

Road Safe

Years 11–13

Focus area 1

This section of the Road Safe programme contains one of the following focus areas for students at years 11–13:

1. **Attitudes to drink-driving**
2. The consequences
3. What the law says
4. Pressure
5. Thinking ahead

Note: Research suggests that an effective programme should include learning experiences from each of the focus areas.

Focus area 1: Attitudes to drink-driving

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Focus area 1: Attitudes to drink-driving

Explanation

In this focus area, students are introduced to the topic of drink-driving. They are given the opportunity to identify values and attitudes that they, and their community, have about driving after drinking. They consider why young people, in particular, drink and drive, even when they know the consequences.

Curriculum links

Key competencies: Managing self; Relating to others; Participating and contributing

Learning area: Level 6 and level 7 Health and Physical Education – Strand D: Societal attitudes and values

Resources

Copysheet: **Attitudes to drink-driving** (cut into sets for group work)

Copysheet: **The quietest room in town**

Copysheet: **Just for a laugh**

Website information: *Motor Vehicle Crashes in New Zealand:*

www.transport.govt.nz/research/roadcrashstatistics/motorvehiclecrashesinnewzealand

Success criteria

At the end of this focus area students will be able to:

- describe their own attitudes to drinking and driving
- describe their community's attitudes to drink driving
- list reasons why young people might drink and drive
- list reasons why young people may get into a car with a drunk driver.

Learning experience 1: What people think

Learning intentions

By the end of this learning experience students will be able to:

- describe their own attitudes to drinking and driving
- describe their community's attitudes to drink driving.

Activities

1. Class safety guidelines

Explain that the class will be going through a road safety education programme with a series of lessons about making sensible and responsible decisions when they are faced with a decision involving alcohol and driving.

Review the class safety guidelines. They should include such things as respecting other people's views, listening to each other, being sensitive to the feelings of others and not putting each other down. Remind students of facilities within the school whereby they can get help if they want to discuss any issues arising out of the programme.

2. Attitudes to drink-driving

Put students into groups of about 4–5. Give each group a set of cards made from Copysheet: **Attitudes to drink-driving**. Include some blank cards so that students can add other attitudes if they wish.

Ask the class to group the cards according to the different attitudes shown towards drinking and driving. These different attitudes might be:

- risk takers
- just don't get caught
- it's my right
- it's okay for older drivers
- it's socially irresponsible
- there must be severe consequences
- I've got no choice.

Together they decide on their own labels for each grouping.

Ask each group to decide the following for each of their groupings:

What sorts of people are likely to have these attitudes? (Consider age, gender, socio-economic status, culture)

Are these positive attitudes to have?

Do you know any people who have these attitudes?

How do these attitudes compare with your own?

Bring the groups back for a sharing session.

Ask the following questions for students to consider privately:

What did you learn about your own attitudes to drinking and driving?

How are these attitudes likely to affect your behaviour?

Is there anything you would like to rethink about your attitudes or behaviour?

3. The quietest room in town

Read Copsheet: **The quietest room in town** to the class. Invite students to discuss in threes how this information might affect drink-drive attitudes.

Copysheet: Attitudes to drink-driving

As long as the cops don't catch us	Take a drive on the wild side
Only way to drive	Just drive slow
Irresponsible	Drive the back streets
It's not just your own life you are gambling with	I've never had a crash yet in thirty years of driving
Bloody idiots	Everybody does it
They should never be allowed to drive again	It's my right to drive home in my own car
Nobody is going to tell me what I can or can't do	How else would I get home?
It's really dumb	Confiscate their cars
Who says I can't drive?	Take a chance
The law's a crock of shit	Just go with the group
I haven't got a choice	Haven't got far to go

It's only a problem with the young inexperienced drivers	I've been driving after a few beers for years and never hit anything yet!
I can hold my drink	It's uncool to make a fuss
Only fools do that	It's a random death
I drive better when I've had a few	What can you say when it's your father?
Injured drivers take up valuable hospital beds	A few drinks heighten your judgment
They're not accidents - they're intentional, foreseeable reckless acts	I don't know anyone who has ever had an accident through drink-drive
Would you get into a plane with a drunk pilot?	There should be zero tolerance to drink driving
It's like being drunk with a loaded gun	Speeding is the number one problem

It's really murder when they kill someone	You're just unlucky if you get caught
Older, more mature people can handle their booze	They shouldn't get a licence again

Copysheet: The quietest room in town

Get comfortable while I tell you a story. It's a story you'll never know about, so I'll fill you in on all the details.

The beginning for you will be when you stagger happily to your car.

The beginning for them will be when the radio announces the spot where you piled up your car.

You won't hear the sirens coming. The ambulance and the police car will arrive together.

They will check you over and pronounce you dead.

A few curious people will stop their cars and walk back to gaze at your torn and bloody remains. Some of them will be sick.

The ambulance driver will roll a covered stretcher to your side.

The attendant will stuff your hands under your belt and then grab you under the arms.

The driver will take your legs and they will put you on the stretcher and cover you with a sheet.

They will drive you to the morgue and there an attendant will wheel you up to a big scale.

The sheet will be removed. You will be weighed and measured.

The attendant will make notes of any scars or other marks.

Then you will be covered and taken to a small room with walls of white tile.

They have hoses in the room, to give you a bath.

Traffic victims can be bloody. They will clean you up.

Your name will be written on a card and tied to your big toe.

Just before they leave you, they will place a little sandbag under your chin to stop your mouth sagging open.

You couldn't get better care in the mortuary.

In an hour or so, they will come back and move you again. This time they will take away the white sheet and cover you with a blanket.

You will be placed behind a glass window so someone can look at you – your parents, your guardian.

Someone identifies you.

Don't worry though. You won't be able to hear their cries.

Yes, they're waiting for you – the Police, ambulance driver, the official at the morgue.

They are expecting you.

Remember that tonight when you toss down the last drink and climb behind the steering wheel.

They will leave you in the quietest room in town.

Learning experience 2: Reasons for drink-driving

Learning intention

By the end of this learning experience students will be able to:

- list reasons why young people might drink and drive
- list reasons why young people may get into a car with a drunk driver.

Activities

1. Just for a laugh

Read students the story on **Copysheet: Just for a laugh**

Ask:

Do you think these boys knew the danger of drinking and driving? Explain your answer.
To what extent do you think they planned the drinking and driving?
Do you think this situation was 'a bit of a laugh'? Why or why not?

2. Statistics

Get students to view online the most current issue of *Motor Vehicle Crashes in New Zealand* and find data that relates to young people and drink-driving:

www.transport.govt.nz/research/roadcrashstatistics/motorvehiclecrashesinnewzealand/

Divide the board in half and head one 'Reasons why young people drink and drive' and the other side 'Reasons why young people get into a car with a drunk driver'.

Invite students to come up individually and write up ideas on either side.

Work with the class to make some summary statements about the reasons written.

Ask:

Have any of these reasons ever applied to you? (Some students may like to share these experiences.)
What might have helped you to change your mind?
Would you still behave that way? Why or why not?

Optional learning experiences

Invite students to talk to an adult, such as a parent or caregiver, other relative, older sibling, family friend, neighbour or sports coach, about what they have been doing in road safety education today. Suggest that they ask this person about their attitudes to drink-driving. The following questions could be used as starters.

What do you think about people who drink and drive?
Have you ever driven when you think you might have been over the limit?
Have you ever had a ride with a driver who you think might have been over the limit?
How would you feel if your children drove after drinking?

How would you feel if your children went for a ride with a driver who had been drinking?
What are your views on the drink-drive laws for under-20's?

Copysheet: Just for a laugh

The following story is a true one. Names have been changed to protect the families of those involved.

At four o'clock on the 27th of February three young men, all under 18, left Patutahi, near Gisborne, heading for Rotorua. They were going away for the weekend and they were all in high spirits. Mike Bayliss was driving, as it was his car. His friend Frank was in the front and Jason was in the back.

Mike had knocked off work at the farm early, had picked up a spare tyre and then gone to pick up the other two. He picked Jason up last from the pub where he worked. While they were there they bought some beer because they could get it cheap and they didn't want to get into trouble over at Rotorua. Frank got a dozen bottles in a carton and Jason got a few cans. They didn't have anything to drink at the hotel. They loaded up the car and were on their way.

They stopped at the Matawai Hotel at five o'clock to meet a mate. They were in the pub for about 30 minutes and drank five bottles of beer between them. Mike thought he was quite all right to drive because he could usually drink a bottle of beer without it influencing him. He thought the other two were a bit drunk.

About half way between Matawai and the Midway Camp, going through the Waioweka Gorge, Frank wanted to relieve himself. Mike stopped off the road and Frank got out. As a joke, Mike drove the car off a short way so that Frank was left out in the open. They all thought this was pretty funny. They continued on their way. Frank and Jason drank another four cans of beer. Mike had one.

A bit further on, Mike also needed to go to the toilet. He stopped the car between a heap of shingle and the edge of the cliff. It was a long way down to the river. He left the engine idling as it was perfectly flat and the car wouldn't run away. He left the car out of gear and didn't bother to put the hand brake on. He stood in front of the car as he relieved himself.

Frank decided to play a trick on Mike to get his own back. He was still sitting in the front passenger's seat but put his right leg over the drive shaft tunnel and put the clutch in. He put the car into reverse gear, let the clutch out and the car started to slowly move backwards. Mike was left standing in front of the car. At first he was laughing, but then he realised that the car was heading straight for the cliff. He ran forward, grabbed the bumper and tried to stop the car – but was dragged along in the gravel. He heard Jason call out to him from the back seat.

Frank suddenly realised what was happening and panicked. He tried to get his foot on the brake and pull the hand brake on, but he couldn't.

Mike saw the car stop for a moment – then it went over the edge. Both Frank and Jason were still inside. He watched as the car somersaulted down the cliff, bouncing against the side. It landed on its roof in the river about 140 metres below. There was a great splash and then the water went still. Then bubbles started coming up and the luggage floated out as the boot came open.

Frank came to as the water was shooting into his mouth and nose. He floated to the surface of the river and drifted across to the other side.

Jason drowned in the car.

Frank was convicted of careless driving causing death. He was fined \$300 and disqualified from driving for two years.

Five years later he was again caught driving with an excess blood-alcohol level. He was fined \$350 and disqualified from driving for eight months.

Mike talked with one of the police officers after the crash. He said he thought the cause of the crash was a joke that just backfired – it was just stupid. He didn't want to blame it on the drink because it was just fun – just for a laugh.

Do you think Jason would agree?