



PARENTING THE TEENAGE DRIVER

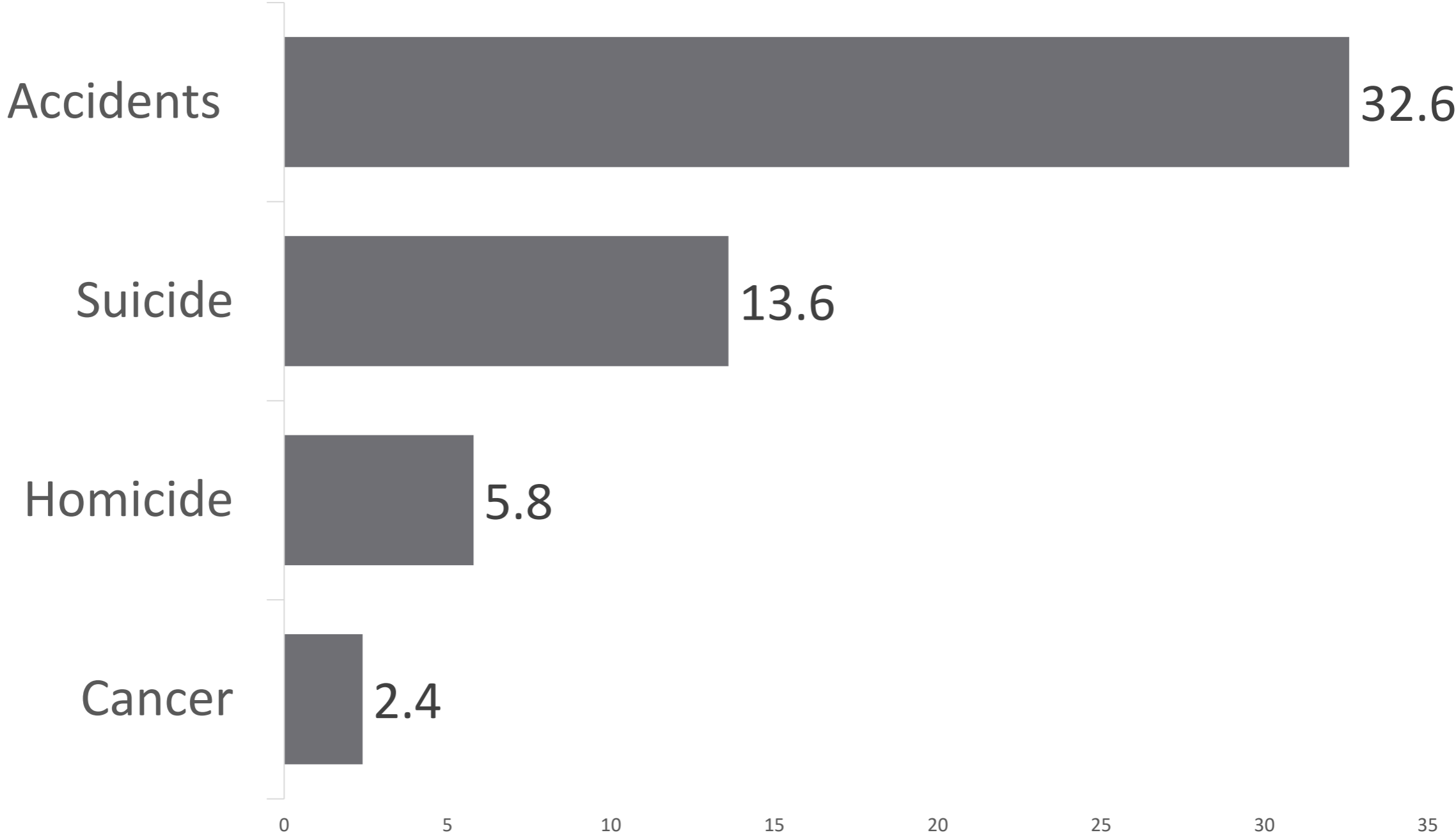
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[www/parentingteendrivers.com/slides](http://www.parentingteendrivers.com/slides)

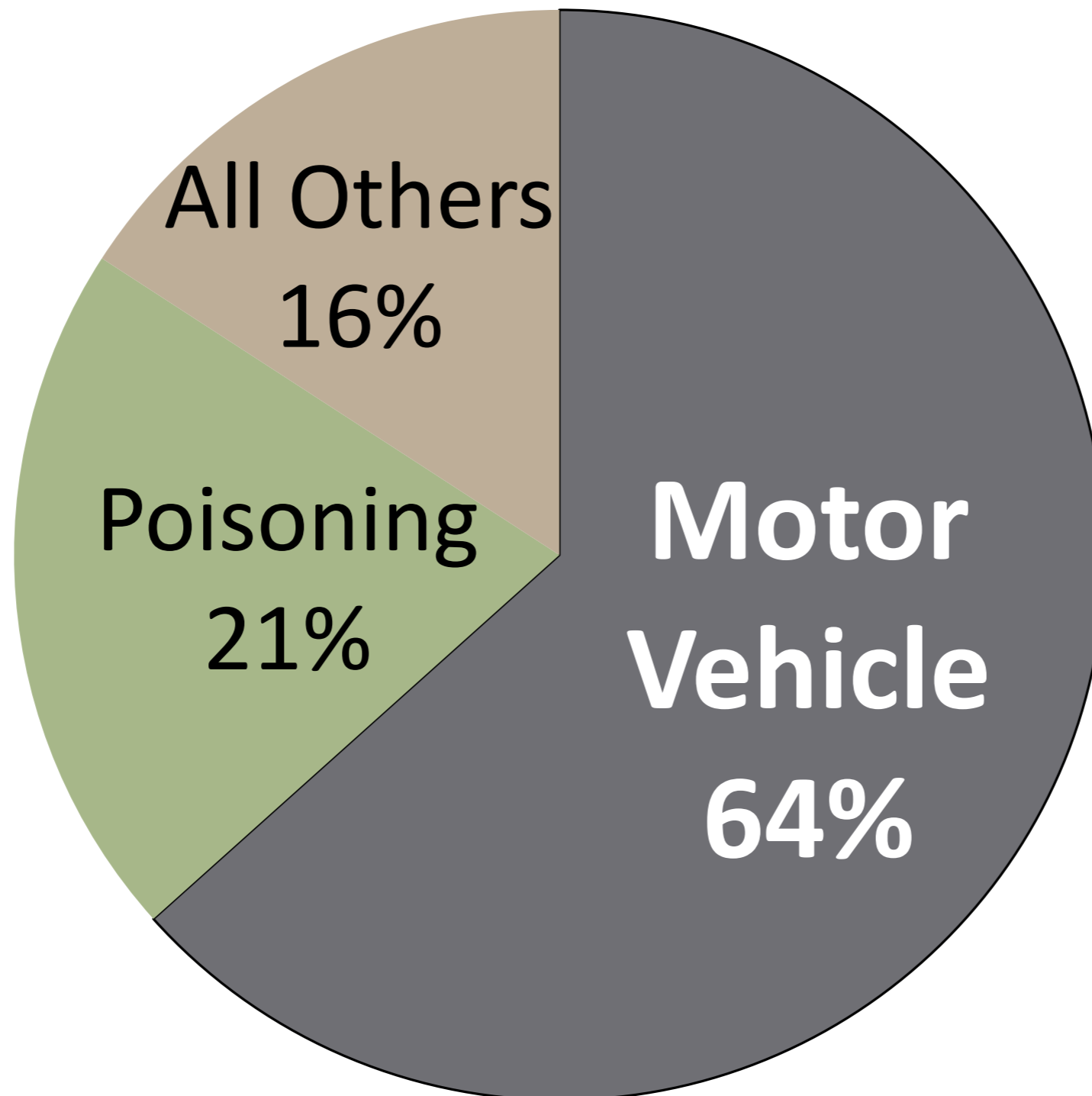


Leading cause of death of
teenagers in the USA and in
Alabama.

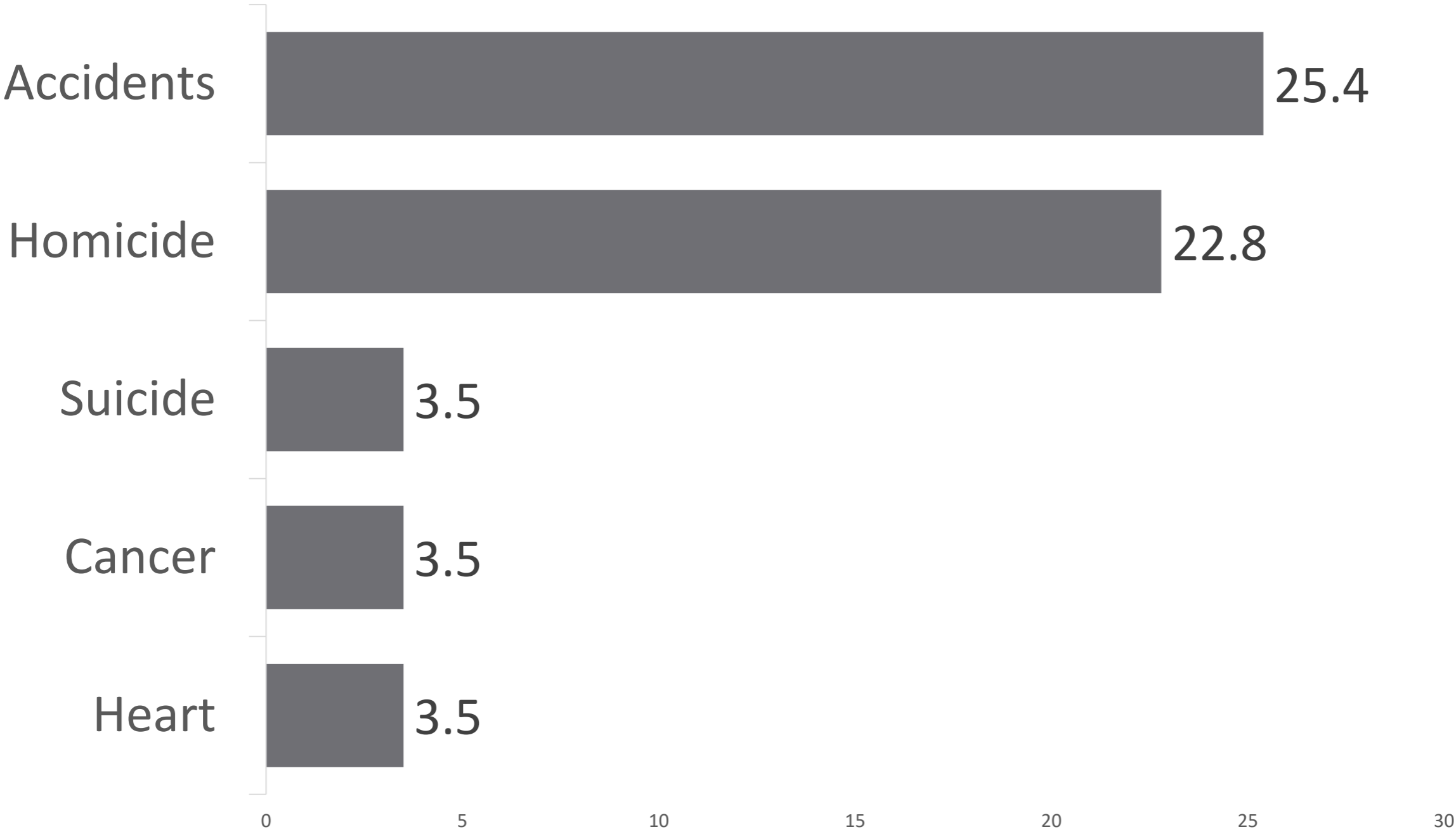
Alabama Death Rates, Leading Causes, White, age 15-19 (2015)



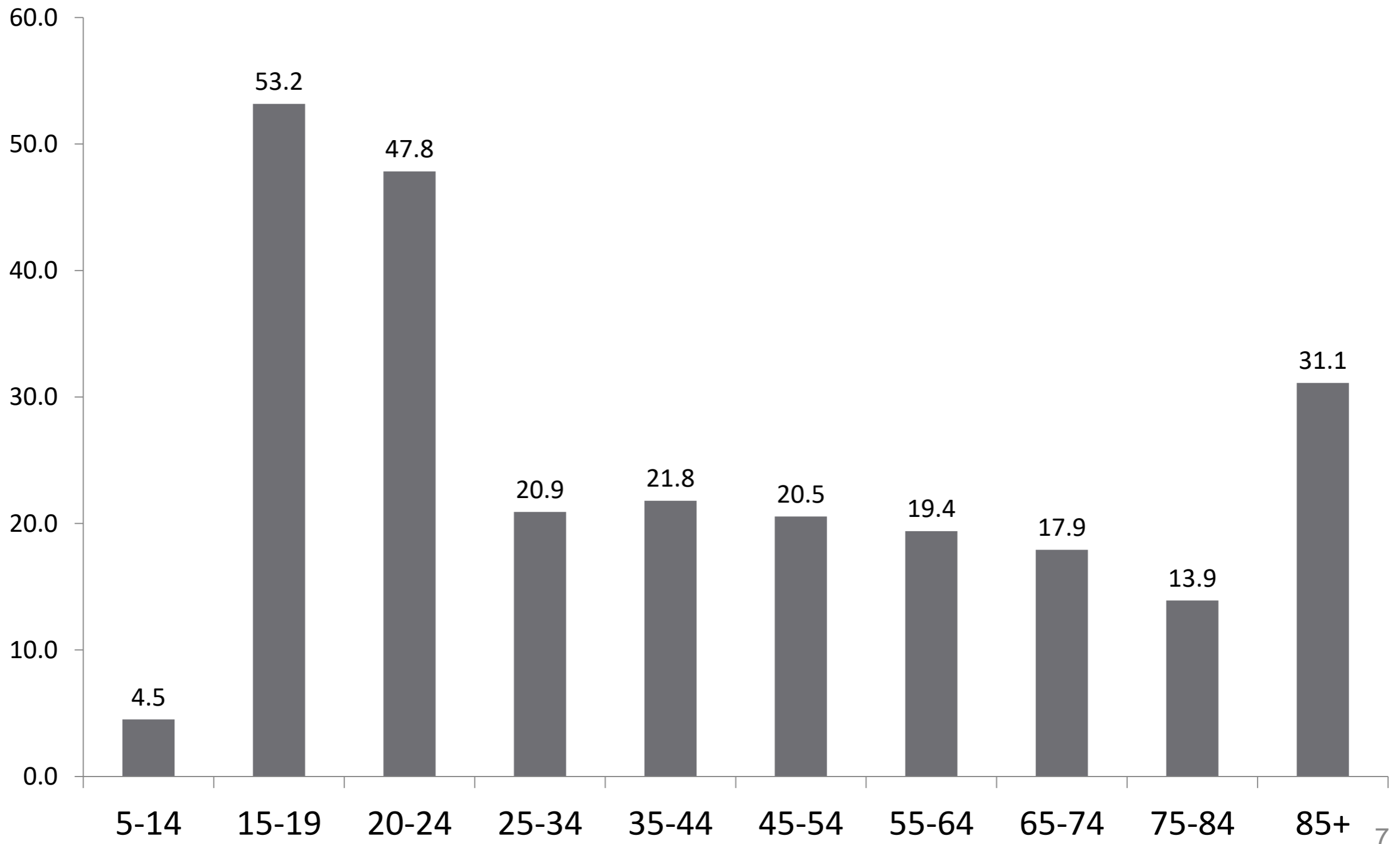
Alabama: Types of Accidental Deaths, Age 15-24 (2015)



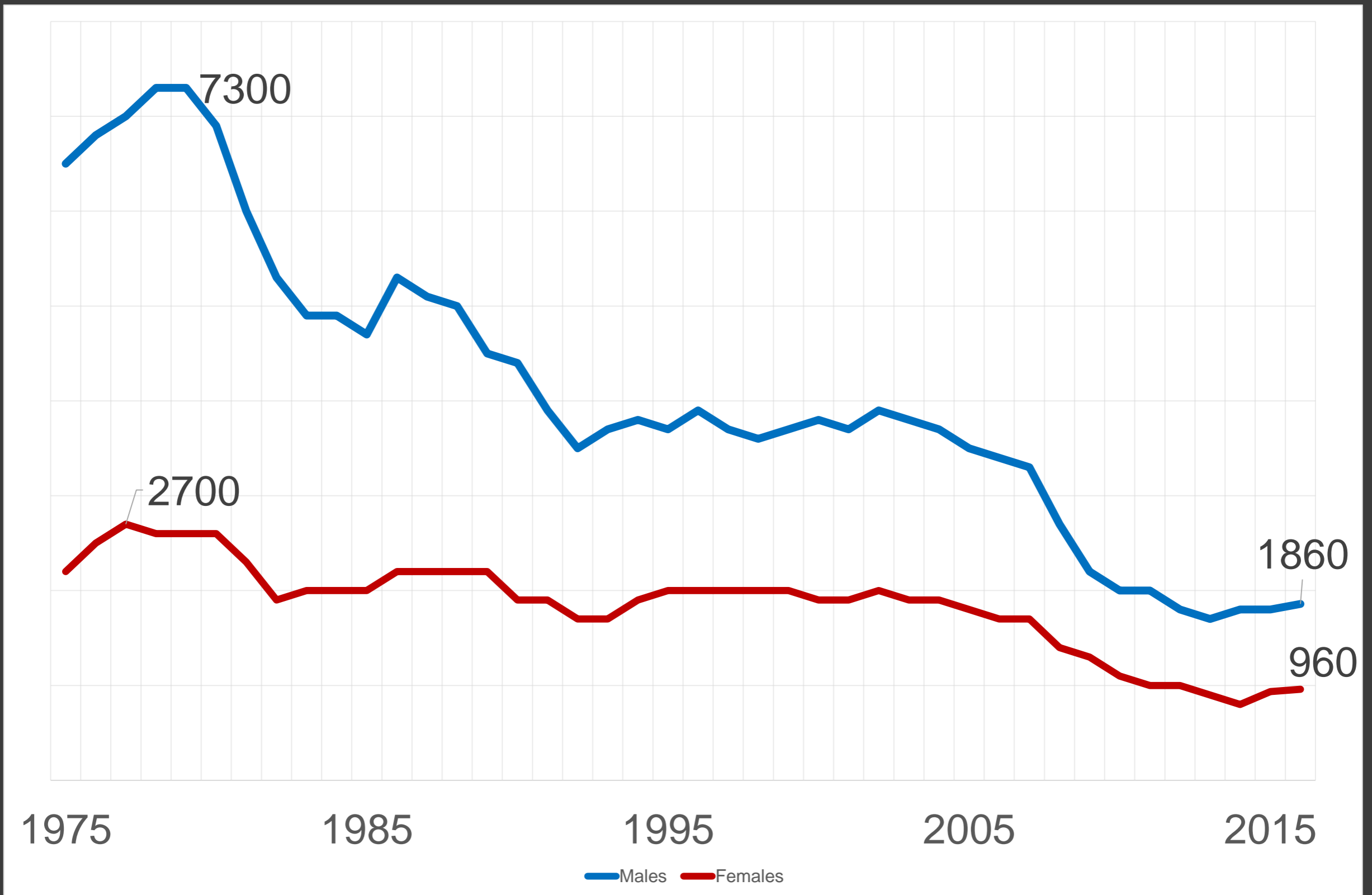
Alabama Death Rates, Leading Causes, Black & Other, age 15-19 (2015)



MVA death rates in Alabama, by age group, 2015



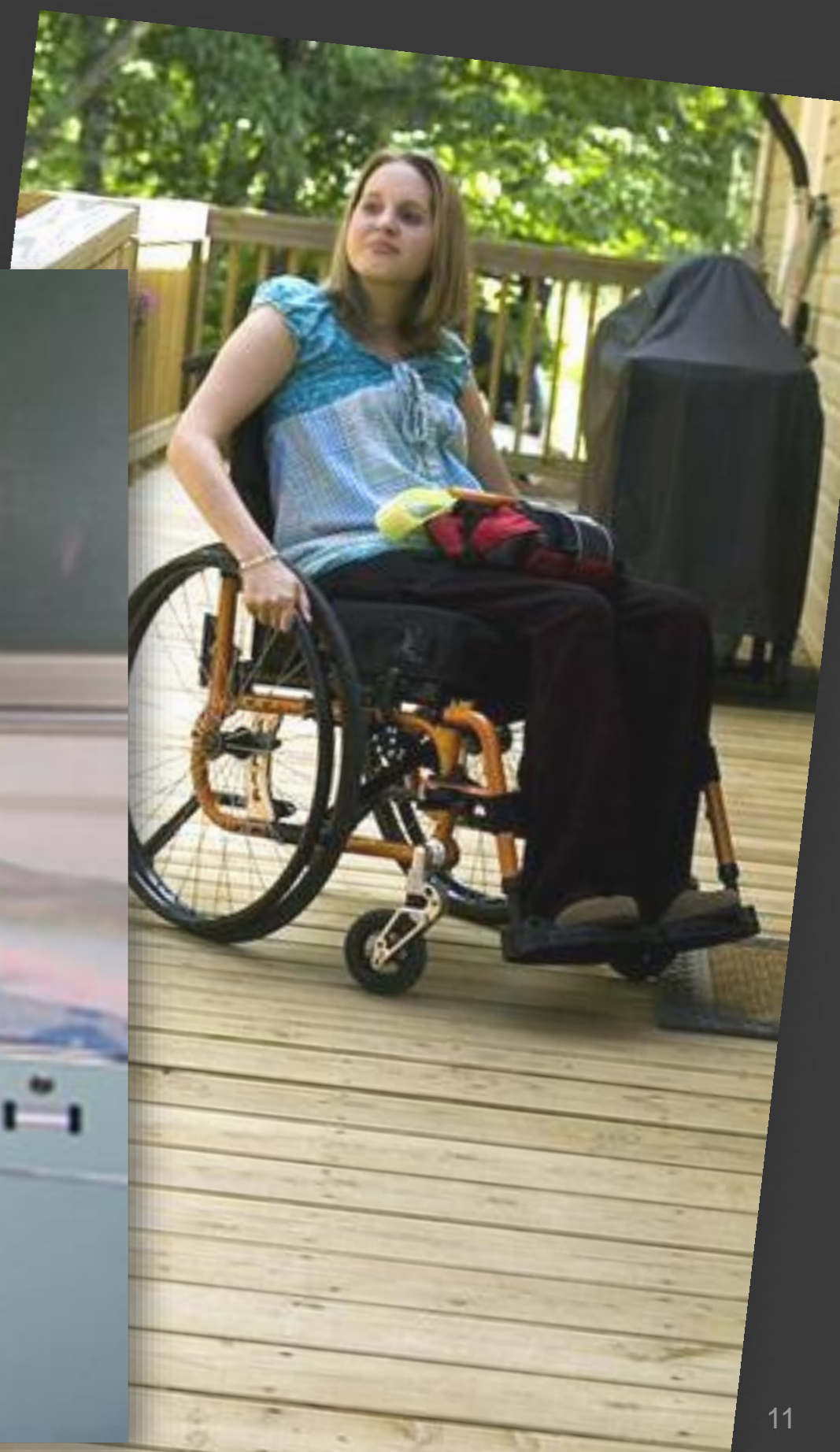
Teenage Driver Deaths (USA 1975-2016)



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 blue suit jacket driving a car. She is talking on a mobile phone held to her ear with her left hand, eating a donut with her right hand, and holding a white coffee cup with a black lid in her left hand. 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

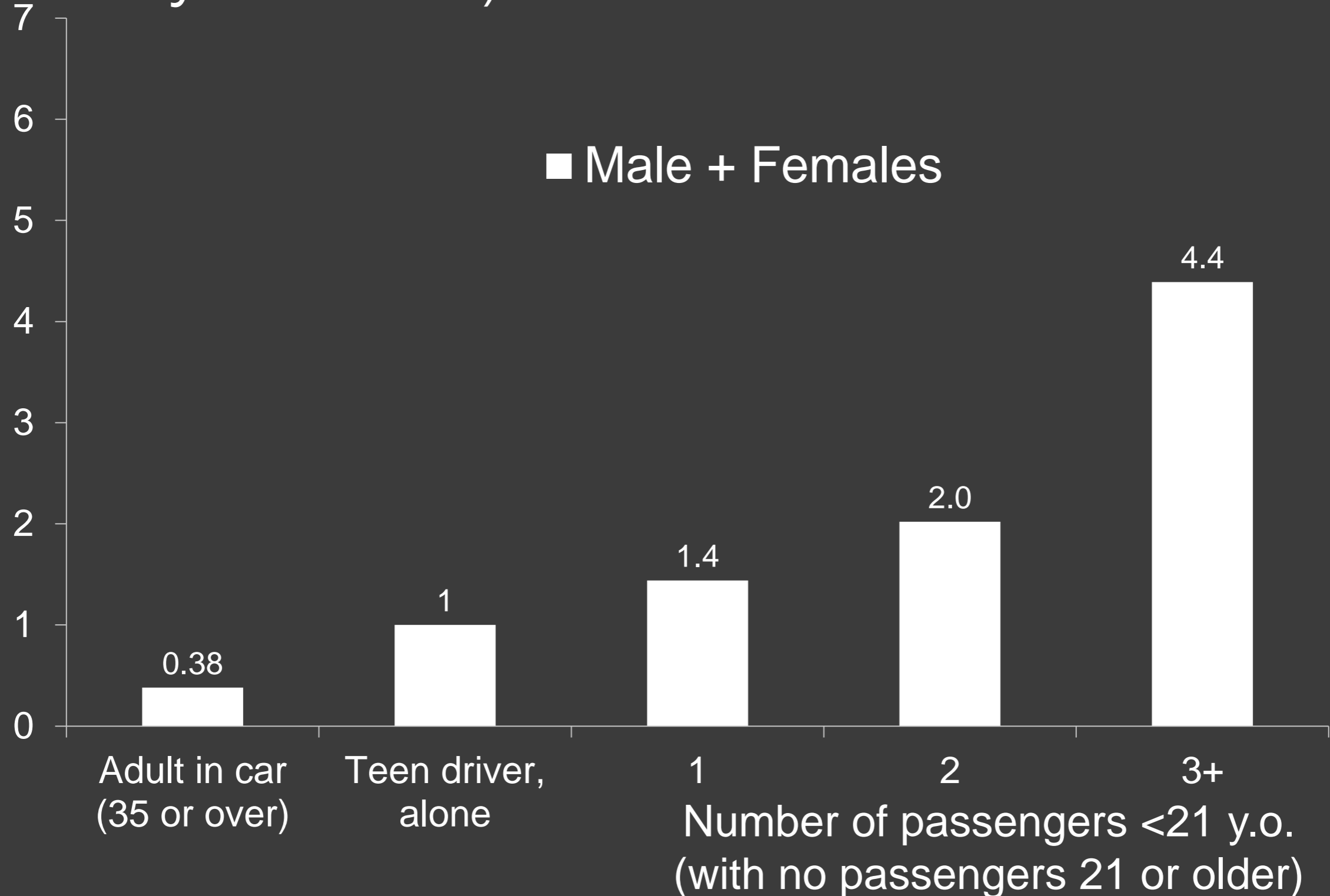
Sleep

Distracted Driving

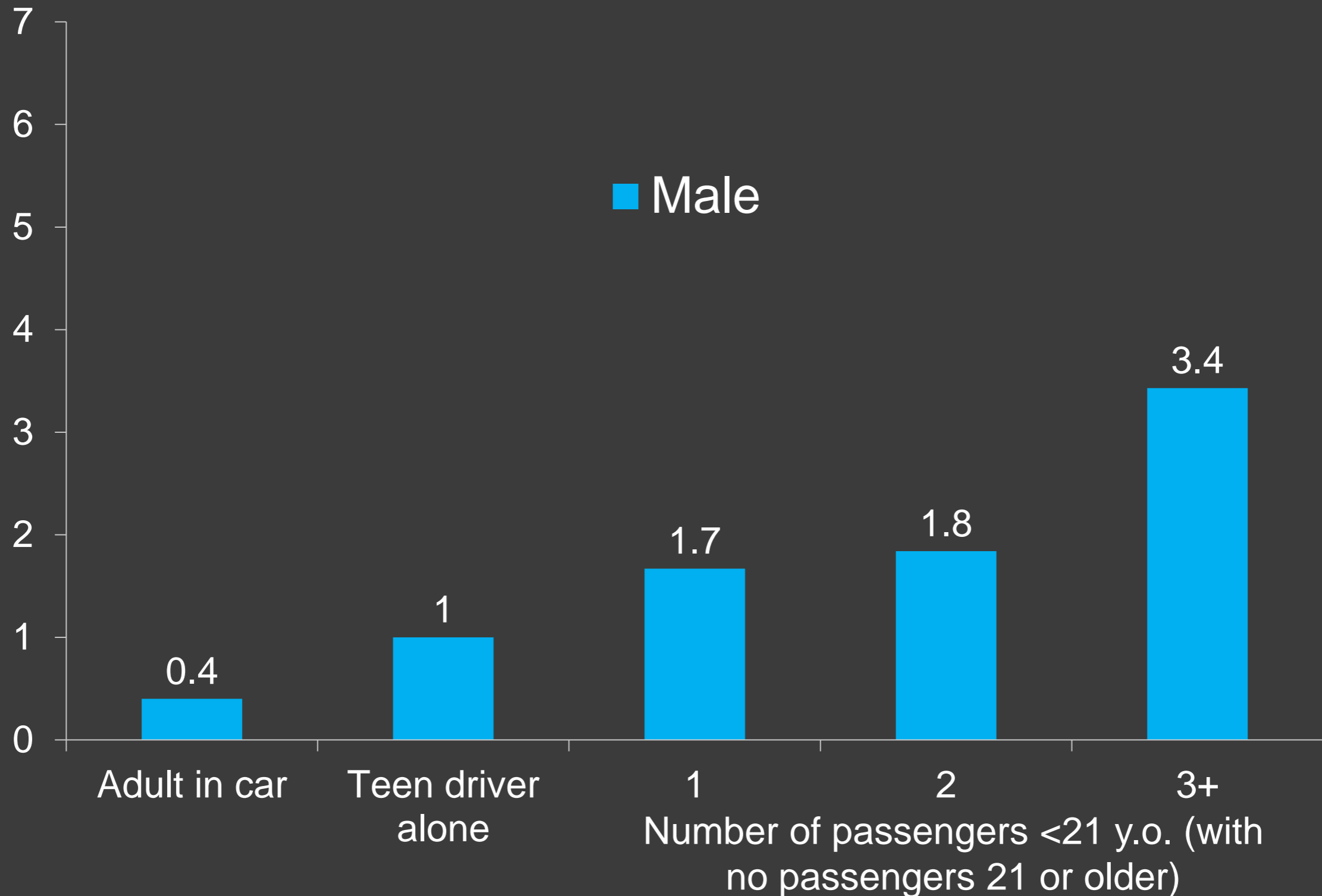
Night Driving



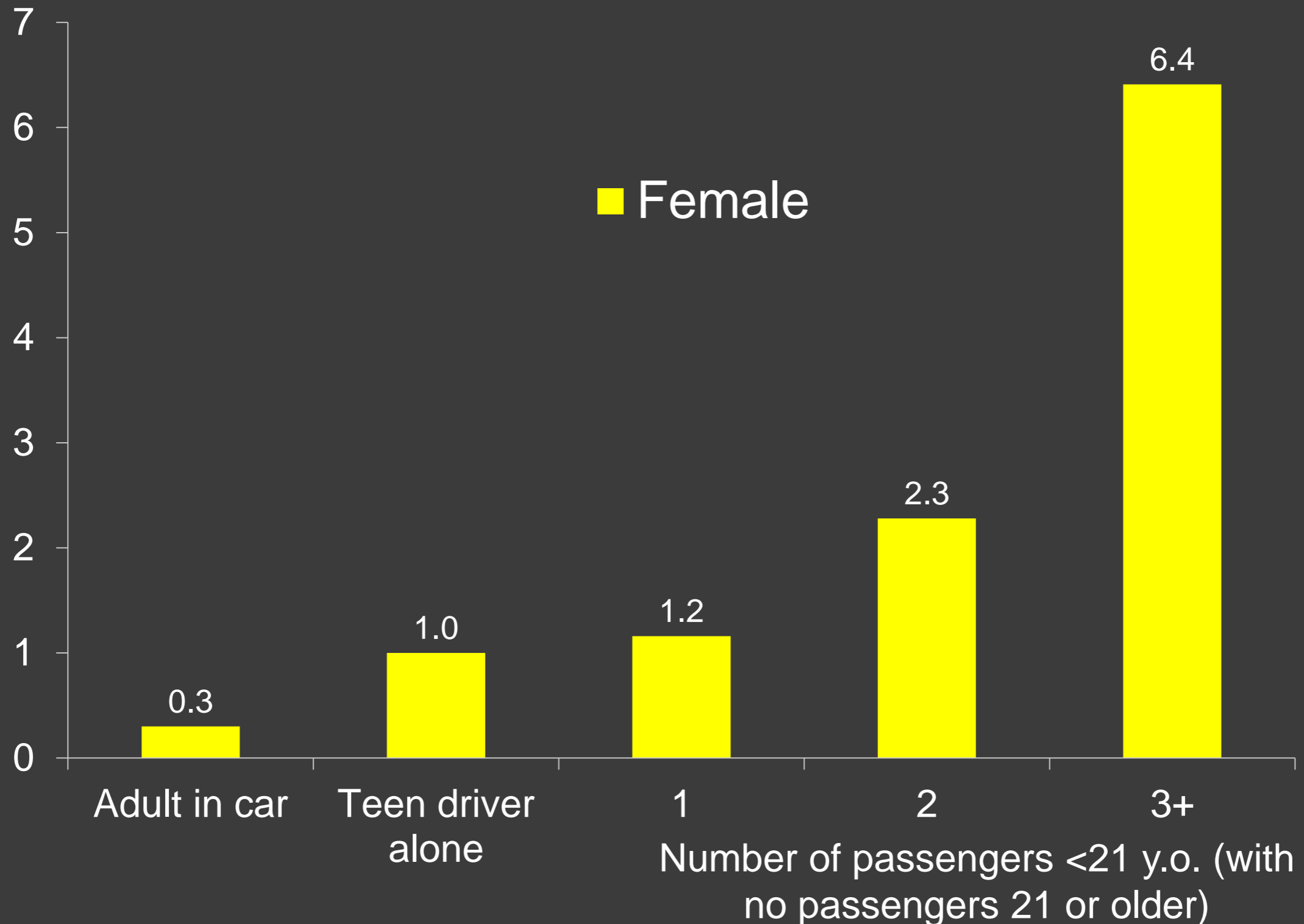
Risks of driver death with passengers (16-17 y.o. drivers)



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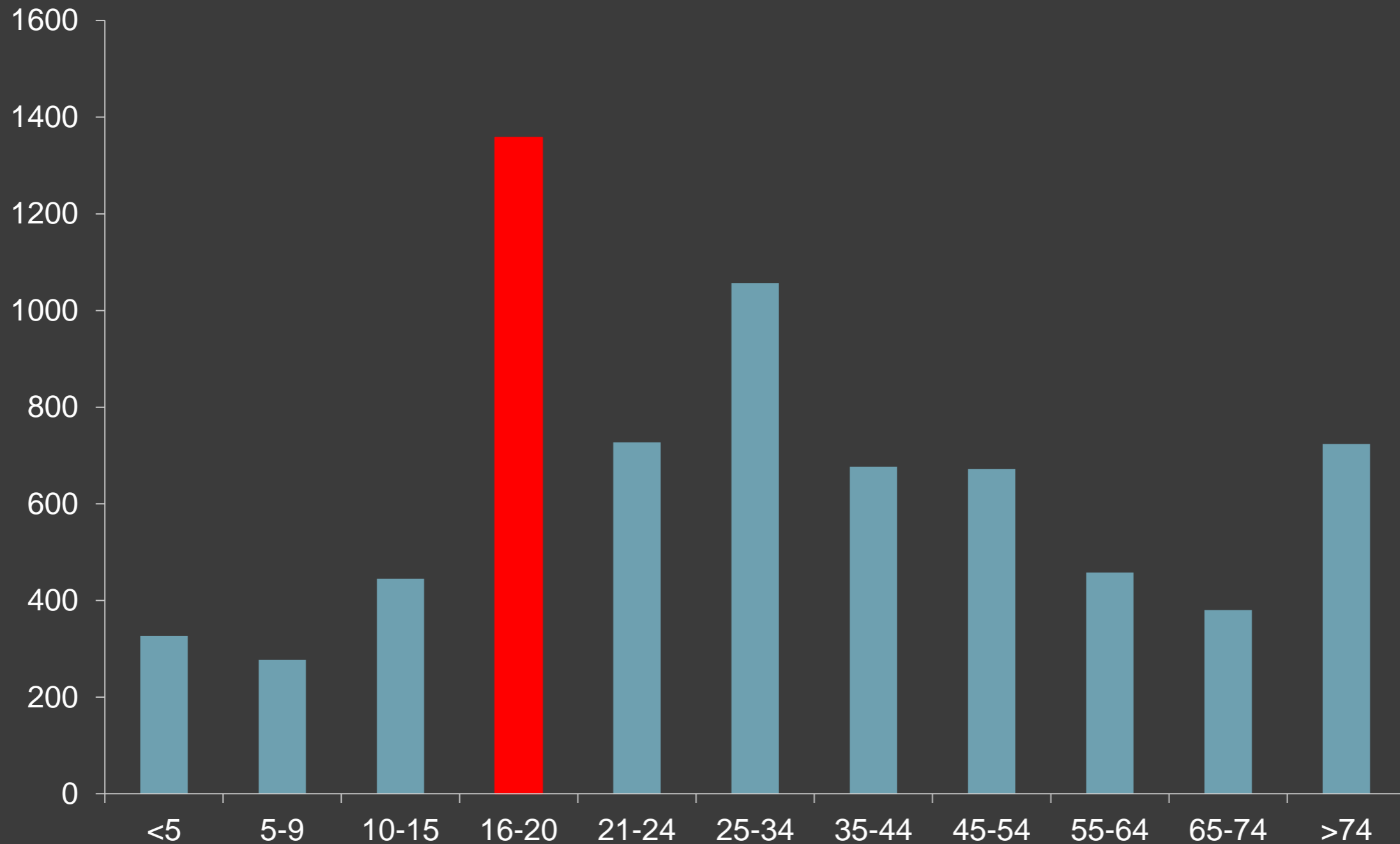
- ① Crash risk goes up in teen drivers when passengers are in the car.
- ① Crash risk does NOT go up in adult drivers when passengers are in the car.

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**

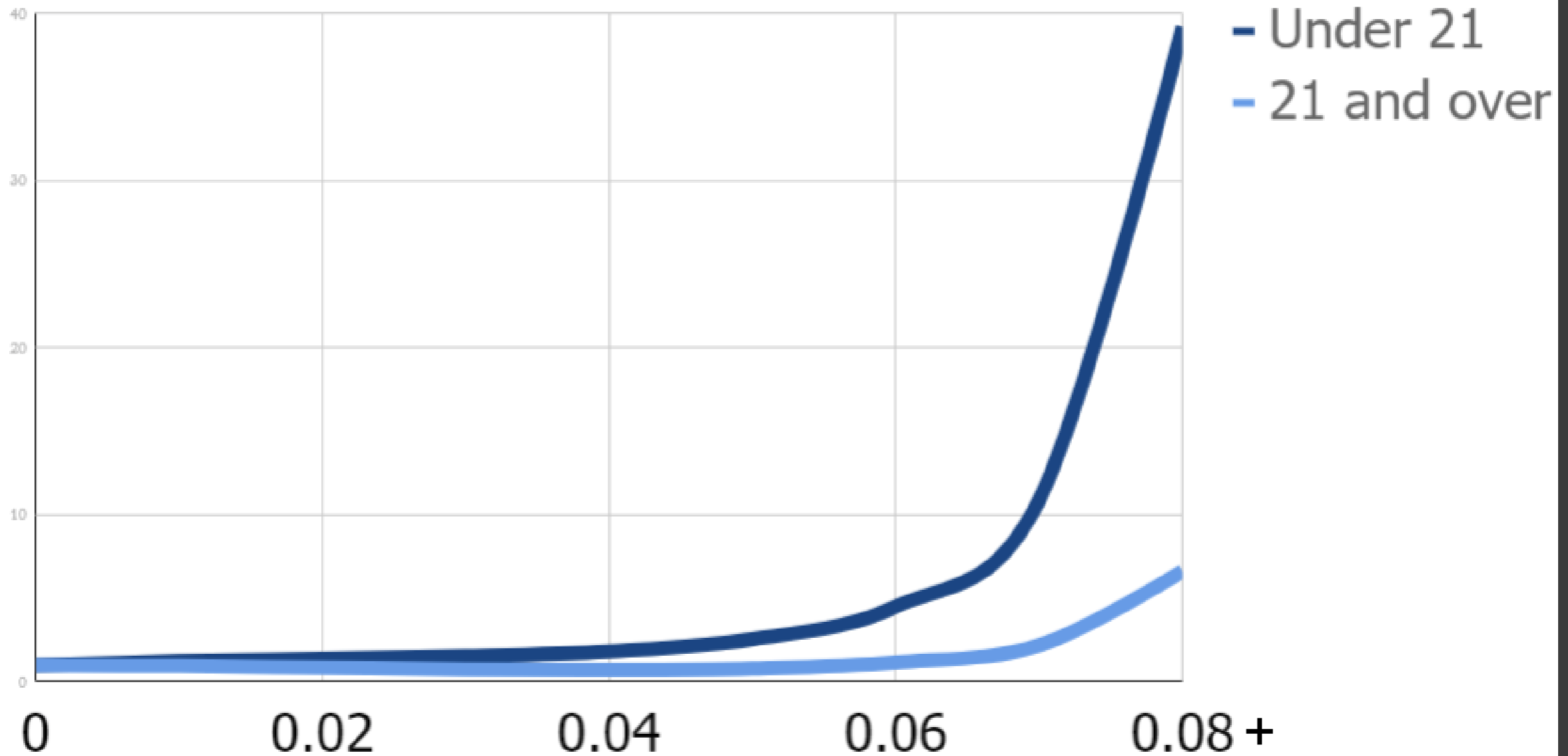
Sleep

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

A tip for your teen.

Dear Young Driver:

If you are driving and a passenger brings drugs or alcohol into your car and the police pull you over YOU will be charged because, as the driver, YOU are transporting the drugs or alcohol.

*--courtesy of Judge KC Hairston,
Mtn Brook Municipal Court*



7 Critical Risk Factors

Inexperience Passengers

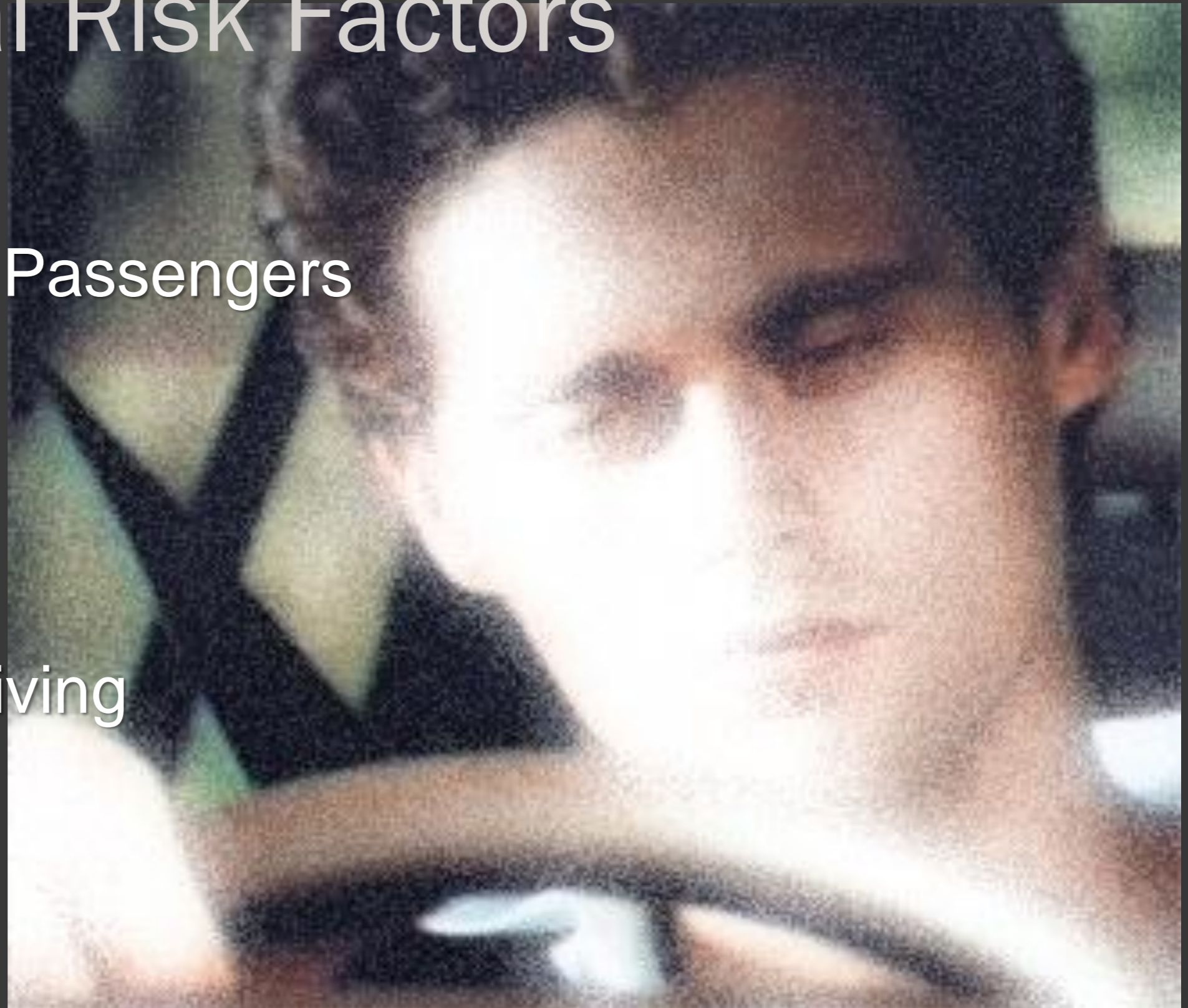
Seat Belts

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 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

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.

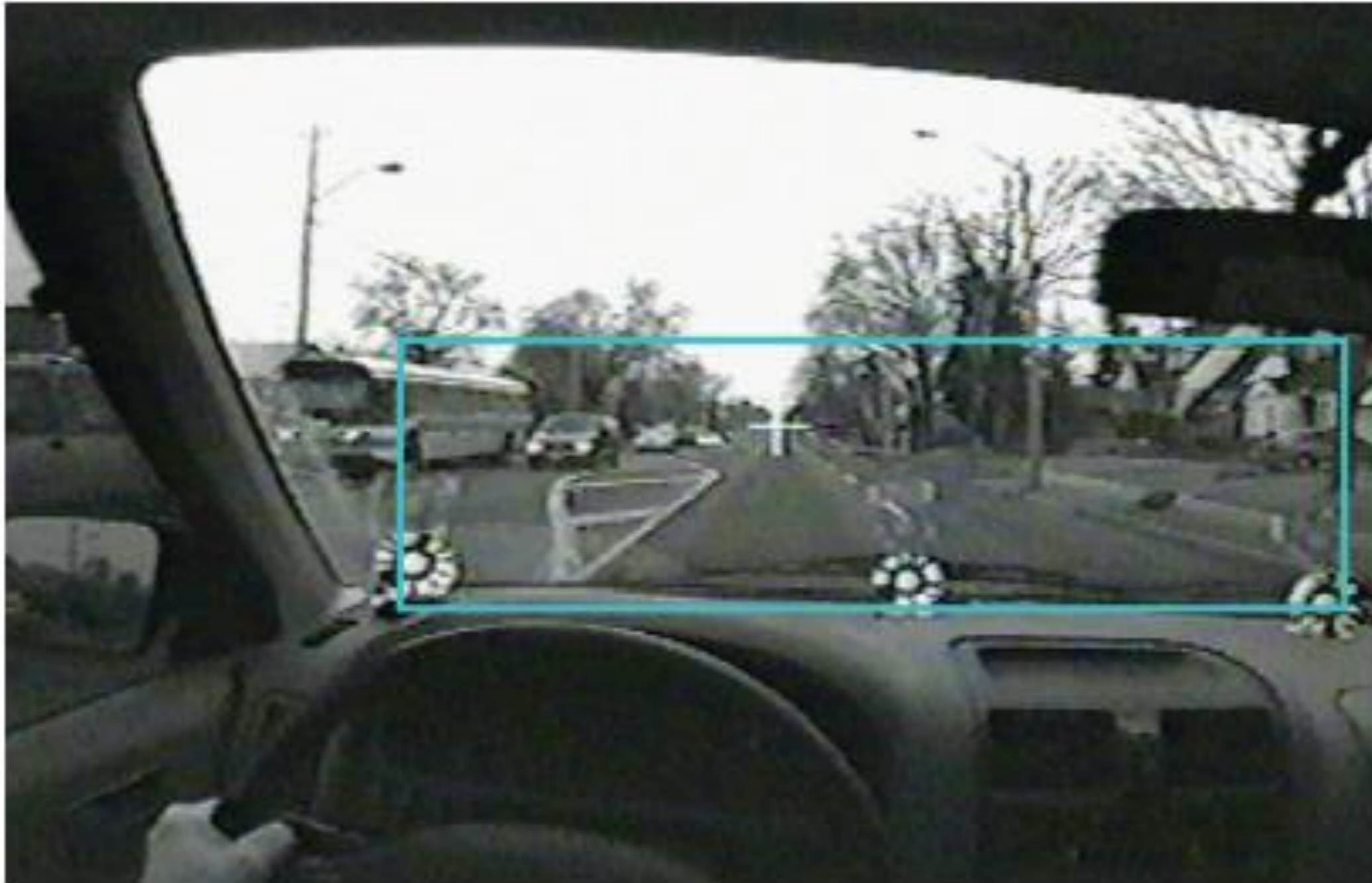


Figure 4.
Where drivers not using a hands-free cell phone looked.
Source: Transport Canada

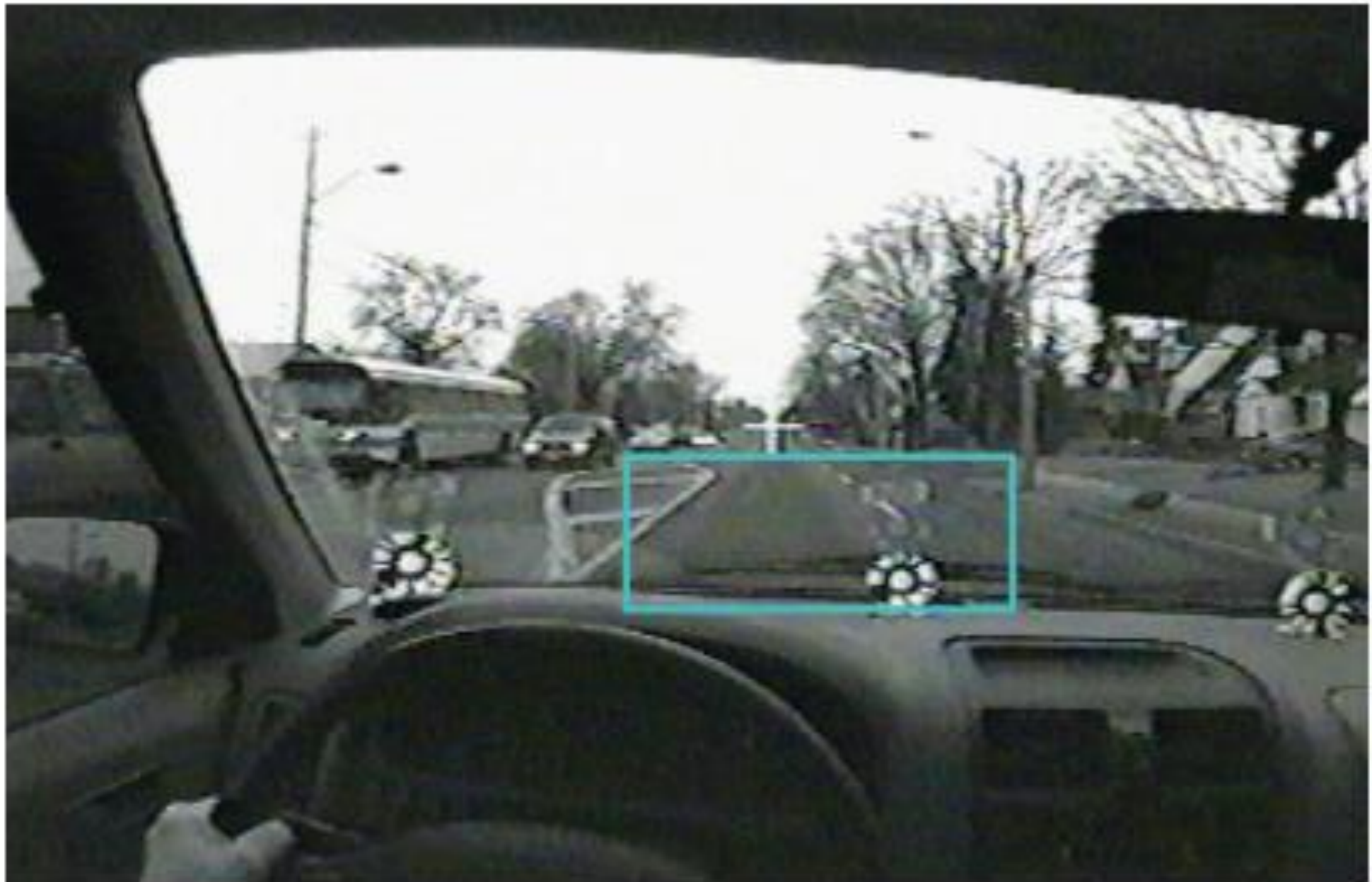


Figure 5.
Where drivers using a hands-free cell phone looked.
Source: Transport Canada





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) uses 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

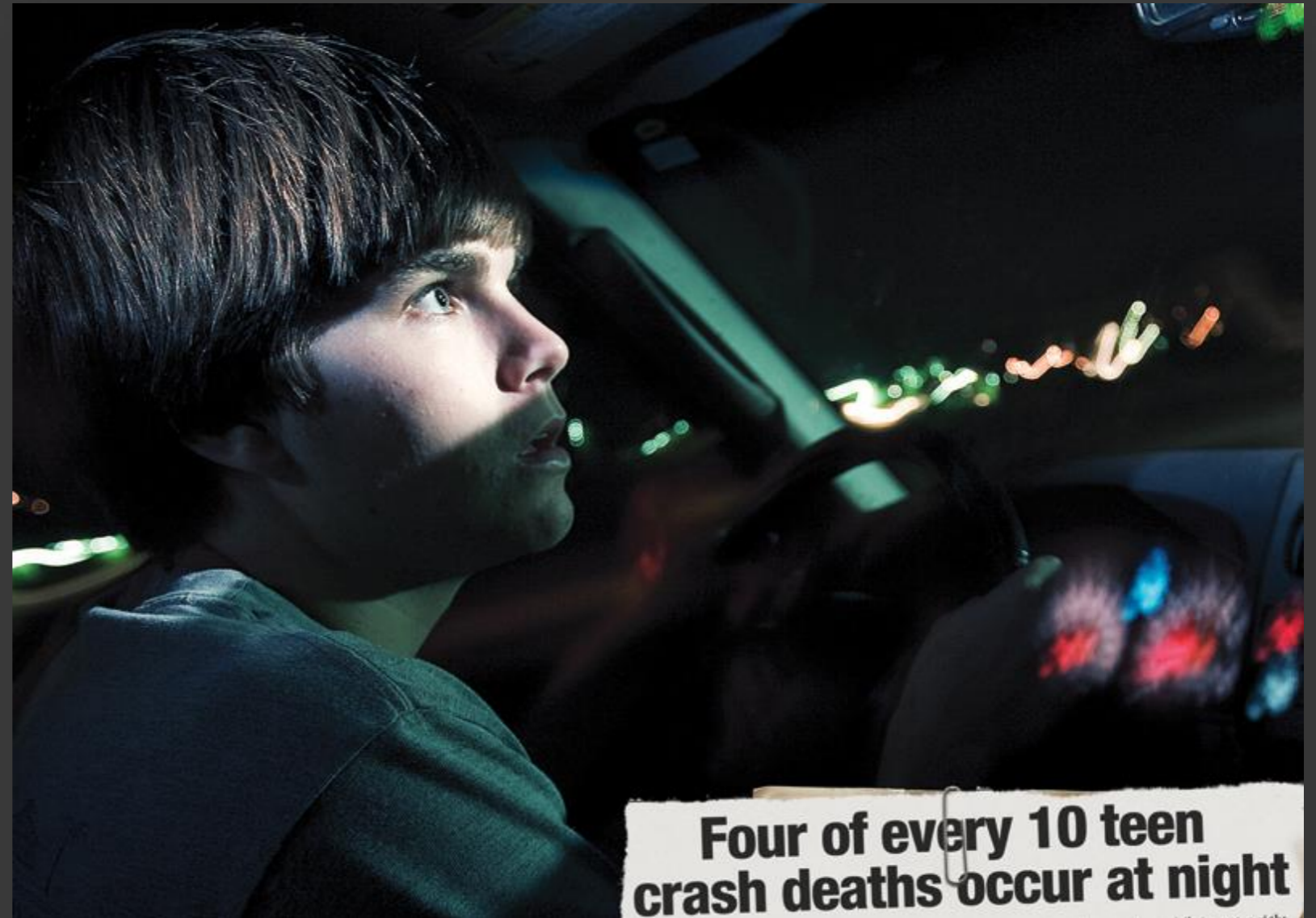
Seat Belts

Alcohol & Drugs

Sleep

Distracted Driving

➤ **Night Driving**





BAD IDEAS

The 16th Birthday Car



The Hot Car



The Big Toy Car



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*

What to do?

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

www/parentingteendrivers.com/slides

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

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dalewisely@gmail.com

Contract

- Rules
- Consequence of breaking rules:
Suspension of *independent* driving privileges. (Return to Learner's Permit Mode)
- 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. Say 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



A photograph of a red car undergoing a crash test. A crash test dummy is seated in the driver's seat. The car is positioned on a test track, and a large blue airbag is visible on the right side of the car. The background is dark with some lights.

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

- “Find My Friends” and similar apps in smart phones
- Various GPS monitoring systems for vehicle (Example “Verizon Hum”)
- Apps to block texting / phone calls while driving (based on motion)
- 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.

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877-8349

Parentingteendrivers.com