



**NEWS RELEASE** | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | October 20, 2025

## **Teen driver safety in the spotlight for National Awareness Week**

**Fargo, N.D.** – National Teen Driver Safety Week is Oct. 19–25, and Vision Zero is urging parents, guardians and communities to take an active role in helping young drivers stay safe on North Dakota roads.

In North Dakota, drivers aged 14 to 19 make up just 6% of all licensed drivers but are behind the wheel in 21% of the state's crashes. Over the past five years, 44 teens have died in traffic crashes.

For young drivers, inexperience combined with risky choices – like speeding, driving impaired, using a phone, not buckling up or carrying too many passengers – can quickly become dangerous. To reduce these risks, Vision Zero Outreach Coordinators work with schools and communities across North Dakota to raise awareness, provide education and give teens the tools they need to make responsible choices behind the wheel.

"Inexperience doesn't have to mean unsafe driving," said Leah Kelm, Vision Zero Outreach Coordinator from the Southeast Region. "With guidelines and good examples, teens can learn to avoid the risks that cause the most crashes."

### **Safe Driving Reminders for Teens**

- Buckle up. Every seat. Every trip. Every time.
- Stay focused. Cell phone use is dangerous and illegal for those under the age of 18.
- Follow the speed limit and adjust for conditions.
- Never drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Limit passengers – more riders mean more risk.

Learn more about traffic safety initiatives at [VisionZero.ND.gov](https://VisionZero.ND.gov).

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