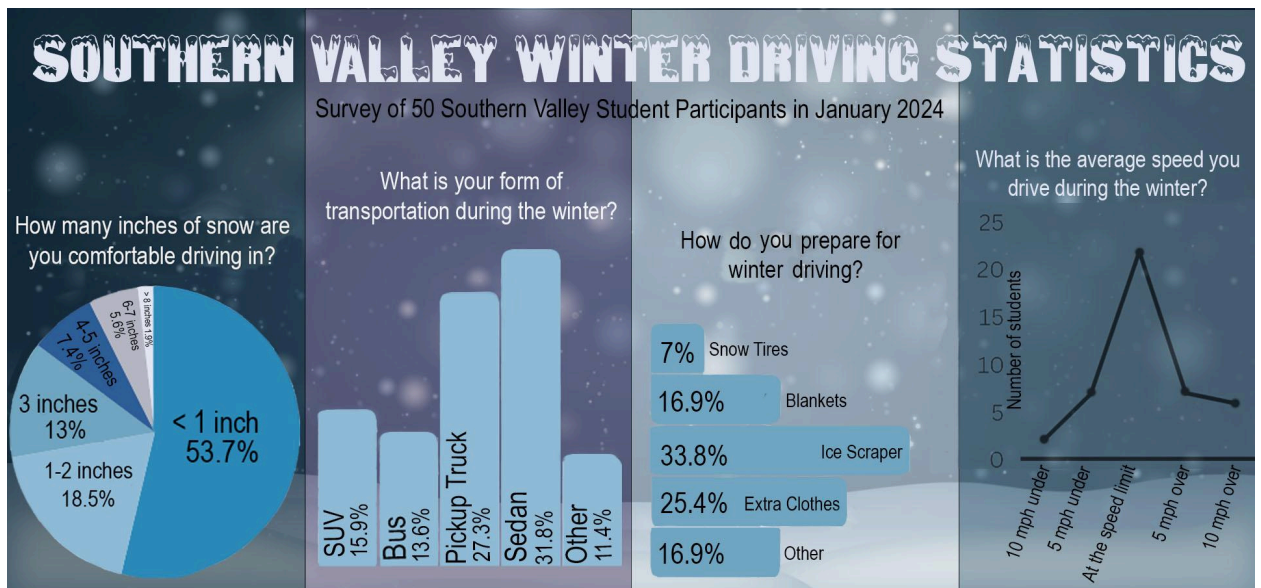


Gracie Chaves--Information Graphic
Artist Statement

To begin this infographic, I sent out a survey using a Google Form to ask my fellow students about how they prepare and how they drive during the winter. I had a total of 50 students answer my questions, and with that information I put together four graphs to display that information. I started out in a blank Canva and created graphs by filling in the information. I continued to add color and small details in Canva, selecting colors that would go along with an article on winter driving. As I finished the graphs I moved all of my work into Photoshop. First I added an even three lines to separate the spaces equally, then I added color to each of them to break up the space. With it being too plain, I decided to add a background. I found one on pngtree.com (our journalism department pays for a subscription). After I finished the background, I placed the graphs into each of the spaces, evening them out and aligning them. Finally, I added the title of the graphic in a font that matched the topic and also added the number of participants. With that my infographic was complete.





Preparation & patience needed for safe winter driving

With the winter months upon us, it is a fact that snow and ice will be around for a while. Since Southern Valley isn't located in a town, it is also a fact that everyone has to drive to school. With bad roads and teen drivers, there are some tips that everyone should remember to make sure the trip to and from school is safe.

The first topic when talking about winter driving is awareness. Pay attention to the weather so you aren't caught off guard. There are many weather apps available to see what is in the forecast. Find one, download it, and check it every couple of days.

Before getting behind the wheel, there are some things you should do starting with packing necessities. In the winter you should keep some bottled water, a blanket, a cell phone charger, hats, gloves, and some emergency food just in case. Also keep in mind that an almost full tank of gas is a good idea in case you get stuck and are stranded for a while. Always make sure your windshields are clear so you can see out of them.

The next important topic when discussing winter driving is time. Leave home early so you aren't late for school. Often in the winter, students need to drive more slowly because there can be ice or snow on the road. Keep in mind that with the wind blowing, there can be spots on the road that are dangerous even if the entire road isn't covered. In the end, remember it's better to be a little late than to slide around or even go into the ditch.

The roads out to the school shouldn't be like a race track. While behind the wheel, be more observant of other cars. Drivers need to keep a safe distance between them and other cars. Students also need to pass with care, or better yet just slow down and take a few extra minutes to get where you are going, especially if there is fog or if it is at night.

Think an accident won't happen to you? According to <https://dot.nebraska.gov/safety/driving/teen/>, in 2020 Nebraska teen drivers ages 19 & younger were involved in 19% of all crashes due to poor road conditions. Teens were also involved in 28% of all single-vehicle rollover crashes and 25% of crashes between 9 p.m. and midnight.

Snow days are fun, but when there are flakes flying and we still have school, be careful while on the road. Winter driving can be tricky, but with some preparation and patience you can get to and from school in a safe manner.

