

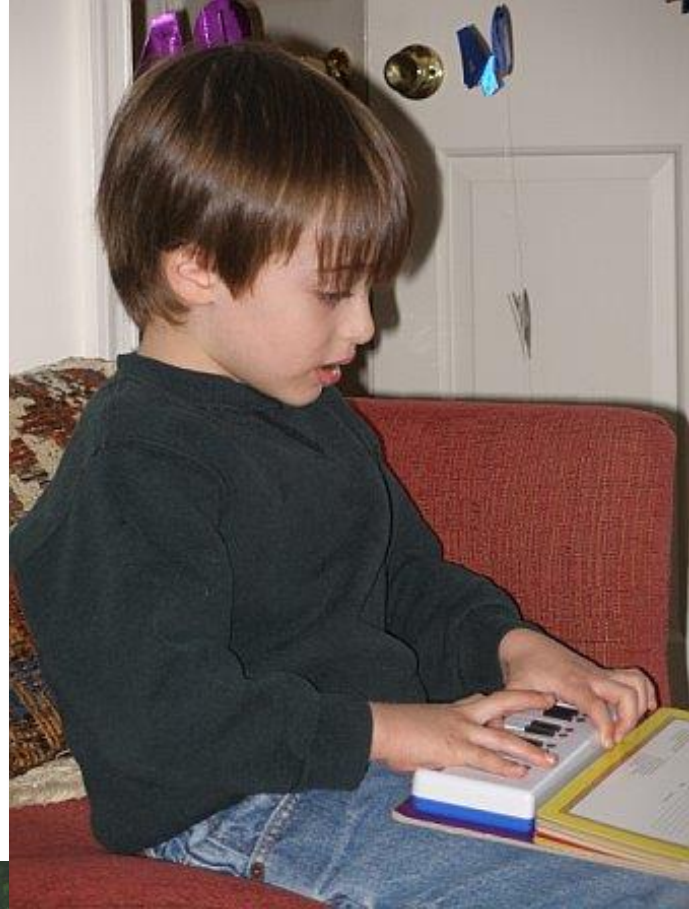
Graduated Driver Licensing in North Carolina

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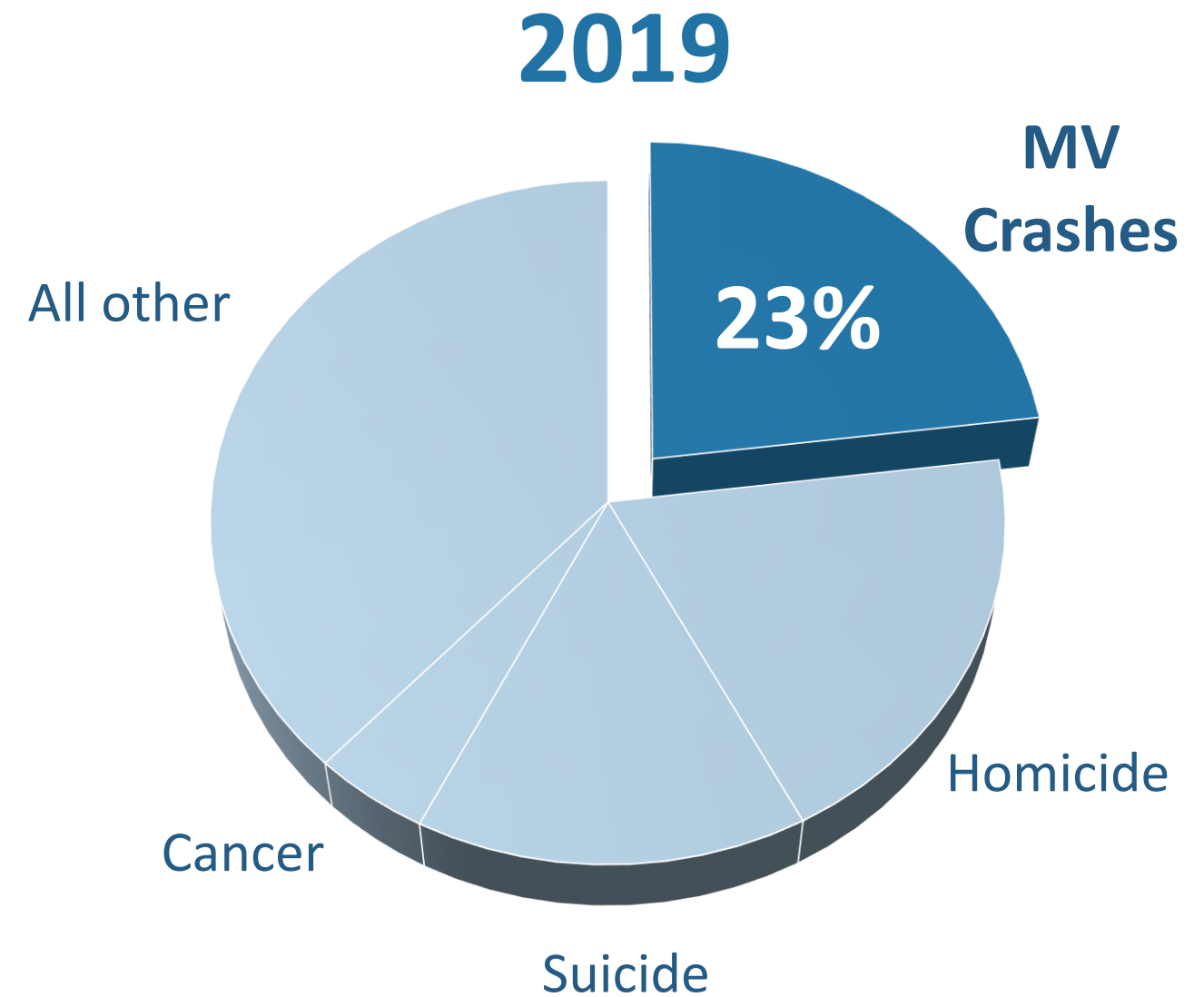
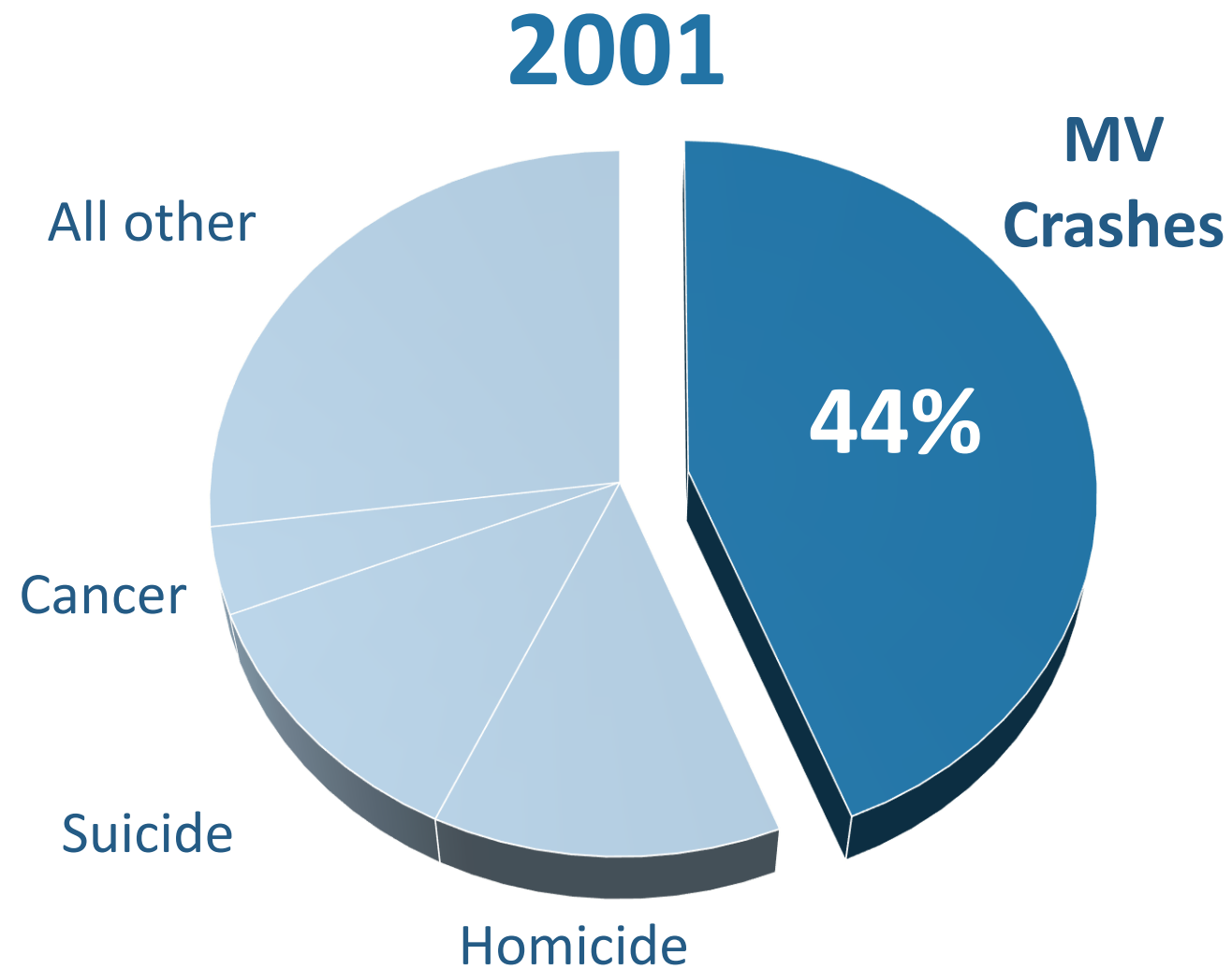
www.hsrb.unc.edu

May 7, 2021



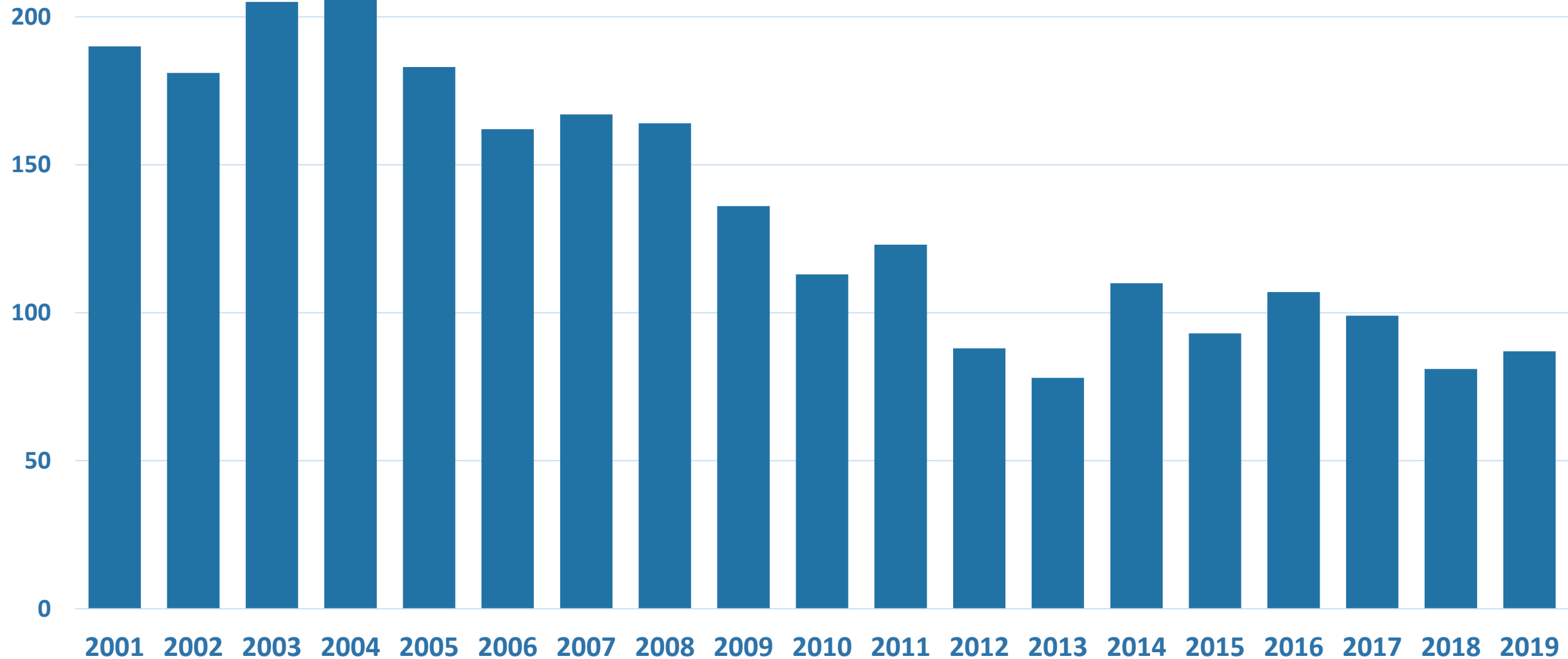
Leading Cause of Death, North Carolina

Ages 15 to 19



Teen Fatalities in MV Crashes, North Carolina

Ages 15 to 19



Teen Licensing... the olden days



A Little History

Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL)

- Concept originated in NC
- GDL bill introduced in mid-1990s
- Joint effort of GHSP, HSRC, CFTF, AAA & others
- 34 Senators & 101 Reps co-sponsored the bill
- Signed into law in 1997



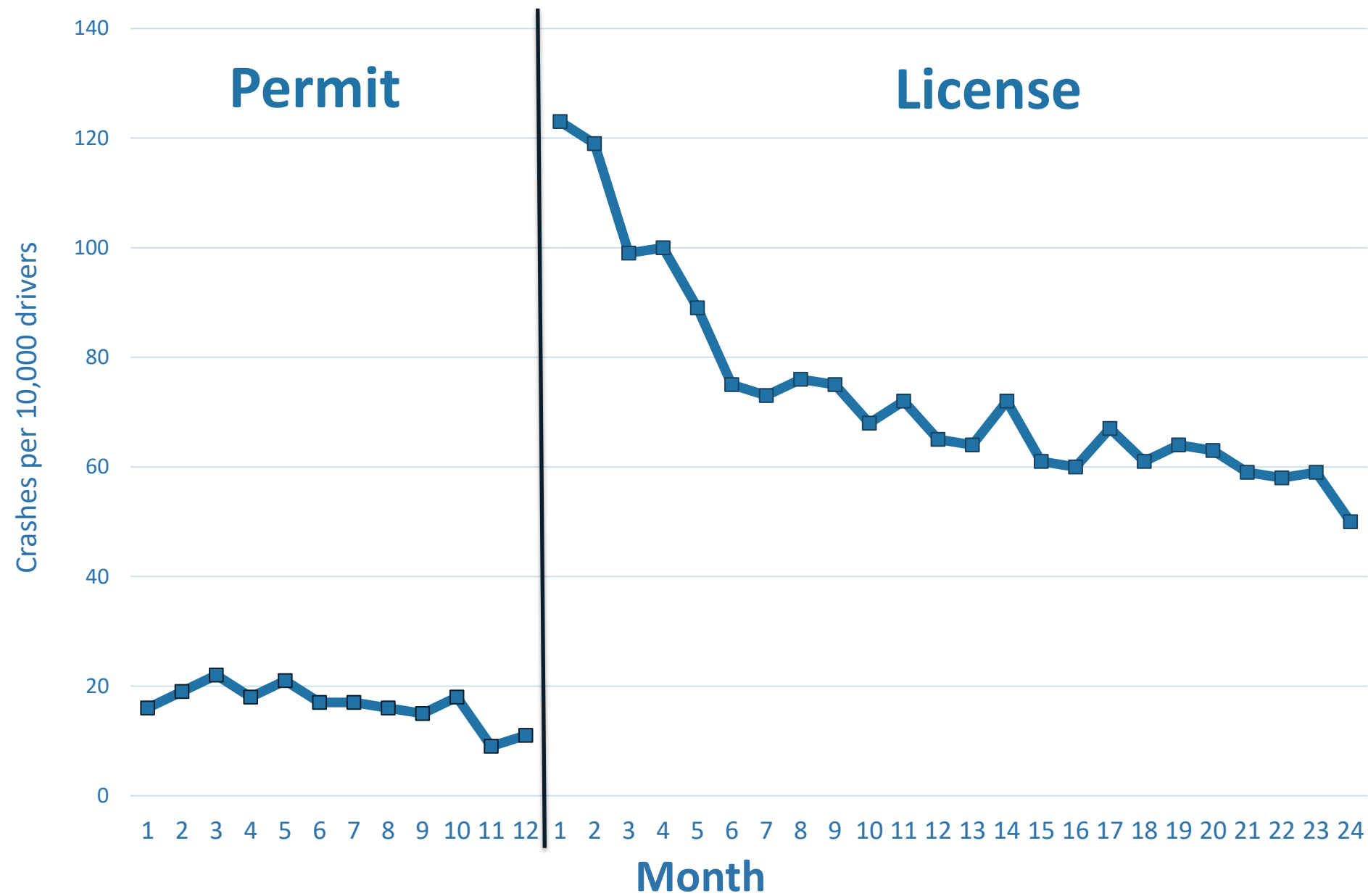
Graduated Driver Licensing

Principles:

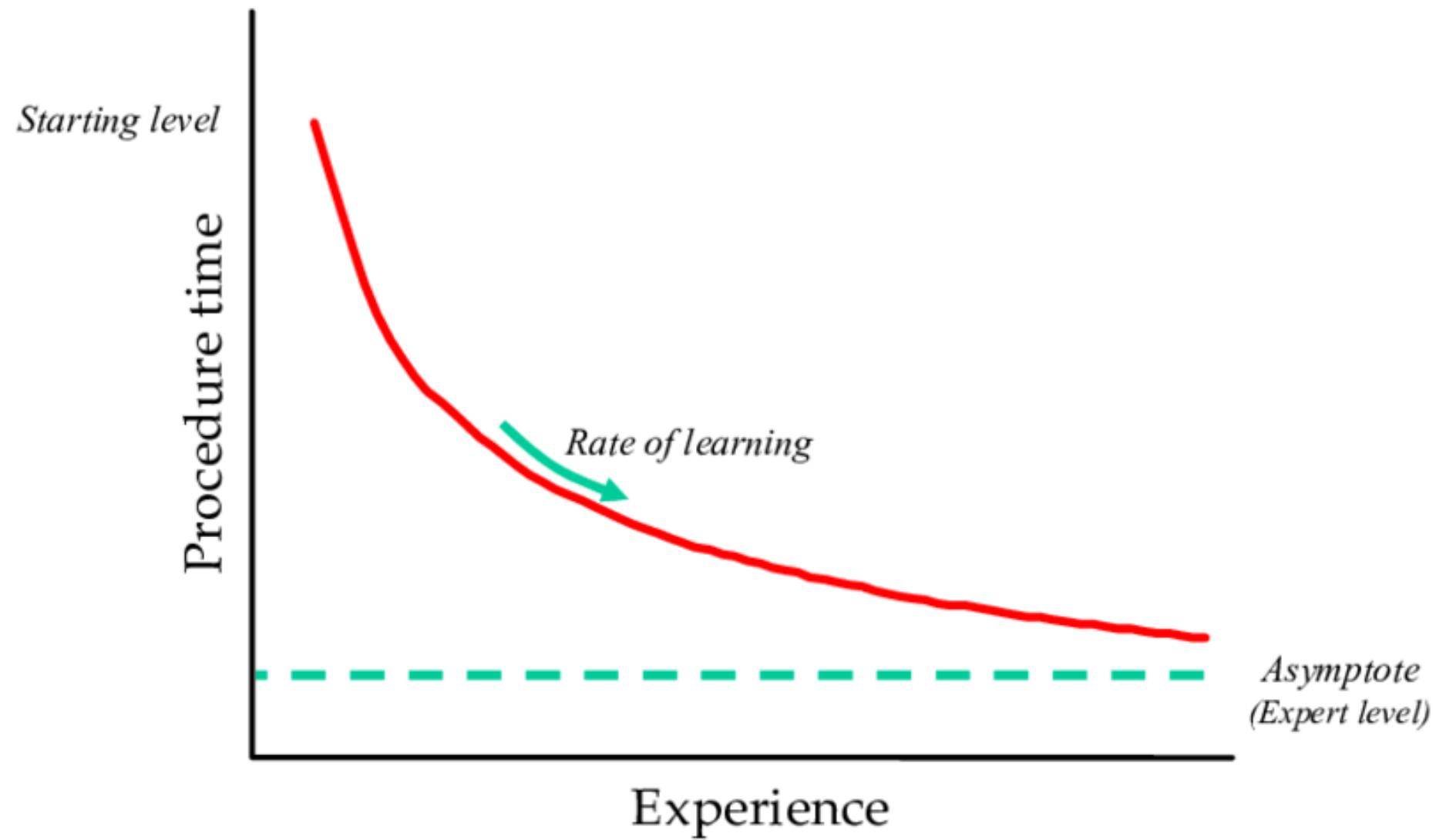
- Lots of driving experience
- Reduce exposure to high-risk settings



Young Driver Crashes by Months Licensed



Basic Learning Curve



Learning a New Activity



Graduated Driver Licensing

Addresses inexperience:

- 12-month learner period
- Must be supervised at all times
- 60 hours driving (10 at night)



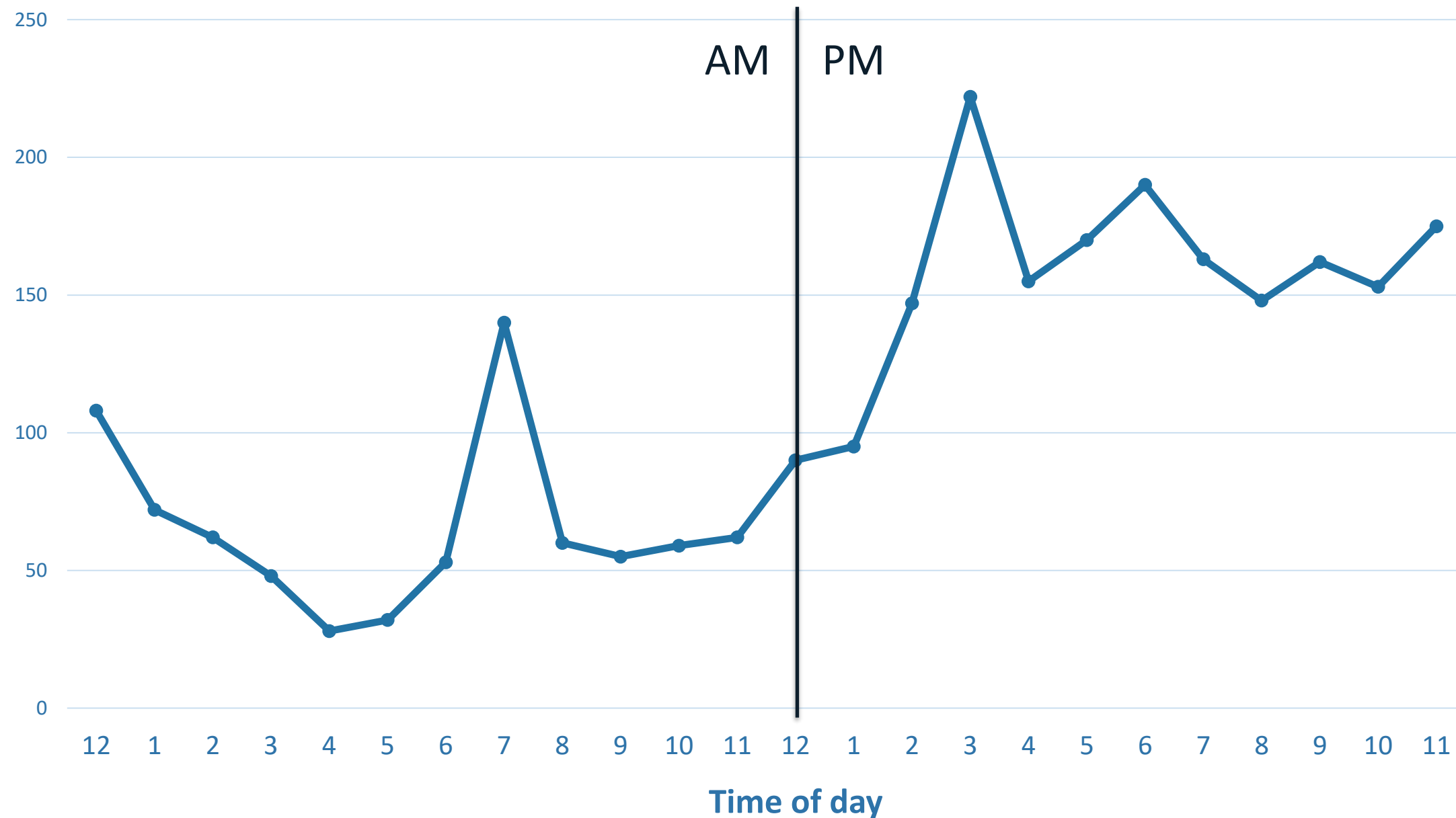
Graduated Driver Licensing

Provisional/intermediate license stage

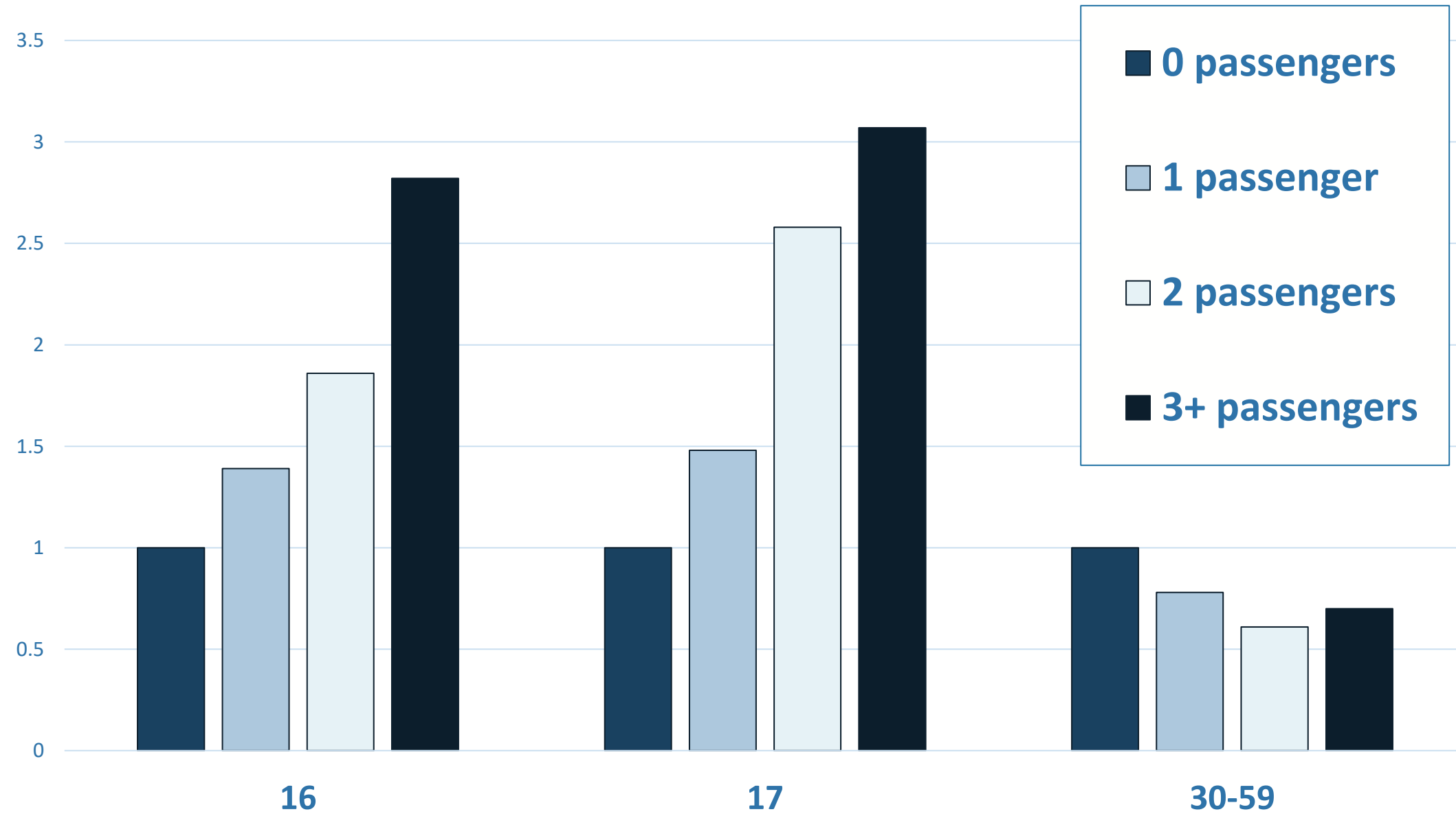
- May not drive unsupervised from 9pm to 5am
- Limit of one teen passenger
- No cell phones



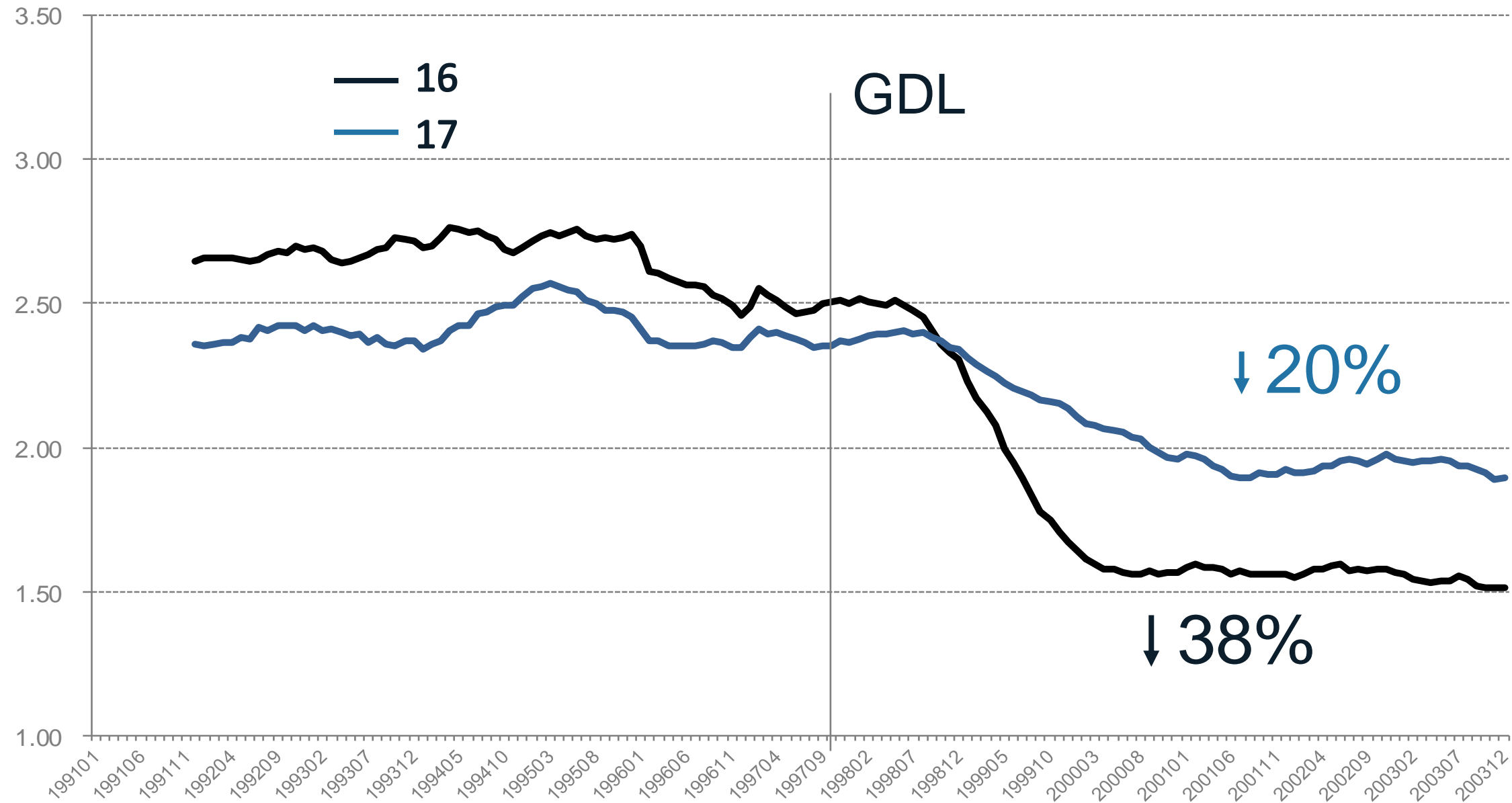
Teen Fatal Crashes by Time of Day



Risk of Driver Death



Crash Decline Following GDL



Longer Learner Periods Mean Safer Roads

Learner period duration	State-specific decline	Average decline
12 Months		- 30%
North Carolina	- 30%	
6 Months		- 12%
Minnesota	- 19%	
Connecticut	- 17%	
Kentucky	- 9%	
Virginia	- 6%	
3 Months		- 4%
Hawaii	- 11%	
South Carolina	- 3%	
Tennessee	- 0.8%	

Parent Approval of GDL Elements

	1999	2013
12 mo. learner period	95%	97%
9 p.m. night driving limit	87%	90%

Why Have Fatalities Decreased?

- 1) Graduated Driver Licensing
- 2) Fewer licensed teens:
 - 16-year-olds in NC w/permit or license
 - 68% in 1991
 - 58% in 2011



Delayed Licensure

Good

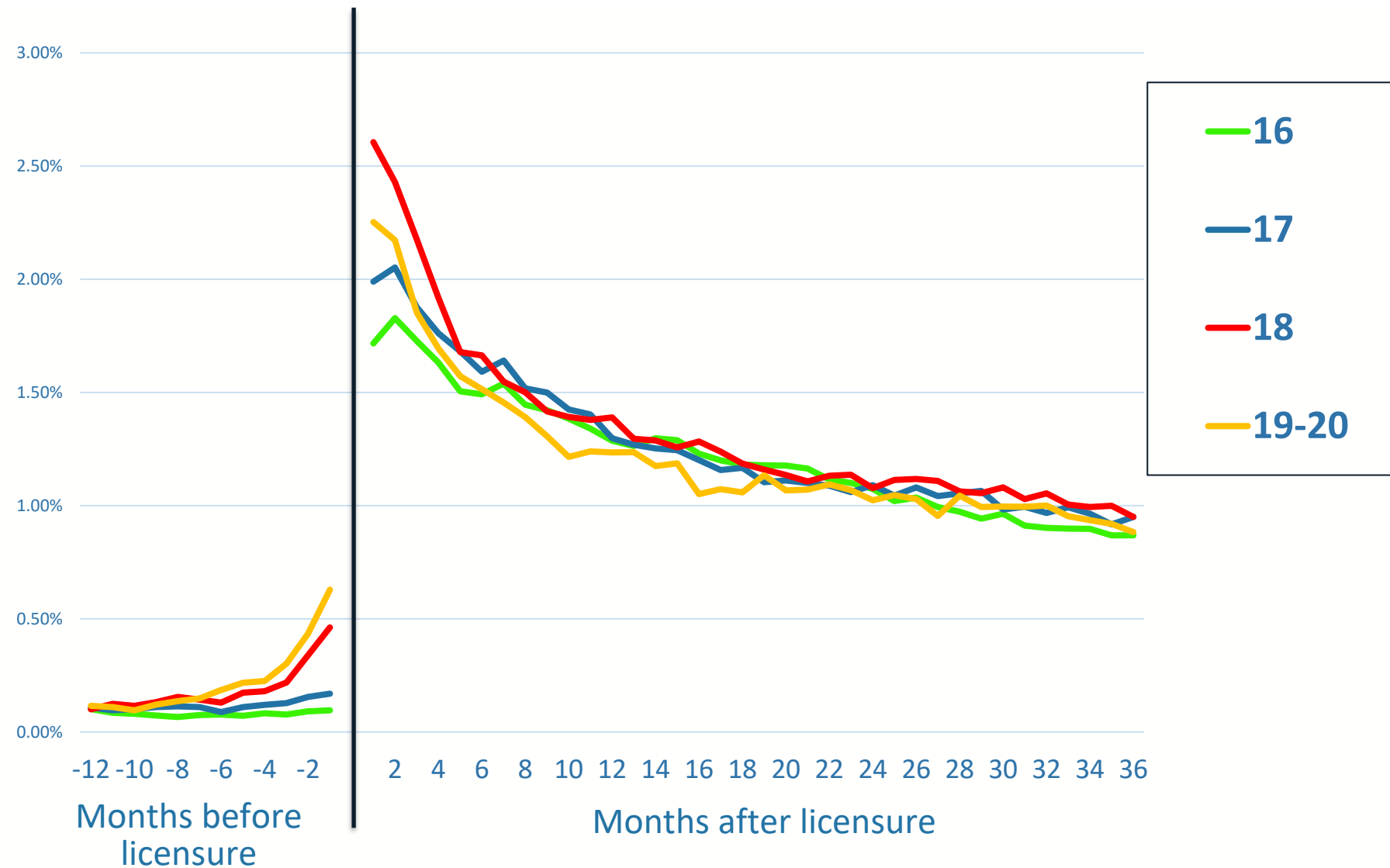
- Fewer crashes/deaths

Bad

- Missing the safety benefits of GDL

Should we apply GDL to older novices (e.g., 18-20)?

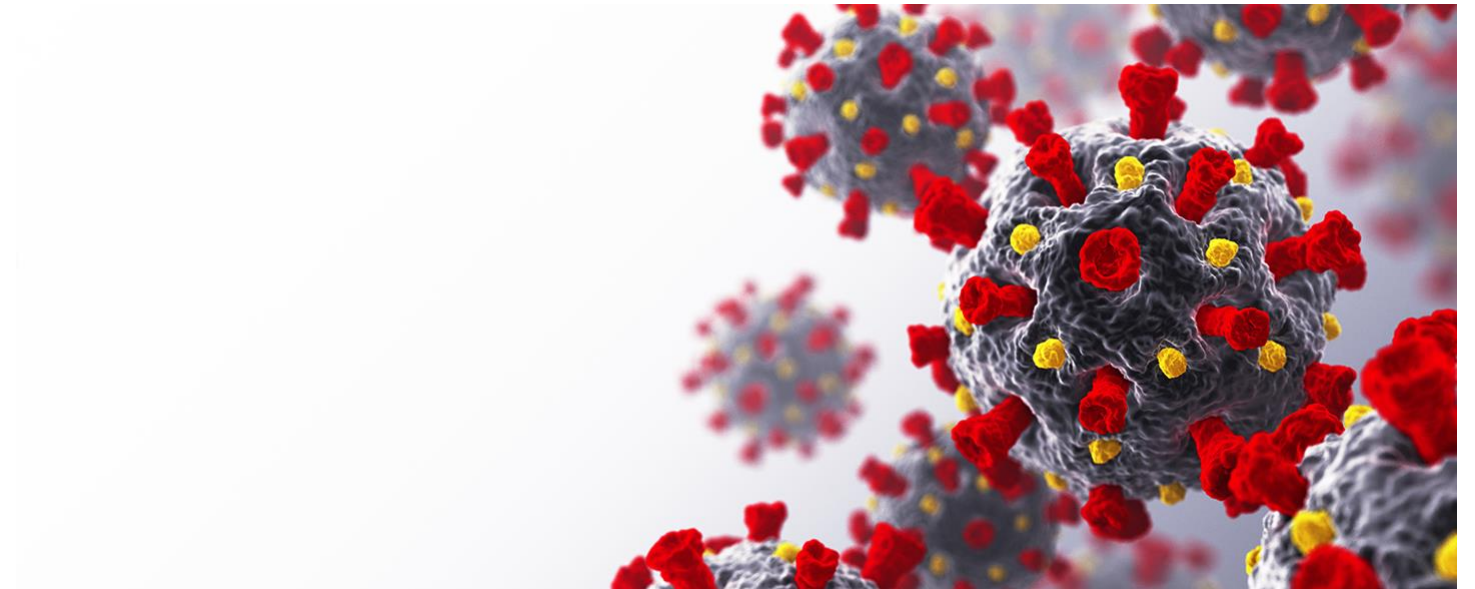
Young Driver Crashes by Months Licensed



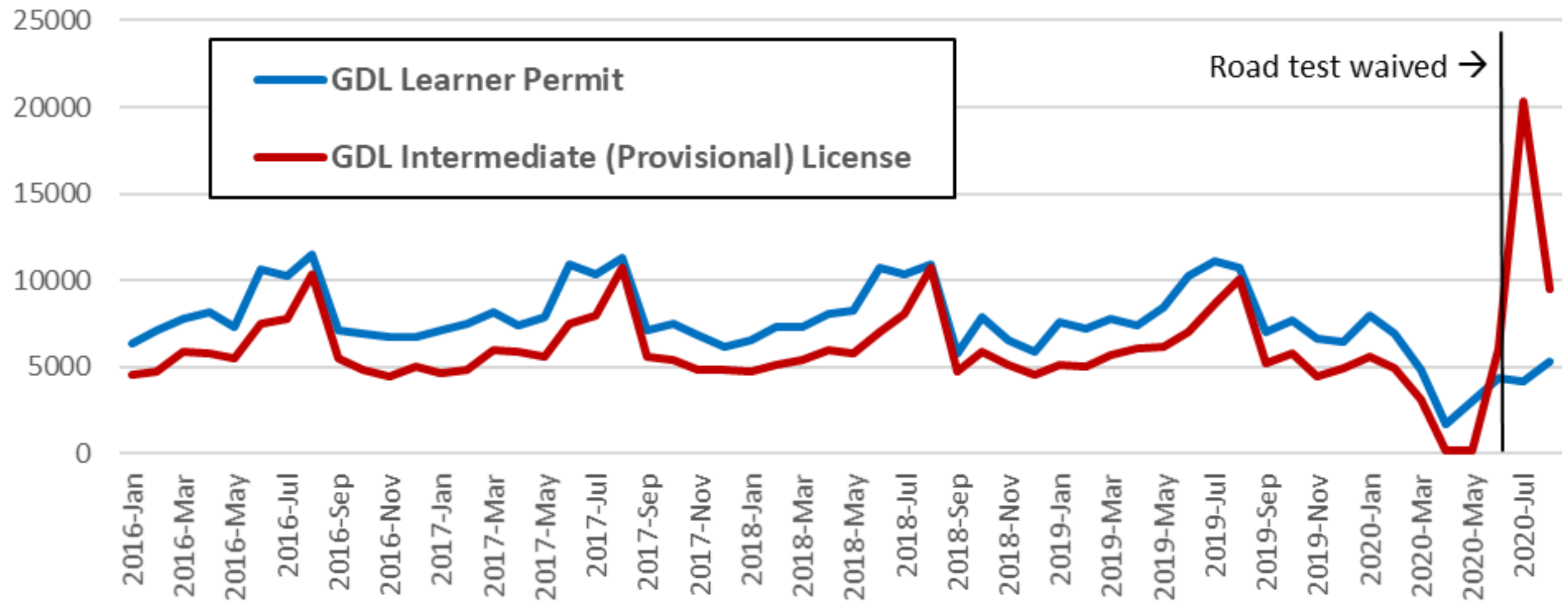
COVID-19 and Teen Drivers

Effect on:

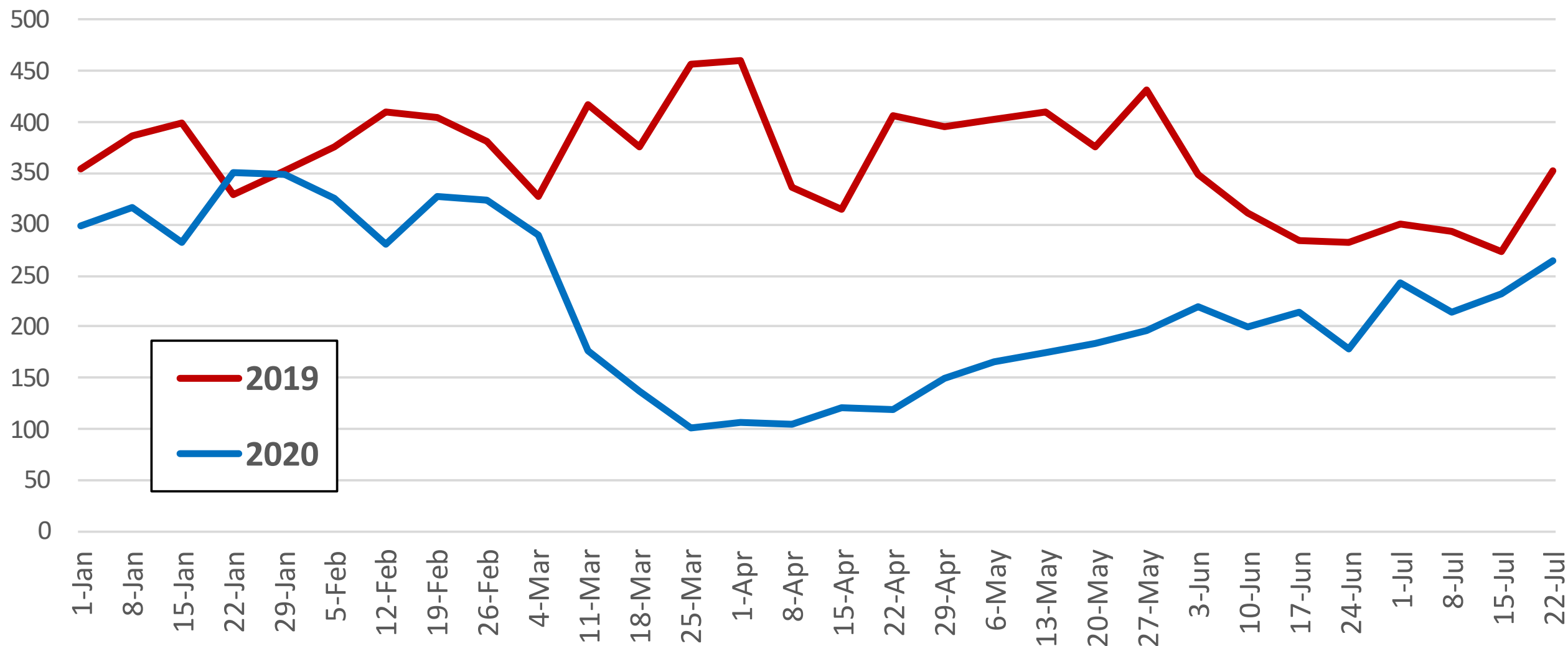
- Licensing
- Crashes
- Supervised driving



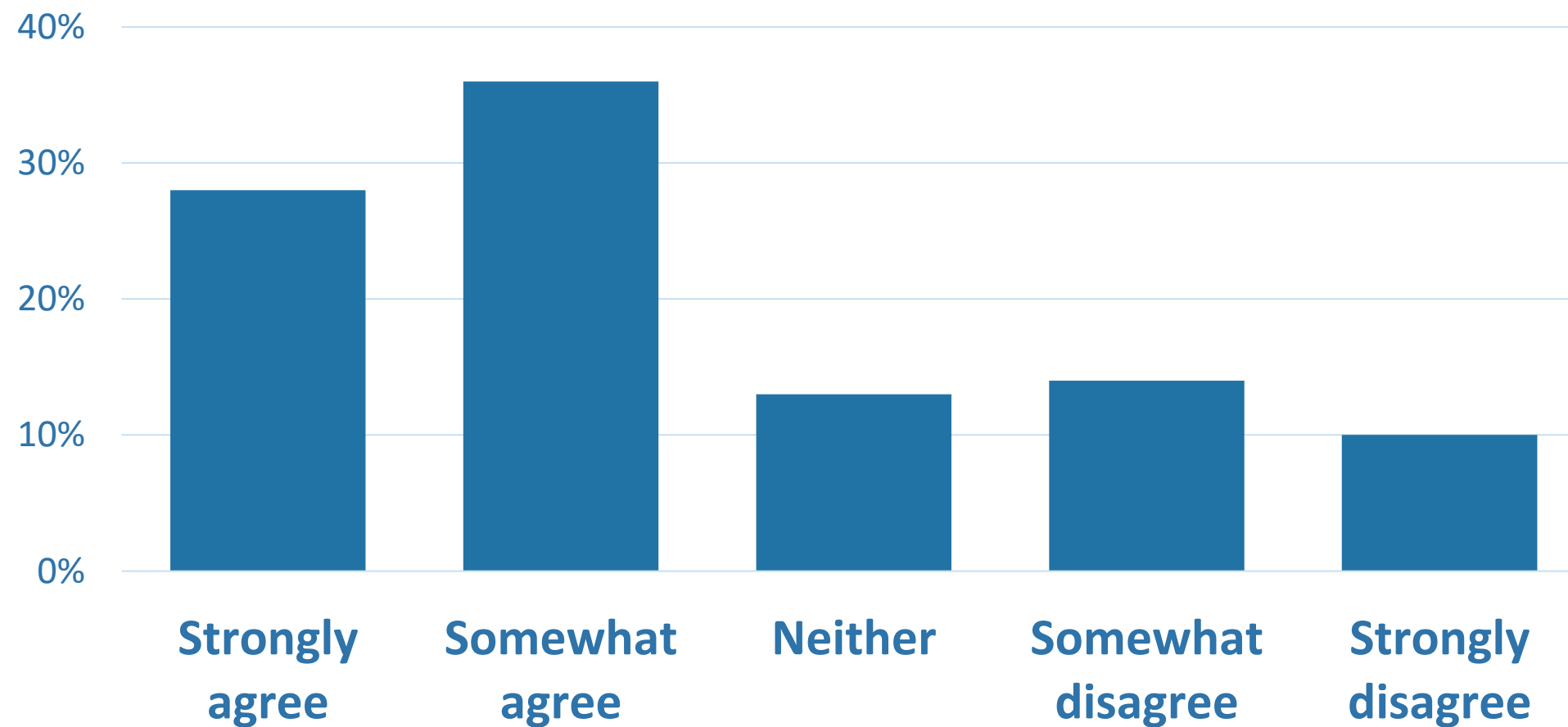
GDL Licenses Issued in North Carolina, Ages 16-17, 2016-2020



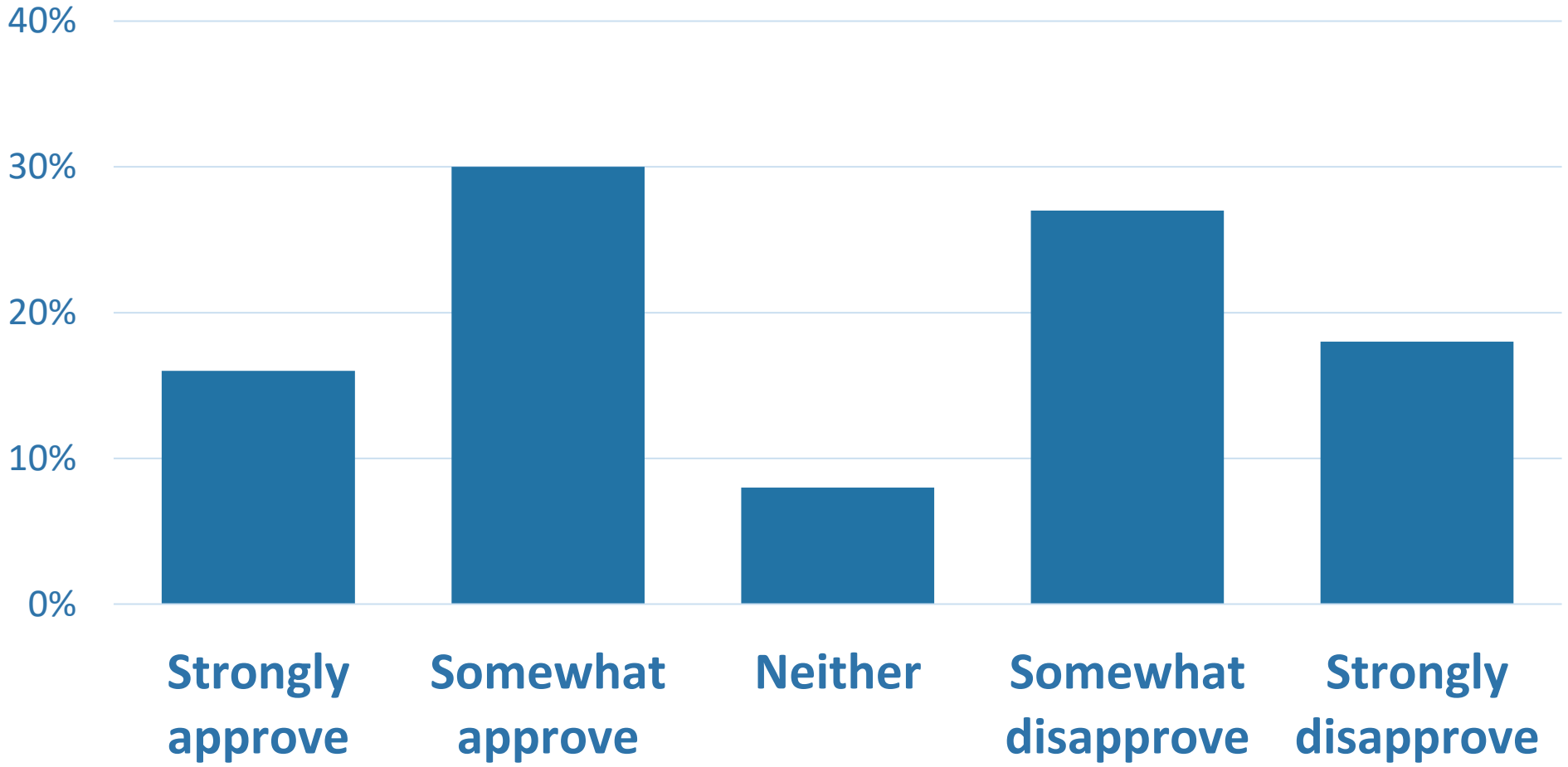
Counts of Young Drivers in Crashes in North Carolina (Ages 16 -17)



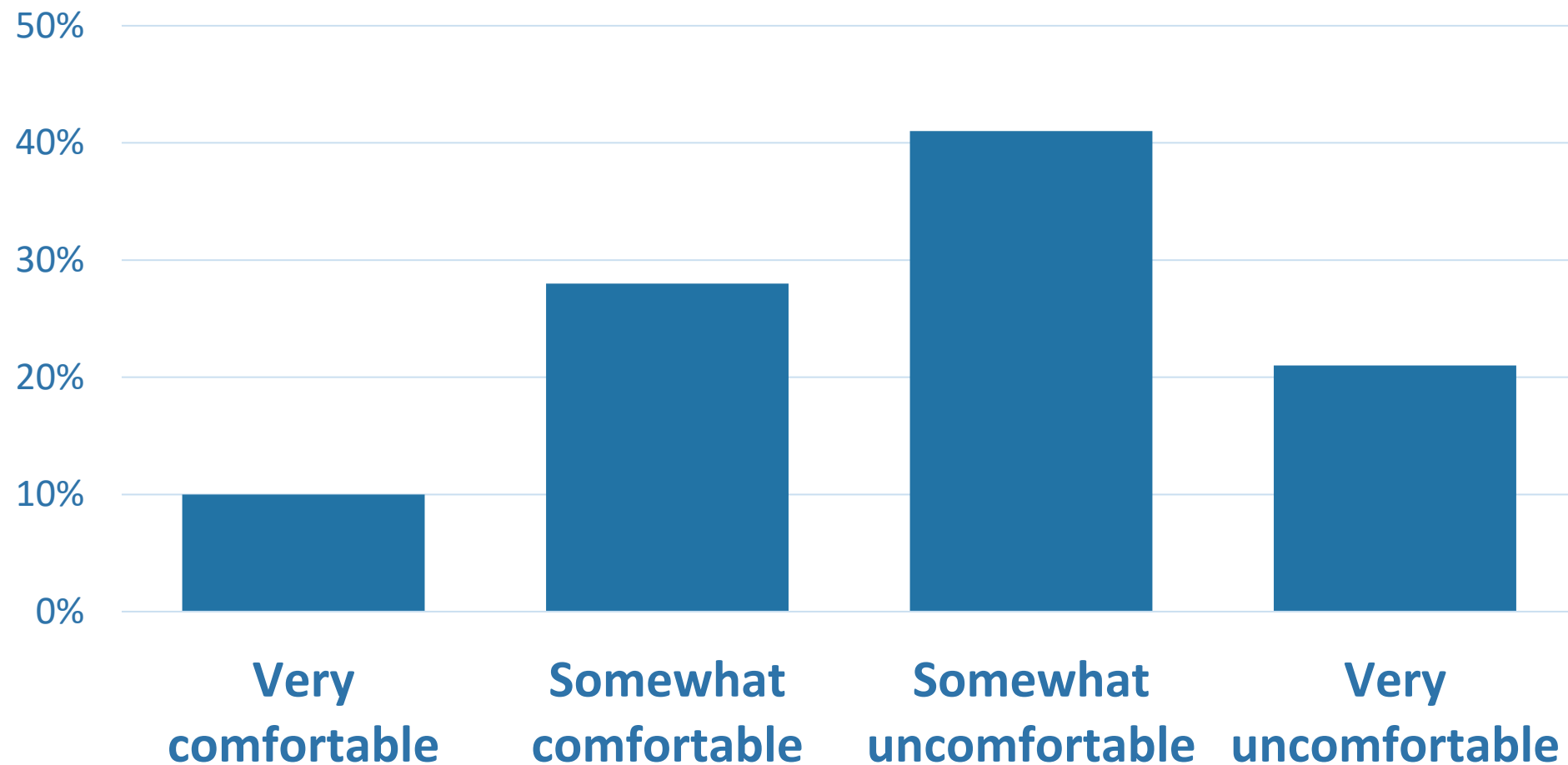
In the weeks after things shut down, I was concerned my teen was not getting enough practice.



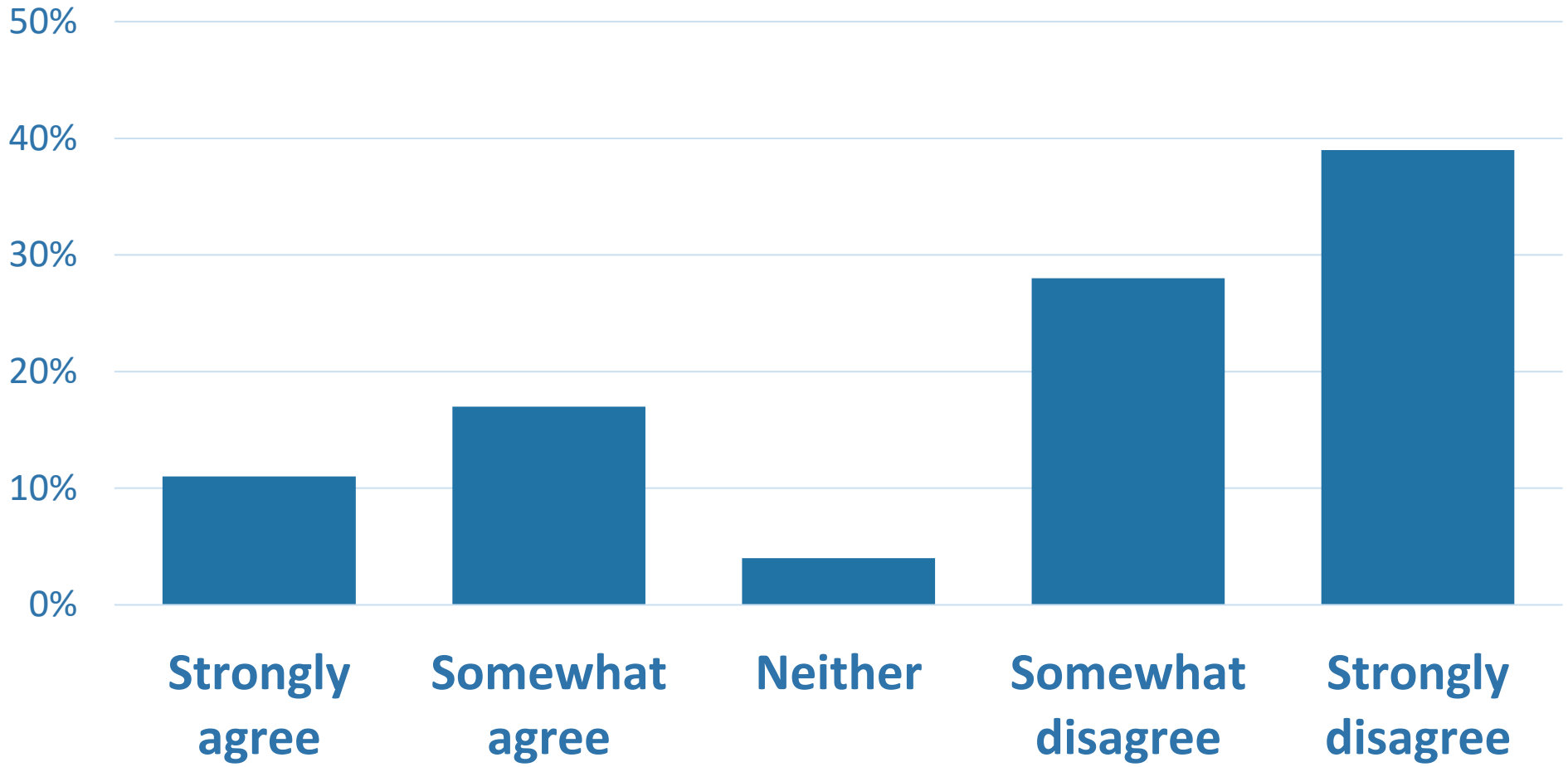
Do you approve of teens getting a license without taking a road test?



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



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



Parent comments

- “We feel that learning to drive is an important enough lifelong skill that the driving process shouldn't be fast-tracked.”
- “The idea that we're going to reduce what little we have in place for safety, for reasons completely unrelated to road safety, to me is a problem.”
- “I am terrified because I, as a parent, want to make sure that my kid is safe and the basic hours were not enough for me.”
- “I don't think that the duration of the permit holding should be shortened at all because they do a lot of maturing in a year.”
- “I have a problem with shortening that time period, because I mean, that's the time when the parents are there to supervise.”
- “I'd like to see him not do the mistakes that I made. The more time that he gets with us, I think, is the best thing.”



Questions