



MEDINA COUNTY COMMON PLEAS COURT

Probate and Juvenile Divisions

93 Public Square, Room 104, Medina, Ohio 44256

KEVIN W. DUNN
Judge

MEDIA RELEASE

October 19, 2016

CIG Survey Results Completed Gauging Effectiveness of Take Control Program

The Center for Innovation and Growth at Baldwin Wallace University presented results on the impact of Take Control to the Montville Township Police Department, Judge Kevin W. Dunn, and Westfield Insurance.



CIG interns present Take Control survey results to Westfield Insurance, Montville Township Police and Judge Kevin W. Dunn.

MEDINA – Thanks to the collaboration between the Center for Innovation and Growth (CIG) at Baldwin Wallace University, Montville Township Police Department, Westfield Insurance, and Medina County Probate and Juvenile Court, survey results are available evaluating the impact of the Take Control driving program offered in Medina County.

Six CIG interns conducted secondary market research, comparing Take Control to similar teen-driver safety programs nationally based on cost, focus, duration, and instruction techniques.

The most significant finding of the study was

that Take Control is distinctive as it is free, taught by officers, and has some level of parent involvement. The survey also collected data from 58 graduates of Take Control. Included in the data was graduates' confidence in the skills taught, most memorable lessons, and their willingness to recommend the program to others.

The survey found that the overall perspective of the Take Control program is positive, with 84 percent of graduates surveyed responding that they found the program fun and informative; and 95 percent reporting that they would recommend the Take Control program to others.

“I learned more on that day (at Take Control) than I did with the (Driver's Ed) in-cars,” said one graduate.

The survey also found that the Take Control format taught by officers improved perceptions of the police by 53 percent.

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“(The officers) were really cool,” a Take Control graduate said. “I think it helped to eliminate the stigma that they are just out to give tickets.”

The CIG survey found that graduates ranked themselves higher in confidence and safety after completing the program, with 68 percent agreeing or strongly agreeing that they are confident in their ability to use shuffle steering, to maneuver their vehicle in reverse or to avoid a road hazard, to recover from a skid, and to use Anti-lock Braking System. The graduates’ ability to use skills to avoid accidents taught during Take Control is evident with 92 percent of the graduates reporting a near miss accident after completing the program.

Despite reports of avoiding accidents or lessening the severity of accidents among the graduates, speeding and distracted driving is still a concern. Seven of the 58 graduates surveyed report they received a traffic citation for speeding after completing the program. In addition, 67 percent of graduates surveyed admit to driving 10 to 19 miles per hour over the speed limit; 83 percent admit to driving while distracted by a cell phone, radio, passengers or eating; and 93 percent of graduates surveyed admit to driving through a yellow light.

CIG interns said they found that part of the problem is that the 11 teens who participated in the focus group reported multi-tasking and being in a hurry is simply a way of life. The conclusion from the focus groups was the sense that Take Control graduates feel like safer, more confident drivers, but they are not necessarily refraining from or avoiding risky behavior.

The BW CIG interns offered recommendations for improvement to the program. Their first recommendation is to continue to share personal stories.

“It is very unfortunate that these tragic stories exist, but it is important that Take Control continues to share these experiences with the students so they understand the serious risks they take while driving,” CIG Intern Sydney Clark said. “The students agreed that they could especially relate to them because they were local teenagers that were involved. The stories are really making an impact.”

Tammy Schaffer, a mother who lost her child in a car accident, added that the survey results impact the families involved with Take Control. Schaffer explained that while it’s bittersweet, she appreciates the support from the police departments, the Court, Westfield Insurance and the Center for Innovation and Growth to help continue to improve the program.

Other recommendations for program improvement include increased in-car time, utilization of simulators, and continued partnerships with the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, schools, and parents.

Montville Township Chief of Police Terry Grice and Judge Dunn thanked the interns for their hard work gathering this necessary data.

“There is a real world impact because of your survey and focus groups,” Judge Dunn said. “This creates a baseline for us for an evidence-based program. We can continue to make improvements to the program and track changes to ensure that we are offering young drivers the best possible training.”

To learn more about Take Control, visit www.takecontroldriving.org.

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