



Lifespan

If you would like to make a referral to the RYDD program, please follow these steps:

- 1) Fill out a RYDD referral form which can be obtained at the courts or by calling the RYDD office at (401) 444-0379.
- 2) Fax the referral form to (401) 444-2249.
- 3) Please make sure to give the referred youth a copy of the referral form
- 4) Ask the referred youth to call the RYDD Program at **(401) 444-0379**

If you have been referred to the RYDD program, please follow these steps:

- 1) Make sure you have a copy of the RYDD referral form
- 2) Call us at **(401) 444-0379** within one week of being referred to the RYDD program
- 3) Set up a 45 minute enrollment/program schedule meeting with RYDD staff



RYDD PROGRAM
Reducing Youthful Dangerous Decisions



What is RYDD?

The RYDD program, run by the Injury Prevention Center at Rhode Island Hospital, has been working closely with the courts for over 10 years. RYDD is an educational program designed to prevent motor vehicle crashes, reduce high-risk driving and alcohol and other drug use among our youth. We help referred youth examine the behaviors that brought them to the RYDD program in a confidential setting among their peers.

Who is eligible? The program accepts young adults between the ages of 15 through 20 with high risk driving behaviors and/or alcohol and marijuana related behaviors. We accept referrals to RYDD by courts, police departments, colleges, parents, or other agencies. There is a cost for attending the program.

What happens when youth are referred to RYDD?

Participants are scheduled for a 45 minute enrollment meeting at our Providence office during which they will receive their RYDD program schedule. The 20-hour program takes 3-4 weeks to complete and consists of group sessions, observation in the Emergency Department at Rhode Island Hospital, and a community service experience.

Group Sessions

Participants must attend all group sessions at the Rhode Island Hospital Injury Prevention Center located at 55 Claverick St, Providence RI 02903. We explore the links between substance use, high risk driving, and motor vehicle crashes through a variety of activities and group discussions. Participants are required to write a 500-word essay to be sent to the referring person or agency describing their experiences in the RYDD program.

Observer in the Rhode Island Hospital Emergency Department

Along with a mentor, participants in groups of 2 to 3 spend a 3-hour shift on a weekend night as an observer in the Emergency Department which provides an opportunity to view the negative consequences of high risk behaviors.

Serving in the Community

Participants perform community service hours. While we provide a list of local non-profit agencies who partner with RYDD to provide this experience, it is the responsibility of participants to contact the agency. Scheduled hours must be completed before the final group session.