

# DOL Traffic Safety Curriculum & Driver Guide Update Efforts

JTC Driver Training Workgroup

August 1, 2014

#### Current Curriculum – Overview



- 29 Core Elements
- 30 Hours of Classroom
- 6 Hours of Driving
- Schools Can Modify the Curriculum
- WA Meets National Standards



# Washington Driver Guide



- Print and Online (PDF)
- Available in Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Russian, Vietnamese, & Japanese
- Covers Rules of the Road,
   Safe Driving Tips, Licensing
   Requirements & Emergencies



# Results Washington & Target Zero



- Lead Agency for Young Drivers
- Goal: Reduce young driver involved fatalities from 146 (2011) to 110 in 2017
- What We're Doing:
  - Evaluating Curriculum, Driver
     Guide, & Knowledge Test
  - Early Warning Letter Program
  - Ongoing Research/Analysis
- Target Zero Driven Messaging Makes a Difference



# Curriculum & Driver Guide Updates



- More Alignment with Target Zero
- More Impactful & Relevant Messaging
- Data Driven Approach
- Adding Depth Where Necessary
  - Distracted Driving
  - Marijuana/Drug Use
- Online Driver Guide Improvements
  - Interactive Content
  - YouTube Videos
  - Improved Access on Mobile Devices

### Efforts in Action: Early Warning Letter Program

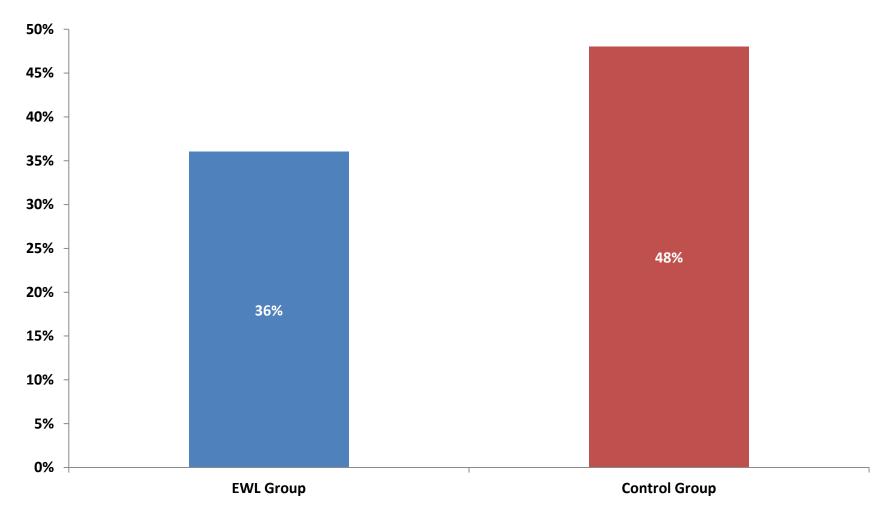


- Goal: Reduce Young Driver Repeat Offenses
- Focus on 18-21 Year Olds
- Sent an "Early Warning Letter" after 1<sup>st</sup> Moving Violation
- Letter is Non-Punitive
  - Sent from the DOL Director
  - States Traffic Violation Doubles Car Accident Risk
  - Encourages Driver to Stay Attentive

#### Early Warning Letter Preliminary Success



#### Percentage of Those Who Received Another Ticket Within 2 Years of Early Warning Letter



Early Warning Letter Reduced 2<sup>nd</sup> Ticket Issuance by 12% Compared to Control Group

# Early Warning Letter Success



- Second violations reduced by 12% in 10 months compared to control group
- Improved violation behavior: all ages and genders
- Predictive Model Results:
  - Probable reduction of 317 collisions
  - Probable reduction of 5 serious injuries
  - Probable reduction of 1 fatality

# **Examples of Potential Changes**



- Adding Statistics for Emphasis
  - Speeding is the third-most common factor contributing in fatal and serious injury collisions. It was involved in nearly 40% of fatalities and 30% of serious injuries
- Additional Focus on Young Drivers in Driver Guide
  - Teen/parent safe driving contract
  - Additional young driver statistics
- Improving Run Off the Road Curriculum
- Expanding Marijuana/Drug Content
- Distracted Driving

#### **Current Status**



- Internal DOL Target Zero Workgroup
- Reviewing alignment of curriculum and Driver Guide with Target Zero
- Present plan details to agency leadership later this year
- Coincides with a broader internal Target Zero inventory effort
- Potential Target Zero legislation in 2016 session