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Third Person Dies After Van Rear-Ended Buggy

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ADAMS COUNTY, Ind. (Indiana's NewsCenter) - The Adams County Coroner's Office announced that a third victim has passed away after a traffic accident that occurred on April 17, 2012.

The 17-year-old victim died in a Fort Wayne hospital as a result of his injuries sustained from the accident.

Two people have died in Tuesday's collision between an Amish buggy and a van.

Four others remain hospitalized.

Police say it happened near the intersection of State Road 124 and County Road 400 west when the van rear-ended the buggy.

21 year old Chandler Gerber, the driver of the van was not injured in the crash. Gerber stated that he believes he was traveling around 60 miles per hour and he had been using his phone to text a family member at the time of the crash. He also stated that the morning sun was reflecting off the roadway making it difficult to see. Gerber did not see the buggy traveling in front of him and struck the buggy from behind.

The buggy was carrying six people and all of them were ejected. Three year old Enos Schwartz died at the scene, five year old Barbara Schwartz was pronounced dead at the emergency room of the hospital. The other four occupants 17 year old Jerry Schwartz, 16 year old Michael Schwartz, 4 month old Susan Schwartz and 44 year old Mary Schwartz were all transported to an area hospital.

The investigation is ongoing.

The buggy's horse was also injured and had to be put down.