

New York State Partnership Against Drowsy Driving (NYPDD)



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State Partnership Addresses Drowsy Driving Crash Issues

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), estimates drowsy drivers cause at least 100,000 crashes a year, resulting in more than 1,550 deaths and 71,000 injuries and \$12.5 billion in monetary losses (Drowsy Driving.org). In New York State, the contributing factor of “fell asleep” was issued by police in more than 3,100 crashes in 2014, while “fatigued/drowsy driving” was reported in more than 1,300 police-reported crashes (Institute for Traffic Safety Management and Research). While every driver **must** be awake and alert at the wheel, there are certain groups who are at an increased risk for drowsy driving crashes: commercial drivers, high school and college students, new parents, shift workers, business travelers, young male drivers and people with untreated sleep disorders.

The New York State Partnership Against Drowsy Driving (NYPDD), which was created in 2003 and is facilitated by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), is a joint effort to educate the public and high-risk groups about the dangers of fatigued/drowsy driving and promote the adoption of preventive strategies. Awareness activities are conducted annually during Drowsy Driving Prevention (November) and Sleep Awareness (March) weeks. The weeks are always coordinated with daylight savings time.

Members of the NYPDD include representatives from the AAA Hudson Valley, New York Association for Pupil Transportation, NYS Association of Chiefs of Police, NYS Association of Traffic Safety Boards, NYS Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), NYS Department of Transportation (NYSDOT), NYS Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee (GTSC), NYS Thruway Authority, NYS Motor Truck Association, NYS Police and the NYS Sheriffs’ Association. Partners meet regularly to share traffic data on drowsy driving and work cooperatively to conduct projects to raise public awareness of the risks of drowsy driving. The partnership encourages the adoption of prevention strategies among the general public and high-risk populations.

The NYPDD has worked collaboratively to conduct press events and public awareness campaigns on the local and state levels. The NYSDOH has also developed publications that are available to support drowsy driving prevention activities. To obtain these free publications, or for more information about the NYPDD and how you can get involved, please contact Jennifer Hogan at (518) 402-7900 or Jennifer.hogan@health.ny.gov.