Welcome!
Graduated Driver Licensing: Needed in North Dakota?

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Young Drivers
Reducing Motor Vehicle Crashes, Deaths and Injuries

- Size & nature of problem
- One solution – GDL
- Effect on crashes
- Parent, teen reaction
- Summary

Teen Crashes

A teenage driver crash occurs about every 2.5 hours in North Dakota (NDDOT)

Leading Cause of Death
United States, Ages 14 - 17

- Motor vehicle crash: 40%
- Other injury
- Suicide
- Heart disease, cancer

Source: CDC, 2009

Leading Cause of Death
North Dakota, Ages 14 - 17

- Motor vehicle crash: 39%
- Other injury
- Suicide
- Heart disease, cancer

Source: CDC, 2009
US: Although teens represent 7% of the licensed population, they are involved in 14% of all fatal crashes (2.0).

ND: Teens represent 6.57% of licensed drivers; between 2001-2009 involved in 19.5% of fatal crashes (2.96); 30.7% of injury crashes; 23.5% of all crashes.

Victim role in teen driver (15-17) fatal crashes - North Dakota, 1998 - 2007

Teen's passenger, 30%
Teen (15-17) driver, 47%
Non-motorist, 5%
Occupant of other vehicle, 18%

Child MV Occupant Fatalities by Age – U.S.

Crash Rates by Age

Driver crash involvements per 1,000 population

Crash Rates by Age

Driver crash involvements per 1,000 licensed drivers


Crash Rates by Age

Driver crash involvements per million miles traveled

Why?

Time to first Crash – 16 & 17 yr-olds

“Power curve” of learning

Graduated Driver Licensing

The Principle:

Maximize Experience
Minimize Risks
Among novice drivers

GDL system should, in principle, include:

1st Stage - Learner Permit
- Supervised driving only (preferably 12 mo.)

2nd Stage - Intermediate (6 months)
- Night driving restriction (9 p.m. – 5 a.m.)
- Passenger restriction (< 1 teen passenger)

3rd Stage Full License (until age 18)
- Belt use for all occupants, all stages
- Prohibit cell phone use, all stages

* Evidence documents beneficial effects of these elements

ND’s Licensing System

- ND is the only state that has not yet made changes to the drivers licensing system that are known to reduce young driver crashes – GDL.
- 6-month permit; 6-hour BW (under 16)
- No intermediate phase
- GDL systems address the three greatest risks to young drivers: Inexperience; Multiple Passengers/Distracations; and Late-Night Driving.
- Bottom Line: Current system falls short of fully preparing teens for responsibility of driving.

A Closer Look

at the Greatest ‘Risks’
Driver Death Rate* by Number of Passengers and Driver Age/Experience

- No passenger
- 1 passenger
- 2 passengers
- 3+ passengers

Source: Chen et al., JAMA, 2000.

*per 10 million trips

Time of 16-year-old Driver Nighttime Crashes, ND, 2005-09

An Urban Issue?

After all, that’s where all the traffic is...

Non-fatal crashes more common in towns

North Dakota Non-fatal Crash Involvement by Age and Location, 2005-09

Fatal crashes far more common on rural roads

North Dakota Fatal Crash Involvement by Age and Location, 2005-09

Source: ND Dept. of Transportation
What about Enforcement?

- Novice drivers are generally inclined to operate within a state’s licensing system
- Parents are the main enforcers of all GDL system elements
- *Active* law enforcement (of license restrictions) isn’t necessary for a graduated licensing system to work (save lives)
  - Law enforcement officers just need to enforce traffic laws as they always have – dealing with moving violations.

Effects of GDL
(North Carolina)

Crash Rate Ratios for 16 & 17 year-olds vs. 25-54 year-olds, NC 1991-2003

What do Parents Think?

NC Parents’ overall opinion of GDL

*Interviews with parents whose child had recently been through the GDL licensing process*
Has helping your teen learn to drive had any of the following effects?

- Enjoy this time together
- Get on each other’s nerves
- Brought us closer together
- Don’t like having to do this

Parents
Teens

N = ~605

What GDL is Not

- A curfew
- An avenue to get tough on teens
- A way to crack down on teen drivers
- A system of punishment for irresponsible teens
- A system that removes parental responsibility

It is simply a system proven to maximize experience while minimizing risk for novice drivers – making roads safer for everyone.

Summary

- GDL addresses the major teen health issue
  - It’s not (just) about getting a driver license
  - Protects teenagers (& other road users)
  - Supports parents, they like it
  - Inexperience is the issue (not misbehavior)
  - Compliance is good (without active enforcement)

Additional information for parents and teens:
TeenDriving.AAA.com

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