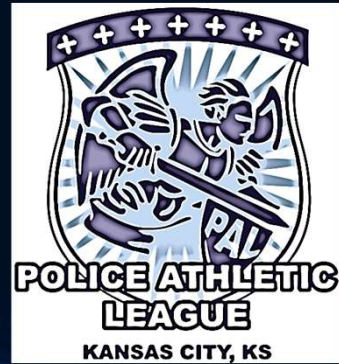


Building Youth and Police Trust Through Driver's Education

Chief Karl Oakman
Kansas City, Kansas Police Department



KCKPD
BUILDING COMMUNITY TIES
Transparency · Integrity
Engagement · Safety



1

Kansas City, Kansas

DEMOGRAPHICS

- Located on the western part of the Kansas City, Missouri Metropolitan area
- Population 156,000
 - 40% White
 - 34% Hispanic
 - 21% Black
 - 4% Asian

KANSAS CITY, KANSAS POLICE

- 369 sworn
- 100 non-sworn



2

KCK PAL STATS

- 1100 kids participate in programming yearly
- 75% of enrolled families yearly household income is less than \$30,000 a year
- 39% of enrolled kids are females
- Majority of our kids are middle school aged
- We offer over 15 different programs a year

3

What is the Kansas City, Kansas Police Athletic League Driver Education Program?

- Taught by Kansas City, Kansas Police Officers
- Program is a combination of classroom and in-car training
- Focus on rules of the road, registration, insurance, traffic citations, and police stops
- Geared towards ages 15 to 18
- Free but youth must complete 30 hours of community service.

4

Kansas City, Kansas Police Athletic League Driver Education Staff

Director - Matt Tomasic (*Retired Police Officer*)
 Sergeant Leanne Shelton
 Officer PJ. Locke
 Officer Rodney Boston (part time)
 Officer Nicole Ortego (part time)
 Officer Thomas Tomasic (part time)

5



Realizing the need for a driver's education course

- *High number of unlicensed youth drivers in under served communities*
 - *Negative police and youth encounters involving traffic stops*
 - *Traffic stops resulting in use of force incidents*
 - *Story of a traffic ticket*
 - *Court for license violation*
 - *Survey results regarding unlicensed drivers*
 - *Elimination of free Driver's Education classes*

6

THE SURVEY

Public & Private Schools

- 4 LOCAL HIGH SCHOOLS
- 2 INNER CITY DISTRICTS (POVERTY ZONES)
- 2 SUBURBAN DISTRICTS (WEALTHY ZONES)



11 Questions surveyed

- What's the cause?
- Cost
- Fear
- Lack Of knowledge

In 2021, officers issued 1,114 tickets in KCK to youth for driving with no license (including operating without proper vehicle license).

Many youth in Kansas City, KS who qualify for a learner's permit or driver's license fail to get one but drive, nonetheless. This is due to a variety of reasons: lack of knowledge about Kansas law, intimidation and fear about engaging with the government bureaucracy, misunderstanding about the proper documents needed, cost. Youth who do not have a license or permit, if they are stopped or involved in an accident, are subject to citations, fines or worse consequences and enter the law enforcement and judicial systems. This is often their first encounter with law enforcement and the legal system, and it is a negative one.

7

SURVEY RESULTS

KCK URBAN HIGH SCHOOLS 511 RESPONSES

23% do not have a licensed driver in their home

75% do not have a license

185 drive without a license or permit

72% without a license don't know the process to obtain one

42% without a license have no one to teach them

21% of drivers are self-taught

6% attended a formal driving course

KCK SUBURBAN HIGH SCHOOL 356 RESPONSES

100% have a licensed driver in their home

73% have a license

37 drive without a license or permit

23% without a license don't know the process to obtain one

16% without a license have no one to teach them

4% of drivers are self-taught

31% attended a formal driving course

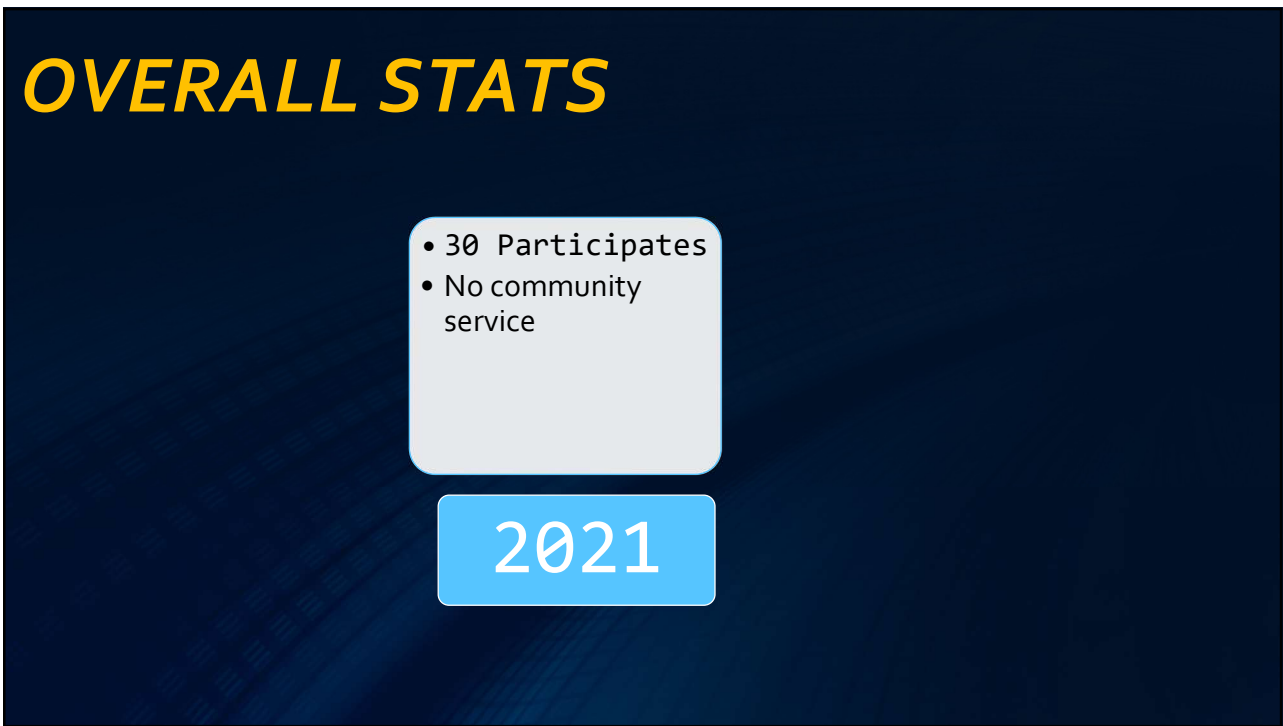
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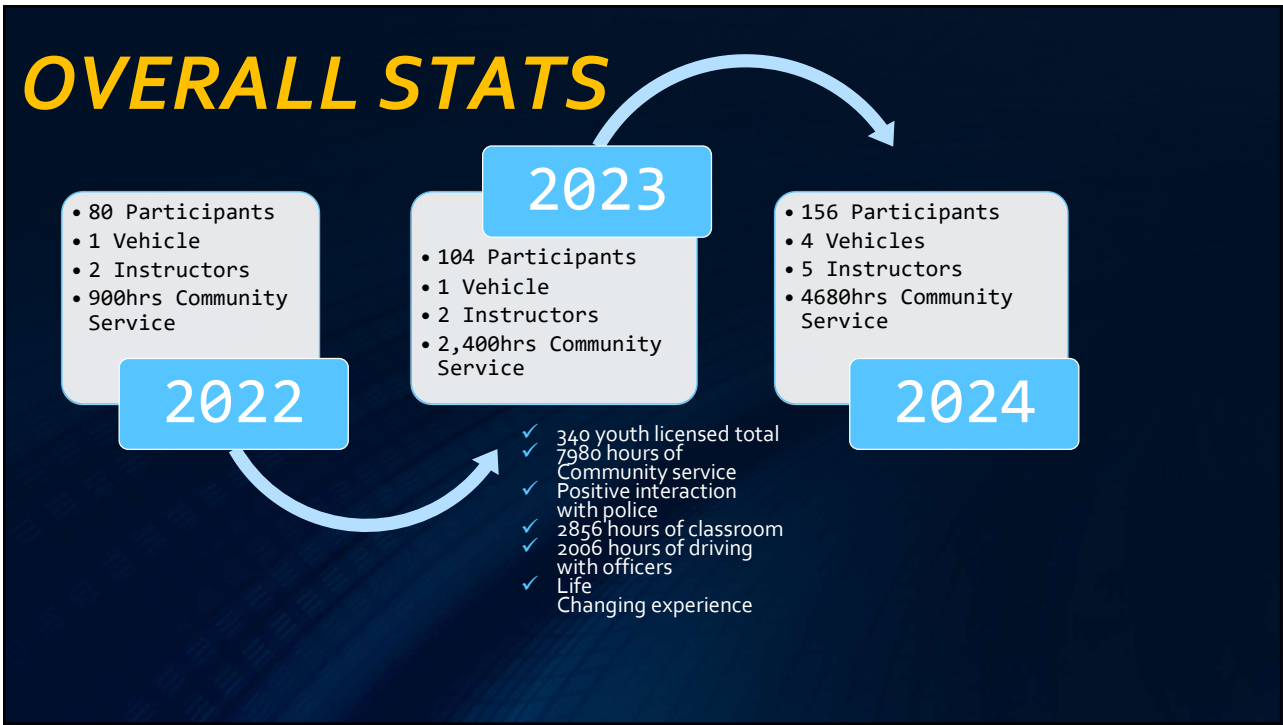
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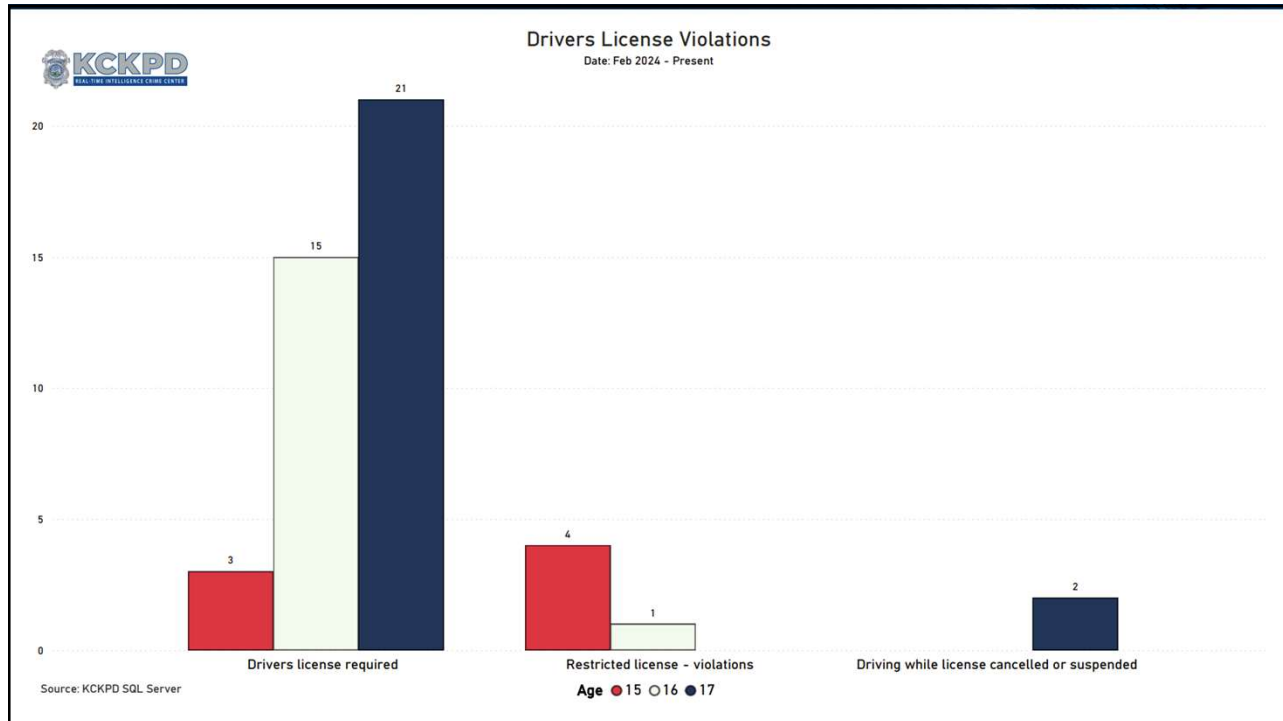
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13

Benefits of the course

- ❖ Positive police and youth relationship
- ❖ Youth are being taught valuable life skills
- ❖ How to conduct yourself on a car stop
- ❖ How to navigate the court system
- ❖ Maintaining vehicle insurance and registration
- ❖ Routine vehicle maintenance
- ❖ PAL recruitment tool, future police officers, dispatchers, and first responders
- ❖ Confidence in driving
- ❖ No more looking over the shoulder while driving
- ❖ Understanding laws and the purpose
- ❖ Many more



14

Cost of the Program

- ❖ Minimum of one sworn officers
- ❖ Possible Overtime
- ❖ State Certified Training Course
- ❖ Vehicles
- ❖ Maintenance and Insurance

15

Funding Sources

- ❖ State and Local Grants
- ❖ City Budgets
- ❖ Private and Business Donations
- ❖ Sponsorships



16



17

Questions & Answers



18