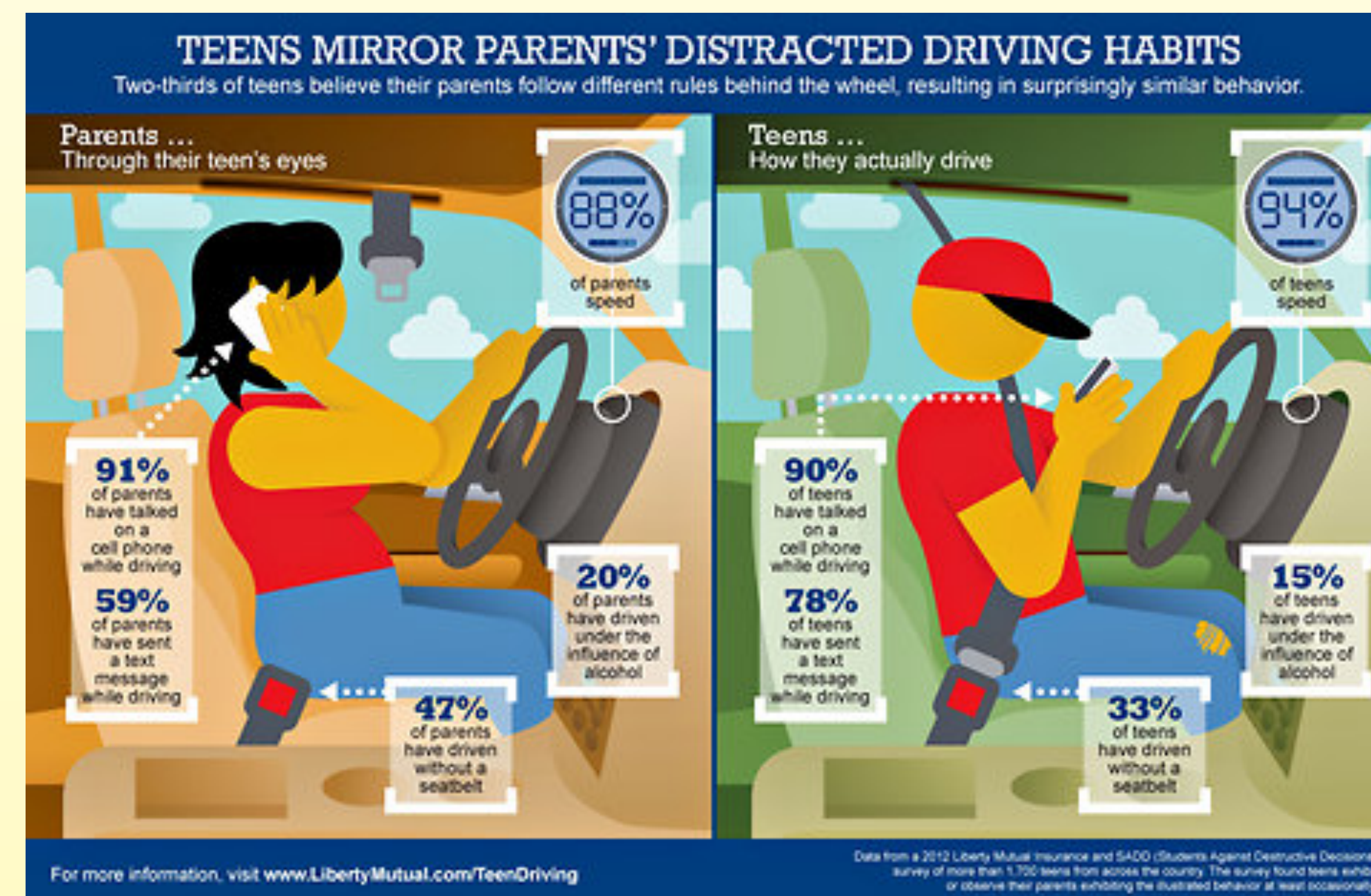
Minnesota teens tend to be over-represented in traffic accidents due to driver inexperience. According to Minnesotans for Safe Driving:

- 15.9% of the crashes in Minnesota involved teenage drivers (Minnesotans for Safe Driving, 2015).
- Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for teens ages 15-19.

Contributing factors to teen accidents include:

- Driver Inattention (20.5%)
- Failure to yield (12.9%)
- Speeding, illegal, and unsafe (12.9%)

Parent-Teen Driver Meetings



Parent-Teen Driver Meetings

The driving habits of a teenager's parents and peers will most likely have the greatest effects on the teenager's driving (for example, one study found that someone who had been driven by someone under the influence is more likely to drive when they're under the influence).

Teenagers are less likely to partake in risky driving and or have involvement in accidents if parents are actively involved in setting driving limits after the teenager has earned their license. This includes:

1. Having a clear understanding between parents and teenagers of the risks of driving,
2. Clarifying driving guidelines and expectations,
3. And having clear consequences if any of the rules are broken.

These meetings have been found to be extremely beneficial in assisting teenaged drivers navigate their still new driving skills. It is also important that parents follow through on these agreements, and the consequences are given when rules are broken. Research has also found that increased hours of driving behind the wheel with a parent has little effect on risky driving, while consequences would.

Program Structure

1. Provide Information to parents about teen driving
2. Discussion of driving expectations along with consequences if expectations are not met
3. Written and signed agreement by both parent and teen
4. Follow-up meeting with parent and teen 1 year later.

Next Steps

Based on all the research we have conducted, it is our recommendation Rosemount city implement a Parent-Teen driver meeting that informs parents of the risks that teenagers face on the road today, supports parents and teens talking about driving expectations, and complete a written out and signed driving expectations contract.

A grant proposal is being written to support the implementation of the parent-teen driving meeting curriculum for Rosemount.

Thank You

- Rosemount Staff Leads: Chad Rosa, Rosemount Police Department and Tim Bergstedt, Rosemount High School.
- Course Instructor: Ross VeLure Roholt

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