

Structuring & Promoting GDL Systems: A Conceptual Approach

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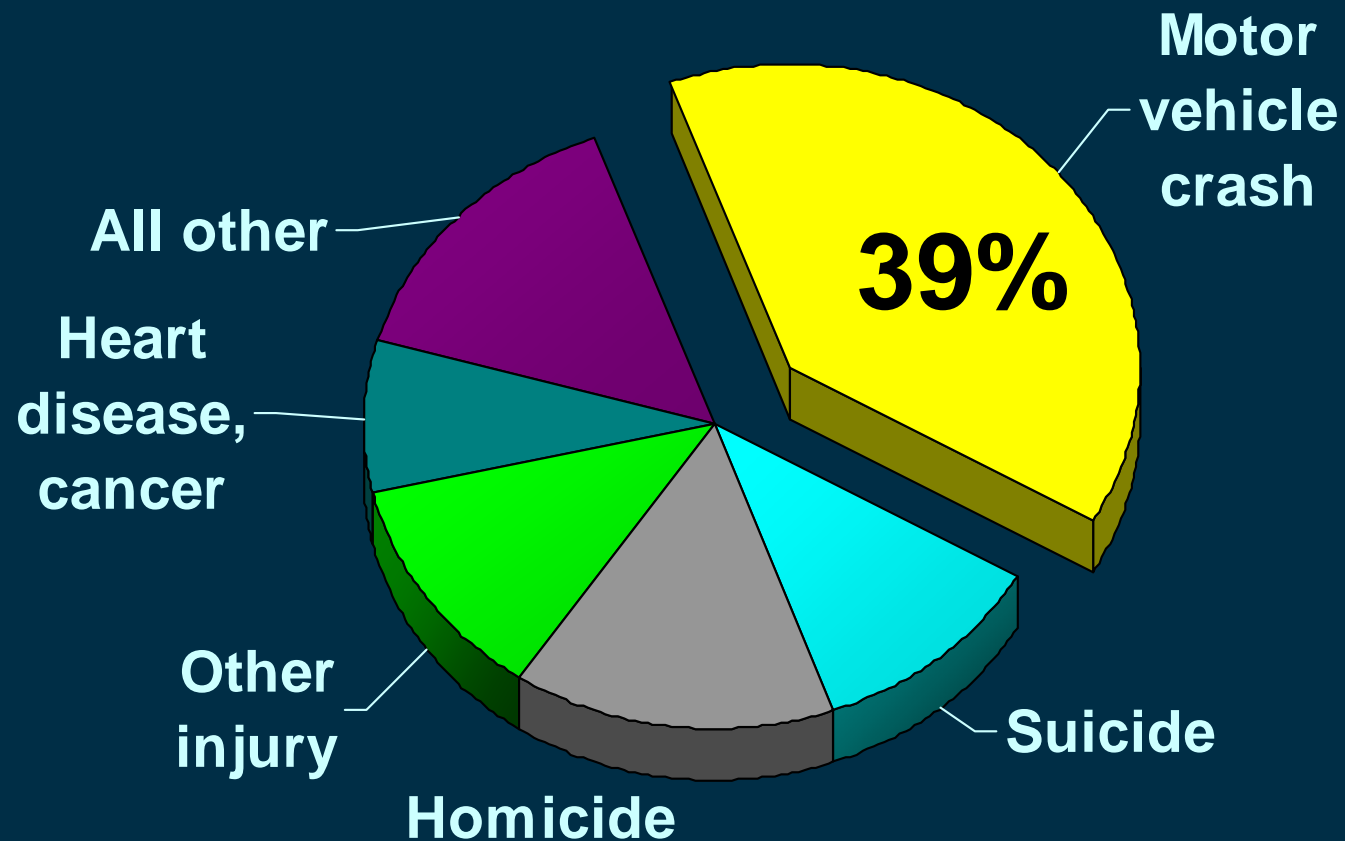
Governor's Highway Safety Association
Annual Meeting
Portland Oregon

September 24 , 2007



Leading Cause of Death

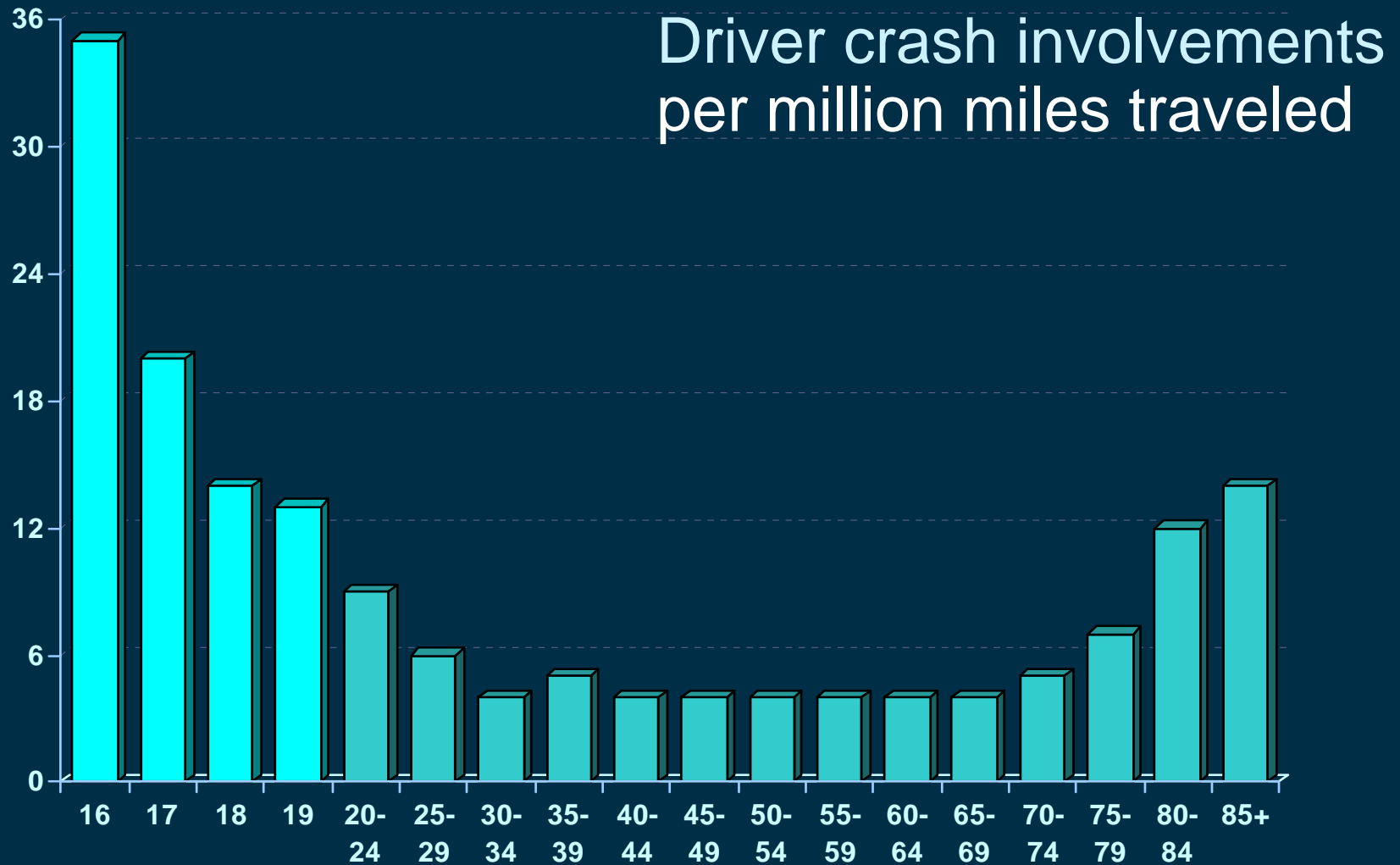
United States, Ages 16 - 20



Source: CDC, 2002



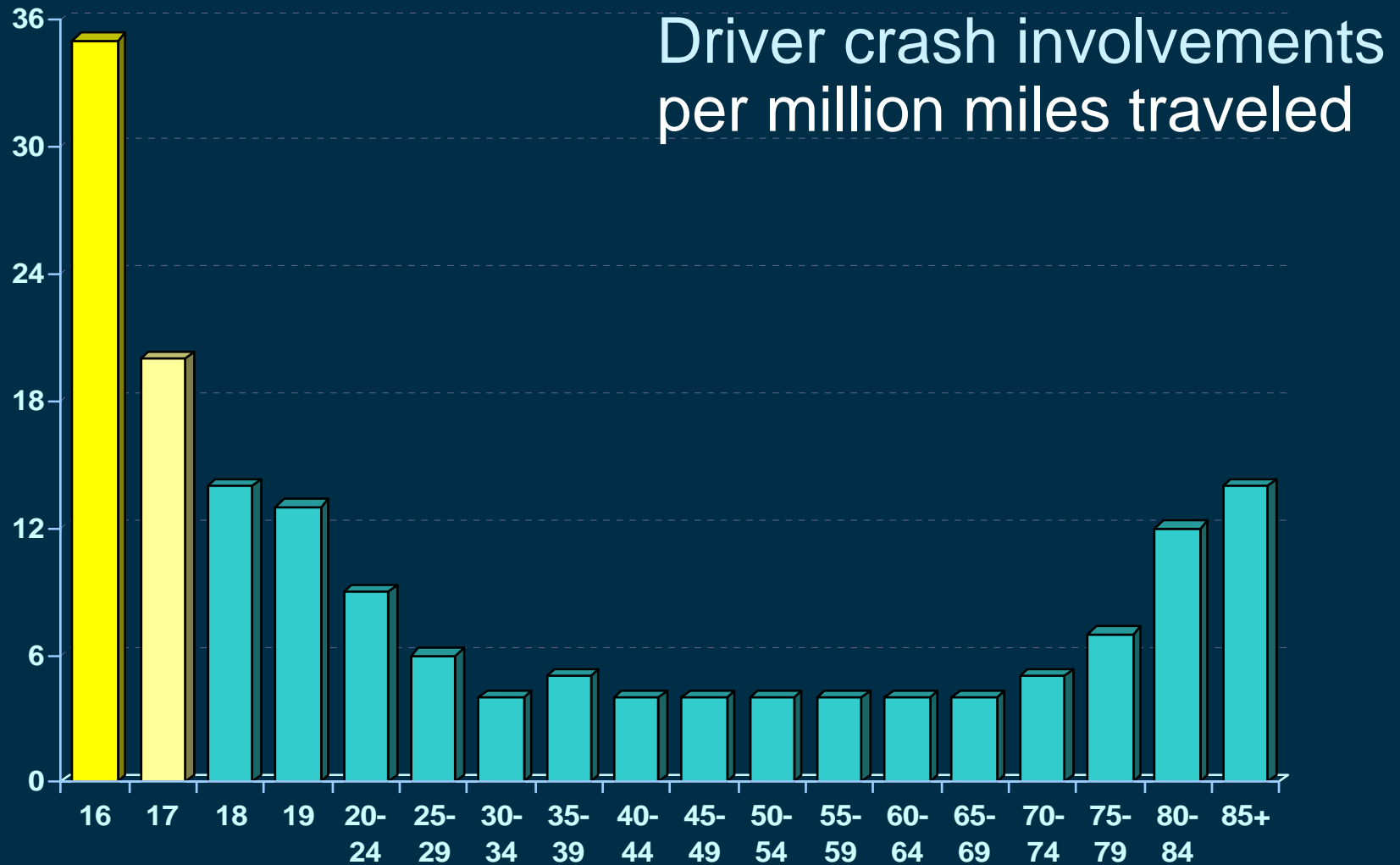
Crash Rates by Age



Source: A.F. Williams, Journal of Safety Research 34 (2003) 5-15



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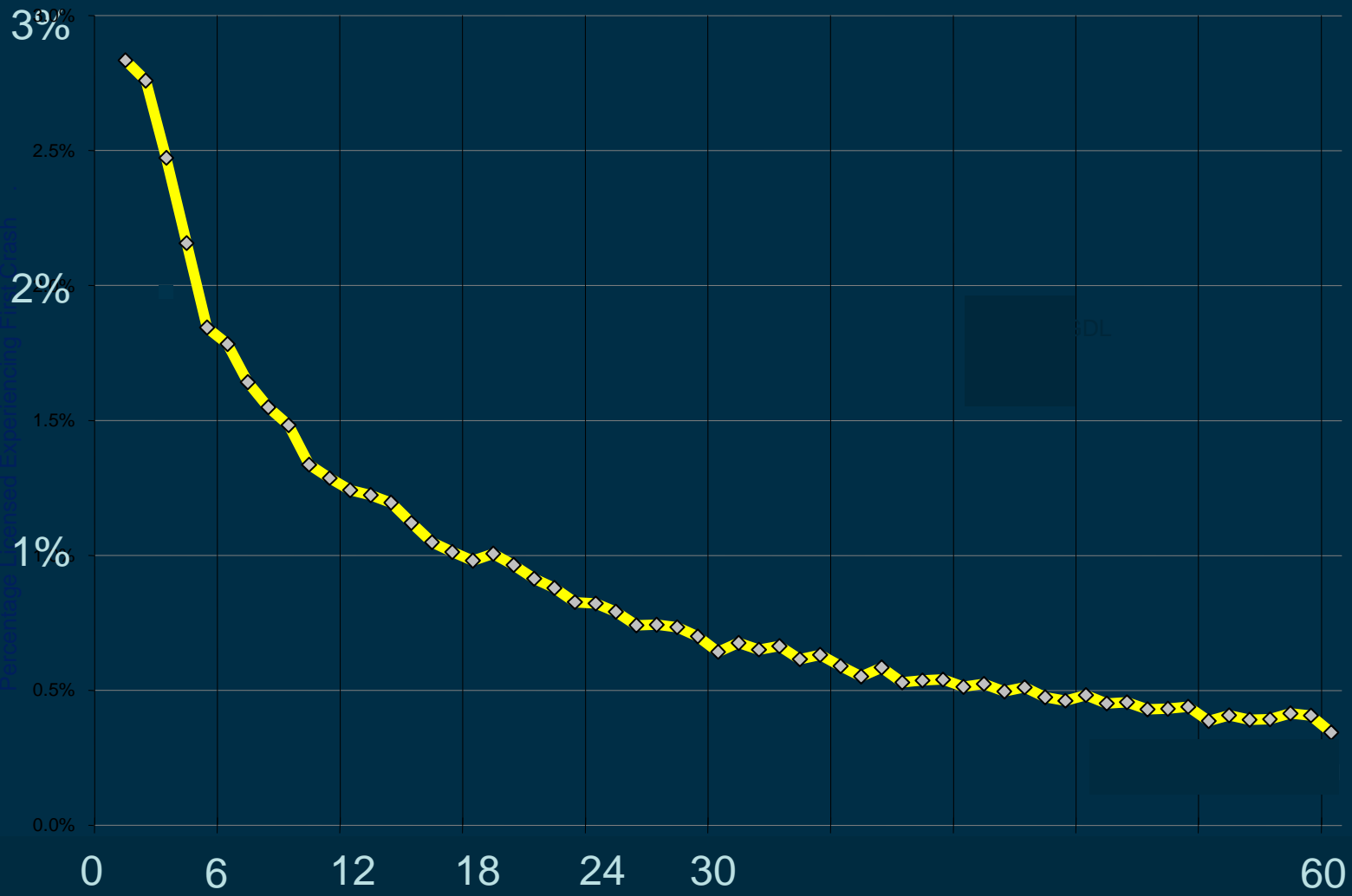


History of Education

- Pre-industrial societies
- Industrial societies
- Training drivers – Old School



% Crashing by month licensed (16 & 17)





Transition to driving

- Driving is complex behavior
 - Physical
 - Cognitive
 - Social
- Learning complex skills
 - Mentors needed
- A state-parent partnership



What is GDL, Really?

- Concept

 - Non-driver → wise driver

- *Structure*

 - Licensing System

 - Gain essential experience

 - Minimizing risk while learning

 - Earn driving privilege



This ...



Is not
a house

GDL is a
system



GDL in the news ...

State to get tough on teens

New law cracks down on teen drivers

Teen drivers face harsh new controls

No more cruising if new law passes

Curfew to limit teens





A better way ...

New license approach to protect teens

GDL helps parents and teens alike

License system to reduce teen crash risk

Helping young drivers stay safe

License system change protects new
drivers – and the rest of us too



Explaining GDL

- Concept is easily grasped
- Analogy helpful
- Nearly impossible to oppose



Promoting GDL

- Focus on health, not driving
- Emphasize protection,
not punishment
- Establish a system, not “elements”
- Use pictures before numbers



Improving GDL

- Structure

 - Straightforward & easy

- Functioning

 - Extremely difficult

 - Requires changing human behavior



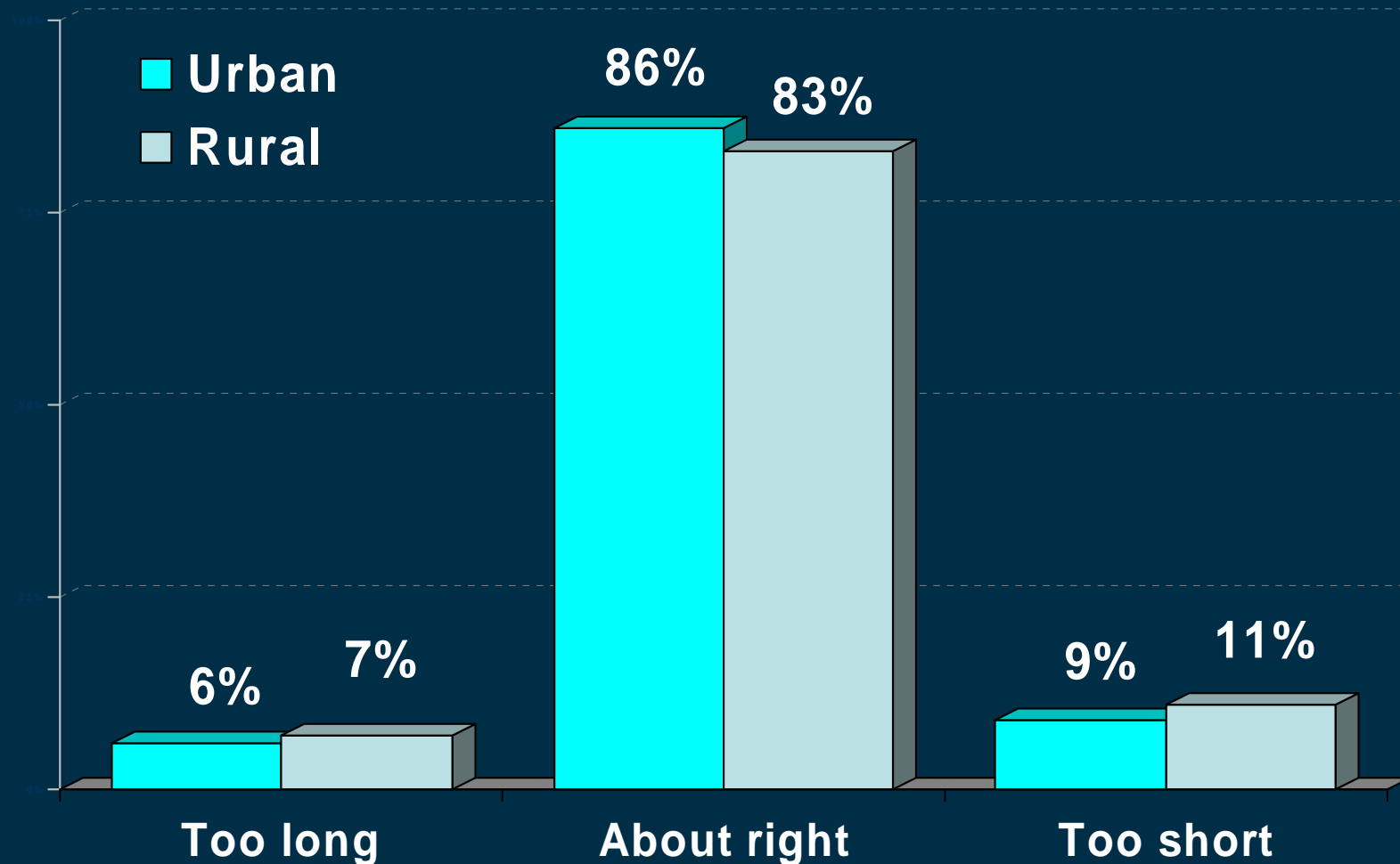
Structure

- Appropriate learner period
 - To provide needed experience
 - 12 months
 - Certified Hrs - ?
- Appropriate 2nd stage restrictions
 - To reduce high risk exposure
 - 9 pm – 5 am
 - 1 passenger limit (or none?)
 - Cell phone - ?



Parent opinions of 12 month learner period by residence

NC 1999





Improved Functioning

- Better quality supervision
 - If we knew what ...
 - And how to accomplish it
 - Varied experience, many trips
 - Emulate pre-GDL learning
- Better compliance w/restrictions
 - Maybe ... if that is a problem

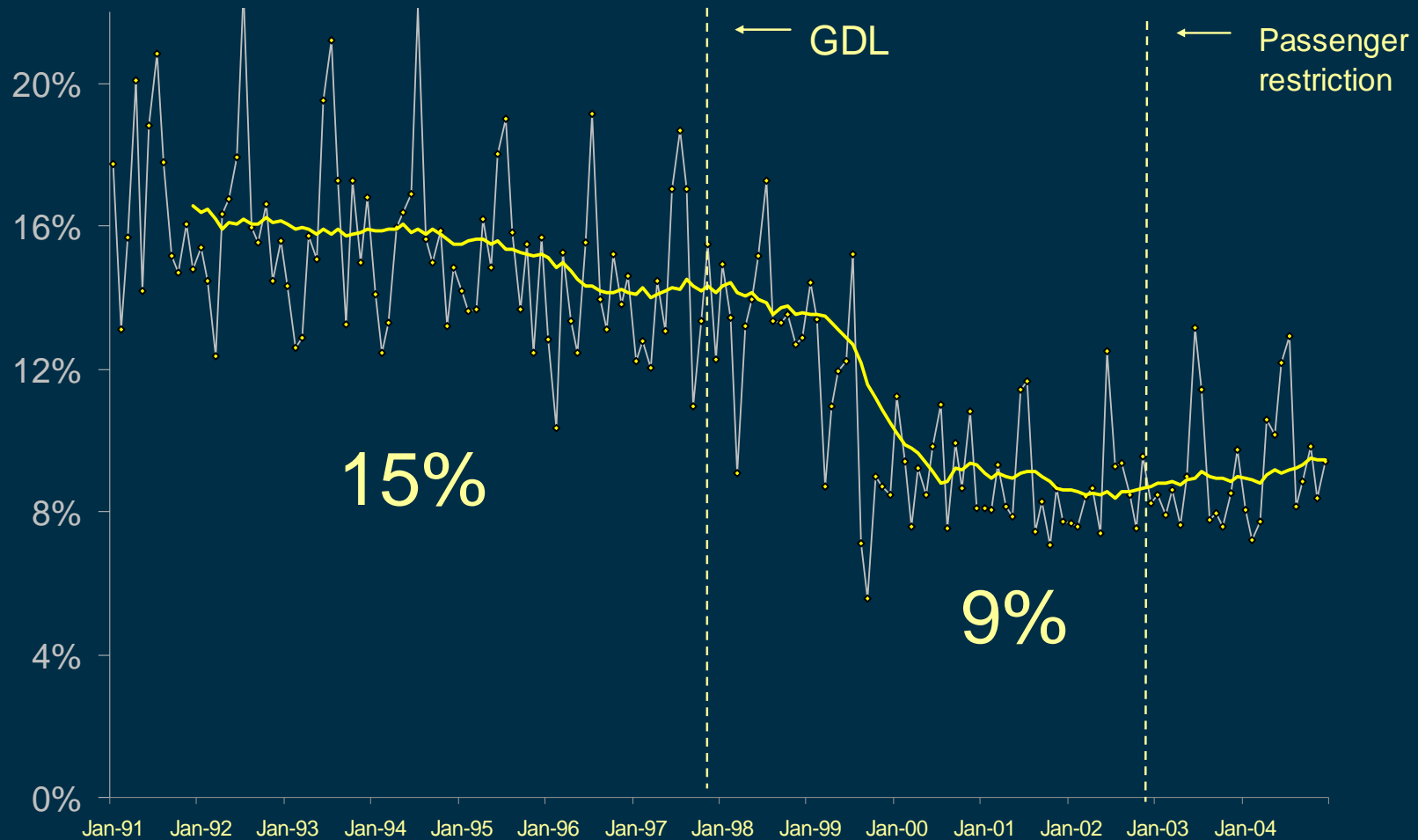


Compliance

- Seems pretty good (in NC)
 - GDL Knowledge extremely high
 - Possibly due to Driver Ed
 - Self reports
 - Crashes



% nighttime (9 pm – 5 am) crashes 16-year-olds, NC, 1991-2004





Unanswerable questions

- What's the best GDL system?
 - States not comparable
- Which elements are most important?
 - Some can be determined, many can't
- Conceptual guidance helpful