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**Panhandle**

Public Health District

## News Release

January 23, 2025

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### **Nebraska Panhandle needs increased access to driver's ed**

We all know the importance of driving safely on our Panhandle streets and highways. All Panhandle residents can help with this effort in many ways. One area of focus is around teen education. Parents are in the best position to help their teens to become safe, smart, and skilled drivers. Parents can also encourage the completion of driver's ed classes when accessible.

Only 20% of Panhandle teens take Driver's Education courses compared to the state average of 50%. Driver's education reduces crashes and traffic tickets enhancing individual and community safety.

### **What can parents do?**

- Complete a parent survey accessible here: <https://tinyurl.com/4ub4yazt>
- If Driver's Education is available and accessible to your child, encourage they take it!
- Advocate for all Panhandle residents to buckle up, slow down, and be aware of your surroundings – it can save a life!

### **Why is this a concern to you and Panhandle residents?**

Scotts Bluff & Box Butte counties rank in the top 10 counties in Nebraska for teen crashes due to improper driving, speed, and distraction. (Data source: Nebraska Dept. of Transportation County Level Vehicle Miles Travel, 2016-2020).

### **What are we doing to assist with this concern?**

- Panhandle Public Health District and the Nebraska Highway Safety Office are working to provide education, raise awareness, and highlight the issues of highway safety crashes and increase driver's education access.
- WNCC is working to increase accessibility of driver's education classes in the Panhandle.

To learn more, visit [www.pphd.ne.gov](http://www.pphd.ne.gov) or call Janelle Visser at 308-487-3600 Ext. 105.

Panhandle Public Health District is working together to improve the health, safety and quality of life for all who live, learn, work and play in the Panhandle. Our vision is that we are a healthier and safer Panhandle Community.

## The Nebraska Panhandle Needs Increased Access to Driver's Ed

### Driver's Ed Rates in the Panhandle

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### What can you do?

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### Why is this a concern to you?

Scotts Bluff & Box Butte counties rank top 10 in Nebraska for crashes due to improper driving, speed, and distraction.

Table 1. Top Ten Nebraska Counties of Teen Driver and Passenger-Involved Crash Rates by Vehicle Miles Traveled, 2016-2020

Overall Crash				Improper Driving Related Crash				Speeding Related Crash				Distraction Related Crash			
County	Miles	Freq	Rate	County	Miles	Freq	Rate	County	Miles	Freq	Rate	County	Miles	Freq	Rate
Scotts Bluff	1,503.2	846	56.3	Box Butte	493.7	84	17.0	Box Butte	493.7	30	6.1	Platte	1,682.6	157	9.3
Adams	1,231.5	677	55.0	Scotts Bluff	1,503.2	225	15.0	Adams	1,231.5	56	4.5	Scotts Bluff	1,503.2	137	9.1
Platte	1,682.6	880	52.3	Platte	1,682.6	243	14.4	Madison	1,530.5	68	4.4	Box Butte	493.7	44	8.9
Madison	1,530.5	763	49.9	Saline	599.5	85	14.2	Scotts Bluff	1,503.2	66	4.4	Saline	599.5	49	8.2
Lancaster	12,612.4	6,196	49.1	Adams	1,231.5	168	13.6	Platte	1,682.6	68	4.0	Adams	1,231.5	98	8.0
Saline	599.5	287	47.9	Madison	1,530.5	178	11.6	Colfax	644.7	24	3.7	Dodge	1,834.2	138	7.5
Douglas	22,621.1	10,786	47.7	Dodge	1,834.2	213	11.6	Dawes	483.8	17	3.5	Phelps	568.9	42	7.4
Sarpy	6,922.9	3,137	45.3	Hall	3,449.5	388	11.2	Saline	599.5	21	3.5	Red Willow	557.5	41	7.4
Hall	3,449.5	1,562	45.3	Brown	213.9	24	11.2	Saunders	1,258.1	42	3.3	Lincoln	3,220.6	234	7.3
Box Butte	493.7	209	42.3	Phelps	568.9	61	10.7	Dodge	1,834.2	60	3.3	Hall	3,449.5	237	6.9
Statewide	101,475.3	35,859	35.3	Statewide	101,475.3	6,904	7.5	Statewide	101,475.3	1,917	1.9	Statewide	101,475.3	4,071	4.0

Data source: Nebraska Department of Transportation County Level Vehicle Miles Travel, 2016-2020.