

Youthful Driving Experience: Oregon and U.S. Fact Sheet

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death among young Americans.

In the United States during the 1980s, more than 140,000 youths aged 15 to 24 were killed in car accidents, more than died from all diseases combined.

Although teenage drivers account for only six percent of the national driving population, they represent 14.5 percent of drivers involved in all accidents and 13 percent of drivers involved in fatal accidents.

On the average, every two or three weeks the equivalent of a senior class at a typical high school is wiped out on our streets and highways.

Oregon youths face a significant risk on Oregon highways.

Although representing only 15 percent of the 2 million licensed Oregon drivers, on the average young people between the ages of 15 and 24 are involved in almost 40 percent of the total auto accidents reported in Oregon each year.

In 1990 young adults, aged 15 to 24, accounted for over 43 percent of all Oregon traffic injuries and deaths.

In addition to the loss of lives and human suffering, motor vehicle acci-

dents take a huge economic toll.

In 1990 the total economic cost to Oregon from motor vehicle accidents was over \$2.2 billion. This amounts to roughly \$350 in total costs for each Oregon family.

The National Safety Council (NSC) estimates that the financial toll is at least \$27 billion annually for medical insurance costs, property damage and lost wages resulting from accidents involving 15- to 24-year-old drivers.

Young drivers ages 15 to 19 are still involved in a disproportionately high rate of alcohol-related crashes, despite an overall decline over the past few years of these types of accidents.

During 1990 40 percent of all traffic fatalities for Oregonians aged 15 to 20 were a result of drinking and driving.

Last year in Oregon 60 young adults between the ages of 15 and 24 were killed in motor vehicle accidents in which one or more persons had a BAC (blood alcohol content) of .08+.

Sources: 1990 National Safety Council and Oregon Traffic Safety Commission statistics, and "Keep your Teenage Driver Alive," Reader's Digest, June 1991.

Katz: City Needs to Hire 100 More Police Officers

Katz says a 2% Savings in the General Fund Budget Could Fund Police and Other Priority Programs.

Insisting that the City of Portland needs more police officers to fight crime, State Representative and mayoral candidate Vera Katz urged the Portland City Council to approve the Police Bureau's request for 100 additional officers.

Katz said the Police Bureau may receive as few as 40 additional officers instead of the 100 requested. Portland Mayor Bud Clark was quoted last week saying, "I think we're going to get at least 40. 100 would be very difficult."

"Either the City Council is serious about fighting crime or not-adding only 40 new police officers is not serious," said Katz.

"I am going to be adamant about this," Katz said. "Public safety is my number one priority and I intend to keep the pressure on the City Council to do more."

In a letter to the Council, Katz pointed out that Portland's overall crime rate is higher than San Francisco or Los Angeles. "We can no longer deny the fact that we have a big-city crime problem," she wrote.

"I urge you to approve the Police Bureau's request for 100 new police officers for the next fiscal year," Katz said in her letter. "I believe that approving funding for 100 additional police officers is the point at which rhetoric about public safety becomes a real commitment to public safety."

"It is time the City Council make the same kind of major commitment

to public safety and fighting crime in Portland that we did at the Legislature.

"I urge you to take the extra time to examine the base budget expenditures of every bureau, line item by line item. I believe you can find the necessary funds for police new hires without cutting services. It might delay the budget process a couple weeks, and it will require a closer review of all budgets. But if you can find more money for law enforcement, I think the benefits will be well worth it."

"After all, a 2% savings in the general fund budget, combined with the money currently available for on-going and one-time uses could generate the funds necessary to add 100 police officers and still have money available for selected add-on programs and/or restorations.

"I hope that we are past the point of raising the false fear of 'deep cuts in other services' as a legitimate excuse for falling short of what needs to be done to meaningfully increase the public's safety."

"As we face the prospect of 500,000 new residents in the Portland metropolitan area in the next decade, along with an increasingly competitive economic environment, our city is poised on the threshold of tremendous change. The consequences of the choices you make today will be felt for many years to come. I believe making our City safer and more secure is the most important task before you as you face these choices."

Revlon Continues To Support United Negro College Fund With Donation To Colleges, Student Emergency Assistance Fund



Marking 35 consecutive years of support for the United Negro College Fund, Revlon presented the fund with a \$75,000 donation earmarked for UNCF colleges and the Revlon UNCF Student Emergency Assistance Fund. Shown at the recent presentation ceremony in New York City are (left to right): Paul Block (President, Revlon Professional Products Group), Virgil Ecton (Sr. Executive Vice President, - UNCF), Joshua Givens (Vice President Marketing, Retail Ethnic-Revlon), William Peters (Director Greater New York Campaign-UNCF).

At a recent ceremony in New York City, The Revlon Foundation and the Revlon-Realistic Professional Products Group reaffirmed their long-standing commitment to the goals and activities of the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) through a donation of \$75,000.

Marking 35 consecutive years of Revlon support for UNCF, the donation includes both a \$25,000 contribution from the Revlon Foundation, presented by James T. Conro, Senior Vice-President for corporate Affairs and Special counsel, Revlon, Inc. to the Revlon/UNCF Student Emergency Assistance Fund and a \$50,000 contribution presented by Joshua Givens, Vice President, Director of Marketing, Retail Ethnic Markets, Professional Products

Group for distribution to UNCF Colleges.

The Revlon/UNCF Student emergency Assistance Fund contribution will provide financial support to students who have exhausted all other financial resources.

The Professional Products Group's contribution was made possible through the Group's Black History Month Celebration, a retail promotion now in its tenth consecutive year, and will be used by UNCF colleges to expand curricula, hire teachers and help defray similar expenses.

UNCF member institutions currently includes 41 historically black colleges and universities, enrolling 50,800 students.

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Solicitation of Proposals for Elderly and Handicapped Transportation Services

Funds are available through the Salem Area Mass Transit District for provision of specialized transportation services for elderly or handicapped persons. The funds may be used to plan services, purchase equipment, and operate service. Area of operations must be limited to Marion or Polk County. Approximately \$503,000 is expected to be available in FY 92-93 in the Special Transportation Fund (STF).

Any person or organization, public or private, interested in providing special transportation services and applying for STF funds should contact John Whittington, Planning & Marketing Dept., Salem Area Mass Transit District, 3140 Del Webb Avenue NE, Salem, OR 97303 (503) 588-2885. An application package is available, which must be executed and returned by 3:00 p.m. local time Monday, March 23, 1992.

Minority Coordinator to Speak at Women's Caucus

Shelley Matthews, Minority Outreach Coordinator to Speak at Women's Caucus for Art

Shirley Matthews, minority outreach coordinator from the Metropolitan Arts Commission will be the guest speaker at the next meeting of the Women's Caucus for Art On March 23rd at 5 PM. Her topic "MAC: What it is and what it can do for you" will be relevant to women artists at all levels of accomplishment. The WCA, which meets the 4th Sunday of each month, is a networking organization promoting the political and financial parity for women artists. The meeting will be held at the downtown YWCA, 111 SW 10th Avenue, in conference room 2, main floor.

Can Penicillin Really Prevent Fatal Infections in Infants with Sickle Cell Anemia?

Sickle cell anemia is an inherited blood disorder causing frequent bouts of pain and in some cases causes frequent hospitalization.

The Sickle Cell disease branch of the NIH established a Study Group in 1983, utilizing 23 medical centers, to find out if daily doses of oral penicillin could prevent severe bacterial infections in young children with Sickle Cell Anemia.

Investigators sought a way to reduce the death rate in young children with sickle cell anemia. Despite great improvements in detection and treatment during 20 years, there has been almost no reduction in the incidence of the severe infections which can kill Sickle Cell Children under 3 years of age.

Young children with Sickle Cell Anemia often may develop a serious complication called bacteremia caused by pneumococcus bacteria. The pneumococcus bacteria is one of the germs that causes pneumonia. Bacteremia means bacteria in the blood. Young children with pneumococcus bacteremia can go from fever to death in less than 12 hours. About a third of the young children with bacteremia die from it. Young children with Sickle Cell Anemia are also likely to develop other life-threatening infections from the pneumococcus germ such as pneumonia and meningitis.

There were 215 children ranging from ages 3-36 months participating for 15 months. 105 children were given 2 small (125 mg) daily doses of penicillin pills and 110 received a placebo, that means a substance that could not prevent infections. Vitamin C was used in this study. Neither the medical center staff nor the parents knew which children were getting penicillin and which

ones were getting vitamin C pills.

Upon completion of the study they found that the preventive treatment worked in their study. Only 2 of the 105 children who received penicillin developed pneumococcal infections. Whereas 3 of the 110 treated with vitamin C developed a pneumococcal infection. There were 3 deaths-all in the group receiving the placebo or Vitamin C.

Over 2,000 children are born with Sickle Cell Anemia in the United States yearly and only a very small percentage of them are allergic to penicillin. Should the child be allergic to penicillin, your doctor can prescribe another effective antibiotic such as erythromycin. We recommend that treatment begin when babies are 4-6 months old and until at least their 6th birthday. If you know your child has Sickle Cell Anemia, contact the Portland Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation immediately, if you have not already done so, at 249-1366.

Many people confuse Sickle Cell Disease with Sickle Cell trait. These are two different conditions. Sickle Cell Trait is a condition in which a gene for sickle hemoglobin is inherited from one parent and a gene for normal hemoglobin from the other. This is what we call the carrier state; it cannot change to become the disease and is not contagious. Persons with Sickle Cell Trait should avoid unpressurized planes and high altitudes, and should remember that should their companion have Sickle Cell Trait, they become a couple at-risk for having a child born with Sickle Cell Anemia.

The other condition is the result of a person inheriting a gene for sickle hemoglobin from one parent and a gene for either a normal hemoglobin or a gene that limits hemoglobin production

from the other parent. Examples are Sickle Cell Anemia, Sickle Cell C-Hemoglobin Disease and Sickle Cell-Thalassemia Disease respectively.

In patients with Sickle Cell Disease, stroke typically develops between the ages of 9 and 15, with a picture of ischemic infarction that mimics what is seen in older patients with carotid occlusion from atherosclerotic disease. Infarction occurs mainly in younger patients and hemorrhage in older ones. A study reported in the New England Journal of Medicine, Adams et al., reveals that future studies can provide further validation of the transcranial Doppler ultrasonography technique, perhaps, by using magnetic resonance angiography, and can assess the effects of transfusion therapy to prevent strokes in patients with Sickle Cell Disease.

The racial groups with Black African ancestry whether living in the United States, Caribbean, South America or Pan American countries are groups at-risk. In addition, Italians, Sicilians, and East Indians are affected as well. The incidence of Sickle Cell Trait varies tremendously in these racial groups, being very low in the latter group. Sickle Cell Trait is present in 10-12 percent of Black Americans and Sickle Cell Anemia occurs in one out of 400 to 500. The Portland Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation hopes to have the incidence rate in other races upon the completion of a research project.

The Foundation is seeking volunteers for their speakers bureau, for grant writing, fund-raising activities, outreach, and telephone. They are also hoping to have a van donated to be utilized as a small mobile unit for testing in the community. Persons who desire to be tested or who are seeking additional information should call 249-1366.

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