

# A Comprehensive Program to Help Parents of New Drivers in North Carolina

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CSCRS Research Call  
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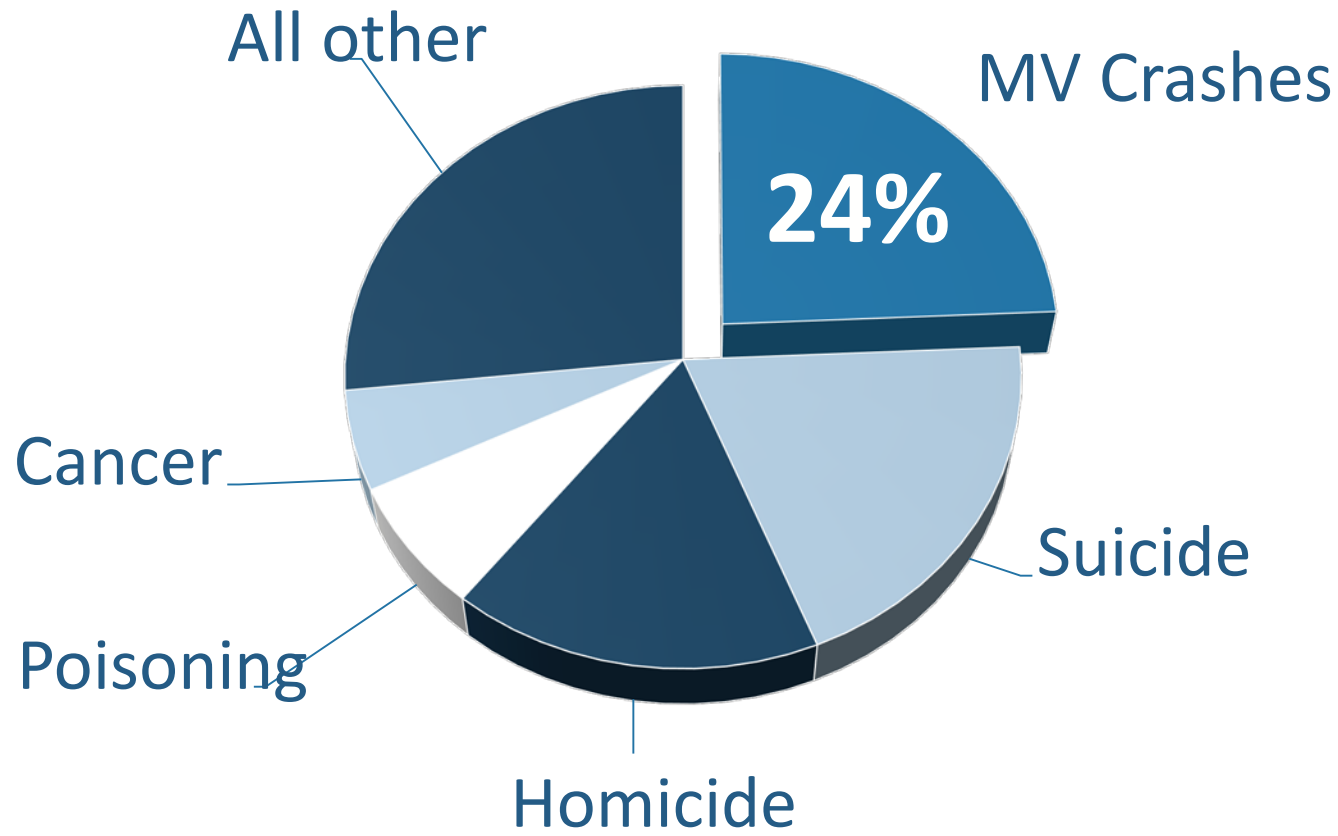
# Teen Drivers: Reckless or Wreckless?

## **NC teen drivers:**

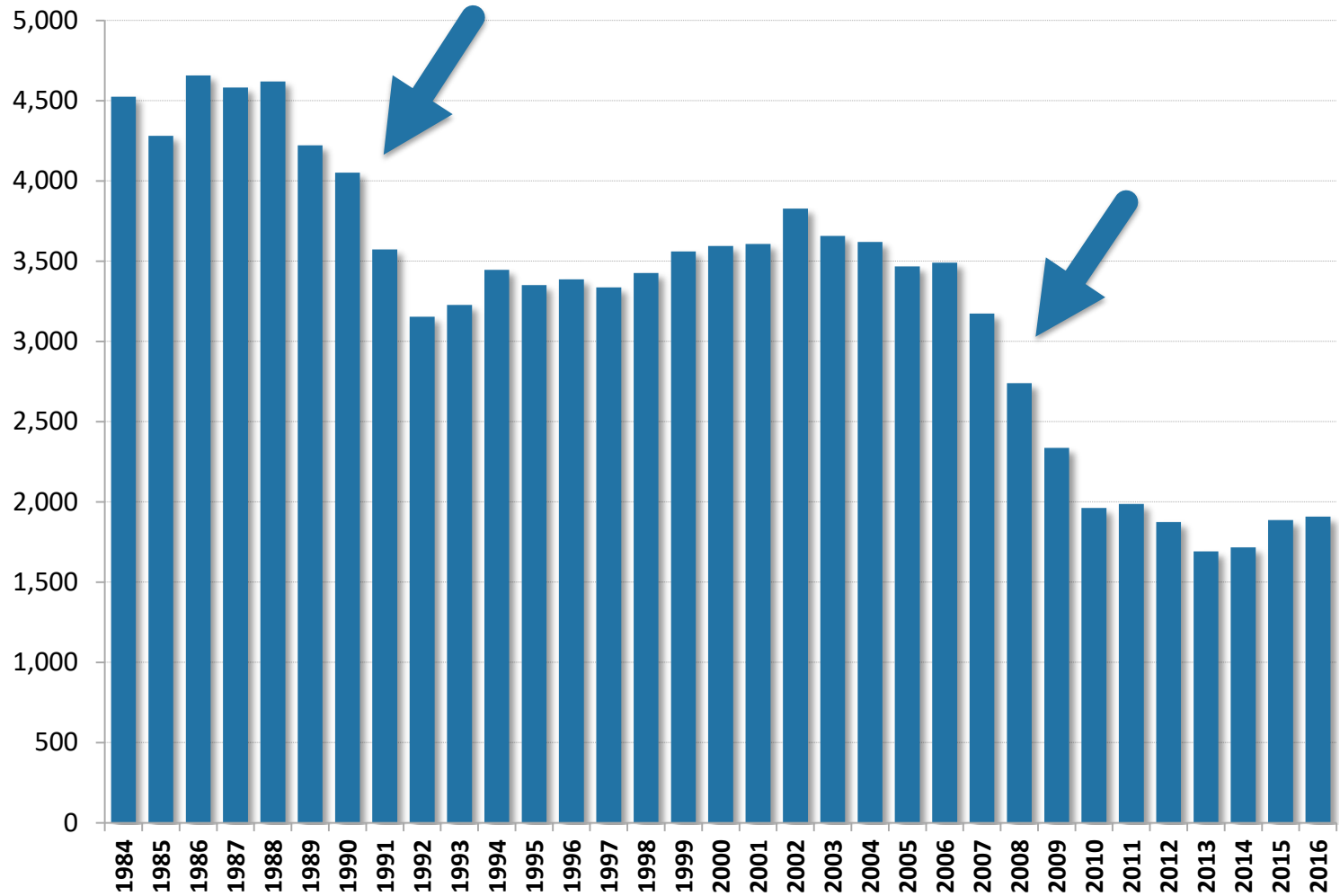
- 85% never involved in injury crash
- 60% never have reportable crash



# Leading Cause of Death Age 15-19, U.S.



# Teen Driver Fatalities (ages 15-20), U.S.



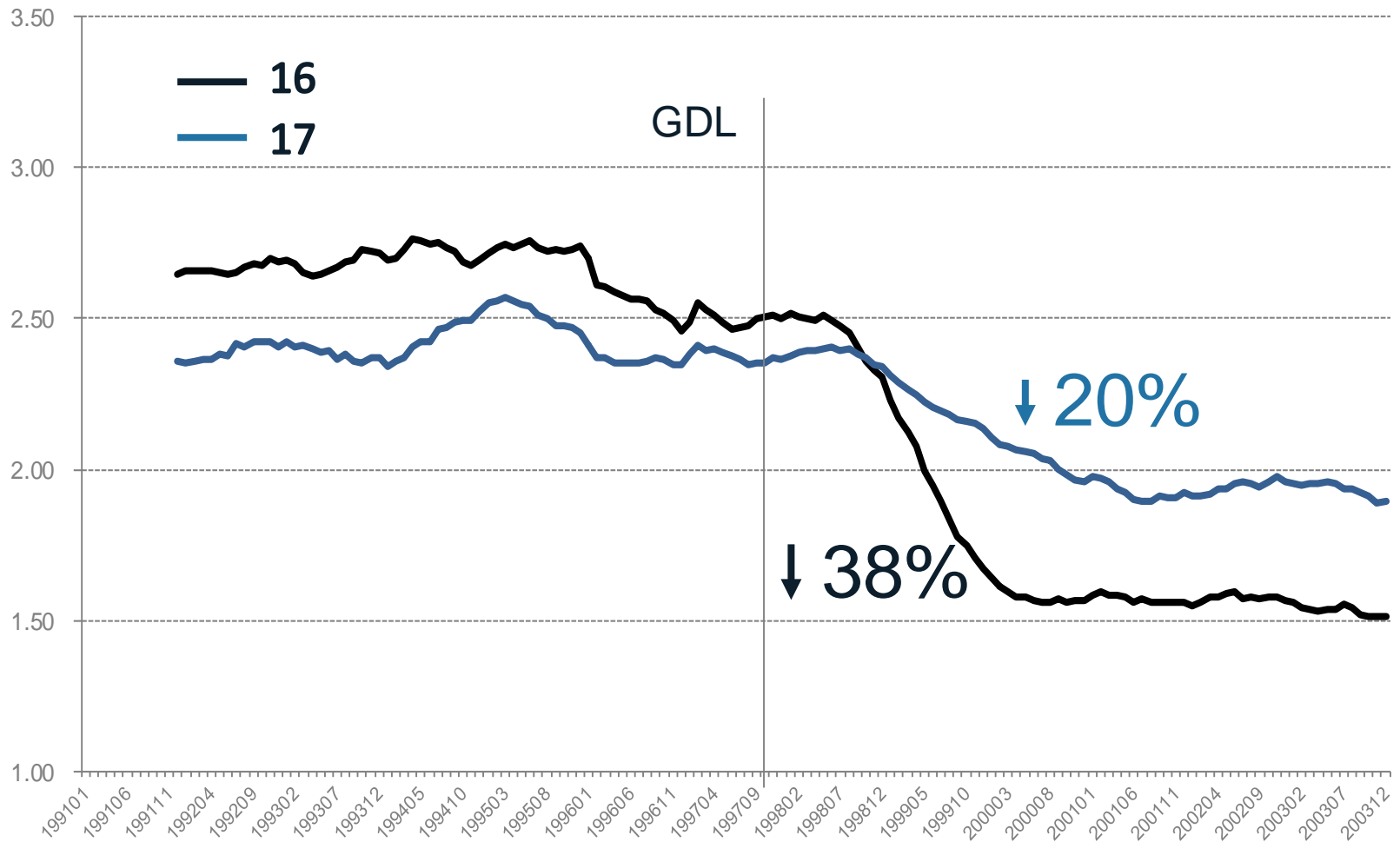
# Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL)

## Principles:

- 1) Lots of driving experience
- 2) Reduce exposure to high-risk settings (nighttime, teen passengers, cell phones)



# Crash reductions from NC GDL



# What next?

## Education & awareness raising

- Rarely influences behavior



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## Scare tactics

- May increase risky behavior (reactance theory)





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## **Advanced driver training**

- May increase crashes

# Advanced Driver Training



# What next?

## **Education & awareness raising**

- Rarely influences behavior

## **Scare tactics**

- May increase risky behavior

## **Advanced driver training**

- May increase crashes

# Parents of Novice Drivers

## Parents have a big role:

- Supervise teens for 6-12 months
- Enforce GDL restrictions
- Vehicle choice
- Timing of licensure



# How can we help parents?



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50% end up here...

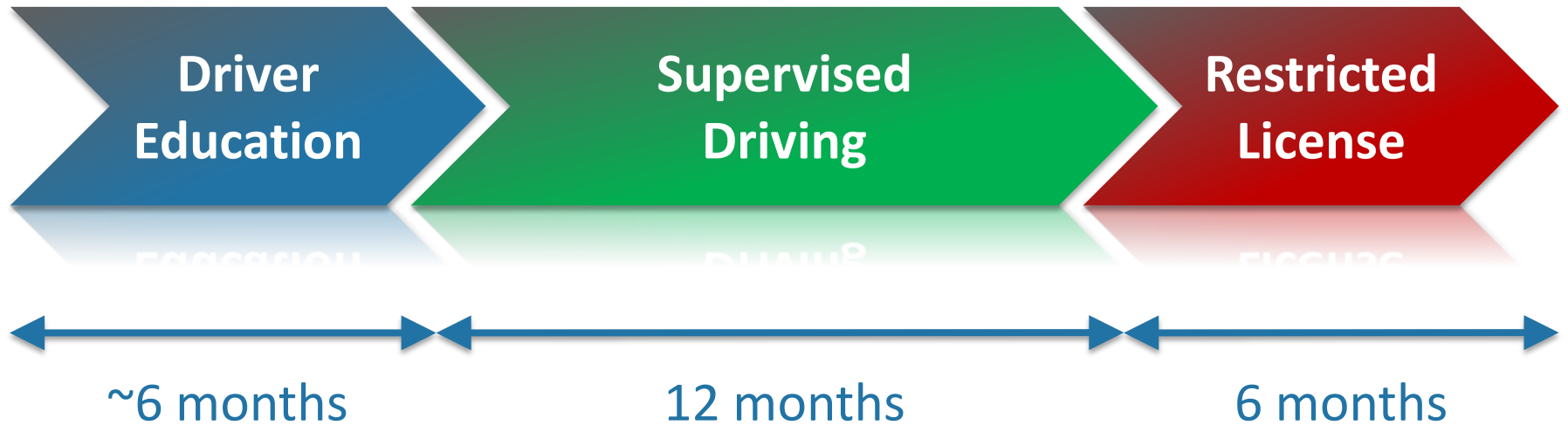


# A comprehensive program for parents

## **Why comprehensive?**

- One shot programs rarely work
- Long process

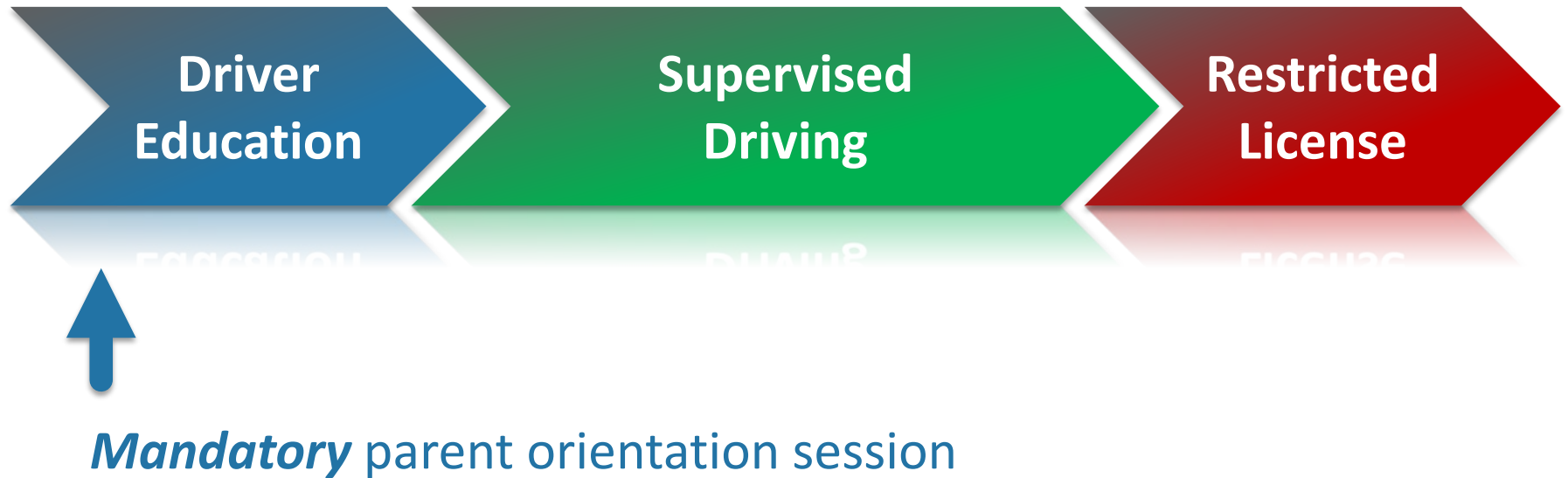
# Learning-to-drive process (NC)



**2 years!**




# Driver education

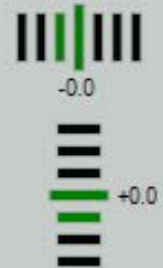


# UNC Parent-Teen Study

## How parents teach their teen to drive

- 50 families
- Parent interviews & cameras in cars
- DriveCam 





Frame Time  
-10.00

Event Recorder  
03444622

Date  
2/21/2007

Time  
3:13:21 PM PST

# UNC Parent-Teen Study

## **Good:**

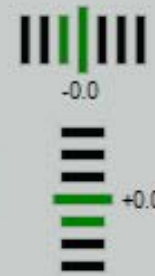
- Parents staying calm
- Paying close attention
- Keeping it safe

## **Bad:**

- Teens not driving much
- Not much variety to practice
- Parents mostly just passengers



DRIVE CAM



Frame Time  
-10.00  
Event Recorder  
03445832  
Date  
1/30/2008  
Time  
2:54:00 PM PST

# *Time to Drive*

***Focused*** – two primary goals

***Engaging*** – discussion, activities, problem solving, viewing real-life video clips



# *Time to Drive*

## **Initial evaluation:**

- Johnston County, NC
  - Parent session required in DE
- Random assignment (517 parents)
- Measures:
  - Short-term opinions (e.g., questionnaires)
  - Longer-term behavior (e.g., parent/teen interviews)

# *Time to Drive* Evaluation

## **Understanding of how to supervise a new driver:**

I feel prepared to supervise my teen's driving	100%
Confident I know how to talk with my teen about driving	95%
Have a plan for how to start supervising my teen	94%
Understand why practicing in lots of situations is important	99%
Understand what my teen needs to know to be a safe driver	100%



# Time to Drive Evaluation

## Communication (teen interviews)

	Time to Drive	DE session	Somers' D
I wish my [Mom/Dad] would stop trying to tell me so much while I'm driving			
Agree	37%	66%	D=.297
Disagree	61%	34%	p < .01
My [Mom/Dad] yells at me while I'm driving			
Agree	8%	28%	D=.180
Disagree	92%	72%	p = .07
When I'm driving, my [Mom/Dad] tells me ahead of time what I need to do			
Agree	89%	47%	D=.193
Disagree	11%	53%	p < .05

# *Time to Drive* Evaluation

## **Driving practice**

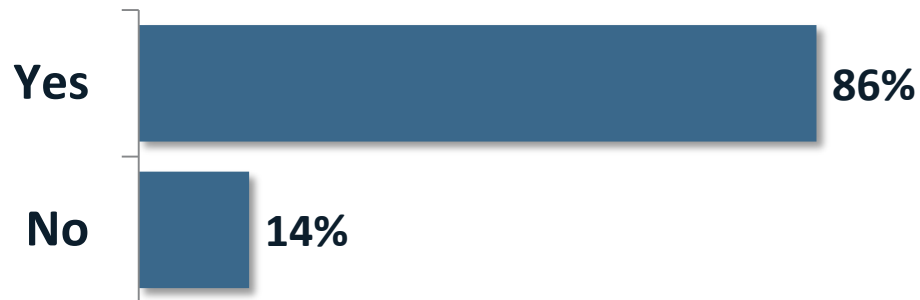
- Almost no differences between groups

# Time to Drive Evaluation

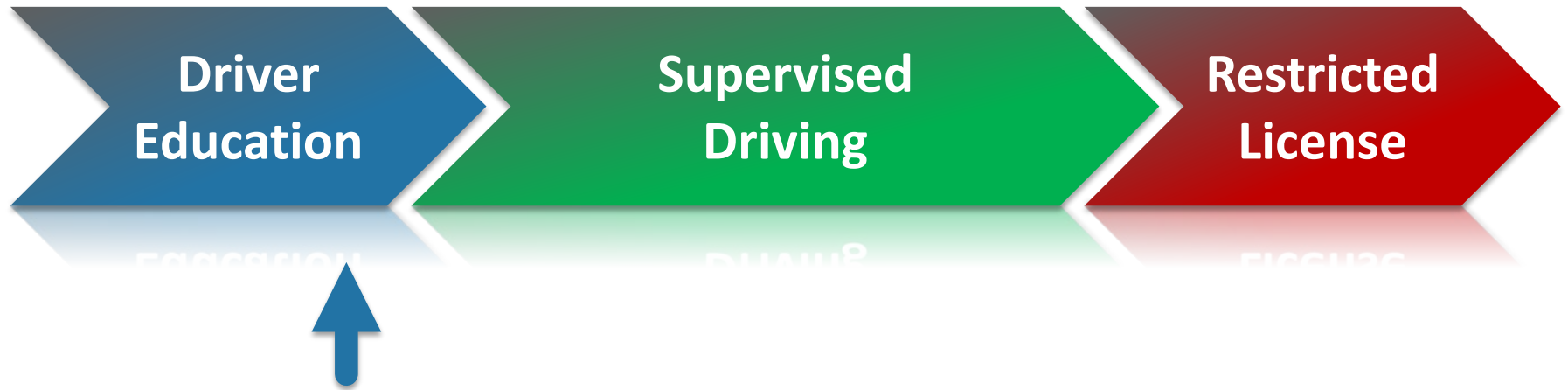
Recommend parents of new drivers attend a meeting like this?



Should this type of meeting be **required** for all parents of new drivers?



# Driver education



End of course debriefing

- Assessment of teen's strengths/weaknesses
- Remind parents of key points

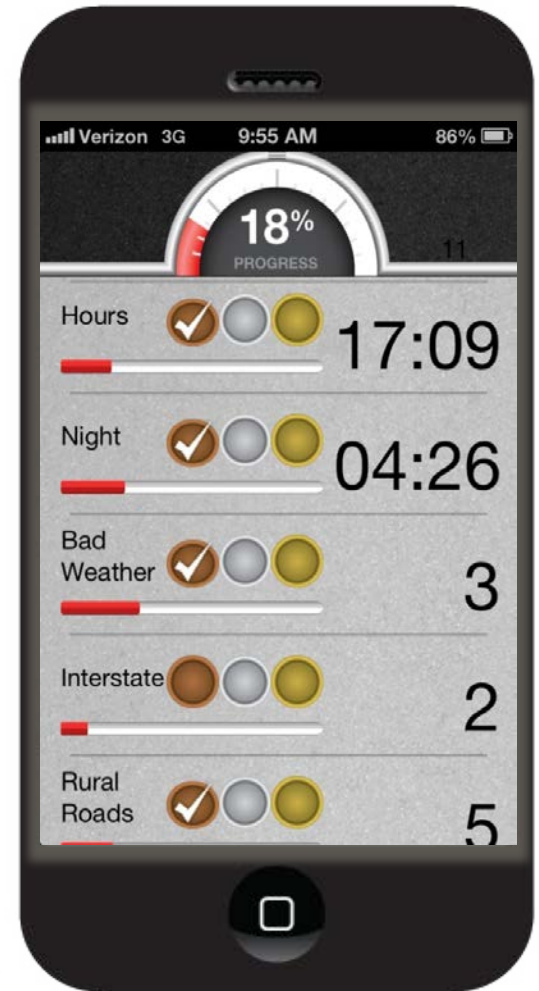
# Driver education



Continue to provide support/encouragement

- smartphone app

# Time to Drive Smartphone app



# Driver education



How to know when the teen is ready to drive unsupervised

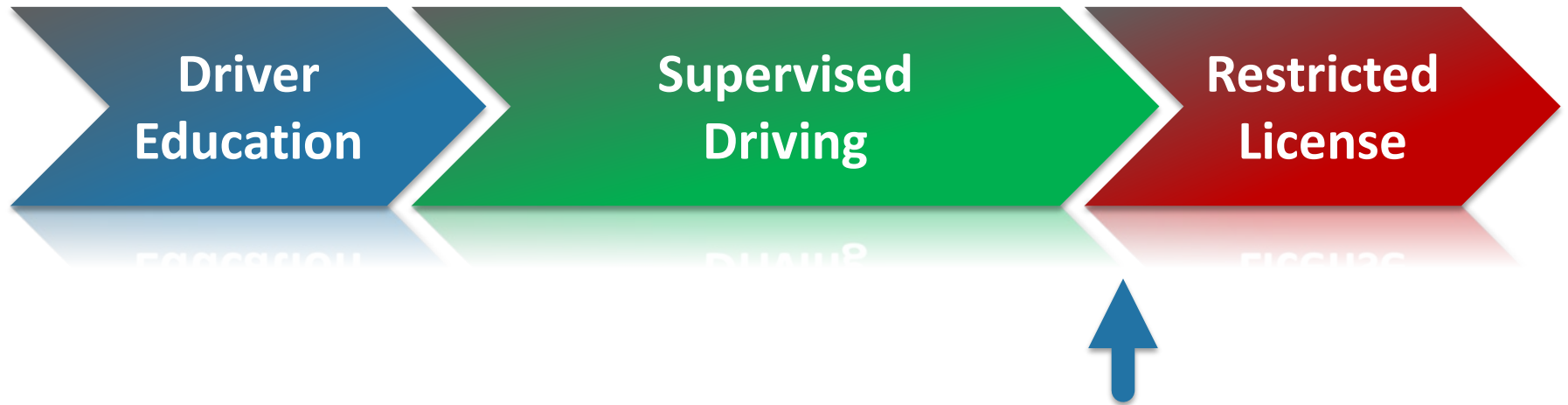
# Readiness to Drive Worksheet

Right now, how comfortable would you be with your teen doing the following without you in the car...

Examples of harder situations/actions (teens with a few months experience)	Not at all comfortable			Very comfortable	
Drive safely around pedestrians	1	2	3	4	5
Turn left across one lane of traffic	1	2	3	4	5
Pass a bicyclist safely	1	2	3	4	5
Drive in light rain	1	2	3	4	5
Drive on a narrow country road	1	2	3	4	5
Drive in a construction zone	1	2	3	4	5
Merge onto an Interstate highway	1	2	3	4	5



# Driver education



Transition to unsupervised driving

- driving agreement
- enforcing night/psgr restrictions
- choosing a safe vehicle

# Vehicle Choice

## Research shows:

- Teens tend to drive older, smaller vehicles
- Safety is seldom considered



# Safer Vehicles

## **Safest teen vehicles:**

- Low horsepower
- Bigger/heavier
- Side/curtain airbags
- ESC and antilock brakes
- Advanced crash detection/warning
- Have the best safety ratings

# Safer Vehicles

- IIHS recommended vehicles:  
[www.iihs.org/iihs/ratings/vehicles-for-teens](http://www.iihs.org/iihs/ratings/vehicles-for-teens)

## **BEST CHOICES: recommended used vehicles for teens starting under \$20,000**

Vehicles on this list earn good ratings in the IIHS moderate overlap front, side, roof strength and head restraint tests and good or acceptable ratings in the driver-side small overlap front test. If rated by NHTSA, they earn 4 or 5 stars overall or 4 or 5 stars in the front and side tests under the old rating scheme. All come with standard ESC.

All listed vehicles start under \$20,000. Prices, provided by [Kelley Blue Book](#) and rounded to the nearest \$100, are from March 1, 2017, for the lowest trim level and earliest applicable model year. The estimates are based on the following criteria: vehicle in good condition, typical mileage and private party purchase in Arlington, Va.

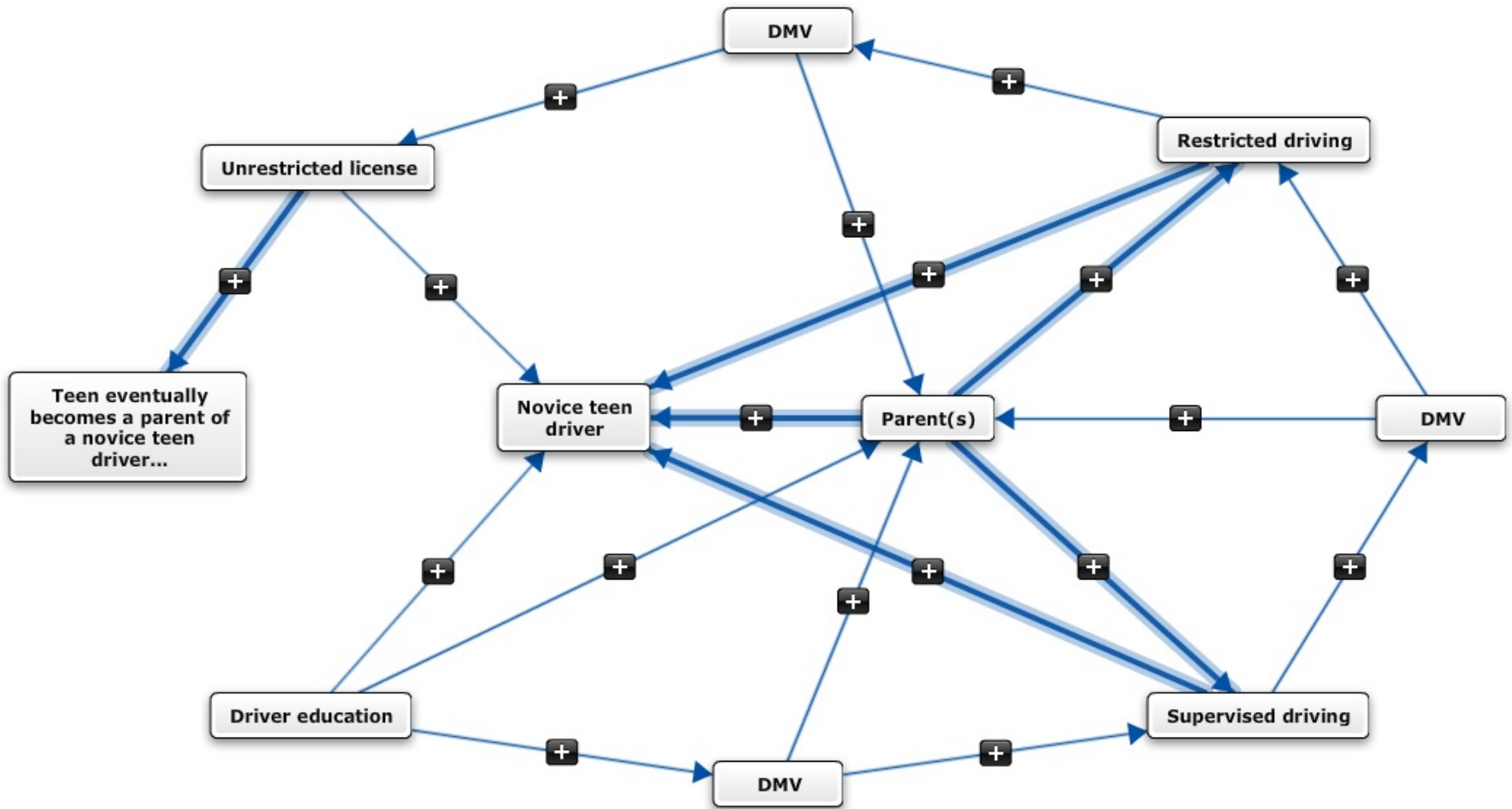
Note: Some listed models include a "built after" date. This applies when a manufacturer makes changes to improve safety in the middle of a model year. Information about when a specific vehicle was manufactured can be found on the certification label typically affixed to the driver door or near it.

LARGE CARS	MODEL YEARS	PRICE
<a href="#">Volvo S80</a>	2007 and newer	\$4,000
<a href="#">Toyota Avalon</a>	2015 and newer	\$18,800
<a href="#">Infiniti M37/M56/Q70</a>	2013 and newer	\$19,800

# Next Steps

- Revise & test *Time to Drive*
- Update the app
- Finalize materials
- Work with CFTF, DMV and others to implement

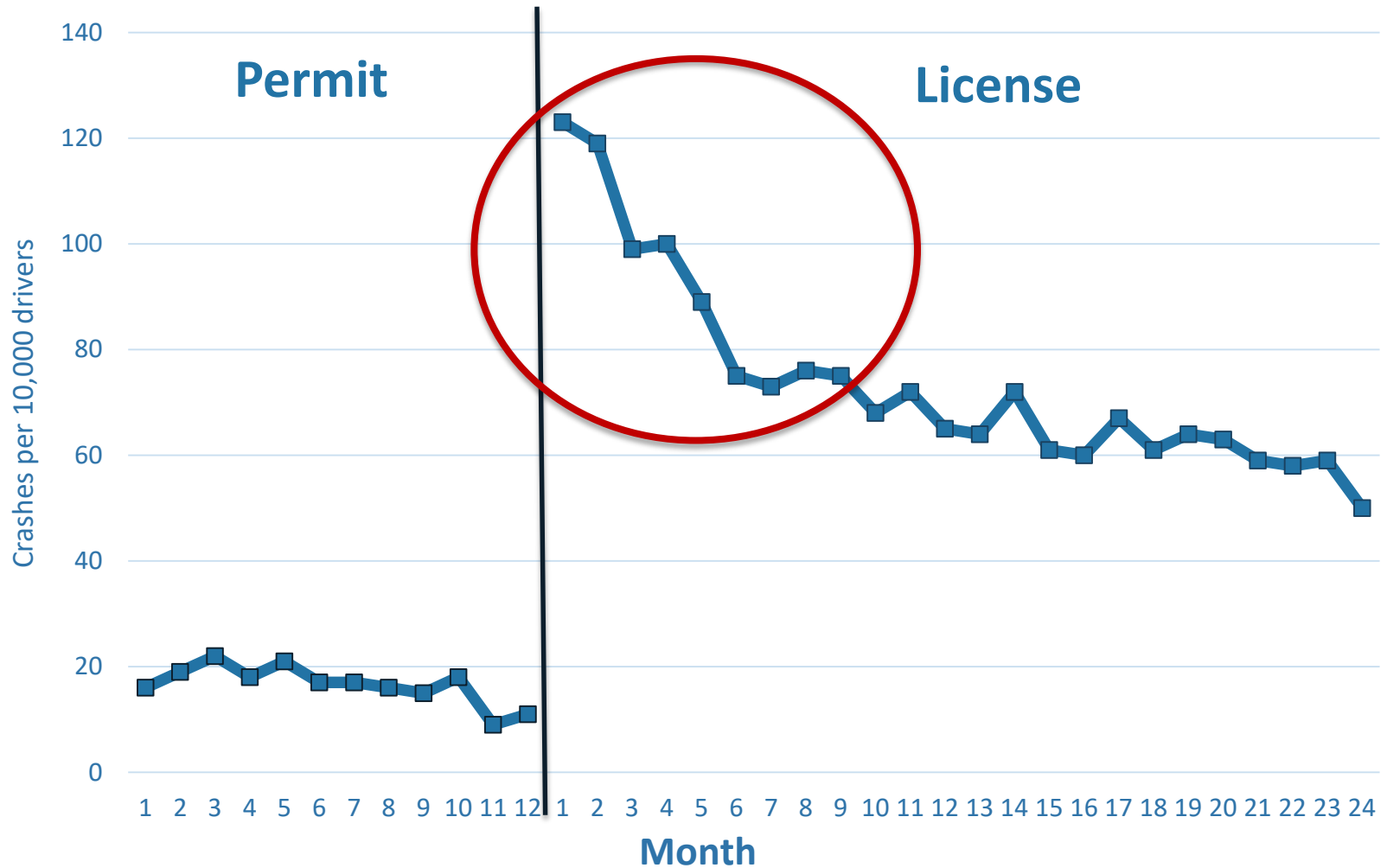
# Learning-to-drive process (NC)



# Discussion/questions?

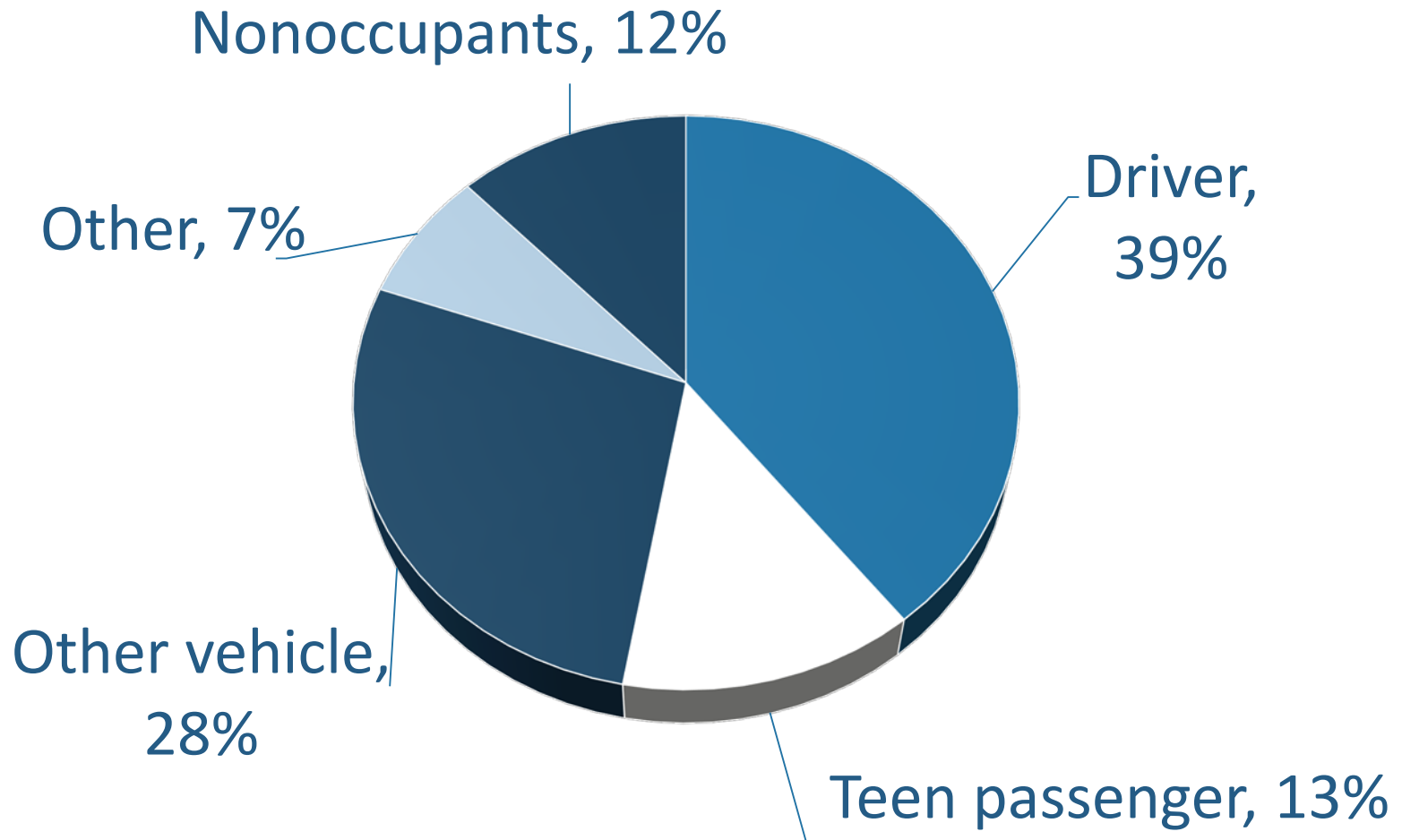
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# Teen Drivers and Inexperience





# Victim in Teen Driver Fatal Crashes



# Time to Drive Evaluation

## Driving practice

- Almost no differences between groups

