

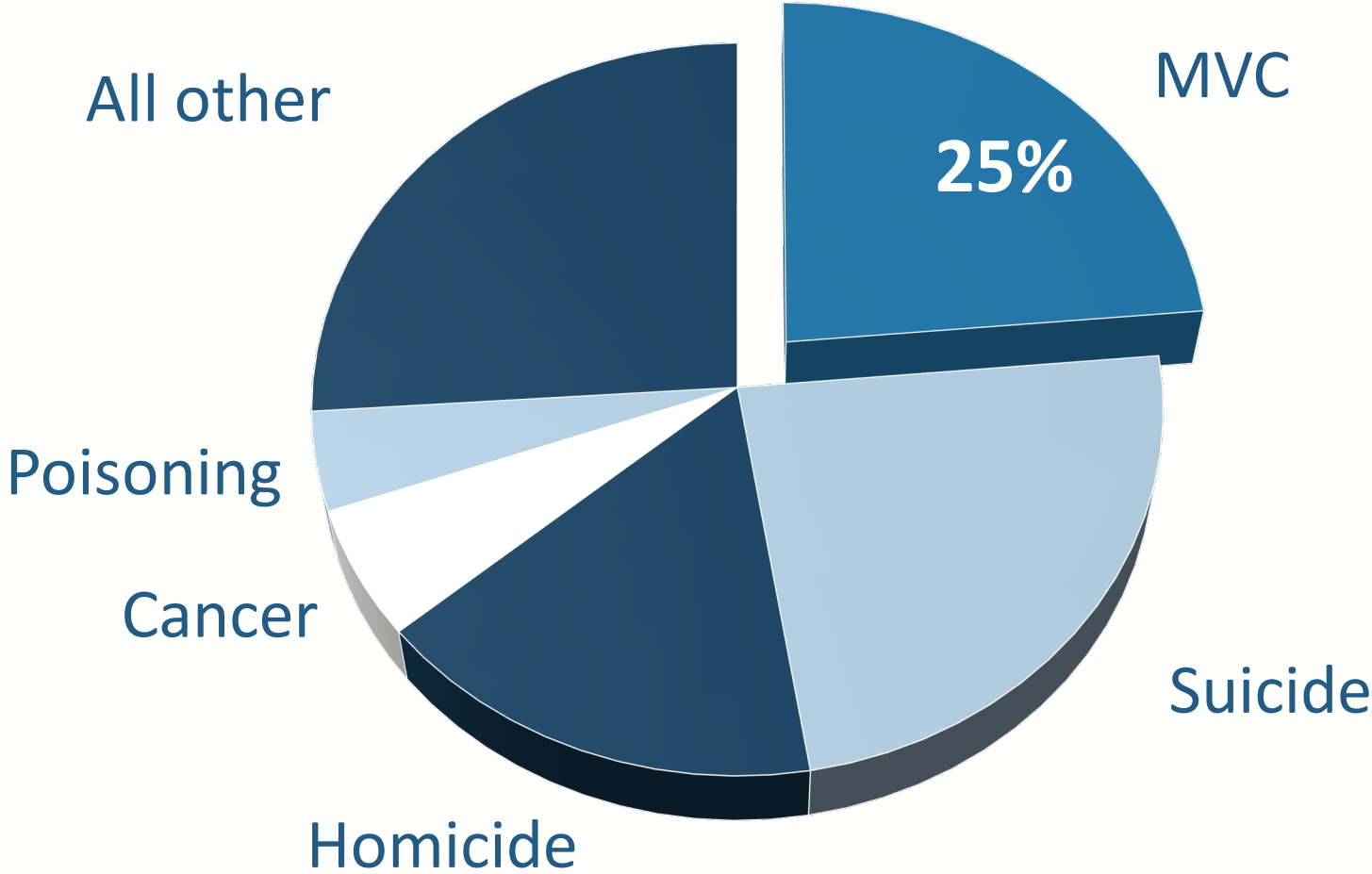
Effect of COVID-19 on Young Drivers in N.C.

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www.C19MobilityAndHealth.unc.edu

Leading Cause of Death, Age 15-18, U.S., 2018



NC Graduated Driver Licensing System

Stage 1: Learner Permit	Stage 2: Provisional License
Complete driver education	6 months
12 months	May drive unsupervised
Must be supervised	Night restriction (9 p.m.)
60 hrs (10 at night)	One teen passenger limit

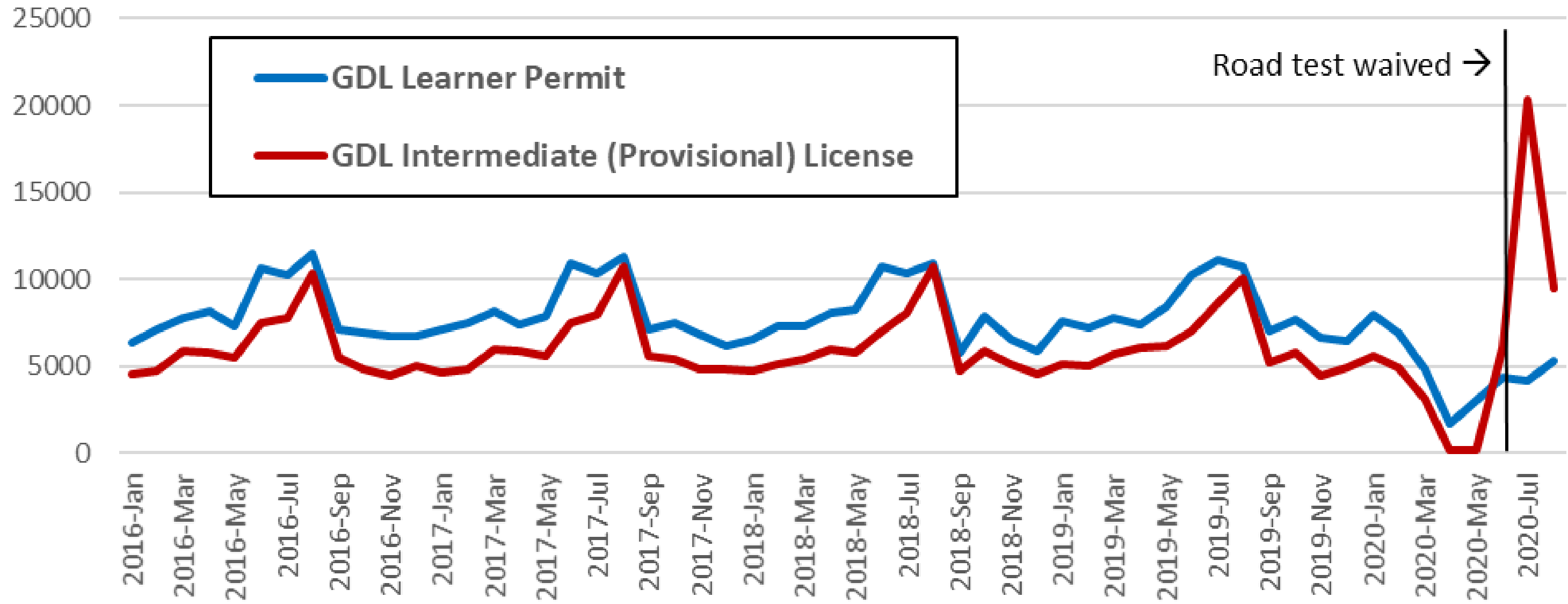
Study Purpose

- 1) How has COVID-19 affected:
 - Teen licensing
 - Teen driver crashes
 - Parent-teen supervised driving
- 2) Provide recommendations to the General Assembly
 - Waived road test (passed)
 - Reduce learner stage from 12 to 6 months (not passed)

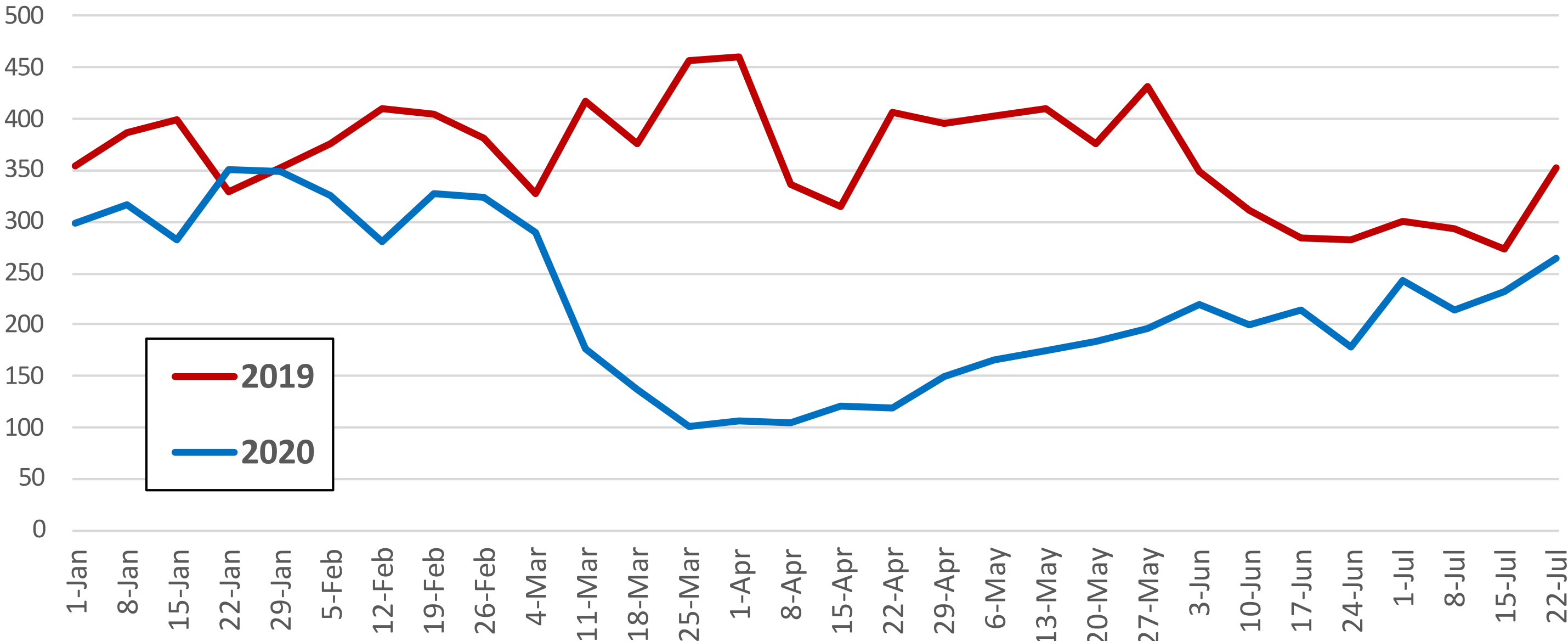
Methods

- Compared crash/licensing data for 2020 with previous years
- Conducted an online survey of 236 parents of teen drivers
- Conducted 6 focus groups with 36 parents

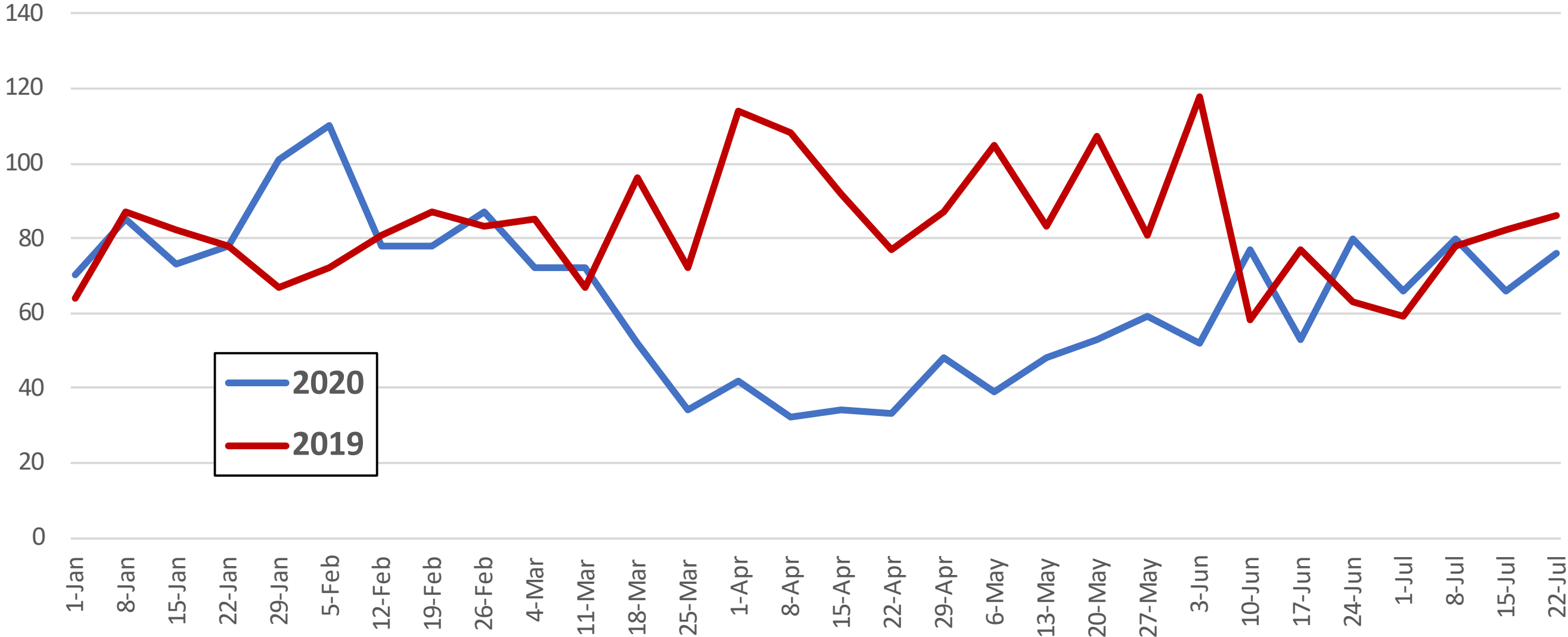
GDL Licenses Issued in North Carolina, Ages 16-17, 2016-2020



Counts of Young Drivers in Crashes in North Carolina (Ages 16 -17)

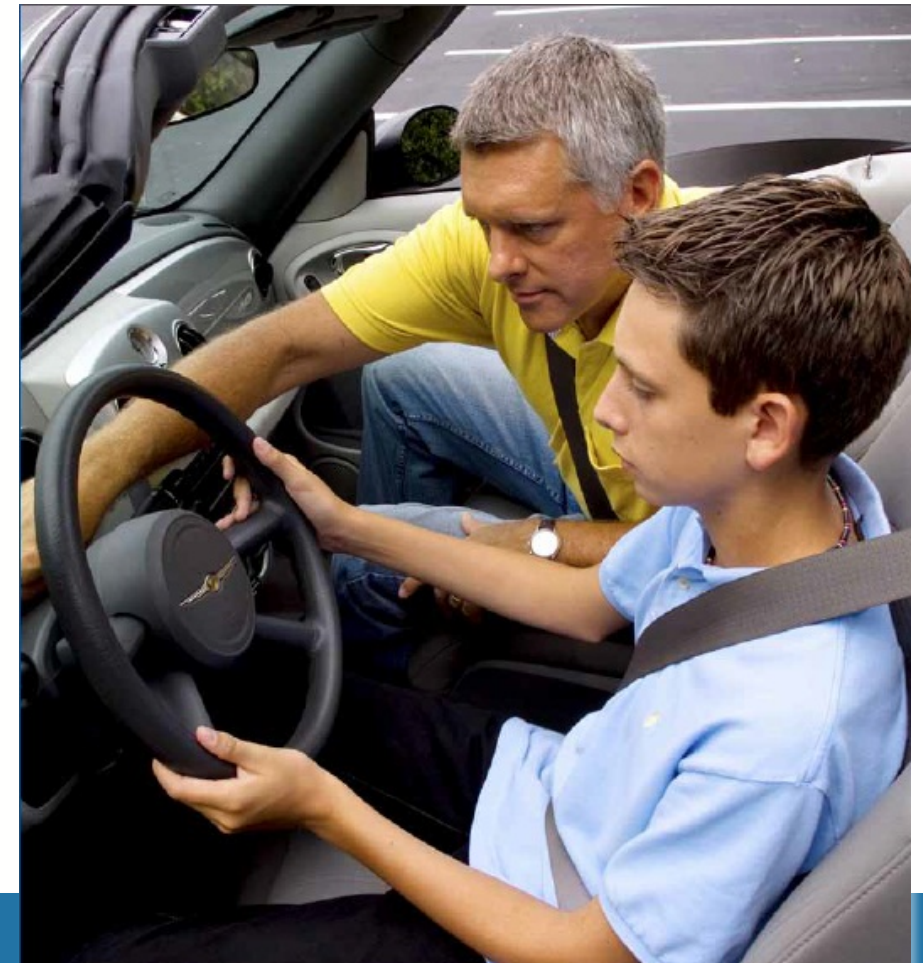


Counts of Young Drivers in Injury/Fatal Crashes in 2020 (Ages 16 -17)



Supervised Driving- Survey Results

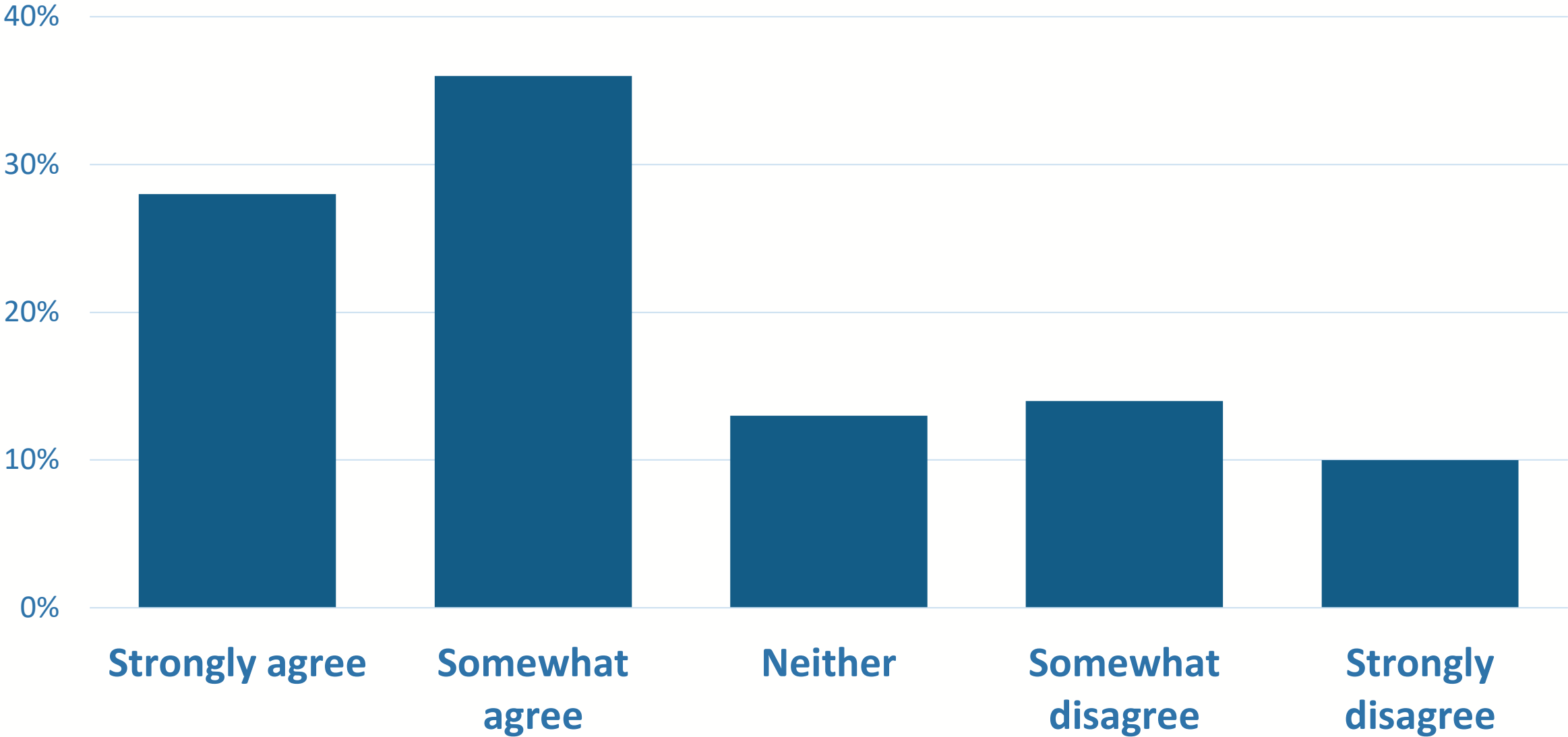
- 236 parents of teens with permit in March 2020
 - 106 progressed to Intermediate License
 - 74% mothers
 - 52% of the teens female
 - 43 Counties in NC represented



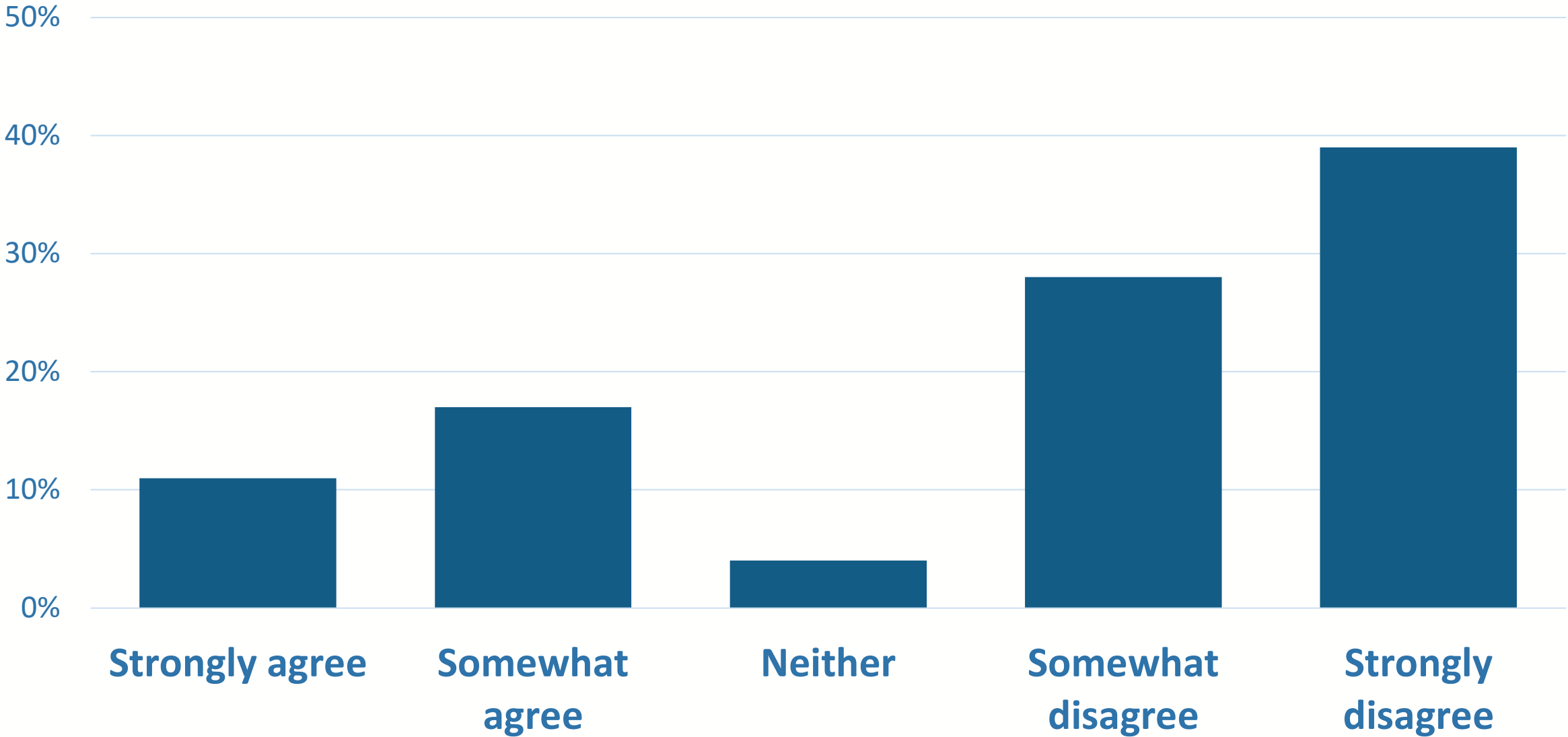
How many days per week was your teen driving?

- Before shutdown: 3.5 days/week
- After shutdown: 1 day/week

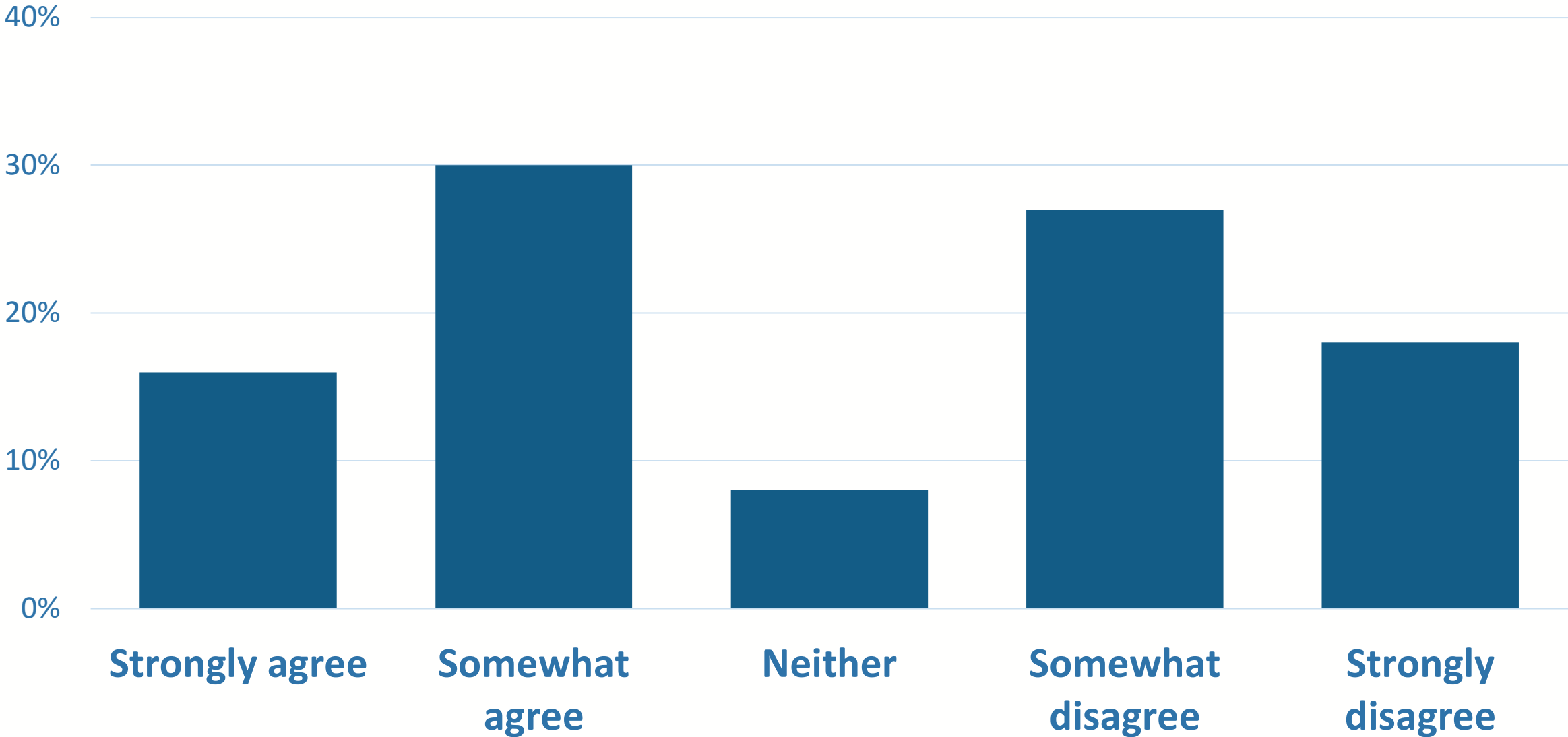
In the weeks after things shut down, I was concerned my teen was not getting enough practice.



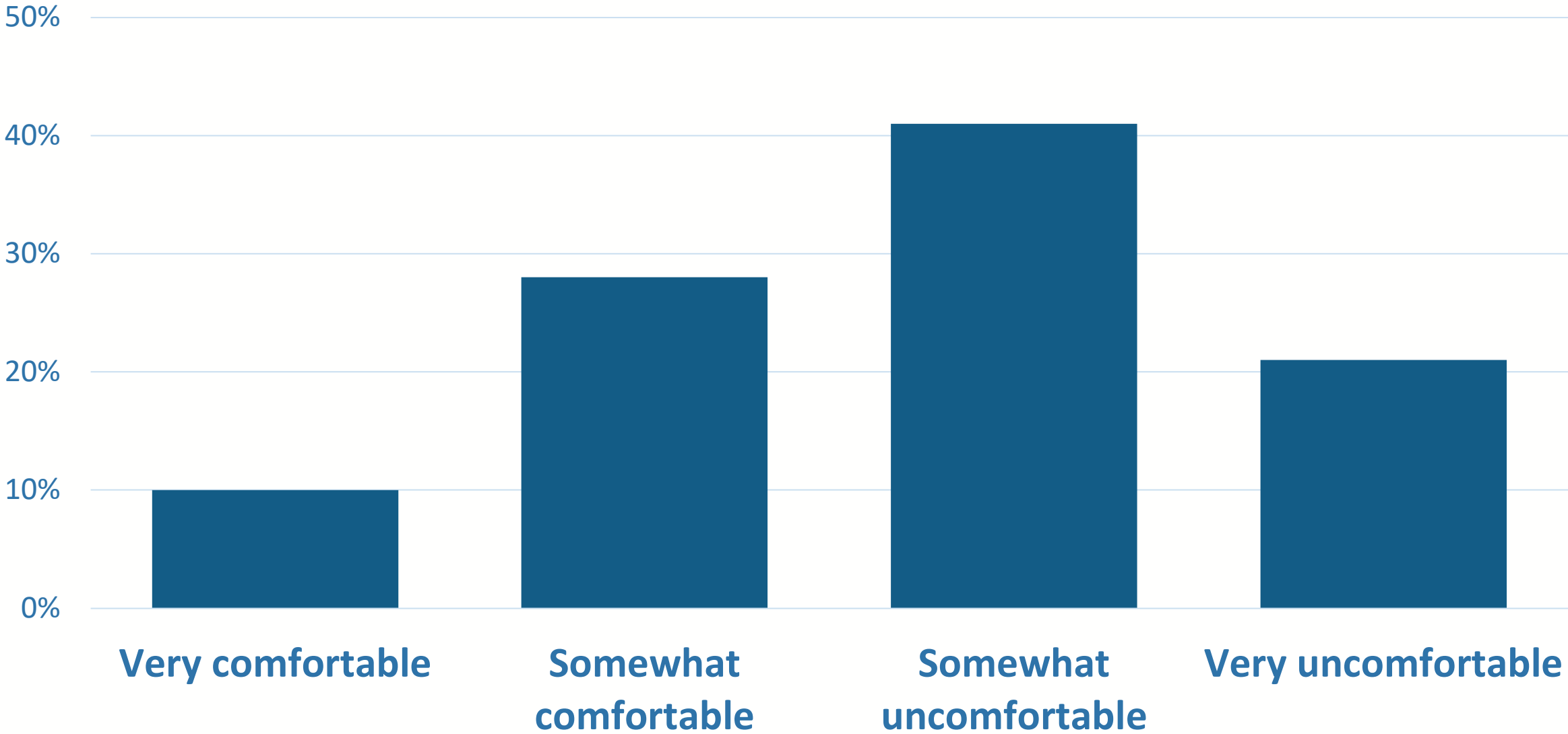
Do you approve or disapprove of decreasing the permit length to 6 months?



Do you approve of teens getting a license without taking a road test?



Does the thought of teenagers getting a license without taking a road test make you feel...



Summary

- Licenses dropped sharply in March 2020, rebounded after road test waived
- Crashes also decreased, then rebounded
- Practice driving also decreased sharply
- Parents don't support reducing the learner permit period
- Parents are split about waiving the road-test for new drivers

Implications for Legislation

- Reducing the learner period would likely increase teen crashes/fatalities
- Effect of eliminating the road test not yet known

Next Steps

- Examine long-term effects of COVID
- Track crash rates for teens who didn't take the road test
- Analyze data from focus groups

Questions?





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<https://collaboratory.unc.edu/>

