

# In The Know

A monthly newsletter to keep you current and In The Know on topics related to the Prevention of Substance Abuse

## May is Global Youth Traffic Safety Month

The National Organization for Youth Safety (NOYS) partnered with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in 2007 to support the United Nation's Global Road Safety Week. It has continued ever since and has encouraged youth groups across the world to become a part of traffic safety projects in their communities.

Each May youth unite during Global Youth Traffic Safety Month™ to focus on the leading cause of death for them and their peers: traffic related crashes. Global Youth Traffic Safety Month™ empowers youth to develop and lead traffic safety education projects and support law

enforcement and affect legislation to protect teen drivers.

The goals of Global Youth Traffic Safety Month is to empower and engage youth to promote traffic safety awareness to their peers at the beginning of the deadliest season for teens on the roads, summer. Some of the deadly habits that are being targeted are distracted driving/texting while driving and drinking and driving. Communities and their teens are trying to get the message out by organizing community rallies, speaking events, videos/media events, contests and more. The Allstate Foundation License to Save Report found that novice drivers are the most likely

drivers on the road to have car accidents. 16 year old drivers have crash rates two times greater than 18 to 19 year old drivers and four times that of older drivers. In response to this, the Allstate Foundation has developed programs that specifically address teen driving and safety. The Parent-Teen Driving Agreement and the Act Out Loud program are two initiatives by the Allstate Foundation. More information on the Parent-Teen Driving Agreement can be found at [www.allstatefoundation.org/parent-teen-agreement](http://www.allstatefoundation.org/parent-teen-agreement). The Act Out Loud program is a



Global Youth  
Traffic Safety Month™

national contest sponsored by the Allstate Foundation that encourages teens to plan a safe teen driving rally. The contest focuses on educating teens on speeding, seatbelt usage and distracted driving. Grand prize is \$10,000! More information on this program can be found at [www.actoutloud.org](http://www.actoutloud.org). Prom, graduation and summer are quickly approaching, let's keep our teens safe on the road!

## May is Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month

Although the US teen pregnancy rate has been decreasing for the past two decades, it is still a significant problem in our country. It has been found that 3 in 10 girls in the US will have an unplanned pregnancy at least once before the age of 20 years old! The United States rates are still nine times higher than other developed countries!

One health risk for teenage girls who are pregnant is if they do not seek treatment, or get adequate prenatal care. This prenatal care is

especially important in the first few months of the pregnancy, as it can screen for medical problems for both mom and child.

Pregnant teens also have a higher risk of getting high blood pressure -- called pregnancy-induced hypertension -- than pregnant women in their 20s or 30s. They also have a higher risk of preeclampsia, which is a



dangerous medical condition that combines high blood pressure with excess protein in the urine, swelling of a mother's hands and face, and organ damage.

In addition to the health complications with a teen pregnancy, it has been found that parenthood is the leading reason why teen girls drop out of school; after all, it's really difficult to juggle homework and a baby.

Less than half of teen mothers ever graduate from high school and fewer than 2% earn a college degree by age 30. More than half of all mothers on welfare had their first child as a teenager. In fact, two-thirds of families begun by a young, unmarried mother are poor.

There are many ways to prevent an unplanned teen pregnancy, with the first one being talking to your kids. If you want any more information, or help, call us at Steuben Council on Addictions, 607-776-6441.

Do you or someone you care about need help because of Drugs, Alcohol or Gambling call:

**1-877-8HOPENY (1-877-846-7369)**

24 hours a day, 7 days a week \* Free & confidential information and referrals.

# In The Know and By The Numbers

A look at current statistics and figures relating to teen driving and teen pregnancy

- More than 1,000 people were killed in 2012 in crashes involving underage drinking & driving.
- Younger drivers have the highest proportion of distraction-related fatal crashes.
- Driving is the #1 killer of teens.
- Each year nearly 500,000 young adults are injured due to distracted driving.
- The summer months are considered the deadliest for teens on the road.  
[www.noys.org](http://www.noys.org)
- 58 out of every 1000 females ages 15-19 years becoming pregnant each year in the US.
- Teen mothers in NYS are more than twice as likely as older moms to receive late or no prenatal care.
- Infants born to teen mothers are at higher risk for low birth weight, infant morbidity and mortality, and are at greater risk for child abuse and child safety issues.  
[www.health.ny.gov](http://www.health.ny.gov)
- More than 50% of teen mothers never graduate from high school.  
[www.dosomething.org](http://www.dosomething.org)

## Catholic Charities Steuben Prevention Services

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Assistant: Pam Aini

Bath Hope for Youth Counselors:

Sherry Sutton—Campbell-Savona  
Bridgette Lanphere—Hammondspoint  
Jennifer Beaty—Haverling

## The Council Corner

We are excited for the upcoming annual celebration of prevention! National Prevention Week begins May 18 and runs through the 24 with the focus this year being "Our Lives. Our Health. Our Futures." National Prevention Week is a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) supported annual health observance dedicated to increasing public awareness of, and action around, substance abuse and mental health issues.

Prevention is a vital focus and one that Steuben Council on Addictions and Bath Hope for Youth strive towards each day. This month we want to take a minute and thank and recognize our prevention educators and prevention counselors who spend every day on the front lines of prevention.

On April 24 the GST BOCES Coopers Campus Criminal Justice class with the help of the Bath Fire and EMS, Steuben County Sheriff's Office, NY State Troopers, Steuben Council on Addictions, Steuben County DA's Office, Steuben County Coroner, MercyFlight, Avoca Ambulance, N. Hornell Fire,

Steuben County 911 and more participated in a mock DWI crash to give students a controlled look at the dangers of drinking and driving.

Students watched and listened to the process that occurs as a crash unfolds from the call to 911 through to the arrest and clean up of a scene. Various speakers explained events and processes to onlookers in the hopes that as prom and graduation season arrive, they will think twice about their choices and see that all choices have consequences.

Thank you to Assistant CJ educator Erin Boyle, CJ Instructor Scott Richardson and their students for all the time that was put into this educational day for students.



**PARENTS WHO HOST LOSE THE MOST**

Don't be a party to teenage drinking. It's against the law.

**YOU MATTER!**

The **ONLY** thing between alcohol and **YOUR** children is **YOU**.

65% of youth surveyed nationally report they were given the alcohol they drank from family and friends.



**Steuben Underage Party Tip Line**  
**1-877-862-4847**

Steuben Council on Addictions is a division of Catholic Charities Steuben. In The Know is a regular monthly update about alcohol, tobacco and other drugs to help in the prevention of substance use and abuse. For more information please contact Stacey O'Dell, Prevention Educator at [sodell@dor.org](mailto:sodell@dor.org).

Catholic Charities  
Steuben County