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- Breast Cancer
- Cancer
- Cardiovascular Health
- Children's Health
- Dental Health
- Diabetes
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Teenage Driving

MIAMI, Fla. (Ivanhoe Newswire) -- Car crashes are the leading cause of death for 15- to 20-year olds. Lack of experience behind the wheel isn't always the cause. Other drivers can also be a threat. One car crash survivor, who is a third year medical student, shares his story.



University of Miami medical student Adam Blomberg lived to tell his story. He says, "I had my seatbelt in the hand, we're pulling out of the gas station and boom, we're broadsided. I was ejected 39 feet, eight inches out the window and I landed directly on my skull."

His parents were told he might not live.

"Not many people are given that second chance. With this second chance, I don't want to be complacent with my life," says Blomberg.



He now works with trauma surgeon Jeffrey Augenstein, M.D., at William Lehman Injury Research Center in Miami. Together, they educate teens about safe driving.

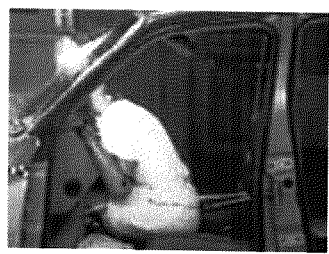
Augenstein.

"It doesn't get any easier when you go out and tell the family of a 16-year old or a 20-year old that their loved one has died," says Dr.

He says each extra person in a teenager's car increases the risk of driver distraction. Night driving also raises risk of a crash. And seatbelts?

On the right is an impact at 25 miles-per-hour with no seatbelt.

Dr. Augenstein says, "If you're wearing a seatbelt, you have twice the chance of survival of somebody not wearing a seatbelt."



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Two years ago, Blomberg lost his brother in a car crash. He wasn't wearing a seatbelt.

Blomberg says, "For every person you can't touch, there might be one more person or two people that you do touch."

A third of Blomberg's brain is permanently damaged from his accident. He has problems, but he has learned to live with them. This pilot program is being studied to determine its impact on driving habits among teens. He and Dr. Augenstein plan to turn it into a national program, using young survivors of crashes.

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