

October 2011

## Keeping Young Drivers and Passengers Safe



Car accidents are the #1 preventable cause of death for youth in B.C.

24% of drivers involved in speed related crashes resulting in injuries or fatalities were 16 to 21 years old.

According to a 2008 adolescent health survey, 34% of students in BC reported not always wearing a seatbelt. Males under 25 have the lowest rates of seat belt use.

Drivers who are buckled up have five times the risk of dying in a crash if their rear seat passengers are not wearing a seatbelt. 80% per cent of the deaths from these kinds of crashes could be eliminated if the rear seat occupants buckle up.

### ICBC's tips for parents to help keep new drivers safe by creating household rules:

- ✓ Restricting how far teens can drive
- ✓ No eating or drinking while driving
- ✓ No changing the dial on the radio, or flicking thru iPods
- ✓ No driving after dark
- ✓ Making up a family driving contract
- ✓ Going thru a pre-driving checklist every time before your young driver gets behind the wheel



For more tips go to: [www.icbc.com](http://www.icbc.com)

## International Walk to School Week

Oct 3 to 7, 2011



The purpose of this week is to:

- ✓ Encourage active living
- ✓ Decrease traffic congestion around schools
- ✓ Decrease pollution from cars and the risk of car and pedestrian accidents

## Most pedestrian related injuries happen in the months of September and October!

### *Remind teens to:*

- -remove head phones and ear buds when crossing the street, so that traffic sounds can be heard
- -no text, IM or e-mail while crossing the street
- -make eye contact with drivers and make sure they have stopped before crossing the street

### *Be visible!*

Teens should be aware that if they are wearing dark clothing they may not be visible to drivers.

A piece of reflective, light or bright clothing such as a scarf could help.



For more information go to: [www.safekidscanada.ca](http://www.safekidscanada.ca)