It Costs How Much?

Peer pressure during adolescence is powerful. It is tempting to allow friends to ride in the cargo area of a pickup truck or to drive fast to impress your friends. Remember, dangers exist for those riding with you as well as you as the driver. Due to the isolation of the area, we may be tempted to speed because the risk of getting caught by police is lower, but the risk of crashing is higher. Financial consequences also affect teenagers whether driving in the country or city.

**ACTIVITY 1**

**Figuring out the cost of getting a ticket**

**Targeted Audience:** Middle to high school age

**Learning Objective:** Students will evaluate the impact ticket(s) has/have on auto insurance costs.

**Concept:** Getting a traffic violation has its price. Not only do you pay for the ticket, but your insurance premiums may increase. The following story problem will show students how many hours they would need to work to pay off a speeding ticket and pay higher insurance rate.

Before doing the following activity contact your state or provincial highway patrol or department of transportation.

- Is there a law against passengers in pickup truck cargo areas?
- What are your state’s restrictions on adolescent driver’s licenses?

Each state law is different. Adjust the story to reflect what your specific laws are.

**Problem:**

Joe, age 17, drives a pickup truck. He enjoys the freedom of having his own vehicle, but isn’t wild about the fact that he has to pay his own insurance premiums. His insurance used to cost $75 per month. That is, until he got a ticket for letting friends ride in the back of his pickup truck! Because one of the passengers in the cargo area was under 16 years of age, the DMV will put a point on Joe’s license, which will increase his insurance rate by 5%. He found out the ticket cost was $150 plus a court fee of $50.

Joe is worried about money. He works 15 hours per week at a local store, and is paid $10 per hour. Help him figure out his finances by answering the following questions.

1. How many hours does Joe need to work to earn enough money to pay for the ticket and court fees?

   - **Ticket** = __________
   - **Court fees** = ________
   - **Total** = __________ (divided by $10 per hour)
   - **Hours needed to work to pay for ticket and court fees.**

2. How many hours does Joe have to work to pay his total annual insurance at the higher rate?

   - **$75 x 12 = __________** (annual fee before incident)
   - **x .05 = __________** (insurance increase)
   - **= __________** New insurance cost
   - **(annual fee plus increase - divided by $10 per hour)**
   - **= __________** Hours needed to work to pay for revised car insurance
RURAL ROADWAY SAFETY

It Costs How Much? (continued)

ACTIVITY 2
Fender Bender Costs

Targeted Audience: Middle to high school age

Both major and minor accident incidents take place on all roads, whether rural or urban setting. In the case of rural roads, major road incidents involving major vehicle damage are more likely to take place due to the speed involved in a crash. Vehicles are often completely destroyed when involved in a crash taking place on a rural road. In the case of a major crash costs can be very high. That is not to say that minor incidents don’t take place in the country. Insurance helps, but your rate may increase after a crash.

Take this case. Alicia was driving her SUV and backed into the mail box at a low speed when backing out of the driveway. Although the vehicle was minimally damaged, did not affect the vehicle’s drivability, and no human injuries occurred, the cost of fixing the vehicle was surprising. Figure the monetary costs of this situation. Insurance costs or increases due to accident rates are not taken into account.

Vehicle Parts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parts</th>
<th>$92.95</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paint material</td>
<td>$140.60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sub Total Parts $________

Tax (7% or whatever your rate is) $______

Total Parts (parts plus tax) $______

Labor (13.7 hours at rates of $38-$70 per hour) $794.60

Tax (7% or whatever your rate is) $______

Total Labor (labor plus tax) $______

Total Repair Cost $______

Hours required to pay repair bill ___________ (Total divided by hourly wage)

Questions to ponder:

- What should Joe say the next time friends want to ride in the back of his pickup truck or encourage him to speed?
- What youth driver’s license restrictions are reasonable and which ones are unfair?
- What are ways to reduce the financial impact of vehicle crashes?