

What's The Real Problem?

Many folks say that gangs & drugs are the number one problem facing our teens. Well, take a look at this.

Gangs and drugs are definitely important public safety issues, but the #1 killer of teens 15 – 25 is traffic fatalities! Yes, your child is more likely to die in a traffic collision before age 25 than any other reason. Not in a drive by shooting or by overdose, but in the car you pay for. In Aiken County, we are above the national average in many categories, but the ones that stand out are alcohol related fatalities & non seatbelt use. Here are the facts.....

Aiken County

27 traffic

10 or 37% were 15 - 25

80% of the 15 – 25 were not wearing a seatbelt

60% of the under 15 - 25 were alcohol related

South Carolina

Out of 564 traffic deaths in SC, 148 of were between 15 – 25 (as of 10/10/08)

That's 26% statewide that is in our targeted age group of 15 – 25

The national average for alcohol related fatalities in the under 15 - 25 category is 49%....

Aiken County is 60%

How do we stop this trend? Is there anything out there that can give our teens a fighting chance? YES!

Alive @ 25 is a National Safety Council sponsored program that focuses on the behaviors of driving and less on the mechanics in the 15 – 25 age group. Currently in 37 states, South Carolina is one of the leaders in this effort with 9248 students taking the class since February 2007. Out of that 9248 only one student has died in a traffic collision. The numbers do not lie, Alive @ 25 gives us hope, hope that we can stop the increase in deaths amongst our youth by giving them the proper tools to operate a motor vehicle safely. Ask yourself, what have you done for your driver? If you received the knock on the door from the Highway Patrol, would you second guess your efforts? You will.

For more information and to sign up for a class near you, visit www.scaliveat25.org or contact me at sdeibel@aikencountysc.gov and take the first step to possibly saving your child's life.