

Felicity DeBacco-Erni

June 10, 2014

Pennsylvania Safety Symposium

Handing over the keys is exciting and scary

- Drastic switch – from passenger in school bus or parent-driven vehicle to driver of a vehicle overnight
- Concerns about your child's safety as a driver *and* passenger in another teen's car



Is this how you felt when your child started driving? 2010 Subaru commercial

WHAT PARENTS SHOULD REALLY WORRY ABOUT

PERCEPTION

vs.

REALITY

PARENTS' TOP FIVE WORRIES ABOUT THEIR TEENS

#1

Kidnapping

#2

School snipers

#3

Terrorists

#4

Dangerous strangers

#5

Drugs



THE TOP FIVE KILLER OF TEENS*

#1 Car Crashes

#2 Homicide

#3 Abuse

#4 Suicide

#5 Drowning

Teen
Safe Driving
Coalition

*Parental Parents
Guide/Barney, CDC

One passenger
can increase
the crash risk
up to 48%

16-19 year-olds
are most likely to be
in a fatal crash

Most dangerous
time of a teen's life is
behind the wheel

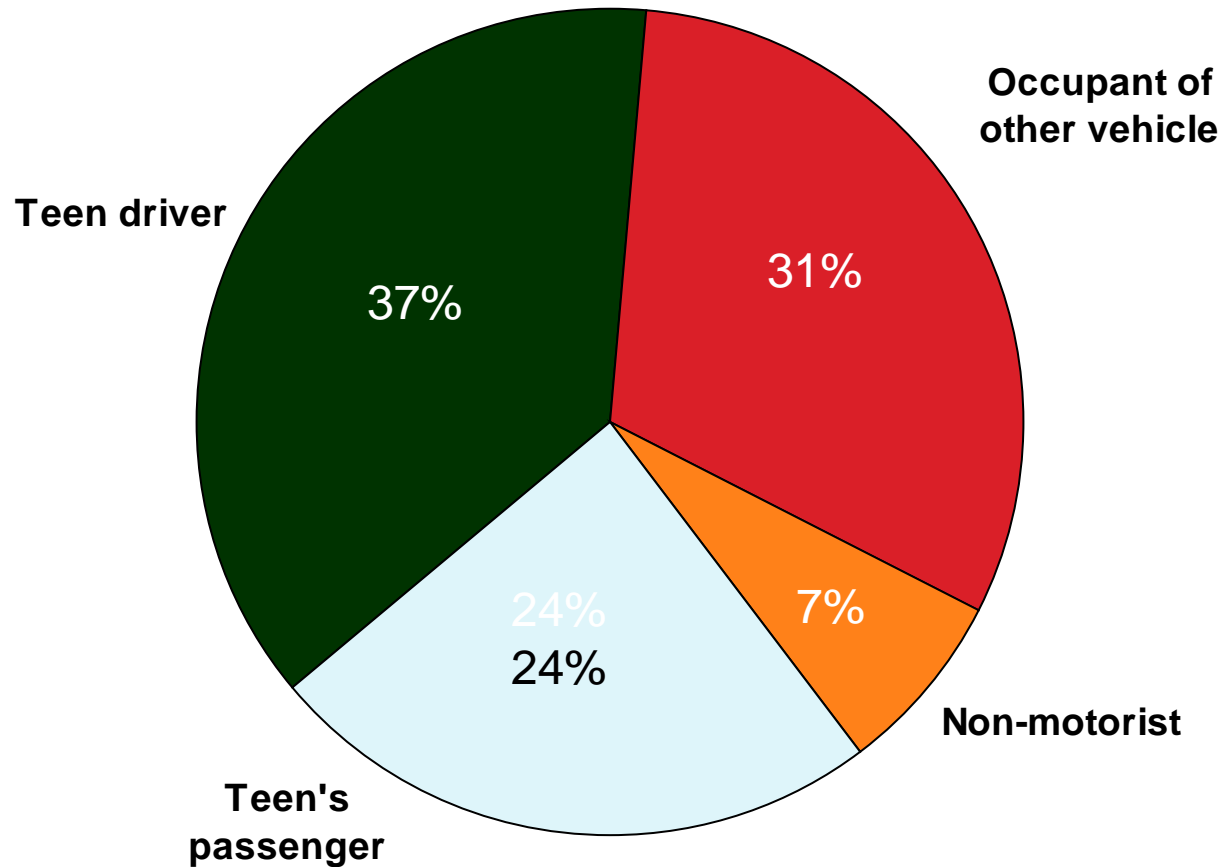
40% of crashes
occur at night
BEFORE midnight

Cell phone use
increases risk
up to 4 times
(even hands free)

YOU CAN HELP CHANGE THIS. TOGETHER, WE CAN MINIMIZE THE RISK OF TEEN DRIVING

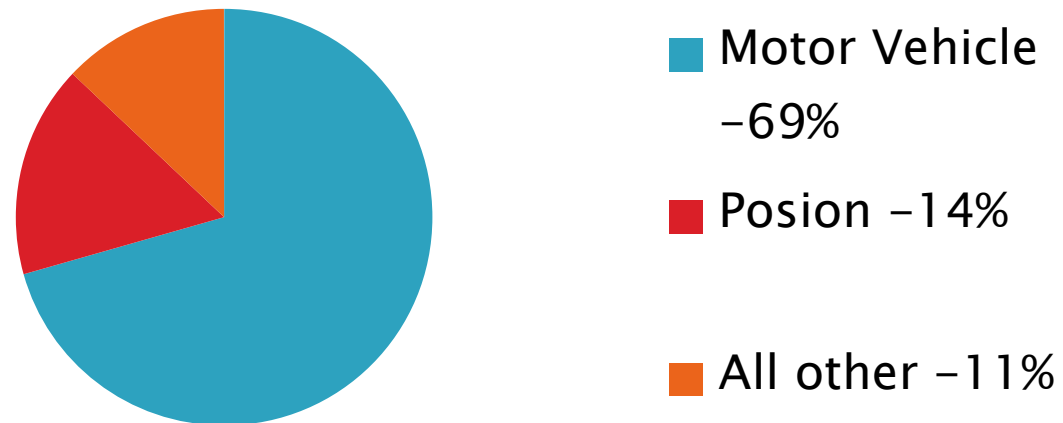
It's Not Just Teen Safety – It's Public Safety

Victim role in teen driver (15-17) fatal crashes
U.S., 1998-2007

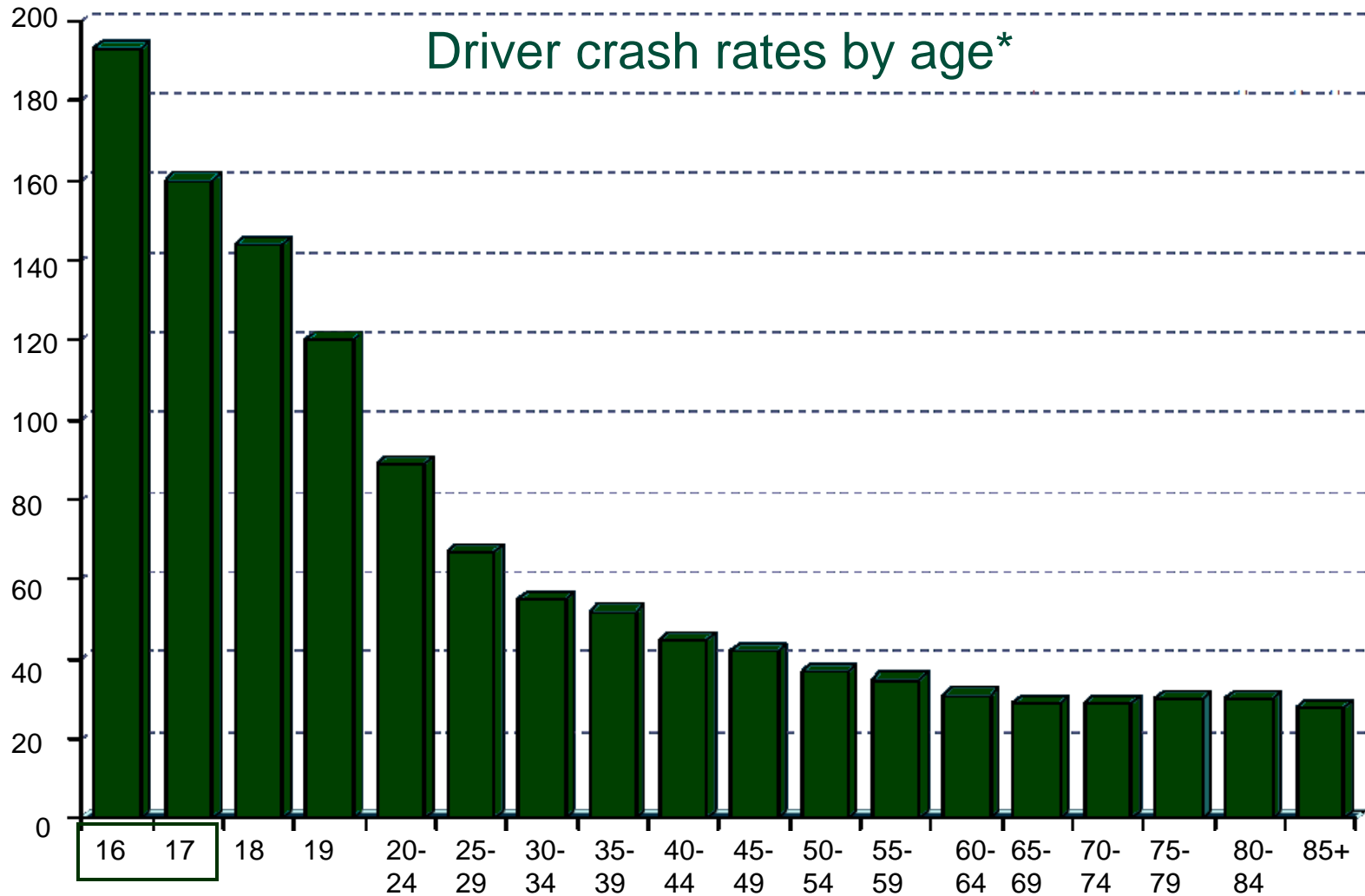


Motor vehicle crashes are the #1 cause of injury

2010 Leading Cause of Unintentional Injury for 16–17 year-olds in PA



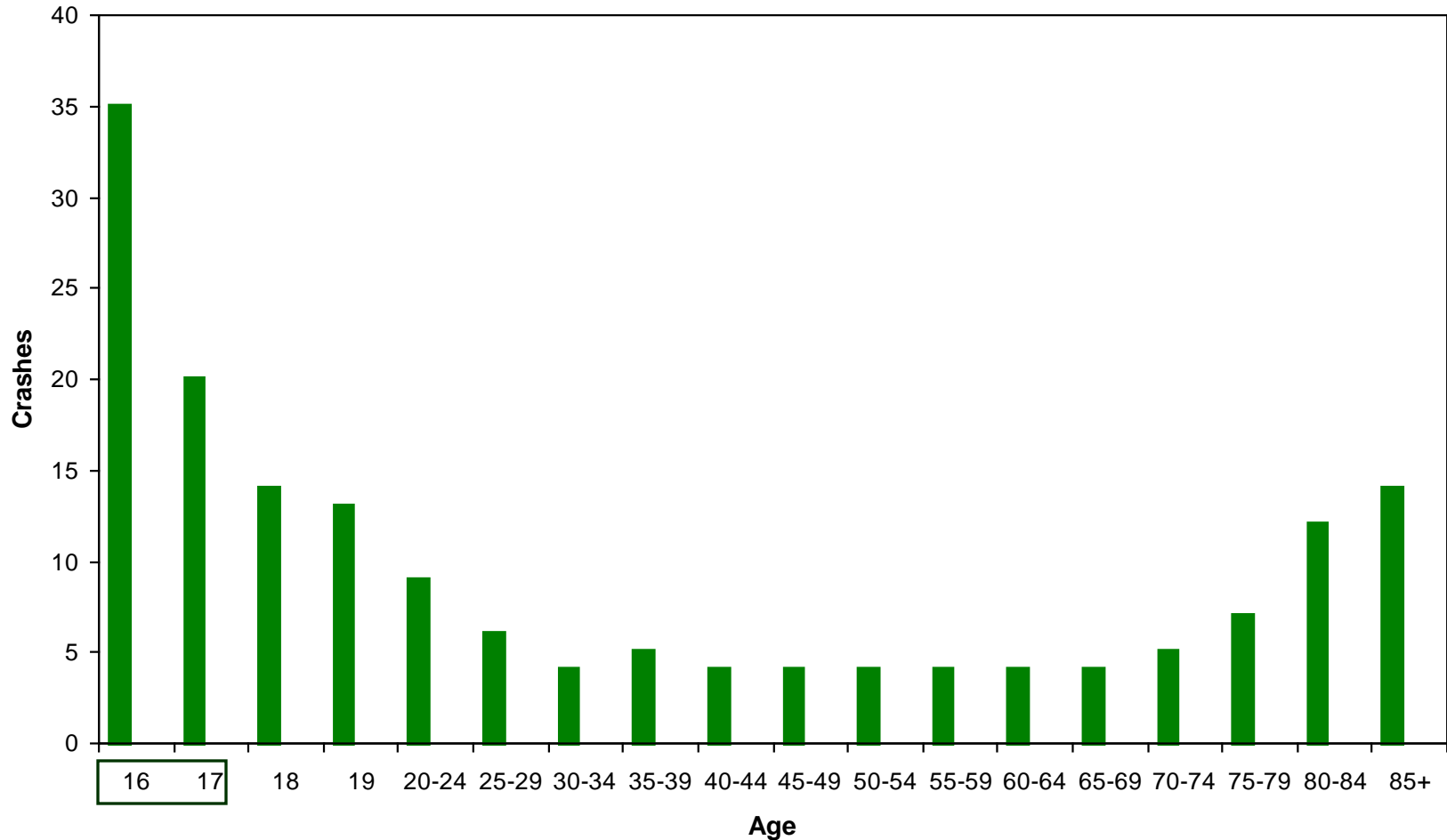
Teens have the highest crash rates



*per 1,000 licensed drivers

Teens have the highest crash rates

Driver crash rates per million miles traveled



Many strategies exist to reduce crashes

- ▶ Driver education
- ▶ Peer-to-peer programs
- ▶ Vehicle decals
- ▶ Parent programs
- ▶ Police enforcement
- ▶ And more

Maximize experience / Minimize risk

Graduated Driver Licensing

3-stage system is proven to be effective in reducing fatal crashes

Stage 1

Supervised driving 12 months

Practice at nighttime and in inclement weather

Stage 2

12 months

Nighttime restriction

Passenger limit

Stage 3

Age 17 ½ or older

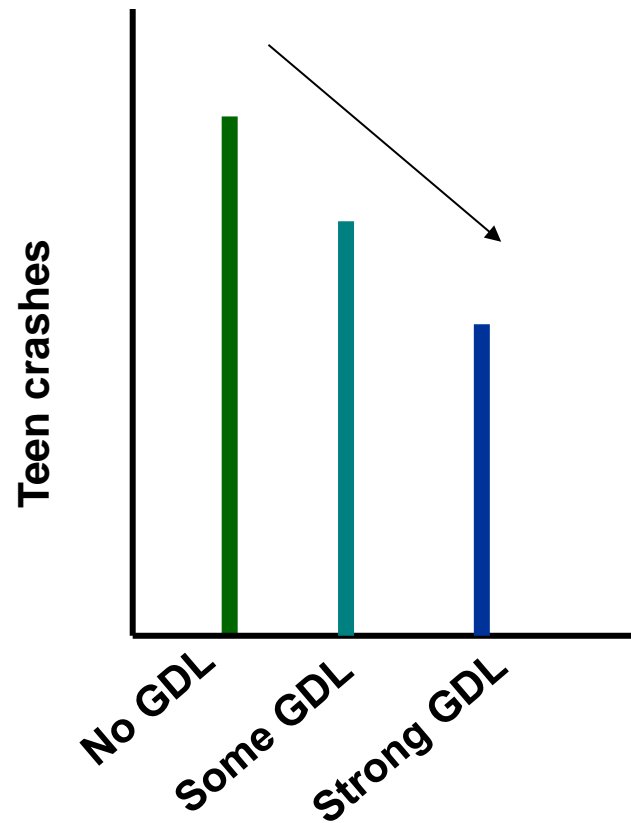
***No cell phone use behind the wheel and buckle up –
any age and any stage.***

GDL reduces all teen crashes by 20 – 40%

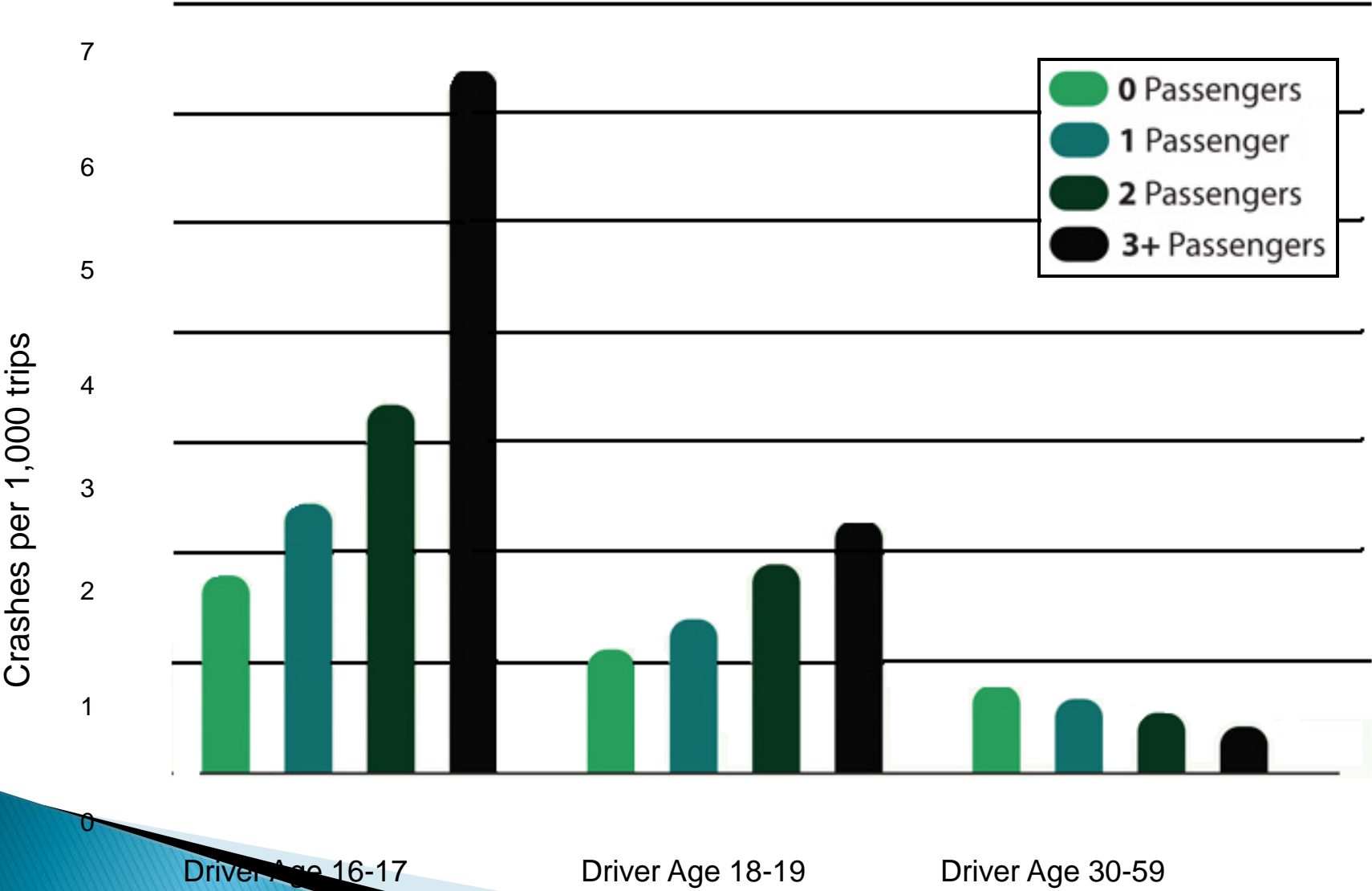
The best GDL systems save the most lives.

Entire system includes:

- Law components
- Enforcement
- Parent involvement
- Social and community norms
- Teens

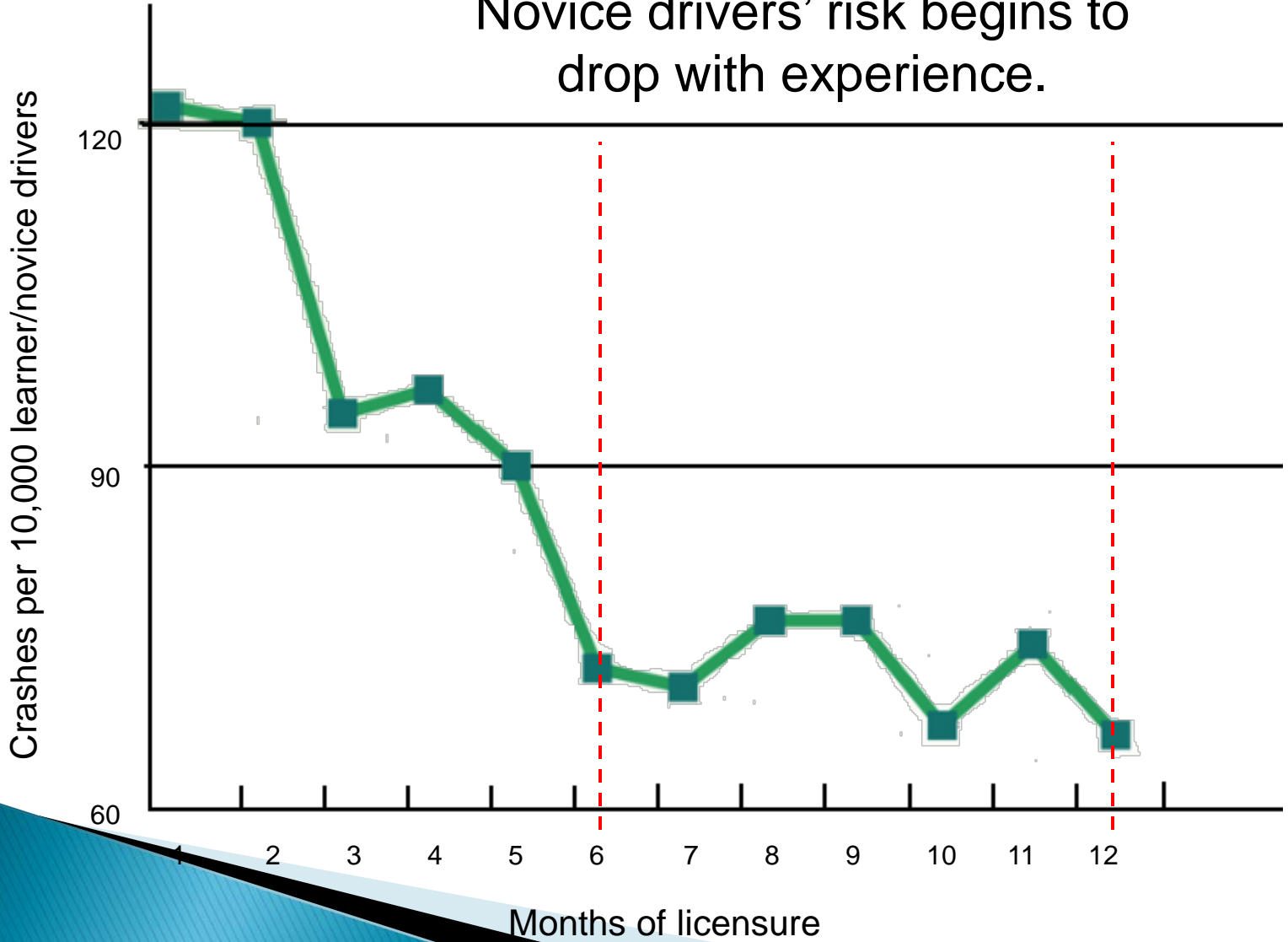


Passengers are dangerous distractions



GDL focuses on first 6 - 12 months and 1,000 miles

Novice drivers' risk begins to drop with experience.



GDL is a safety guideline for families

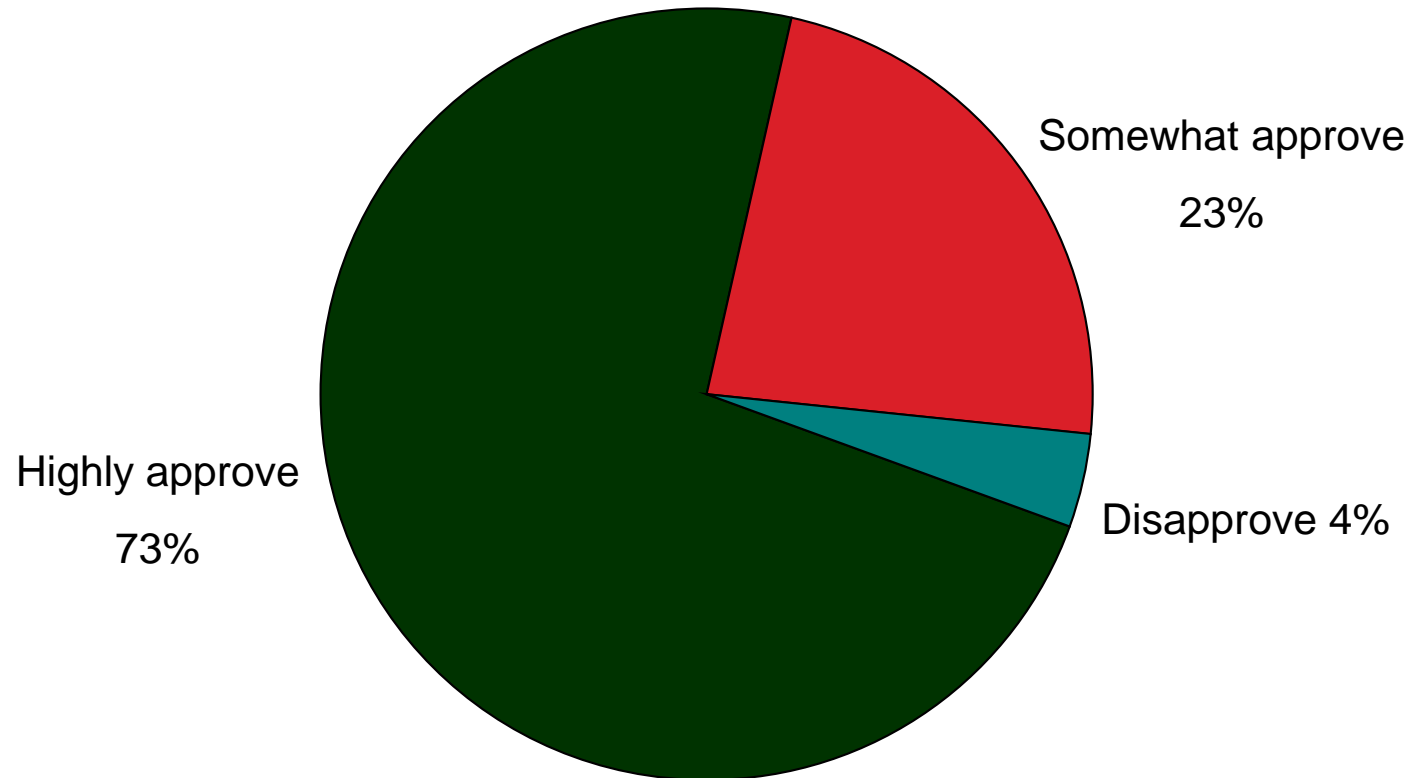
GDL reduces fatal crashes by maximizing experience while minimizing teens' risk.

GDL is just the beginning.
Parents make the rule in their homes.

GDL is designed to support parents.
Parents support GDL.

Parents support GDL

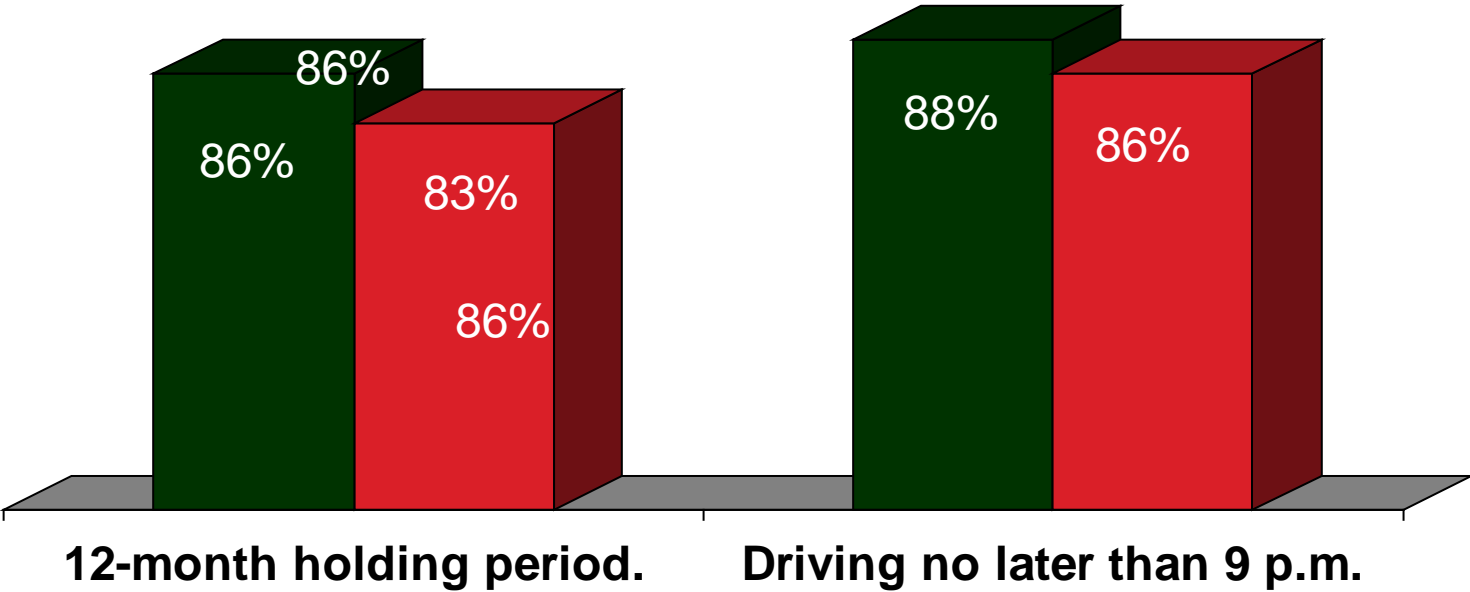
Parents' overall opinion of GDL*



*Based on interviews with more than 100 North Carolina parents and teens who had recently been through that state's new GDL system. Data from Iowa and Kansas show similar results.

Parents support individual components

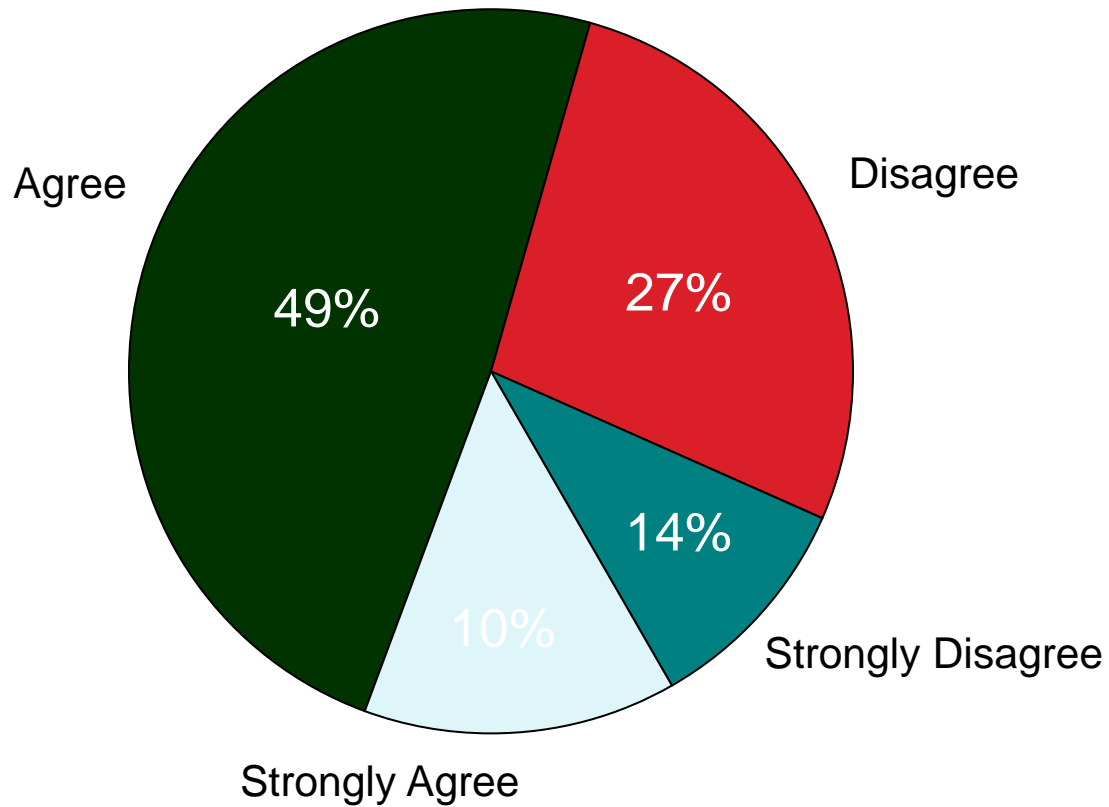
■ Urban ■ Rural



*for North Carolina. Data for Iowa and Kansas show similar results.

Teens support GDL

Teens' overall opinion of GDL*



*for North Carolina. Data for Iowa and Kansas show similar results.

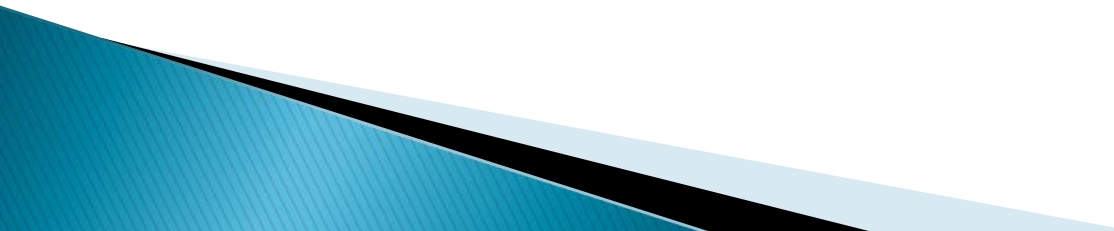
Why do parents and teens support GDL

- ▶ Parents worry about their kids
- ▶ Teens understand
- ▶ Minor inconvenience
 - Less than 10% of trips involve more than 1 teen passenger
 - Less than 20% of trips occur after 9 p.m.
- ▶ Limits the **most dangerous** trips








GDL does not = punishment

- Strong GDL isn't a punishment
- Your child's experience with driving is minimal, whether or not he/she is a "good" kid
- Crashes aren't restricted to "bad" kids or reckless drivers
- Not about the teen's personality, GPA, reaction time, responsibility level

All teens are subject to the
same underlying risks



Pennsylvania's current GDL compared to ideal GDL

GDL System Components	Current Law	NSC Recommended Upgrades	Stoplight
Stage 1 – Learner's Permit			
Minimum age	Age 16		
Holding period	6 months	12 months	
Parent/guardian supervised driving	65 hours	Add nighttime and inclement weather practice	
Stage 2 – Junior License			
Minimum age	Age 16 ½	Meets recommended minimum	
Passenger limit	1 Passenger for first 6 months, 3 passengers after the first six months	0 under age 20 for 12 months	
Nighttime driving prohibited	11 pm – 5 am	10 pm daily for 12 months	
Age when restrictions lifted	Age 18	Meets recommended minimum	
Stage 3 – Senior License			
All Stages			
Mandatory seat belt use	Secondary offense for passengers age 8-17 in all seats and 18+ in front seat only	Primary offense to cover all passengers in all seats	
Cell phone ban	No texting law	No driver use of handheld or hands-free communication devices	