

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

5805 N LAMAR BLVD • BOX 4087 • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78773-0001

512/424-2000

www.dps.texas.gov



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Passage of HB 339 of the 81st Legislature required the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to issue a yearly list of the collision rate for student drivers ages 15-18. This publication fulfills the requirement in Transportation Code, Section 521.206 and identifies the type of course (i.e.-commercial course, Parent Taught, etc.) and the collision rate of students taught by each driver education entity including the severity of the collisions. This report spans drivers who were issued a provisional driver license from September 1, 2010 thru August 31, 2011. Crash data from September 2010 through August 2011 was evaluated to identify collisions that occurred within one year from the date the license was issued.

Much of the data for this report was manually collected and verified. Although only 13,953 crashes were reported in this publication, DPS Driver License staff reviewed over 137,000 driver records. Information relating to the service provider was collected manually. The preparation of the data was conducted in phases in order to verify school names and numbers, identify schools that were closed, and to resolve discrepancies in data. DPS implemented an automated system to compile additional data previously not entered into the driver license system; however, DPS will continue to manually check course type, course name and driver education certificates for accuracy.

To ensure accuracy of the data provided in the report, the Driver License Division (DLD) collaborated with driver education entities to verify the accuracy of student information. DLD provided the driver education entities a Certificate Verification Report that identified any of their students involved in collisions. They were given a period of time to verify whether the listed students completed their driver education program. Simultaneously DLD personnel conducted an additional 100% review of the Certificate Verification Reports to ensure accuracy of the data.

This report required DLD personnel to review the information thoroughly since student drivers submit a Driver Education Certificate to DPS with handwritten information (date of completion and school number) that is then manually entered into the driver license system. Discrepancies of the data were resolved. While this effort did not yield a significant amount of discrepancies requiring correction, it was an important proactive measure to allay any concerns about the collection methodology and the validity of the data. DLD personnel fielded numerous telephone calls from over 100 driver education providers during this review period answering questions and providing information on the requirements and the collection methods of the collision rate publication.

As shown in the summary, there is less than 1% difference in the overall collision rate percentages for each course type, indicating that there is not one form of education that exceeds the others. The focus of all courses is to fully educate our young drivers and prepare them to safely operate a motor vehicle on the roadways of Texas and beyond.

Contact Mimzie Herklotz Dennis, Texas Department of Public Safety, Driver License Division, at (512) 424-2458 or by email Mimzie.Dennis@dps.texas.gov if you have questions regarding this report.