

A young man and woman are shown from the chest up, looking at a smartphone together. The man is on the left, wearing a blue polo shirt, and the woman is on the right, wearing a light blue long-sleeved shirt. They are both looking down at the phone held by the man. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting foliage. The entire image is covered with a semi-transparent blue overlay.

Protecting Young Ohio Drivers Through Expanded Driver Education

Kimberly Schwind

Assistant Director & Training Programs Administrator

Ohio Traffic Safety Office

kaschwind@dps.ohio.gov

Agenda

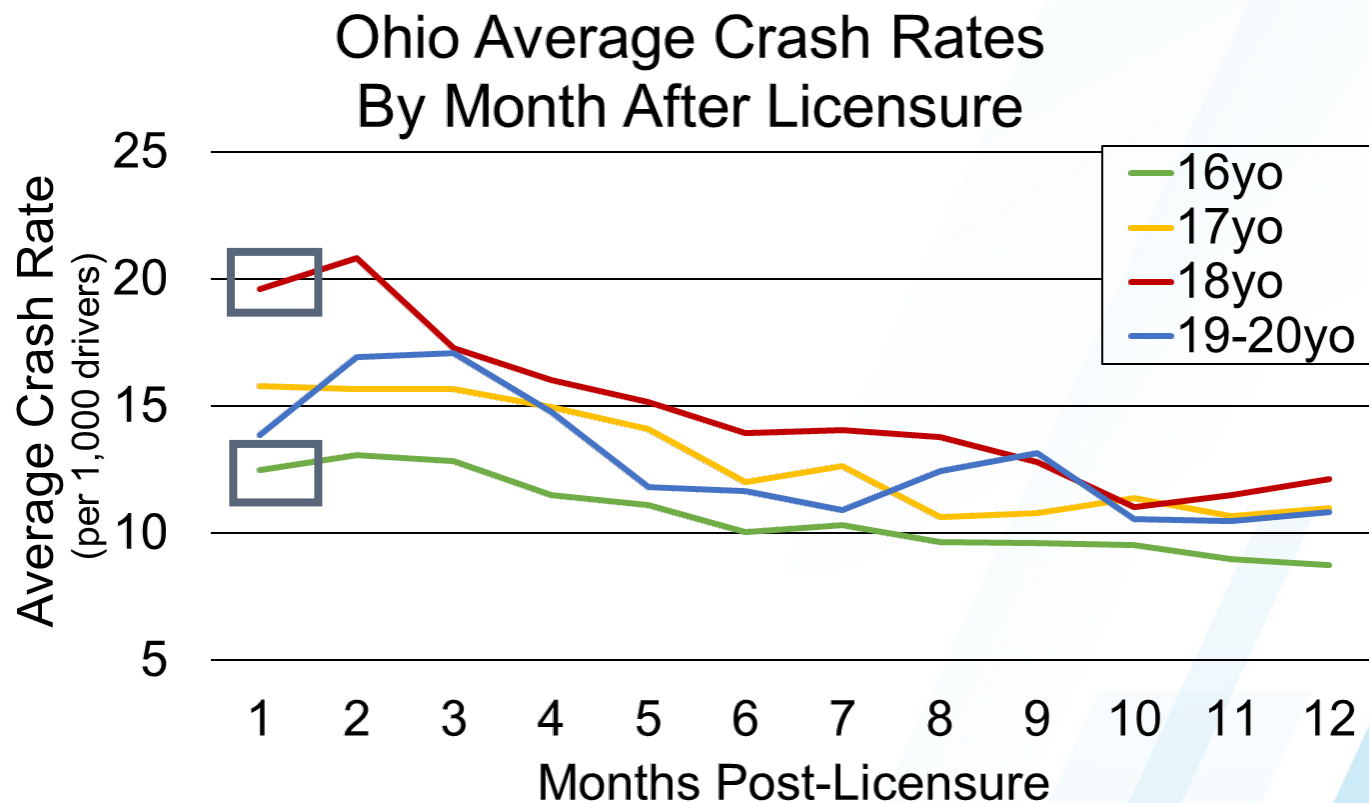
- Ohio Young Driver Data
- Driver Education Expansion
- Supporting Growth
- Supporting Families
- Questions



An aerial photograph of a car on a road, overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The car is positioned in the lower-left quadrant of the frame, moving towards the upper-right. The road has white lane markings, and there are some trees visible in the background.

Ohio Young Driver Data

New Young Driver Crash Risk



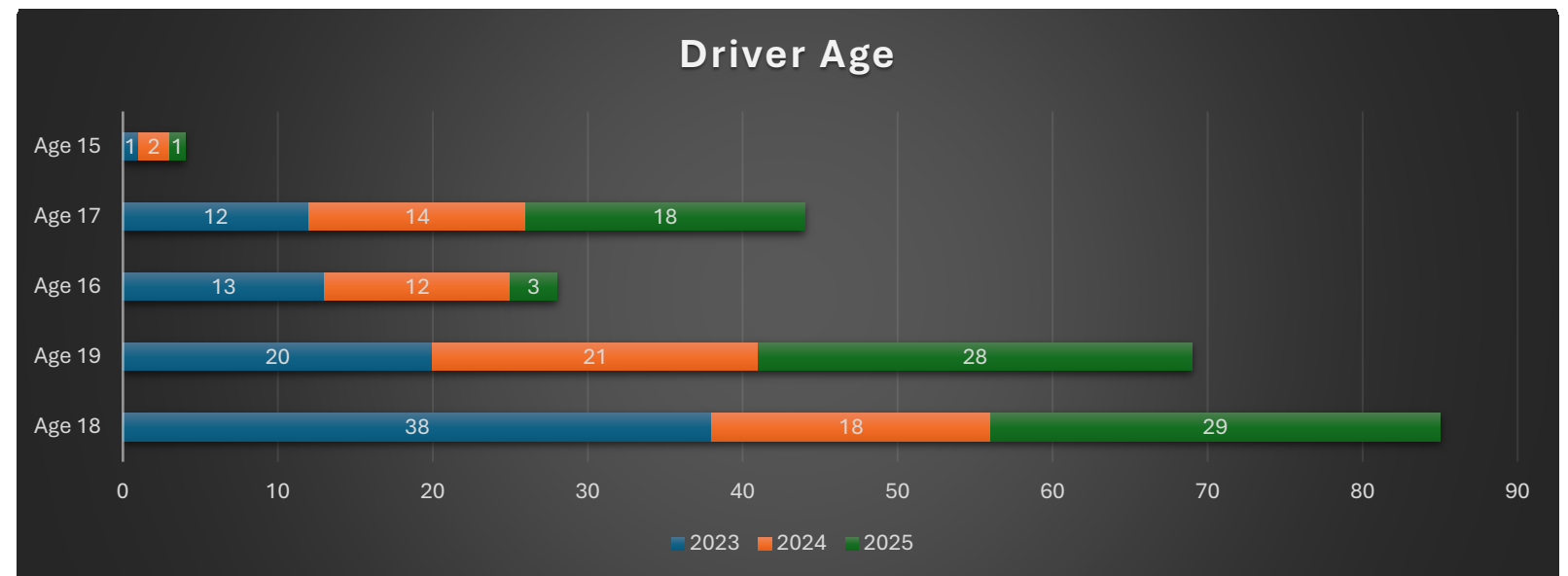
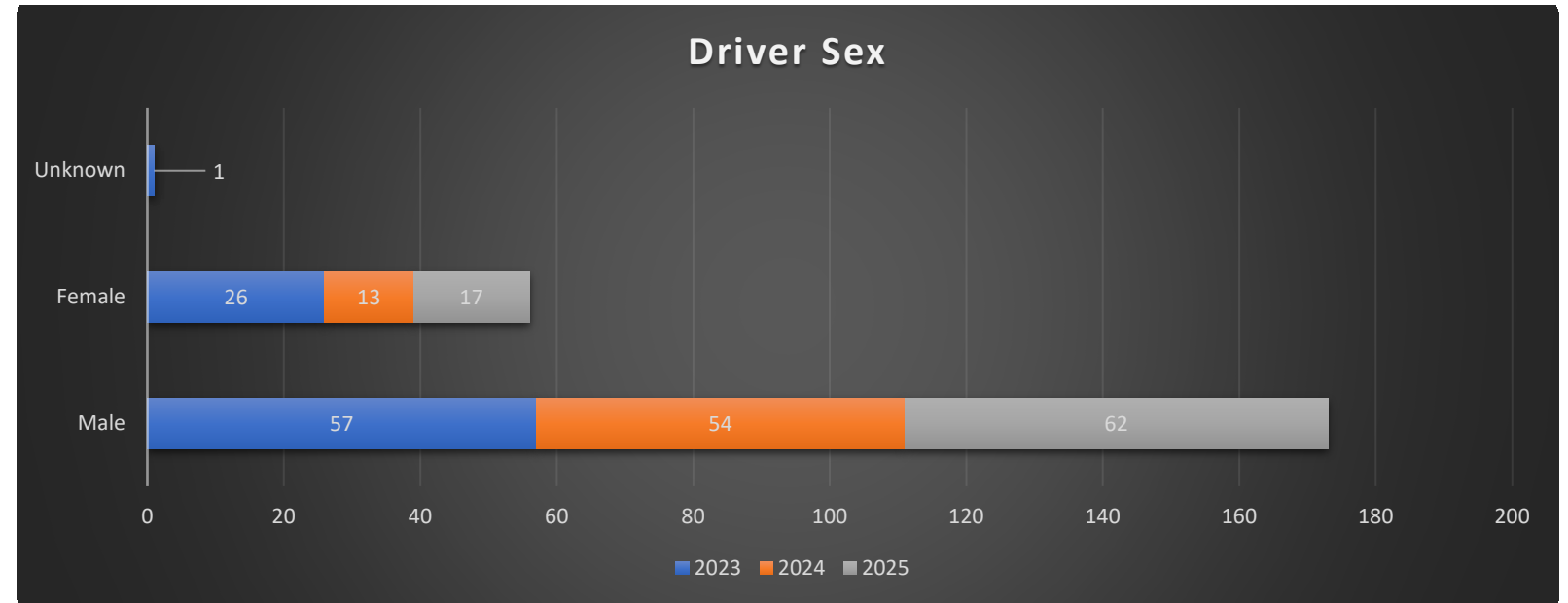
Drivers licensed at age 18 have the highest crash rates of all new drivers under age 25

Figure 1. Youngest drivers (16yo) at lowest risk; 18yo, highest. 2018 Data.

Source: Walshe, et. al., 2022, Licensing Examination and Crash Outcomes Post-Licensure in Young Drivers. JAMA Netw Open. 2022; 5(4):e228780. Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP).

At-Fault Teen Fatal Crashes (2023-2025)

- **321** Teen-related fatal crashes (ages 15-19)
- **72%** Were the fault of the teen driver
- **75%** of those at-fault were male
- **67%** of those at-fault age 18 or 19



NEW Research

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Drivers under 18 who completed GDL and driver training had **70% lower odds** of being in serious crashes one year after licensure compared to drivers age 18+.

Ohio 2017-2019 serious injury and fatal crash data.

Source: Xiaoxia Dong, Jasmine Siyu Wu, Erick Guerra, Megan S. Ryerson, Elizabeth A. Walshe, Graduated driver licensing with mandated driver training in Ohio is associated with fewer serious injury and fatal crashes among young novice drivers, Transport Policy, Volume 184, 2026, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP).





Driver Education Expansion

Driver Education Expansion

In 2025 the State of Ohio implemented two new laws that require the completion of driver education for:

- Those applying for an initial Limited Term License (Effective 6/30/25)
- New drivers under age 21 (Effective 9/30/25)

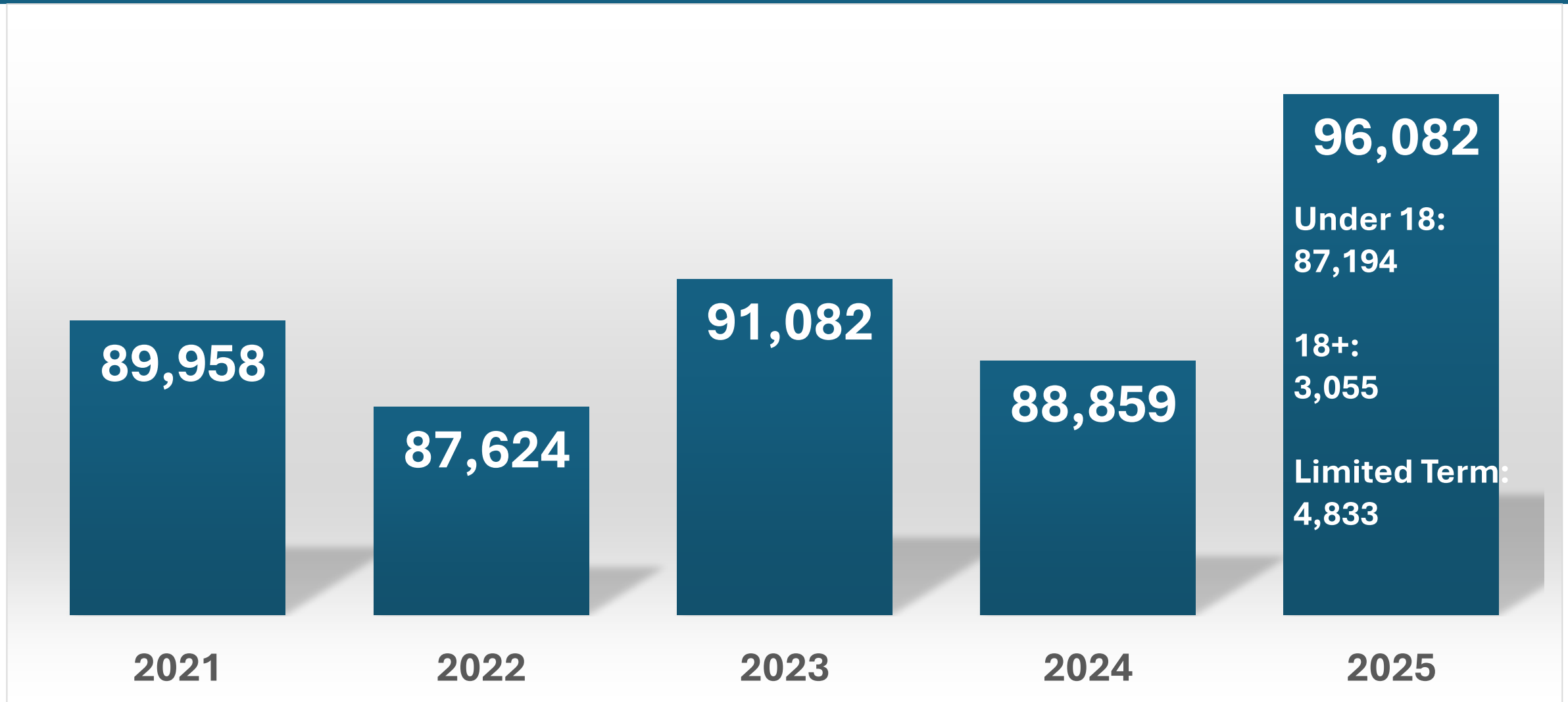




Ohio Driver Education Requirements

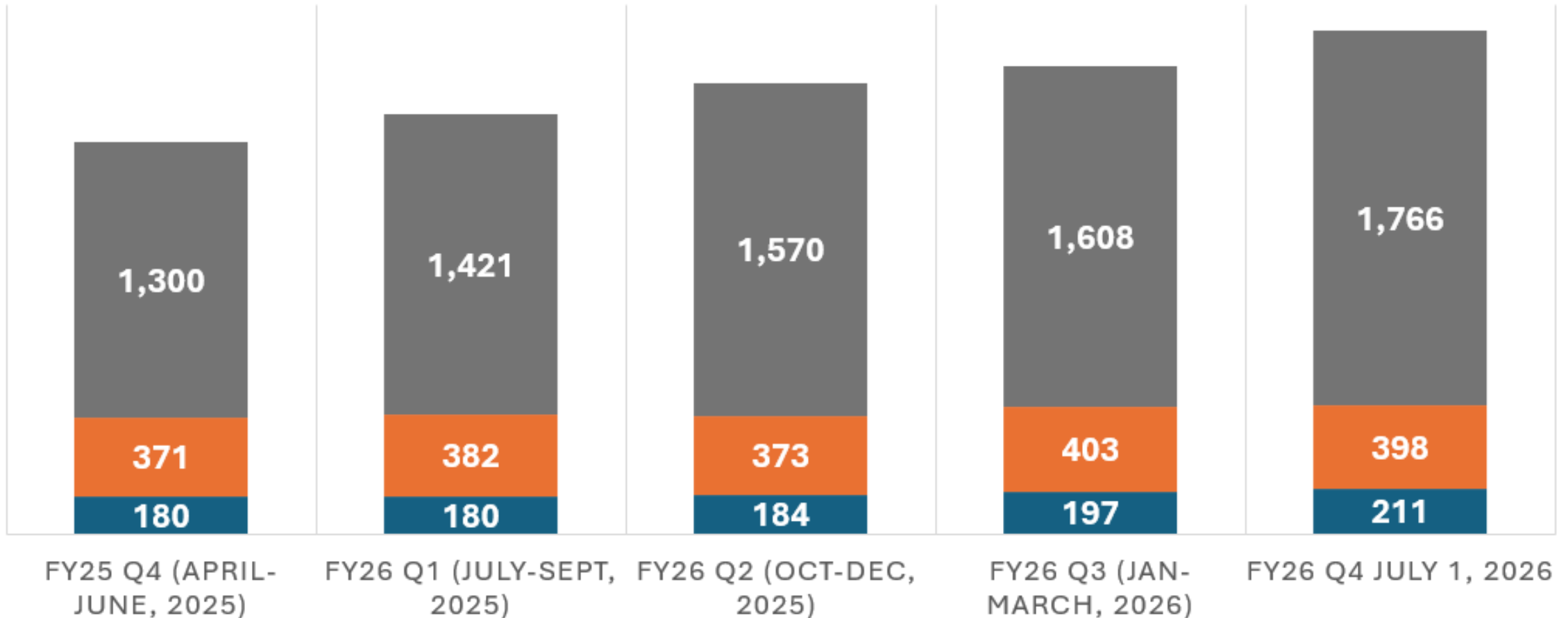
- **24 hours of classroom** instruction (in-person, virtual or online).
- **8 hours of behind-the-wheel** training with a licensed driving instructor.
- **50 hours of supervised driving practice** with a parent, guardian or eligible adult.

CLASS D CERTIFICATES BY YEAR (PAST 5 YEARS)



GROWTH IN DRIVER TRAINING INDUSTRY

■ Driver Training Enterprises ■ School Locations ■ Instructors (probationary and full license)



Instructor Development Grants

- Grant funding to establish **5 Training Centers**
 - Capabilities Inc.
 - Inspired Driving Academy
 - East Central Ohio ESC Drivers Training
 - Champion City Drivers Ed
 - Muskingum Valley ESC Driving School
- **Benefits:**
 - Helps grow instructor base.
 - Consistent and quality instructor training.
 - Reduces training burdens for driving schools.



Instructor Incentives

- \$1,500 incentive to any new driver training instructor that:
 - Completes training
 - Holds license for at least 3 months
 - Actively trains students during that period.
- Pilot that will run through 12/31/2026





Supporting Families

Student Driver

Drive to Succeed

What is Drive to Succeed?

- Grant program for Class D driver training scholarships
- Goal to increase access to driver training for underprivileged youth (ages 15 ½ - 20)



Two Previous Rounds

- Round 1: Awarded March 2023
 - \$575,000 to 25 Grantees
- Round 2: Awarded April 2024
 - \$2.5 million to 35 Grantees



Drive to Succeed: Round 3

Drive to Succeed \$6 Million for Driver Training Scholarships

-  North Central Ohio ESC (Tiffin)
-  East Central Ohio ESC (New Philadelphia)
-  Fairfield County ESC (Lancaster)
-  Midwest Regional ESC (Sidney)



MIKE DEWINE
GOVERNOR OF OHIO



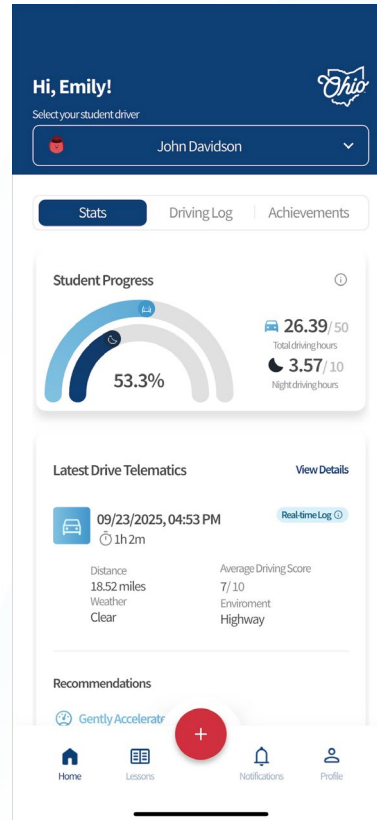
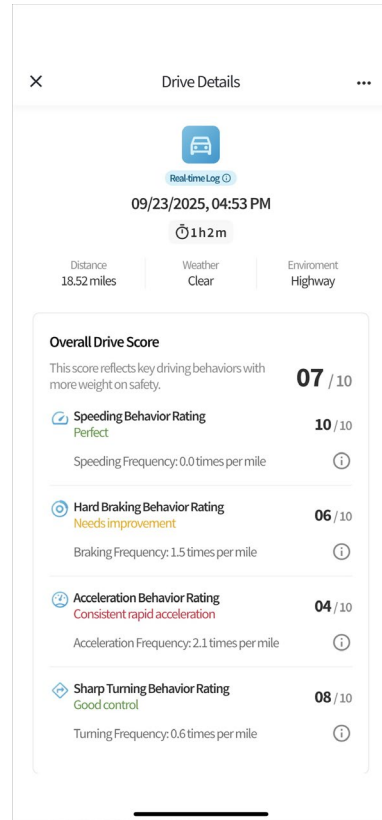
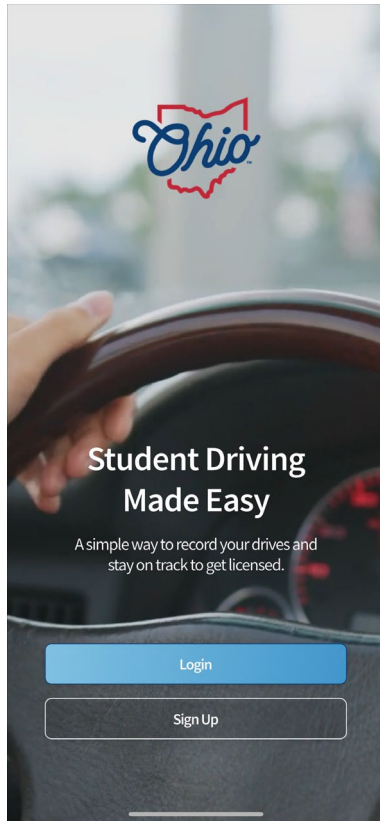
JIM TRESSEL
LT. GOVERNOR OF OHIO



Since 2023, **nearly 10,000 students** have received a “Drive to Succeed” scholarship.

RoadReady Ohio App

In Sept. 2025, Gov. Mike DeWine & OTSO introduced a new mobile app for driving practice.



- Uses telematics to provide driving scores
- Logs hours
- Provides state-approved affidavit



TeachYourTeentoDrive.Ohio.gov

- Parent Orientation Course
- Teen Driver Roadmap
- Featured Videos
- Top clicked resources
- Teen Crash Dashboard



GRANTSPROGRAMSRESOURCESABOUT US

ContactSearch

Teaching your teen to drive?

It takes practice—and plenty of patience. Here's all the info you need to successfully navigate the process.

[Start Parent/Guardian Orientation](#)



Just like sports, or dance, or any skill you want to master, learning to drive takes hours and hours of practice. As a parent, you play a crucial role in preparing your teenager to be a safe and confident driver who understands the rules of the road.

**RoadReady Ohio Phone App**

Log required practice hours and get real-time feedback and tips!

Teen Driver Roadmap



Temporary Permit

At age 15 years and six months, teens can get their temporary instruction permit.



Probationary License

Teens can get a probationary license at age 16 after completing driver training and supervised practice.



Full License

At age 18, protections from the probationary license lift and teens are fully licensed.

Spotlight



RoadReady Ohio Phone App

Get the most out of your teen's practice drives with tools to log required practice hours and real-time telematic feedback and tips.

[Get The App](#)

Inexperience is the #1 Reason Teens Crash*

Research consistently shows that teens are **safer drivers** when parents:

- Spend more time practicing with them (Source: [AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety](#))
- Provide constructive feedback (Source: [CHDP Research Institute](#))
- Expose them to varied driving environments (Source: [GHS4](#))

* Source: [CDC - Risk Factors for Teen Drivers](#)



Find a Driving School

Use our online tool to find Ohio-approved driving schools near you. Search by type of school or county.



Schedule a Driving Test

After completing your training requirements, schedule a driver skills test with the Ohio BMV to obtain your license.



Advanced Driver Training

Skills programs that address the leading causes of teen crashes.

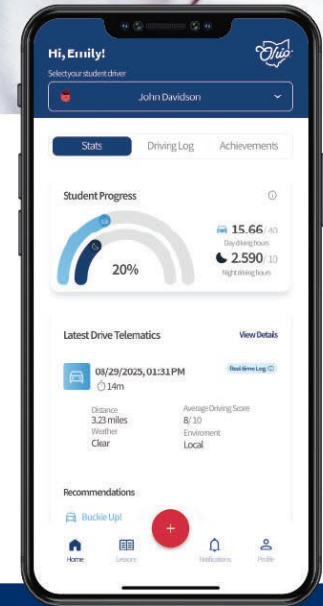
Youthful Driver Paid Media Campaign

- Oct. '25 – Sept. '26
- \$500,000
- Tactics: Digital Video, Digital Display, Radio, Spotify, Paid Social, Ohio High School Athletic Association, Bus Shelters



Nothing prepares like practice.

There's no substitute for time behind the wheel, and our free RoadReady app makes logging your teen's 50 hours of required practice time easy.



TeachYourTeenToDrive.ohio.gov

Funded by U.S. DOT/NHTSA

Download the FREE
RoadReady Ohio app



A background image showing a man and a woman in profile, looking at a smartphone together. The man is on the left, wearing a blue polo shirt, and the woman is on the right, wearing a light-colored top. They are outdoors with green foliage in the background. The entire image has a semi-transparent blue overlay.

Questions?

Kimberly Schwind

Assistant Director & Training Programs Administrator

Ohio Traffic Safety Office

kaschwind@dps.ohio.gov