



# PARENTING THE TEENAGE DRIVER

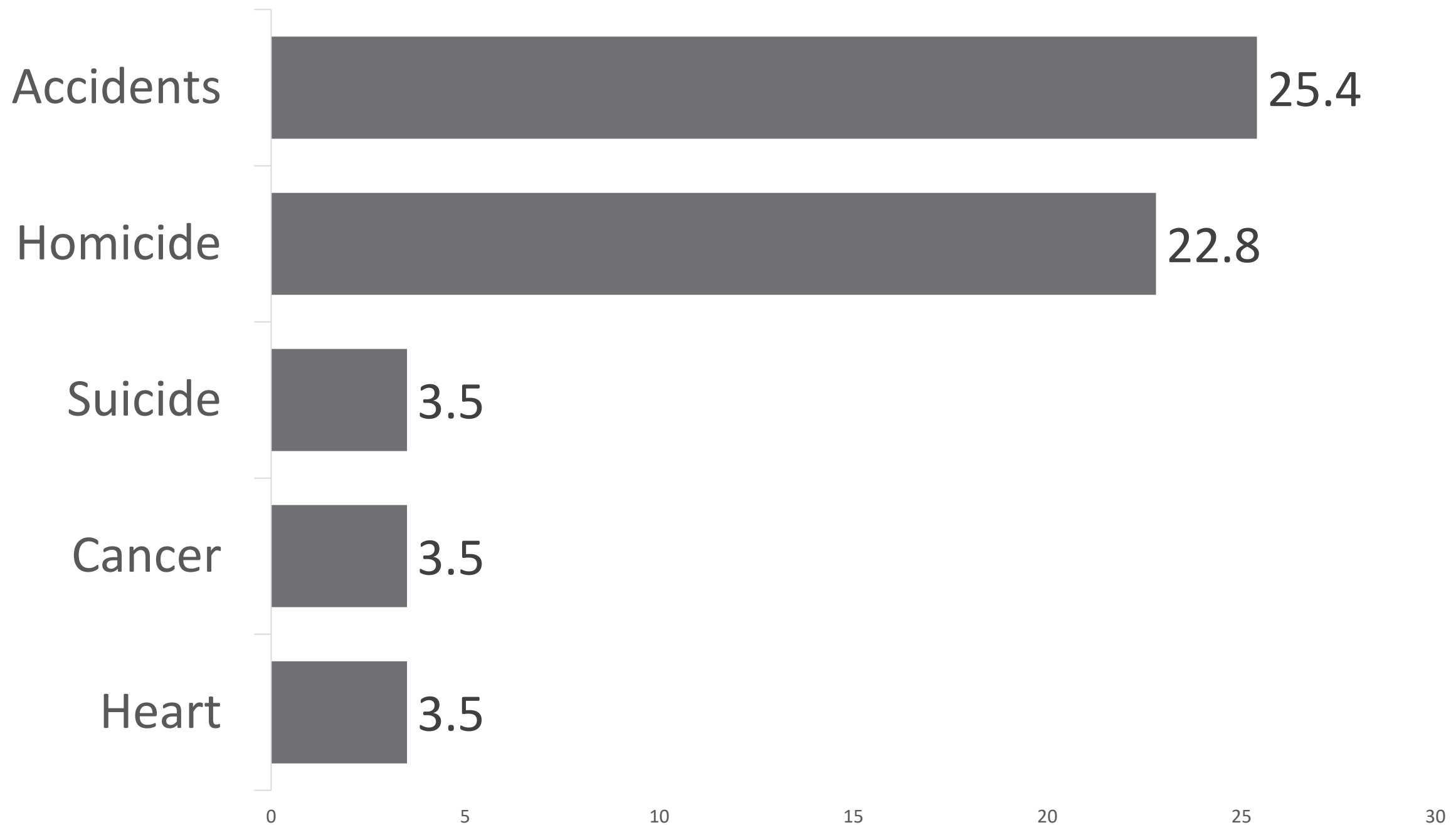
**Dale Wisely, Ph.D.**  
**Mountain Brook Schools**  
**[wiselyd@mtnbrook.k12.al.us](mailto:wiselyd@mtnbrook.k12.al.us)**





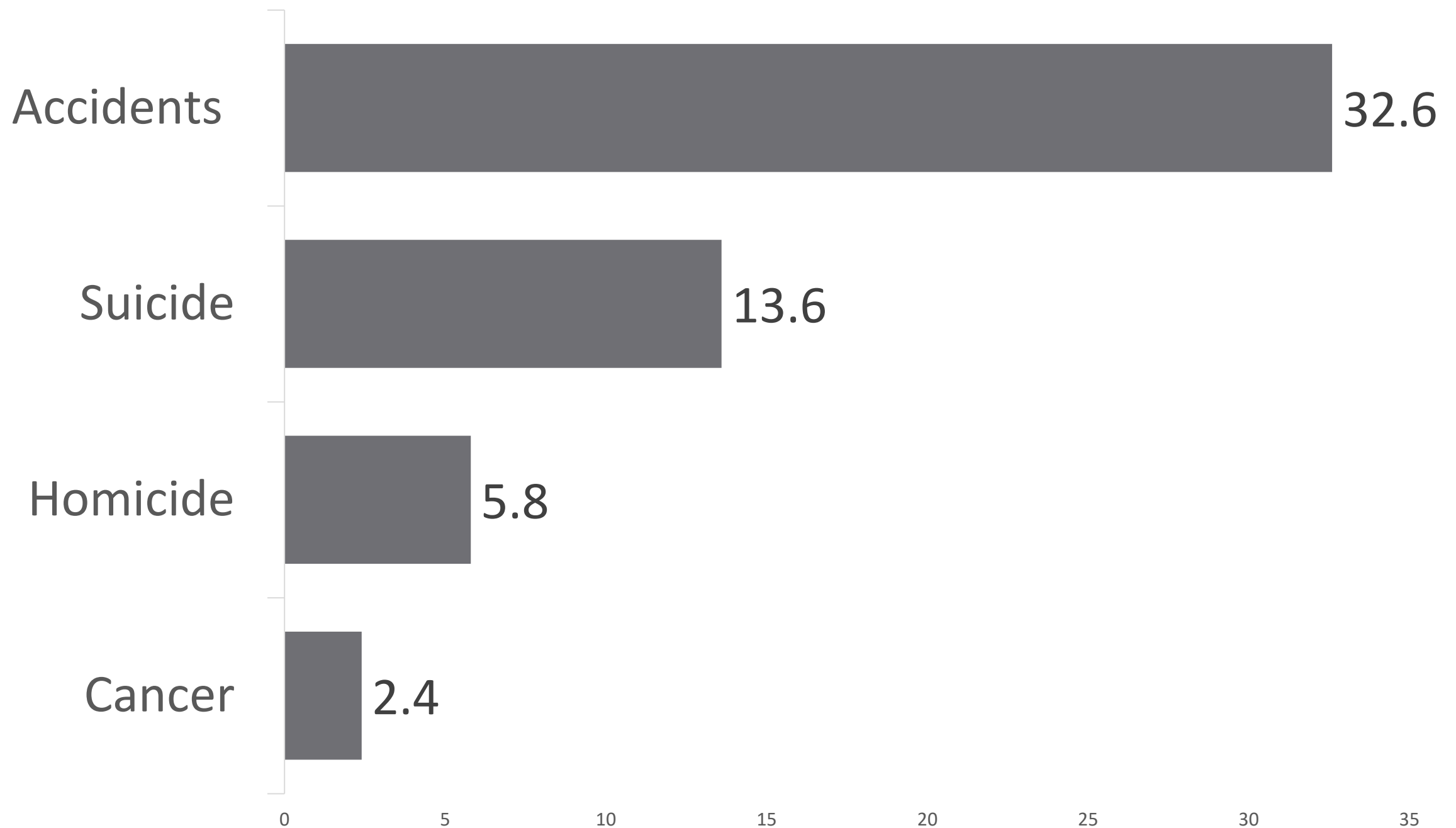
Leading cause of death of  
teenagers in the USA and in  
Alabama.

# Alabama Death Rates, Leading Causes, Black & Other, age 15-19 (2015)

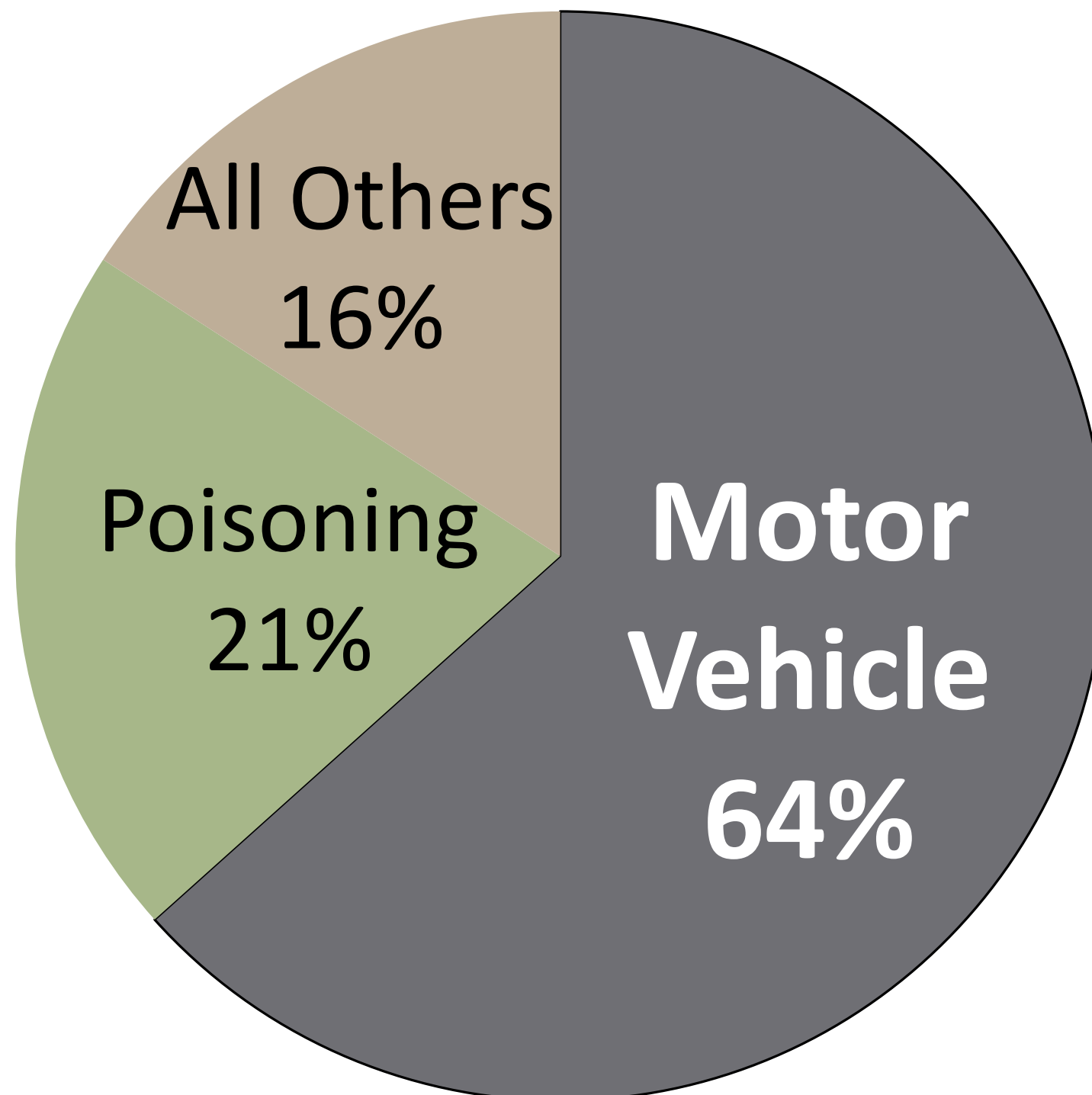




# Alabama Death Rates, Leading Causes, White, age 15-19 (2015)

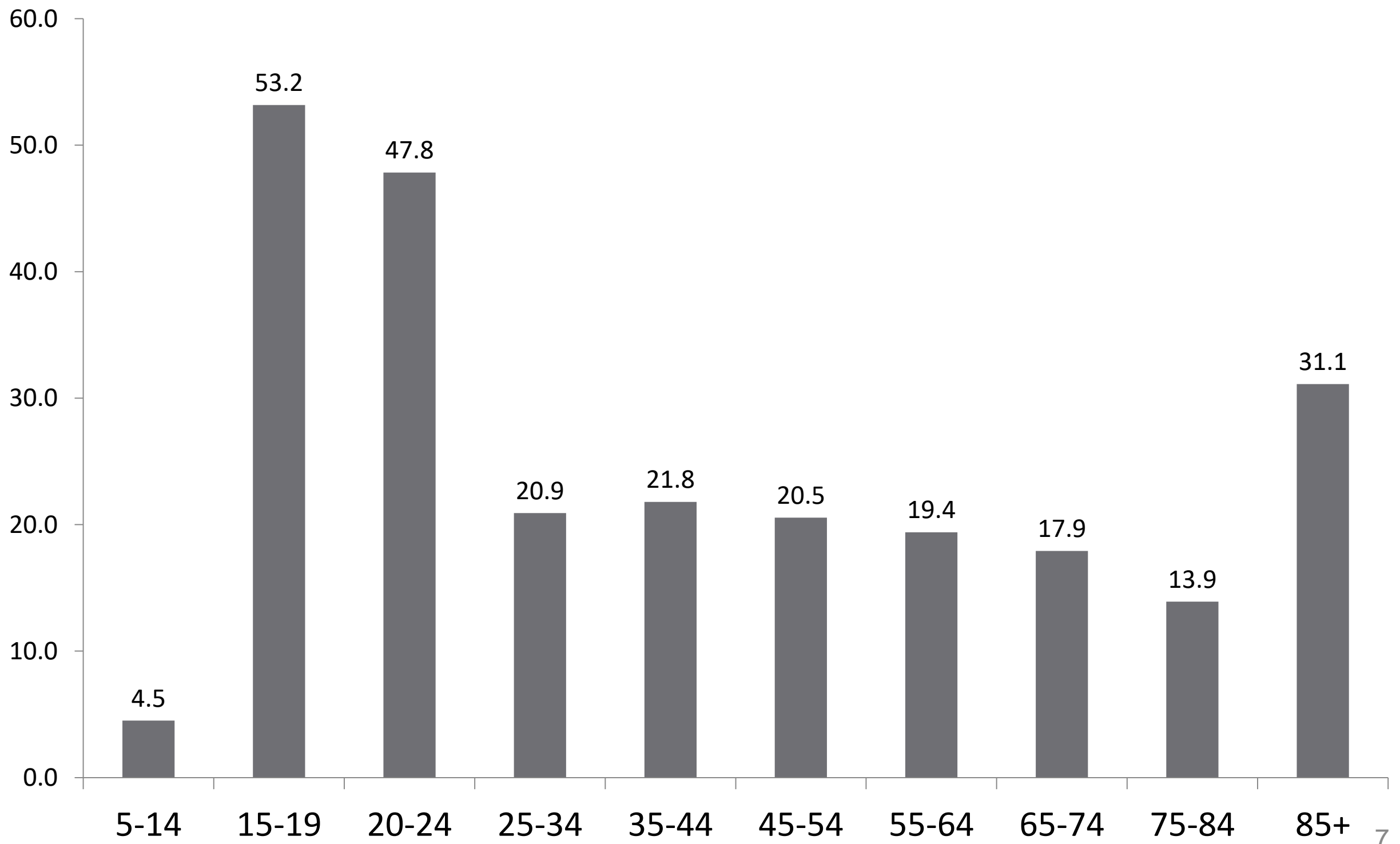


# Alabama: Types of Accidental Deaths, Age 15-24 (2015)

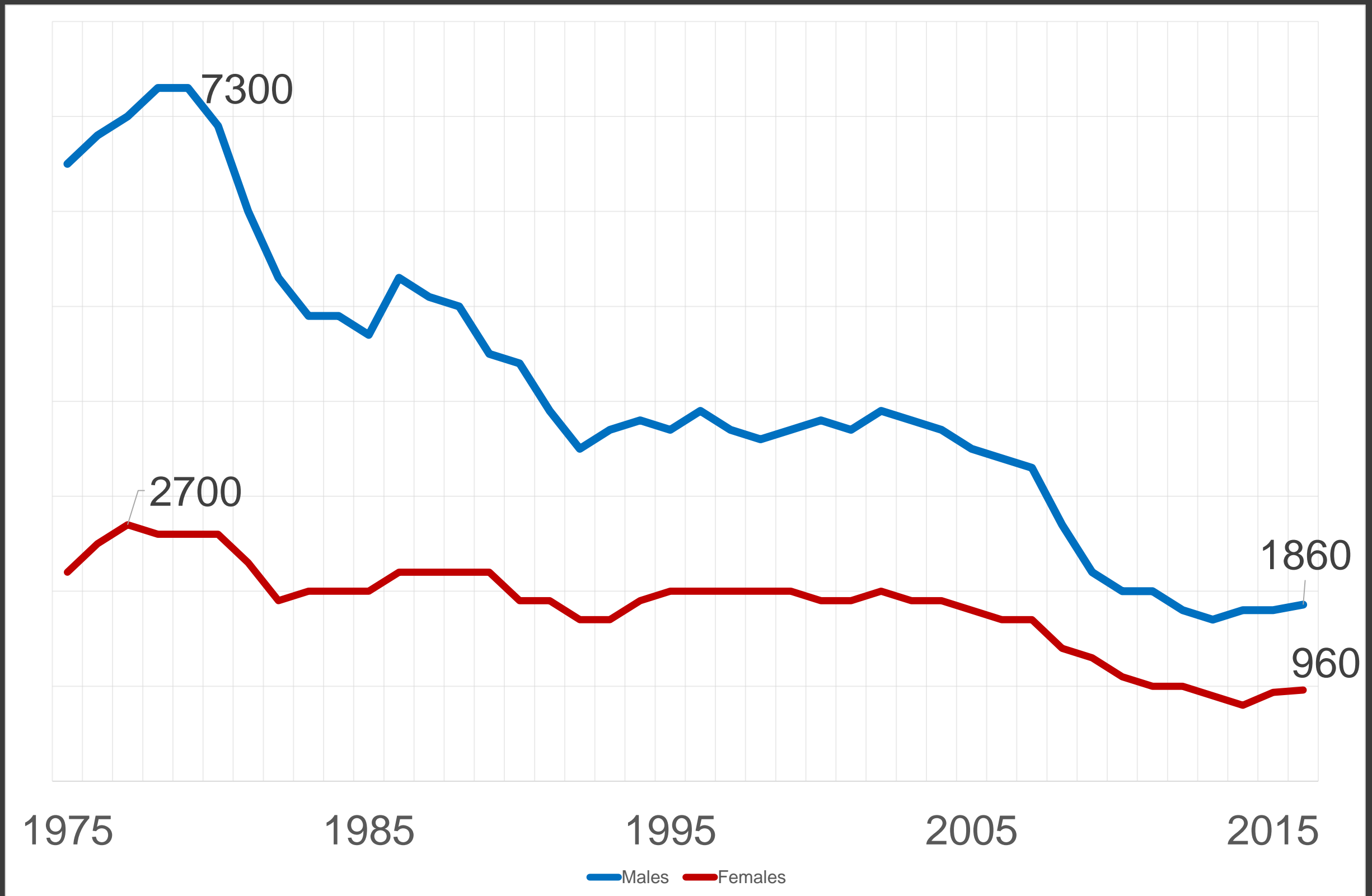




# MVA death rates in Alabama, by age group, 2015



# Teenage Driver Deaths (USA 1975-2016)





# Why?

- Teenagers are waiting longer to get their licenses
- Progress on DUI and youth?
- Cars safer
- Improvements in signage/signals/other traffic engineering

# What is at stake?












These  
reckless  
teenagers  
!







A close-up photograph of a woman in a car, illustrating distracted driving. She is wearing a blue jacket and has her eyes closed while talking on a black mobile phone held to her ear. In her right hand, she holds a golden-brown donut, and in her left hand, she holds a white disposable coffee cup with a black lid. The background shows the interior of the car and a blurred view of the road through the windshield.

Our minds are off the road.  
Our eyes are off the road.  
Our hands are off the wheel.







In fairness...

Teenage drivers take unnecessary risks.

So do their parents.

Teens take more risks than other drivers behind the wheel but, mostly, *when other teen passengers are with them.*

# ALABAMA GRADUATED LICENSE LAW

# Places restrictions on

- ALL drivers who are 16 years old
- Some 17 year olds: Licensed less than 6 months.
- NO 18 year olds.

*Applies to all 16-year-old drivers  
and some 17-year-old drivers.*

## CURFEW: Midnight to 6 a.m.

### Exceptions:

- ⦿ Parent or adult 21 or over in car
- ⦿ Going to/from work, school-related or religious-oriented event
- ⦿ Emergencies
- ⦿ Hunting or fishing



## **PASSENGER LIMIT! :**

**when driving, may have no more than one passenger.**

This limitation does not apply to passengers who are parents, legal guardians, or family members.



**MAY NOT USE HANDHELD  
COMMUNICATION DEVICE  
WHILE DRIVING.**

Very low enforcement rates. But it's the law.

The penalty for violation is extension, for six months, of these restrictions, fines for the driver, fines for parents who knowingly allow violations.

# 7 Critical Risk Factors

Inexperience  
Passengers  
No Seat Belts  
Alcohol & Other  
Drugs  
Sleepiness  
Distracted Driving  
Nighttime



# 7 Critical Risk Factors

Inexperience

Passengers

Seat Belts

Alcohol/Drugs

Sleepiness

Distracted Driving

Nighttime

**These tend to cluster together!**



# Teen riding with new driver dies in crash

By Craig Gustafson, Jose Luis Jiménez and Debbi Baker

UNION-TRIBUNE STAFF WRITERS

2:00 a.m. October 26, 2009

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FAIRBANKS RANCH — A 16-year-old Encinitas boy who was a starting safety for the Santa Fe Christian High School football team was killed in a crash early yesterday morning in Fairbanks Ranch.

William Wardrip, a rear-seat passenger, died in the single-vehicle crash on San Dieguito Road near Circa del Norte about 3:30 a.m., the San Diego County Medical Examiner's Office said.

The driver, who had recently received his license, was heading west in a sport utility vehicle when he lost control on a curve, crossed into the eastbound lane, hit a curb and rolled several times, California Highway Patrol spokesman Eric Newbury said.

William was the only person in the 1999 Lexus GL470 not wearing a seat belt; he was thrown from the SUV, Newbury said. The driver and three other passengers, all younger than 18, were not injured but were taken to a hospital as a precaution.

Authorities said alcohol and drugs were not a factor in the crash. The CHP said the SUV was traveling at an unknown speed. Just before the curve is an electronic speed sign that would have told the driver how fast the SUV was going.

Santa Fe Christian head football coach Nick Ruscetta said William and his friends made a "huge error in judgment" by being out so late. But Ruscetta also said they were involved in nothing more serious than throwing water balloons and toilet paper at friends' houses.

"You could not say a bad word about William," Ruscetta said. "William embodied what our team is all about: small but with a big heart."

The crash occurred about 11 hours after Santa Fe Christian won its seventh straight game of the season, a 33-13 victory over El Cajon's Christian High



An SUV came to rest here after rolling over yesterday, killing a teen. (Eduardo Contreras / Union-Tribune) -



William Wardrip

**Late Saturday night**

**Driver recently received his license.**

**Victim, only fatality, was in rear seat and only person not wearing seat belt.**

**Driver plus 4 passengers.**



# 7 Critical Risk Factors

Inexperience

➤ **Passengers**

Distracted Driving

Alcohol & Other Drugs

Sleep

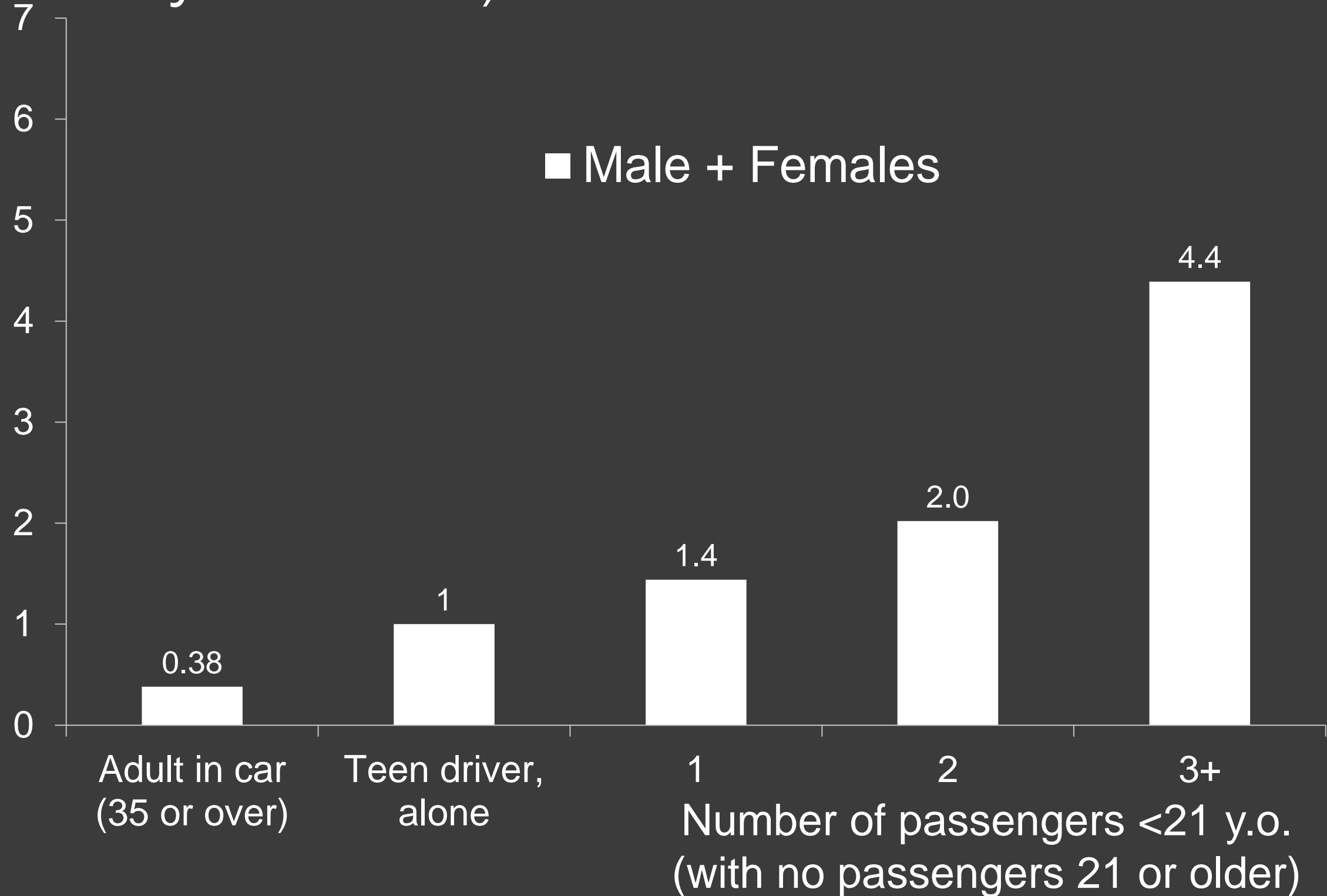
Distracted Driving

Night Driving

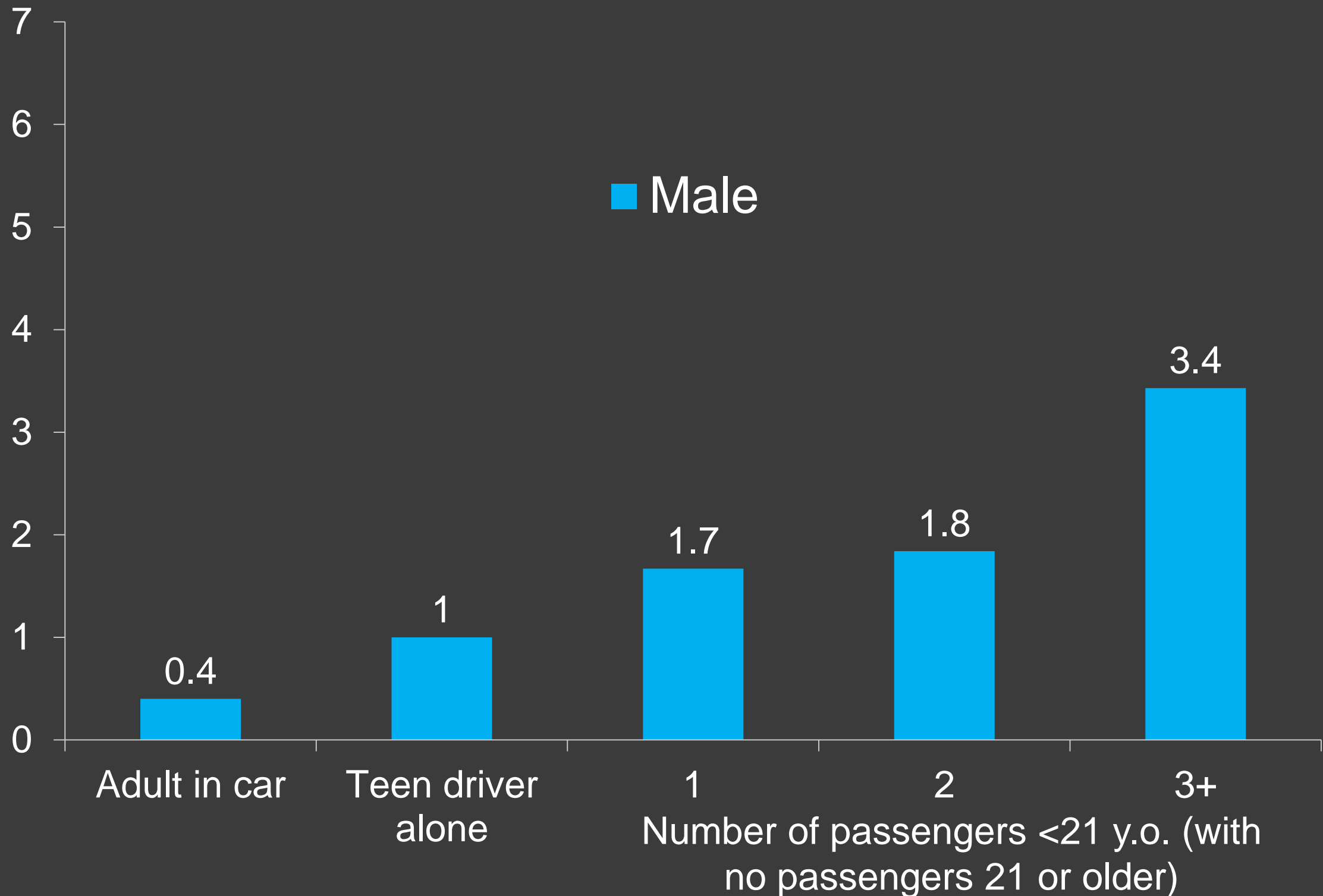




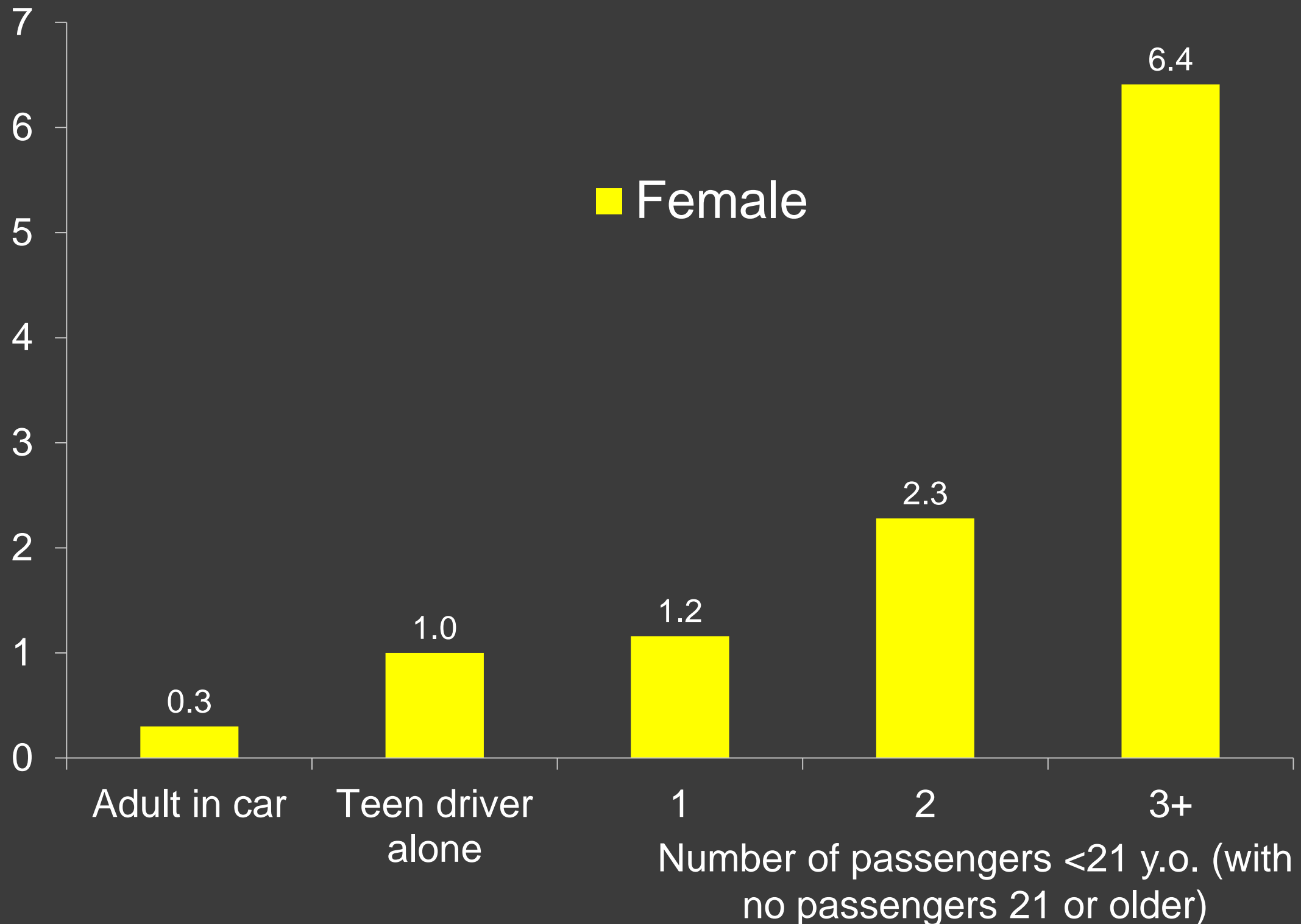
# Risks of driver death with passengers (16-17 y.o. drivers)



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# Risks of driver death with passengers (16-17 y.o. drivers)



- ⦿ Crash risk goes up in teen drivers when passengers are in the car.
- ⦿ Crash risk does NOT go up in adult drivers when passengers are in the car.

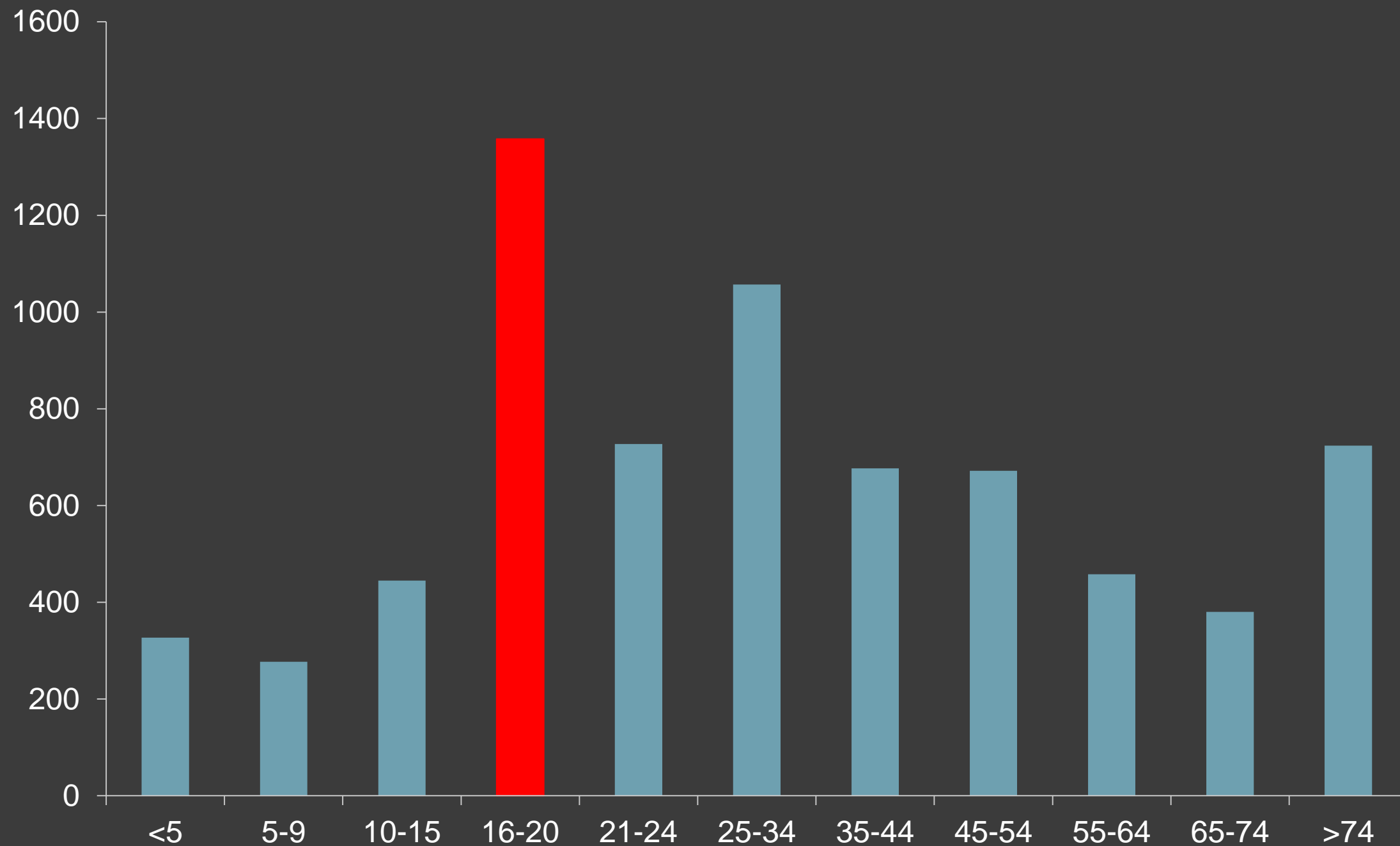


# Take-Home Points on Passengers

- The beginning driver: No young passengers for 3-6 months? Then one passenger; then reevaluate periodically.
- All young drivers: Limit passengers.
- Note: Parents are allowed to have stricter rules than the state laws!

Teenagers are more likely to be injured or killed as passengers in cars than any other age group.

# Passengers killed in MVAs, 2009



How can we help our  
teenagers stay safe as  
passengers  
of teen drivers?



# Rules to consider

- You may not ride with *any* driver licensed less than \_\_\_\_ months (3-6 months?)
- You must get my permission EACH time you want to ride with someone. (or with a driver under age X)
- Seat belts, passenger limits, alcohol/drugs.

# 7 Critical Risk Factors

Inexperience

Passengers

➤ **Seat Belts**

Alcohol & Other Drugs

Sleep

Distracted Driving

Night Driving



# Seat belt use

Of teen passengers, ages 16 to 20, killed in motor vehicle crashes, 60 percent were not wearing seatbelts.

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Year: 2006.

People, including teenagers, are much less likely to wear their seat belts when  
in the back seat.

# 7 Critical Risk Factors

Inexperience

Passengers

Seat Belts

➤ **Alcohol & Other Drugs**

Sleep

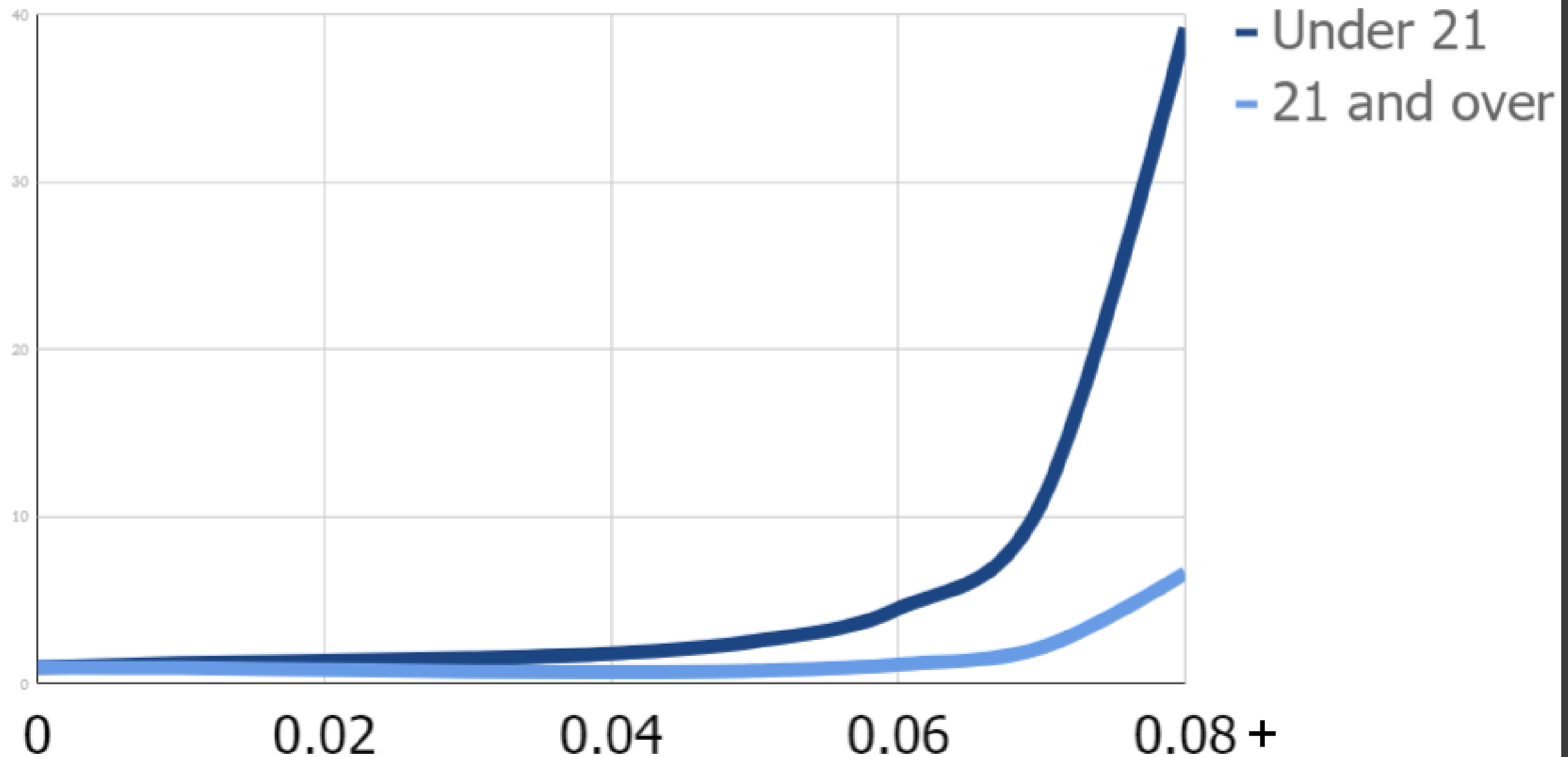
Distracted Driving

Night Driving





# Relative Risks of Crash by BAC by Age (Peck, Gebers, Voas, Romano, 2008)



# Risk of crash compared to in-group crash risk at BAC=0

Blood Alcohol Level	21 and over	Under 21
.07	2 times more likely to crash	11 times more likely to crash
.08+ (Legally DUI)	7 times more likely to crash	40 times more likely to crash

# 7 Critical Risk Factors

Inexperience Passengers

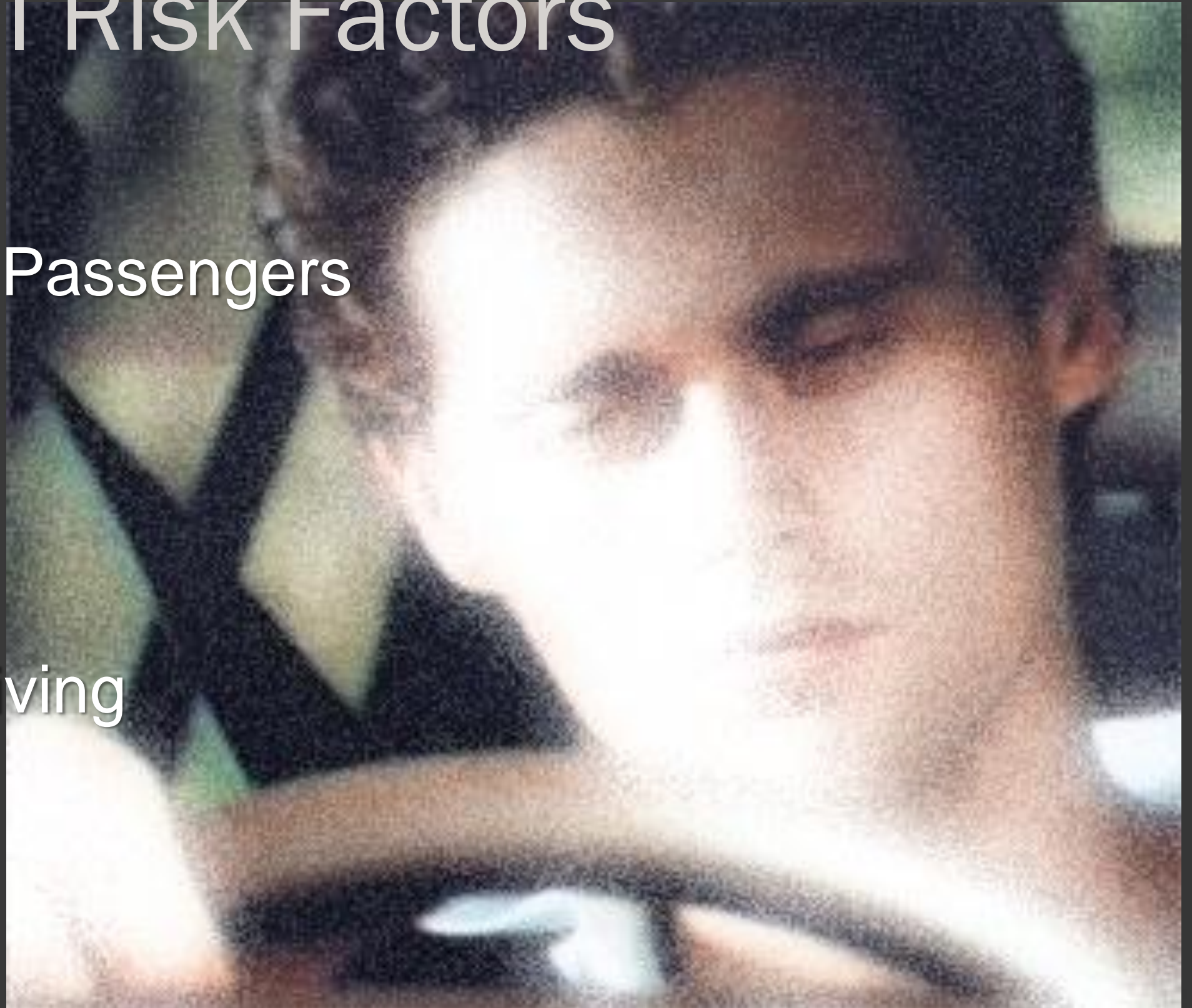
Seat Belts

Alcohol

➤ **Sleep**

Distracted Driving

Night Driving



# Sleepy teen drivers



Teenagers need an average of  
9 hours sleep/night.  
30% of teenagers get less than  
8 on average school night.  
(CDC, Youth risk  
Surveillance, 2009.)



# Sleep Deprivation & Safety

## Injury

- Doubles the unintentional injury risk
- Nearly doubles the pedestrian injury risk

## Motor Vehicle Crashes

- Increased number of crashes
- Increased chance of numerous crashes
- Increased “run off the road” crashes

Am J Epidemiol 2007;166:1053–  
1058

J of Adol Health 53 (2013) 785e790  
JAMA Pediatr. 2013;167(7):647-655

It's not just about falling  
asleep at the wheel.





# 7 Critical Risk Factors

Inexperience

Passengers

Seat Belts

Alcohol

Sleep

➤ **Distracted Driving**

Night Driving





# Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley signs law banning texting and driving

Published: Tuesday, May 08, 2012, 1:19 PM

Updated: Tuesday, May 08, 2012, 1:19 PM



By **Kim Chandler -- Montgomery Bureau**

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Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley on Tuesday, May 8, 2012, signed Alabama's new law banning texting while driving. (Press-

MONTGOMERY, Alabama -- Saying he is confident it will save lives, Gov. Robert Bentley this morning signed into law **legislation to make it a crime to text and drive.**

"It doesn't take a lot of common sense to know that you can't text and drive at the same time," Bentley said at a press conference outside the Alabama Capitol before **signing the bill.**

Bentley said he believes the measure will save lives just like the state law that requires the use of seat belts.

The new law will prohibit sending text messages, instant messages and emails while operating a motor vehicle. It does not prohibit dialing a phone.

The bill includes a fine of \$25 for a first offense, \$50 for a second offense and \$75 for a third or subsequent offense. Each offense is a

# A Comparison of the Cell Phone Driver and the Drunk Driver

Strayer, D. L., Drews, F. A., & Crouch, D. J.(2006). A comparison of the cell phone driver and the drunk driver. Human Factors, 48, 381-391.

“...the impairments associated with using a cell phone while driving can be as profound as those associated with driving while drunk.”

# Hands free does not reduce cell phone risk

“...driving performance of both  
younger and older adults is  
significantly impaired when they  
are conversing on a **hands-free  
cell phone.**”



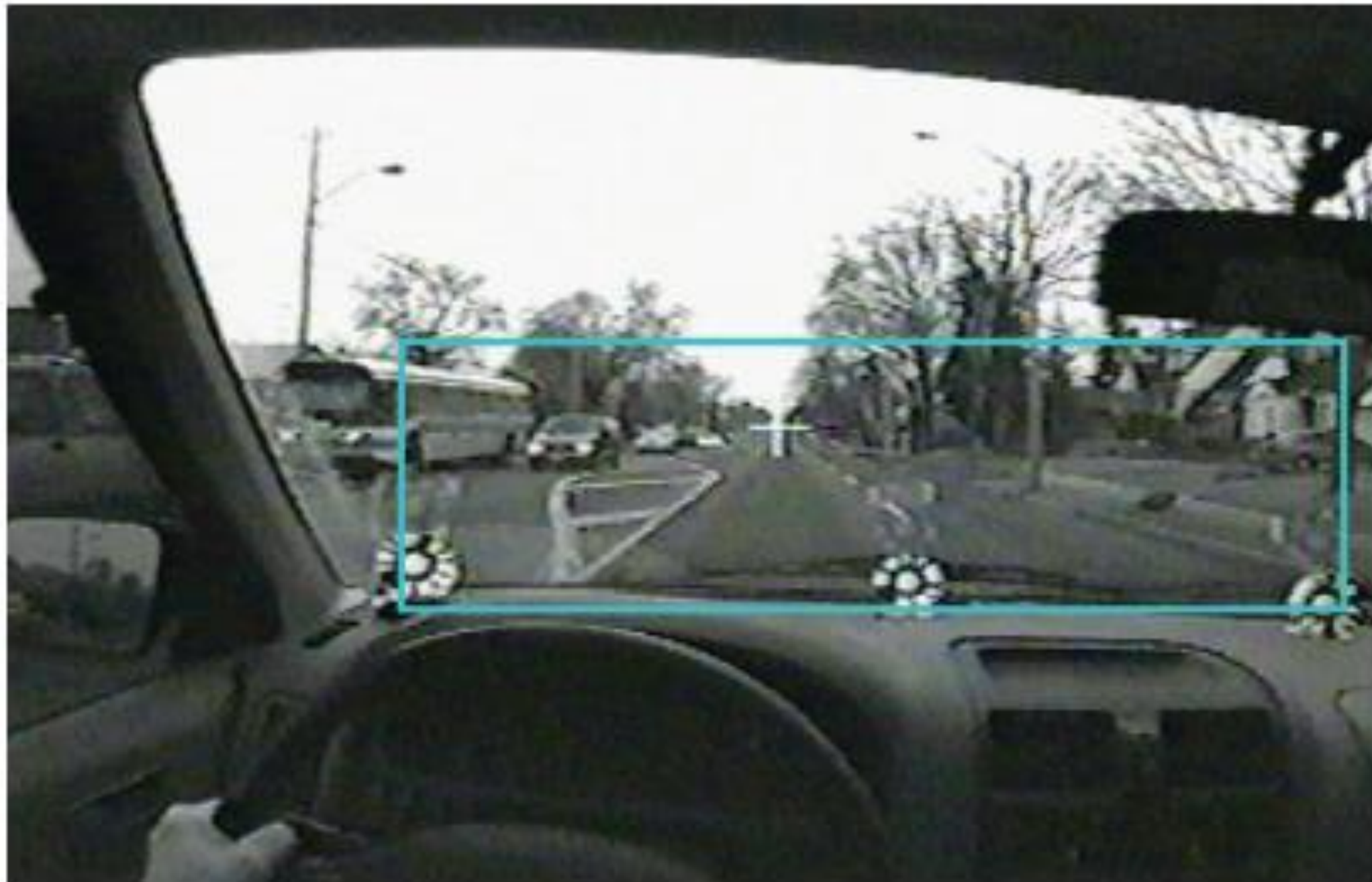
# Understanding the distracted brain

*Why driving while using hands-free  
cell phones is risky behavior*

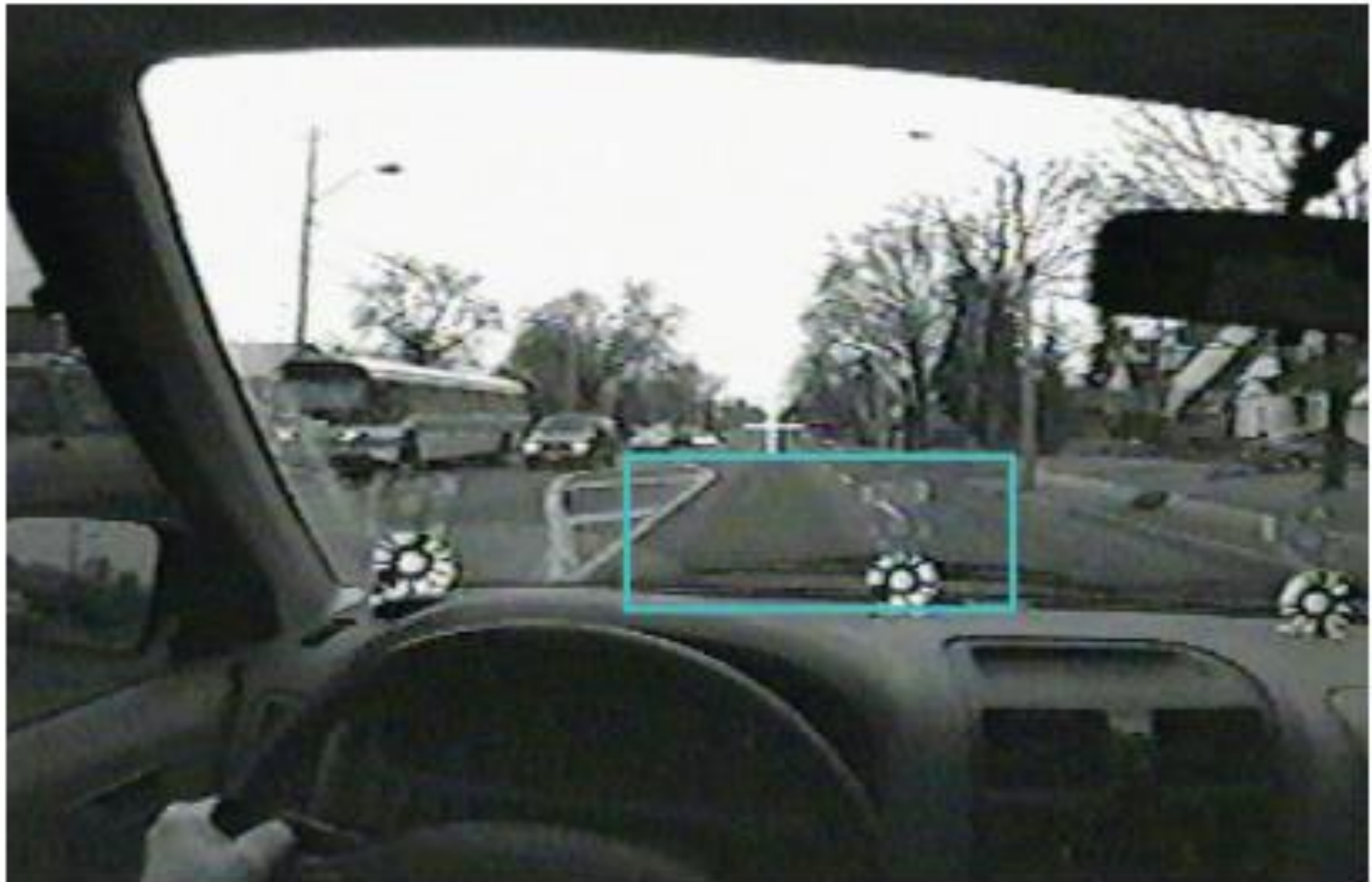


# The nature of the impairment from cell phone use.

1. Slows reaction time
2. “Information blindness”: Reduces by about half the visual information we process when we drive.



**Figure 4.**  
**Where drivers not using a hands-free cell phone looked.**  
**Source: Transport Canada**



**Figure 5.**  
**Where drivers using a hands-free cell phone looked.**  
**Source: Transport Canada**











# Raynes case (Mobile)

Jonathan Raynes is serving 2 years in state prison for reckless manslaughter. At age 21, he was looking at his cellphone while driving, struck a Honda head-on and killed Miranda Hamilton, 24. Upheld on appeal. Probably precedent-setting.

Inmate: **RAYNES, JONATHAN MIKEAL**

AIS: **00309980**

Institution: **FOUNTAIN CORRECTIONAL CENTER**



**Race:** W

**Sex:** M

**Hair Color:** BROWN

**Eye Color:** BLACK

**Height:** 6' 0"

**Weight:** 260

**Birth Year:** 1992

**Custody** MIN-IN

**Aliases:**

No known Ali

#### Incarceration Details:

SUF Admit Date	Total Term	Time Served	Jail Credit	Good Time Received	Good Time Revoked	Min Release Date
07/21/2017	2Y 0M 0D	0Y 6M 27D	2	0Y 0M 0D	0Y 0M 0D	07/18/2019

# The Moral:

- ⦿ If your teenager (or you) fools with a phone while driving—may kill someone & have to live with that forever.
- ⦿ May also have to live with it while serving time in an Alabama state prison.







# 7 Critical Risk Factors

Inexperience

Passengers

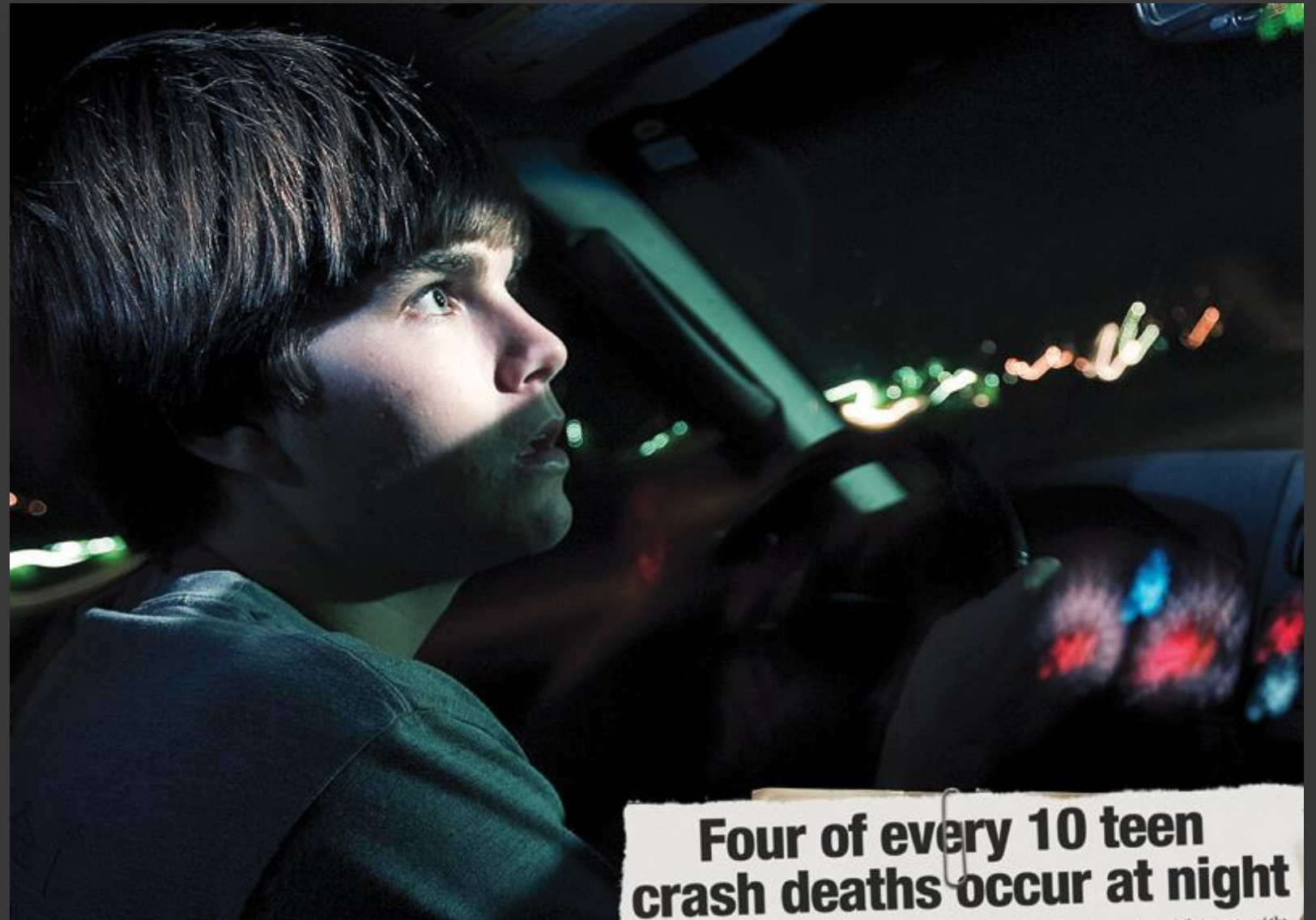
Seat Belts

Alcohol & Drugs

Sleep

Distracted Driving

➤ **Night Driving**





# BAD IDEAS

# The 16<sup>th</sup> Birthday Car





# The Hot Car





# The Big Toy Car





# What to do?



# The meanest mom on the planet

OLDS 1999 Intrigue. Totally uncool parents who obviously don't love teenage son, selling his car. Only driven for three weeks before snoopy mom who needs to get a life found booze under front seat. \$3,700/offer. Call meanest mom on the planet.

-want ad in the *Des Moines Register*

Educate.

Provide better training.

Be smart about vehicles.

Written rules: Contract

# What to do?

## Inexperience

- Provide more & better training
- Lots of driving during learner's permit year, night/day, all weather conditions

## Passengers

- Educate
- Enforce the GDL (at minimum)
- Address in contract

## Seat Belts

- Educate
- Address in contract

## Alcohol & Drugs

- Consider what you model
- Educate
- Address in contract

## Sleep

- Curfew
- Awareness

## Distracted Driving

- Address in contract
- Consider technology tools

## Night Driving

- Curfew



# PARENT-TEEN CONTRACT

[www.parentingteendrivers.com](http://www.parentingteendrivers.com)

# PARENTING THE TEENAGE DRIVER

DALE WISELY, PH.D.

WELCOME   FACTS: TEENS & DRIVING   WHAT FACTORS PUT TEEN DRIVERS AT RISK?   WHAT A PARENT CAN DO   THE CONTRACT   BLOG   ABOUT/CONTACT

SPECIAL TOPICS AND LINKS

## WELCOME

Hello. I'm [Dr. Dale Wisely](#). I have been providing free workshops for parents on teen driving for 20 years. On this website, we're going to give you a little info on teen driving, outline what parents can do to help their kids survive the teen driving years, and then provide some resources, including our free parent-teen driving contract.



The number one cause of death and disabling injury among teenagers is auto accidents. As a parent, you can take steps to reduce the chances your teen will be another statistic.

Follow the links for a little background info, then we'll get to what you can do.

**START HERE.**

### SEARCH

### ABOUT THIS SITE

This is a free public service website. Everyone on it is free. We have nothing sell. There are no ads. Period.

### CONTACT

Dale Wisely, Ph.D.

[dalewisely@gmail.com](mailto:dalewisely@gmail.com)



# Contract

- Educational material and rules.
- Consequence of breaking rules:  
Suspension of *independent* driving.
- Don't use as a general instrument of  
parental control.
- Tying driving privileges to grades? Why  
it may be a bad idea.

# Pulling *independent* driving privileges

- ⦿ New drivers become better drivers by *driving*
- ⦿ Reverting back to Learner's Permit mode.
- ⦿ There's a *downside* to pulling driving privileges: ***Lost experience.***

**Why a contract and not just  
an understanding?**



A respectful, level-headed, firm approach.



You are going to be driving a vehicle that I own. I share with you the responsibility for what happens. If you have an accident, this family will share in the consequences. I have a duty to protect your safety and that of your passengers and people that could get hurt if you have an accident. This is serious business and I'm not going to enter into it without rules. The best way to be clear is to write them down. The best way for us to be aware of the seriousness of it is to sign it together. That's a contract.



What if my  
teen refuses  
to sign?

# What if my teen refuses to sign?



*You are under no obligation to sign this contract.*

*I am under no obligation to allow you to drive until you do.*



# Revisit! Revise!

- Start with a strict contract and then adjust after about a month.
- Revise it rather than let it fizzle out.
- If your teen does well, make it a bit less strict. If your teen does poorly, or constantly pushes the limits, don't loosen up.

# A Concern: Sign & Forget

- Teens sometimes sign the contract & quickly forget contents.
- Don't let this work as an excuse. Tell in advance it won't work as an excuse.
- Read aloud.

# TRAINING/EXPERIENCE ISSUES



# The Learner's Permit Year:

Experience, experience, experience.

- Early and unconditional.
- Require a full year.
- Experience: Lots, variety of conditions.
- Directly supervise teen's driving minimum of **50 Hours**. (Alabama law: 30 hours). Keep a log.
- Do a “riding” contract during this year.



# More training issues

- Private Instruction
- Crisis Driving Programs
  - University of Montevallo



# Common errors

- ⦿ maintain attention and avoid distractions, including electronic devices in the car;
- ⦿ search ahead, such as before left turns;
- ⦿ search to the side, such as when yielding the right of way at an intersection;
- ⦿ search to the rear, such as when changing lanes;



# Common errors

- ⦿ adjust speed in response to traffic or road conditions;
- ⦿ maintain space between their own and other vehicles, such as correct following distance;
- ⦿ respond correctly to emergencies, such as recovering from a skid or sudden swerve;

# Common errors

- ⦿ maintain basic control of the vehicle, such as keeping within a lane, braking, and turning smoothly;
- ⦿ respond to traffic controls, such as traffic lights or guidance about lane use; and
- ⦿ avoid driving while impaired by alcohol or sleepiness or driving a vehicle that needs repair.

# VEHICLE ISSUES







**WAIT on purchasing a car.**

**Additional family car vs. “my car.”**

**Sensible, reliable, solid transportation with good crash data.**

**Safety tests: <http://www.safercar.gov/>**

# Technological tools

- ④ “Find My Friends” and similar apps in smart phones
- ④ Various GPS monitoring systems for vehicle (Example “Verizon Hum”)
- ④ Apps to block texting / phone calls while driving (based on motion)
- ④ Systems, often linked to key, that limits speed of car, volume of stereo, OnStar-type services

Educate

Provide better training.

Be smart about vehicles.

Written rules: Contract



# Thanks to:



The Mountain Brook Board of  
Education

Ben Jackson

Judge KC Hairston

Mary Halsey Maddox, M.D.

[wiselyd@mtnbrook.k12.al.us](mailto:wiselyd@mtnbrook.k12.al.us)

877-8349

[Parentingteendrivers.com](http://Parentingteendrivers.com)