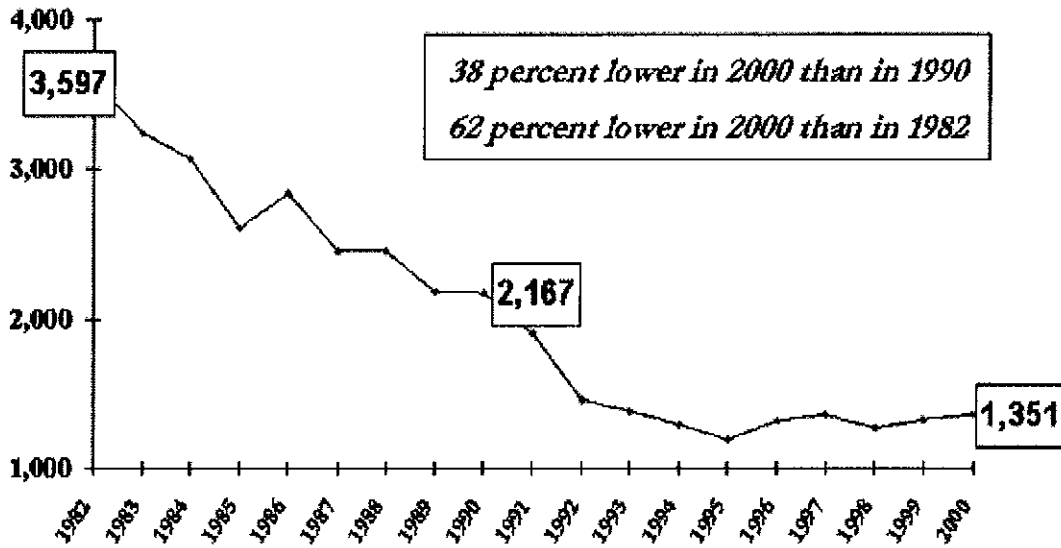


Total Fatalities in Teen Drunk Driving Crashes



Graph from www.beeresponsible.com/progress/2002ProgressCharts/Graph5.htm
Based on information from National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, U.S. Dept.

Which number most closely describes the number of teen deaths from drunk driving in 1988?

- A. 3,200
- B. 2,575
- C. 2,400
- D. 2,167

From 1985 to 1986 there was a/an ____ of about ____ teen drunk driving fatalities.

- A. increase ... 300
- B. decrease ... 400
- C. increase ... 600
- D. decrease ... 800

What conclusion could be drawn based on information in the graph?

- A. The U.S. has solved the problem of teenage drunk driving.
- B. Hardly any teens die in drunk driving accidents in the U.S.
- C. Efforts to reduce teen drunk driving have shown success.
- D. Teen deaths from drunk driving are expected to increase.

Which of these activities would **NOT** explain the data in the graph?

- A. Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) was founded in 1980.
- B. Federal and state laws against drunk driving are stronger now.
- C. Some school districts have cut back on driver education classes.
- D. Limitations have been placed on teen licenses in several states.

Today in the U.S.A.

Panel:

Wink Welcome – host

Candace Lightner – founding member of MADD

John Walsh – host of America's Most Wanted

Christopher Reeve – founder of the Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation

Linda Ginzel

Boaz Keysar } co-founders of Kids In Danger, Inc.

Kitty Westin – founder of the Anna Westin Foundation for Eating Disorders

(The panelists are seated in a semi-circle facing the audience with the host in the center.)

Welcome - Good (morning/afternoon) and welcome to Today in the U.S.A for July 25, 2004. We have for you in today's program a most inspiring group of guests, extraordinary people with extraordinary stories to tell. I'd like to introduce (*point to each person as named*): Candace Lightner, founder of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (*audience applause*); John Walsh, whom many of you know as host of the show America's Most Wanted (*applause*); the well-known actor Christopher Reeve (*applause*); Linda Ginzel and Boaz Keysar, who founded the organization Kids In Danger (*applause*); and Kitty Westin, founder of the Anna Westin Foundation for Eating Disorders (*applause*).

I am very pleased to have all of these inspirational people with us today. What all of these men and women have in common is that they have all experienced terrible tragedy in their lives, and they have all been able to turn their grief into action to accomplished amazing things. Let me begin our discussion by introducing Candace Lightner, founder of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, an organization I'm sure most people are familiar with. Good (morning/afternoon), Candace.

Lightner – Good (morning/afternoon), Wink. Thank you for inviting me to your program today. I'd like to begin by telling you that I am only one of a group of mothers who founded MADD in 1979.

Welcome – Why don't you tell us a little about how the group was started?

Lightner – Of course. As you know drunk driving is a terrible problem. Every year thousands of innocent people are killed by men or women who drink and then get behind the wheel. Unfortunately, my daughter Cari was killed by a drunk driver in 1979 when she was just thirteen years old. The man who killed Cari already had two drunk-driving convictions and was out on bail for yet another hit-and-run accident involving alcohol at the time.

Naturally, all of us that knew and loved Cari were heartbroken, but I was also angry and wanted to help prevent the same tragedy from befalling others. Some friends and I decided to form a group that could address the problem and so MADD was started.

Welcome – But that was in California, wasn't it? How did the movement go national?

Lightner – We joined forces with a group of Maryland mothers organized by Laura Lamb, whose five-month-old daughter was killed in a head-on collision with a repeat drunk driver who struck their car going 120 mph. By the end of 1981 we had eleven MADD chapters in four states, and the organization has been growing ever since.

Welcome – I remember seeing a made-for-TV movie about you. That must have helped quite a bit.

Lightner – It did. Within a month of its airing in 1983, we had opened 122 more chapters. Today we have over 600 chapters throughout the U.S., Canada, Guam, and Puerto Rico.

Welcome – Why don't you explain a little about what MADD does?

Lightner – The organization works in many different ways. We lobby for laws against drunk driving, for stiffer penalties in DUI cases, and for victims' rights. We also work to educate the public about the dangers of driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs, and we support families who have been victimized.

Welcome – And the statistics show that your organization has been very effective.

Lightner – I know we have made a difference. Since MADD began, the number of deaths per year from drunk driving has dropped by 43%, but we still have a lot of work to do. Thousands still die annually in alcohol and drug-related accidents.

Welcome – That's true, but many thousands of lives have also been saved because of your efforts and those of the other mothers in your organization. We all owe you our thanks. (*Lightner smiles and nods.*) Now I'd like to ask John Walsh to tell us his story. John, welcome to our show.

Walsh - Thank you, Wink. As many of your viewers may know, I host a television program called America's Most Wanted. We air stories about crimes and work with law enforcement agencies to help catch criminals.

Welcome – If I'm not mistaken, America's Most Wanted has helped capture somewhere around 700 criminals! But you have not always been a television host.

Walsh – No. I used to own a hotel management company in Florida, where I lived with my wife, Reve, and our son Adam. Then on July 27th, 1981, our world was turned upside-down when Adam, who was only six at the time, was abducted and murdered. In our case the murderer was never charged, though he was imprisoned for other crimes. We didn't know what else to do, so we channeled our grief into helping others in similar situations.

We began lobbying for laws to help in cases like Adam's, and Congress passed the Missing Children Act of 1982 and the Missing Children's Assistance Act of 1984, which created the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. The Center

offers a toll-free hotline and a website for reporting missing children or sightings of missing children.

Welcome – You also founded an organization in Adam’s memory, didn’t you?

Walsh – Yes, the Adam Walsh Child Resource Center. Our organization and others have since merged to become the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

Welcome - And you have received numerous honors for all of your hard work. Let me see ... *(reading from a list)* you were voted by Esquire Magazine in 1984 as “one of the best of the new generation.” You’ve been written up in every major magazine and named by CBS as one of the “100 Americans Who Changed History.” You were also named “U.S. Marshals’ Man of the Year” in 1988 and the “F.B.I.’s Man of the Year” in 1990. AND you’ve been honored four times by three different presidents!

Walsh – I have, and I’m very grateful for all of the wonderful things that have happened to me, but neither I nor anyone else should forget how and why I was thrust into the public scene. In the end everything in my life is about Adam. I want and need to do anything and everything I can so that other people won’t have to go through what my family did. And when families do experience the same kind of loss, I can help them because I really DO understand how they feel.

Welcome – Thank you, John, for sharing your story. *(Walsh nods.)* Next, Ladies and Gentlemen ... Christopher Reeve. *(applause)* Christopher, you have become a tireless spokesman for people who have been paralyzed. You probably never thought this would become your cause.

Reeve - I didn’t. I was strong and physically active before my accident, so I never really thought much about spinal injuries. I was busy acting and had a very full life.

Welcome – Then, of course, you, who everyone thought of as “Superman,” were thrown from your horse in 1995 and paralyzed from the neck down. You must have thought your life was over!

Reeve – At first maybe, but I really knew it wasn’t. I mean it’s hard. It’s still hard and, honestly, I still cry over my loss, but then I tell myself, “And now, forward!” I have been put in this position for a reason: to bring attention to the needs of those who are paralyzed. It just doesn’t do any good to dwell on how my life might have been. I try to only think about how it is and how it will be in the future.

Welcome - Do you think you will walk again someday?

Reeve – I don’t know. If I do, that would be wonderful but if I don’t, I hope that other paralyzed people will one day walk because of my efforts.

Welcome – What kinds of things have you been working on in that regard? I know you formed the Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation.

Reeve – Yes, the CRPF supports research to develop treatments and a cure for paralysis caused by spinal cord injury and other disorders. We raise money to fund research and to help improve the quality of life of people who are paralyzed. CRPF also works closely with other organizations that lobby for the rights of the disabled. I have been fortunate to have had the opportunity to speak before Congress several times about these causes.

Welcome – You are such an inspiration to others! You are paralyzed from the neck down, cannot hold your wife or your son, and yet you have dedicated your life to serving others. You used to play a superhero, but most people would say that now you are a true hero. What do you think?

Reeve - That's a great question! "When the first Superman movie came out I was frequently asked, 'What is a hero?' I remember the glib response I repeated so many times. My answer was that a hero is someone who commits a courageous action without considering the consequences -- a soldier who crawls out of a foxhole to drag an injured buddy to safety. And I also meant individuals who are slightly larger than life: Houdini and Lindbergh, John Wayne, JFK, and Joe DiMaggio. Now my definition is completely different. I think a hero is an ordinary individual who finds strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles."

Welcome – Which you have done and continue to do. Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to come and talk with us today.

Reeve – It was my pleasure.

Welcome – Now I'd like Linda Ginzel and Boaz Keysar to tell us about Kids In Danger and their work. Linda, why don't you start?

Ginzel – Thank you. I suppose I should start by telling you that we, like everyone else here, did not find our cause until we were faced with tragedy, the death of our baby. We were both busy college professors and most of our energies outside the family went to our students and the university. Then in 1998 Danny, our sixteen-month-old son, was killed when the top rails of the portable crib at his day-care center collapsed on his neck. It was a licensed day-care, and the crib was an approved crib, as far as we knew.

Keysar – But only a few days later we learned that Danny was not the only child to die because of that crib; he was the fifth. The news reported Danny's death was due to the crib which had actually been recalled in 1993.

Ginzel – Well over a million cribs of that design were still in use around the country years after the recall. Some had even been sold since the recall.

Keysar – Not knowing what else to do, we began researching the problem and found that, in fact, fifteen children had died because of that particular crib or ones with a similar design.

Welcome – Doesn't the government have agencies to police this sort of thing?

Keysar – Yes, the Consumer Product Safety Commission is supposed to, but through our research, we discovered flaws in the system. We found that companies were not required to test most products before putting them on the market.

Ginzel – We found that of the hundreds of products recalled each year, as many as 90% were never tested for safety before they were sold.

Keysar – As in the case of the crib, children had to die before anyone realized there was a problem. Even then, the recall was so poorly publicized that most of the cribs were still in use so even more children died.

Welcome – So you founded Kids in Danger. What does your organization do?

Ginzel – We started off by posting information about recalls on our website. Then we started raising money to pay for public service announcements about recalls.

Keysar – We also work with the government and other agencies to get unsafe products off the market and out of child-care centers.

Ginzel – And we lobby the states and the federal government to pass or strengthen laws to protect consumers. In 1999 we sponsored the Daniel Keysar Memorial and Children's Consumer Product Safety Act.

Welcome - There is no way to know how many children and others have been saved because of all of your hard work, but I am sure many have been. Thank you, and thank you for telling us about your experiences. (*Ginzel and Keysar smile.*) And now I'd like to call on our last guest, Kitty Westin, to tell us how she has turned her family's tragedy into service to others. Welcome, Kitty.

Westin – Thank you, Wink, and you're right, my family did experience a tragic loss. Our daughter Anna suffered from a serious eating disorder, anorexia nervosa. She struggled with her disease for years in high school and college, and we all suffered during that time. Eating disorders are so misunderstood. Though she was hospitalized many times, she was never able to overcome the problem and on February 17th, 2000, she took her life as a result of it.

Welcome – I'm sorry.

Westin – We miss her very much. She was a wonderful young woman with many talents. She had a lot to offer, but life was too hard for her. There are so few resources available for victims of eating disorders. Now I want to change that.

Welcome – You founded the Anna Westin Foundation for Eating Disorders. How is your organization working to address the problem?

Westin – We work to educate communities, parents and children about eating disorders, support research which will help in the understanding of eating disorders and which will help develop effective treatments. We also work with families of patients with eating disorders so they can get treatment for as long as they need it. It was very hard for us to get Anna all the treatment she needed since our insurance company did not want to pay for it. We want to change that.

Welcome – I understand that you have since sued that insurance company?

Westin – We did, and they paid us \$1,000,000. We are putting all of that money into a treatment center. The center will be a home-like setting where patients will receive total care. They'll get medical and psychological help, of course, but patients will also have yoga and nutrition classes, massages, and other services. We're very excited about the project.

Welcome – Do you and your organization lobby for your cause like the other panelists?

Westin – Oh yes! In 2001 we helped sponsor the first annual meeting on eating disorders in Washington. We are working to educate lawmakers about eating disorders and the needs of the victims of these diseases.

Welcome – I feel certain that you will be successful.

Westin – We have to be.

Welcome – Well, Candace, John, Christopher, Linda, Boaz, Kitty, I think we have just about used up our time for today's program. Before we go off the air, I'd like to again thank all of you for coming today to share your very moving stories with us. Though you have each been faced with some of the worst situations possible, you have all been able to take your grief and turn it into something helpful. As far as I'm concerned, you are all heroes.

Guests – Thank you.

Welcome – And thanks also to our audience for tuning in to our discussion today. I hope you'll all join us again next week for Today in the U.S.A.

Why Me?



Springboard:

Students should study the “Total Fatalities in Teen Drunk Driving Crashes” graph and answer the questions.

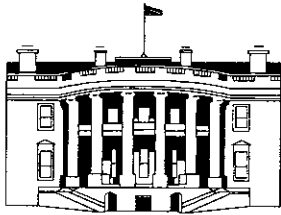
Objective: Students will recognize that one way people are “called” to service is by tragedies in their own lives.

Materials: Total Fatalities in Teen Drunk Driving Crashes (Springboard handouts or transparency)
Today in the U.S.A. (handouts)

Terms to know: **lobby** – work to influence lawmakers to pass laws that help a particular cause
consumer – one who buys a product or service

Procedure:

- After reviewing the Springboard, explain that in this lesson students will learn more about MADD, an organization founded by mothers who lost children in drunk driving accidents. Through their children’s tragic deaths, these mothers were “called” to help solve the problem of drunk driving. This lesson examines the work of MADD and other problem-solving efforts that have been borne by individuals trying to turn their grief into action.
- Students will “meet” several people whose personal tragedies turned them into activists by participating in or viewing the program “Today in the U.S.A.”
- Arrange seven chairs in a semi-circle in front of the room facing the audience. Hand out copies of the skit and assign parts. All students without speaking parts are the studio audience.
- Have students read the skit with the audience applauding at appropriate points during the program. (Unless indicated by quotation marks, the dialogue in the skit is an InspirEd creation based on the author’s research.)
- After reading the skit, have students express their feelings and reactions to the various situations. Some may also have their own related stories to tell.



Congratulations!

You have been selected as . . .

Imagine receiving a letter on White House stationery saying that you had been selected as a winner of the President's Student Service Award! Well, that is exactly what happened to each of these students, who are only a few of the thousands who have been honored in this way.

Thomas Pastorius (at 18)

Thomas worked with mentally and physically handicapped people, teaching them rowing. He taught classes and helped them carry the boats, as needed.

His team, made up of amputees, paraplegics, and people with Downs Syndrome, has won almost every race it has entered, and on the same courses as able-bodied rowers. They have broken many records for handicapped rowers -- and several for the non-handicapped!

Allison Korn (at 17)

Allison volunteered with Amigos de las Americas (Friends of the Americas). When she was 16, she spent the summer in Ecuador working with local schools and organizations to help promote basic health and environmental education. At age 17 she participated in another similar project helping people in the Dominican Republic.

Ryan McMullen (at 17)

Ryan, a member of a 4-H Club in his community, wanted his club to be of greater service to others. He came up with a project in which Club members made and provided elderly people with what he called "Clover Care Cards." The cards, which are posted on people's refrigerators, provide emergency phone numbers and needed medical information.

Robbyn Mitchell (at 14)

In 8th grade Robbyn helped tutor students for tests, served as an assistant in her school's media center, and worked as a volunteer with USAID to encourage middle school students to support international development through service. She was one of the speakers at the World AIDS Day Conference and the Global Meeting of Generations in 2001.

Melvin Moore (at 16)

Melvin is very interested in law! When he was only 9 he began serving as a peer mediator at his school. Now he does filing, answers phones, and helps out in other ways at his local Superior Court and works with people there to help families settle disputes. In his spare time he tutors elementary students and helps out at a local hospital.

Melodie Hope Wong (at 23)

After graduating from college, Melodie became an AmeriCorps member. She served as a trainer to teach young people how to take social action. In addition to her 1700 hours of work in AmeriCorps, she also logged almost 300 more volunteer hours. (AmeriCorps is a program in which people give a year of their time to help Americans in need.)

Lauren Carson (at 17)

Through high school Lauren was active in student government, the Service-Learning Youth Council, the Youth Leadership Club, and served on the Citywide Youth Council in her hometown. She has also led school beautification projects, helped produce a healthy living show on a local television channel, and helped develop a literacy program for inner-city youth.



Raindrops in a Pond



Raindrops falling into a pond send ripples out in all directions. The same thing can happen with service: individual actions “ripple.” Read about the President’s Student Service Award winners and explain how these young people’s actions could “ripple” through schools, communities, or the world.

Thomas Pastorius’ - _____

Allison Korn’s - _____

Ryan McMullen’s - _____

Robbyn Mitchell’s - _____

Melvin Moore’s - _____

Melody Hope Wong’s - _____

Lauren Carson’s - _____

