

When you're the PASSENGER

GETTING THERE SAFELY IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS

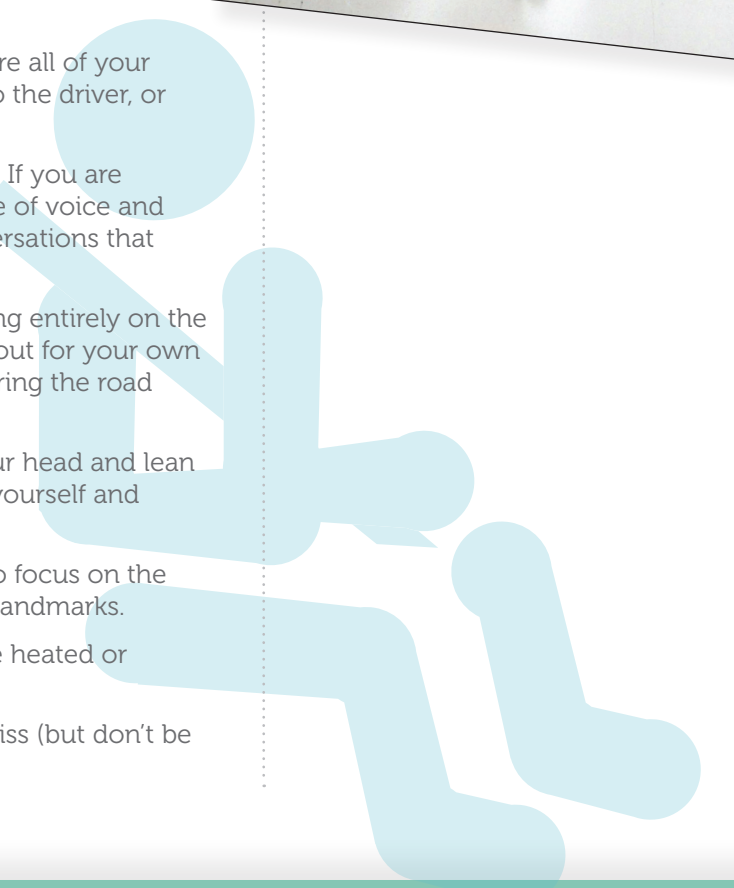


With the average cost of vehicle ownership at a record 58.5 cents per mile¹, carpooling may start to look much more attractive. Whether carpooling to work or traveling with your family, when you're the passenger, there are things you can do to help the driver stay focused so everyone gets to their destination safely.

TIPS FOR GETTING THERE SAFELY **WHEN YOU'RE THE PASSENGER**

- Always wear your seatbelt and take time to secure all of your belongings so they don't become a distraction to the driver, or worse, a projectile in the event of a crash.
- Be the designated call taker, call maker or texter. If you are making your own calls, speak in a moderate tone of voice and don't become involved in long, drawn-out conversations that could distract the driver.
- If you're a passenger and the driver is not focusing entirely on the road, don't be afraid to speak up! You're looking out for your own safety, as well as that of the driver and those sharing the road with you.
- If the driver is trying to look to the right, turn your head and lean back so they have a clear view or, you can look yourself and inform the driver.
- If driving in an unfamiliar area, allow the driver to focus on the road while you stay alert for road signs or other landmarks.
- Don't engage the driver in conversations that are heated or emotional in nature.
- Do alert the driver to any dangers he/she may miss (but don't be a backseat driver).

¹ AAA 2011 "Your Driving Costs" study



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GOT KIDS?

- Teach older children to answer calls for you. They can relay important messages or tell callers that you are driving and will return their call as soon as you are safely able to. They'll love the extra responsibility, and you'll be modeling good driving habits for them.
- Provide them with things to do (books, travel games, etc.) to distract them, so they're not distracting you.
- Help make sure your kids are safe passengers, even when someone else is driving — A survey by one of the nation's largest insurers indicated nearly a quarter of all crashes occur less than one mile from home.⁵ Send a consistent message to your kids that they are to sit in the back seat in their typical passenger restraint regardless of the length of the ride or the type of roads being driven. This way, when they find themselves riding with a driver outside of the family (who may be a bit lax on the rules,) your kids won't be tempted to stray from **your** rules.
- Passengers are not necessarily a good thing for inexperienced drivers. For 16- and 17-year-olds, carrying just one passenger increases their risk of being involved in a fatal crash by almost 50 percent; having three or more passengers triples the risk as compared with driving alone.⁶
- Many states restrict passengers for teens as a component of the state Graduated Driver Licensing laws. For information on the GDL laws specific to your state, go to: www.ghsa.org/html/stateinfo/laws/license_laws.html

DID YOU KNOW?

- Nearly 90% of employees drive to work with most (77%) driving alone.²
- Vehicles in which the driver is accompanied by a passenger are nearly 50 percent less likely to be involved in a drowsy-driving-related crash.³
- Passenger conversations differ from cell phone conversations because the surrounding traffic becomes a topic of the conversation, helping the driver and passenger to share situation awareness, and mitigating the potential effects of conversation on driving.⁴

² U.S. Census Bureau, 2007 analysis

³ AAA Foundation for Traffic safety, Dec, 2010

⁴ Passenger and cell-phone conversations in simulated driving, University of Utah, 2004

⁵ Progressive Insurance, 2002

⁶ Insurance Institute for Highway Safety and NHTSA

