

Analysis of West Virginia's Graduated Driver Licensing Program



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Analysis of West Virginia's Graduated Driver Licensing Program

Final Report

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| 16. Abstract <p>Motor vehicle collisions are the leading cause of death for individuals between the ages of 15-20 years old in the United States. Top safety concerns involving teen drivers include; safety belt use, impaired driving, and distracted driving. Rules that address these safety concerns have been implemented into multifaceted GDL programs in the United States as well as in state legislation. There are a limited number of studies focusing on the perspective, knowledge and opinion of GDL policy. The effectiveness of the GDL program in West Virginia is being measured through the administration of surveys. The surveys have been designed to assess awareness among high school students, parents of high school students, and police officers. GDL limits teenage driver exposure to high risk situations but its potential to reduce fatalities is limited by people's willingness to comply with the laws and the enforcement of the program restrictions by parents and law enforcement officers. Ways to improve GDL policy and awareness to increase program effectiveness will be identified using the insights provided by these surveys.</p> | | | |
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1.0: Background

Motor vehicle collisions are the leading cause of death for individuals between the ages of 15-20 years old in the United States. Due to age restrictive factors, young drivers tend to overestimate their driving ability and underestimate roadway hazards. According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS), the risk of collision is significantly elevated during the first year in which teenagers are eligible to drive when compared to older, more experienced drivers.

As shown in Figure 1, there has been a general downward trend in motor vehicle fatalities over time. The beginning of the more substantial declines corresponds to the enactment of major highway safety legislation. The National Highway Transportation Safety Association's (NHTSA) core strategies for strengthening GDL laws include: enactment of recommended the three stage GDL components, highly publicized enforcement of GDL laws, and increasing parental responsibility in monitoring novice driver compliance with GDL laws.

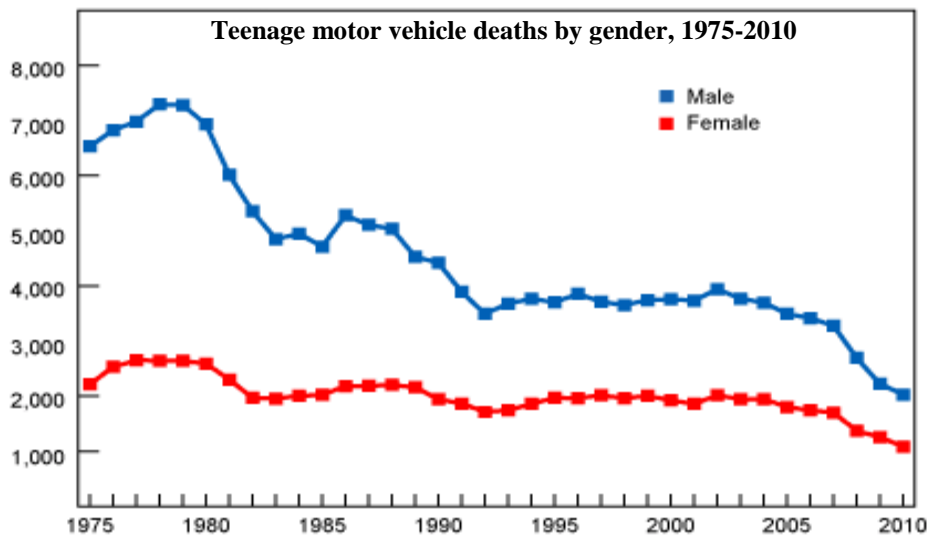


Figure 1-1: IIHS Teen Motor Vehicle Fatalities

Teen drivers are more likely to be involved in a fatal crash than any other driver age group. Factors that are thought to contribute to the elevated teenage crash rates are: inexperience, immaturity, faulty decision making, and distraction.

Inexperience

Novice drivers have not been exposed to the many complex situations that can be posed while operating a motor vehicle. Teen drivers have a tendency to take their eyes off the road longer than older more experienced drivers when checking mirrors. Inexperience is a risk factor for crashes mainly because competence for safe driving is largely a mental rather than a physical activity. New drivers can learn how to manage a vehicle effectively within a very short time frame. Safe and competent driving requires the ability to perceive hazards and having the ability to make sound judgments on how to mitigate the hazard. Where one allocates their attention is also an important factor in safe driving. These strong mental processes can only be developed with years of exposure.

Immaturity

While there is a great deal of individual variation, in general as age increases so does maturity. An immature driver is more likely to engage in a risky situation than a mature driver. This tendency toward harmful behavior increases the likelihood that a young, immature driver will be involved in a crash. Many insurance companies provide a discount on premiums for teen drivers who get good grades in school. Students who do well in school have generally lower crash rates than students who do poorly in school. The same characteristics that enable students to get good grades are probably responsible for their relatively better crash rates, mainly greater maturity in terms of self-control and judgment.

Decision Making

The primary factors that impact decision making in general are; knowledge of risks, appreciation of the potential tradeoffs between risks and benefits, focus in the most likely outcomes, perceived alternatives to taking the risk. Teen drivers much like adult drivers have a tendency to be overconfident in their control over risk. A teen who believes they can handle hazardous situations is confident in their driving skills and is decreasingly concerned about safety. Since the teen driver is also less experienced than the average adult driver, the optimistic bias is particularly hazardous for teen drivers.

Distraction

Driver inattention reduces the potential reaction time for braking and maneuvering. Long periods of distraction reduce the amount of time to react to an unexpected event, such as a vehicle or pedestrian entering the roadway. Long periods of distraction occur commonly when dialing, texting, and visually searching for music. Visual fixation on an external event is also common. Novice drivers are not good at dividing their attention, they tend to fixate their attention on one thing and ignore potential hazards.

Graduated Driver Licensing

Efforts to reduce motor vehicle fatalities in general have been successful with the teen driver demographic. Graduated driver licensing (GDL) attempts to correct for the tendencies of teen drivers discussed above. GDL gradually introduces teens into the responsibilities of driving and allows novice drivers to gain experience and skill over time under supervised conditions. Restrictions are reduced and eventually eliminated pending satisfactory completion of all subsequent steps of the program. Restrictions include: limited nighttime driving before full

licensure, limited transport of passengers, mandatory safety belt usage, zero tolerance for alcohol consumption, and no use of wireless communication devices.

There are a limited number of studies focusing on the perspective, knowledge and opinion of GDL policy. The effectiveness of the GDL program in West Virginia is being measured through the administration of surveys. The surveys have been designed to assess awareness among high school students, parents of high school students, and police officers. GDL limits teenage driver exposure to high risk situations but its potential to reduce fatalities is limited by people's willingness to comply with the laws and the enforcement of the program restrictions by parents and law enforcement officers. 2003-2010 decline in teen fatalities in Figure 1. Using the insights provided by these surveys, ways to improve GDL policy and awareness to increase program effectiveness will be identified.

Problem Statement

There is limited number of studies focusing on the perspective, knowledge and opinion of GDL policy. Several studies have focused on correlating the level of strictness of the policies with the reduction in teenage crash involvement. However, different states have adopted different policies corresponding to varying level of strictness of the GDL policies. There is limited number of studies focusing on the perspective, knowledge and opinion of high school students, parents of high school students and police officers on GDL policy. There has been no such study conducted for the state of West Virginia. To ensure that the GDL is working to prevent teen driver crash involvement and fatalities, the success of the program must be determined based on the compliance and awareness of the program.

Objectives

Literature review

Past works comparing the effectiveness of GDL policies will be reviewed. The primary focus will be on reviewing works to evaluate the effectiveness of GDL policies across states. Any general trends observed nationally in the efficiency of GDL in reducing the crash severity or crash likelihood will be reported. Special focus will be placed on research on the effectiveness of GDL policies of peer states (states with similar GDL policies as WV). The GDL program of other states will also be studied and compared with WV's GDL policy in terms of minimum permissible age, passenger restrictions, nighttime driving restrictions etc. The research team will also study the type of enforcement and fines associated with the enforcement of the program (secondary or primary offenses). Successful innovative strategies used by other states will be identified and presented to the appropriate DOT representatives responsible for the program for future reference or implementation

Parent and student surveys

An online and paper based survey will be conducted of high school students and their parents on their knowledge of the WV GDL policy as well as their opinions on the program. The survey will help us identify any specific problems in the current implementation from the perspective of the students and parents. The survey will target students in high schools in rural and urban areas. The key focus of the survey is to understand how well GDL is understood by the students and their parents. The information from the surveys will be used to determine how the GDL program should be modified if needed to increase its compliance and overall effectiveness.

Law enforcement survey

A survey of police officers in the state of WV will be conducted to elicit their opinion on WV GDL and its enforcement and compliance. We will try to obtain information on GDL related citations if available. The results of the survey will be used to provide recommendations on how to get the police more involved and how to get them to check for GDL violation as a part of the routine, if it is an issue.

Identify effective outreach programs

The research team will try to identify if any specific outreach strategies and programs are found in the literature. Communications strategies identified will have effectively implemented policies and promote positive change in young drivers and their parents.

Data Analysis

Survey responses will be tabulated using simple statistical methods, and the results analyzed in order to make appropriate recommendations for future modifications to the GDL program in West Virginia.

Conclusions and Recommendations

By analyzing the data collected from the surveys, the research team will note any significant variations in response within and between survey groups. Conclusions about program effectiveness and suggestions for improvement in compliance, knowledge, and awareness will be made if necessary.

2.1: Graduated Driver Licensing in the United States

Motor vehicle collisions are the leading cause of death for individuals between the ages of 15-20 years old in the United States. Due to age restrictive factors, young drivers tend to overestimate their driving ability and underestimate roadway hazards. According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS), the risk of collision is significantly elevated during the first year in which teenagers are eligible to drive when compared to older, more experienced drivers.

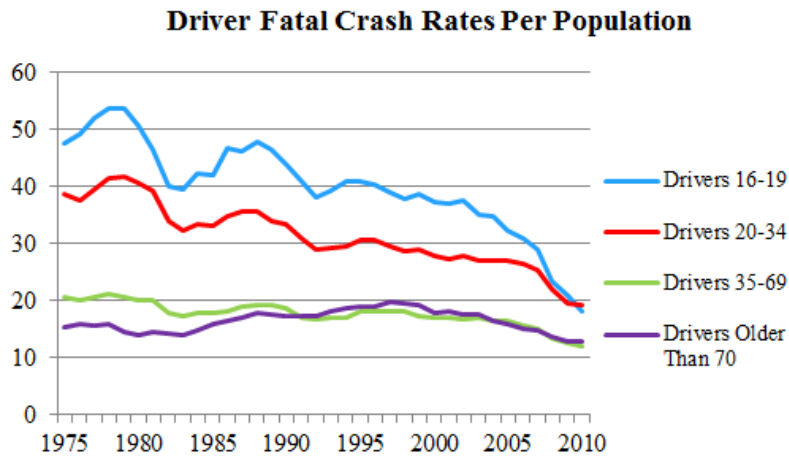


Figure 2-1: Source US DOT Fatality Analysis Reporting System

Graduated driver licensing (GDL) allows novice drivers to gain experience and skill over time under parental/educator supervised conditions with state specific restrictions. Restrictions are gradually reduced and eventually eliminated pending satisfactory completion of all subsequent steps of the program. Restrictions include: limited nighttime driving before full licensure, limited transport of passengers, mandatory safety belt usage, zero tolerance for alcohol consumption, and no use of wireless communication devices.

The foundation of a comprehensive GDL law was initiated in 1989, when the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) and the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) proposed safety measures for teen drivers. It wasn't until 1996 that Florida became the first state to institute a graduated licensing system. GDL restrictions are not federally mandated, these choices are left up to individual state legislature. Currently 49 of the 50 states have a full 3 tier GDL program; the final state, North Dakota, plans to institute its final 3 tier component in 2012.

2.2: Teen Driver Safety

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for teenagers in the United States (NHTSA). Top safety concerns involving teen drivers include: safety belt use, impaired driving, and distracted driving. Rules that address these safety concerns have been implemented into multifaceted GDL programs. These rules, along with applicable study findings, will be discussed below.

2.2.1: Safety Belts

In 1984 New York passed the first mandatory vehicle occupant restraint law in the United States. Today, 49 states and the District of Columbia have mandatory safety belt laws in place; and 33 states have safety belt use as a primary enforcement.

Through the use of primary enforcement laws, highly publicized enforcement, and educational programs that underscore seatbelt laws, safety belt use has increased. Despite efforts aimed at increasing safety belt use among teens, observed seat belt use in young adults (16 to 24 years old) stood at only 80 percent in 2008 (NHTSA).

2.2.2: Impaired Driving

The issue of drinking and driving has been highly publicized in recent years. Since the early 1980s enforcement programs and public awareness strategies have increased while alcohol related traffic fatalities have declined by nearly 50 percent.

Actions directed toward parental and adult responsibility is one recommended tactic to curb teen drinking and driving. Increased enforcement of laws against purchasing alcohol for people under the age of 21 as well as increased penalties and fines associated with violations could further limit teen access to alcohol. Increased compliance checks with alcohol vendors are another suggested strategy to limit alcohol availability. Additionally “use and lose” laws could be more readily enforced to confiscate the driver’s licenses of underage drinkers.

2.2.3: Distracted Driving

Thirty-four states, the District of Columbia, and Guam have instituted a ban on text messaging while driving for all drivers. Eight states and the District of Columbia disallow all drivers from using handheld cellular phones while operating a motor vehicle.

NHTSA has suggested the use of enforcement and public awareness as a solution to reduce distractions in the driving environment of teens. In recent years legislation has been passed by certain states enacting such campaigns as “Phone in one hand, ticket in the other” to help curb driver cell phone use.

According to a study on unsafe teen driving behaviors (NHTSA, 2006), teenagers do not see the relationship between in-vehicle distractions and the high rate of rear end collisions. Teens also seem to have difficulty imposing rules on their passengers in order to keep them under control and create a safer driving environment. Teenagers also do not perceive cell phones

as serious distractions while driving, yet complain about other drivers who are inattentive while they are on cell phones (Fell, et al., 2005). This indicates that teenagers are aware that cell phones have the potential to be a distraction to others, if not to themselves. Visuals could be incorporated into the driver's education process to show other distracting situations and how they can impact a motorist's driving ability. Showing students that common activities, such as reaching for a CD, conversing with a passenger, or eating food, are distracting and dangerous activities would raise the awareness of these frequently overlooked issues.

2.2.4: Pairing Technology and the GDL

Seatbelt Interlock

Mandated in 1973 by NHTSA, seatbelt interlocks required drivers to engage their seatbelts prior to full vehicle operation. The ignition interlock system prevented the engine from starting if any front seat occupant did not have their safety belt engaged. Despite the positive effect of the introduction, in 1974 public resistance ultimately led to Congress enacting legislation that prohibited NHTSA from requiring ignition interlock systems or buzzer warnings in excess of 8 seconds (Transportation Research Board, 2003). NHTSA implemented a sole requirement of the 4 to 8 second warning light and buzzer activation when the front seatbelts are not fastened at the time of ignition.

A TRB report by the Committee for the Safety Belt Technology study has suggested that seatbelt interlocks rather than seatbelt reminders should be used for high risk drivers such as teens. This technology could address fatalities attributed to lack of seatbelt use.

Data Logger

The Data Logger provides parents with a record of teen driving performance. This technology allows parents to receive real time notification of unsafe driving behaviors via multiple forms of electronic communication. Offline driving analysis by way of risk assessment software would give parents and other authorities the ability to review driving performance and attempt to modify reported unsafe behaviors. This device may be easily used in the On-Board Diagnostics (OBD) port of vehicles 1996 model year or later.

The Data Logger identifies drivers using personal identification and allows limited functionality based on the driver. Using this component in cooperation with the GDL program would allow identification of the novice driver and the supervising adult (Brovold, et al., 2007). This would enable precise monitoring of GDL provisions on nighttime driving, number of training hours, and mandatory permit holding periods.

Geo-Fencing

A geo-fence is a virtual perimeter for a real world geographic area. Geo-fencing can be used to permit certain routes of driving as specified by parents and guardians. Many cellular phone service providers have GPS tracking software as an added option in service plans. Some companies have developed a chip that goes into the automobile.

2.1: History of West Virginia's GDL Program

The GDL program was implemented in West Virginia by legislation during the 2000 Regular Session as a result of a nationwide effort by the NHTSA to provide a better system for young drivers to gradually earn additional driving privileges with demonstration of proper driving technique. The American Automobile Association (AAA) provided major assistance to the WV Division of Motor Vehicles in order to get the legislation passed (Dale, 2011). This

program was the main focus under Commissioner Joe Miller during the 1999 and 2000 legislative sessions.

Prior to the implementation of the GDL program in the state of West Virginia, minimal restrictions were placed on novice drivers. An instruction permit was the first step a new driver would take in order to obtain a full driver's license. The instruction permit allowed the holder to operate a motor vehicle for the sole purpose of learning how to drive. The applicant for the permit was required to be at least 15 years old and pass a written knowledge test and a vision test administered by the state police. If the applicant was under the age of 18, they were also required to obtain the consent of a parent or legal guardian. After obtaining the instruction permit, the permit holder was allowed to operate a motor vehicle when accompanied by a licensed driver who was at least 21 years old or a driver's education instructor. This instruction permit was valid for 60 days after the permit holder's 16th birthday, if the permit holder was 16 years or older at the time of permit issuance, the permit was considered valid for 60 days. Applicants were permitted to take the driving test whenever they felt ready, within the 60 day time frame.

After the instruction permit expired the applicant was allowed three attempts to pass the driving test. If the applicant did not pass, the instruction permit could be renewed one time. If the applicant did not pass the driving test after renewing his/her permit, he/she would be required to retake the vision and written tests as a new applicant.

If the applicant was between the ages of 16 and 18, he/she would receive a junior operator's license. The junior operator's license would expire the first day of the month following the applicant's 18th birthday. Upon payment of the renewal fee, the Division of Motor

Vehicles (DMV) would issue the applicant a regular driver's license without further examination. However, if as a junior operator the applicant was convicted of two or more moving violations or any offense that is grounds for mandatory revocation, the license would be revoked until the operator reached the age of 18. Once the applicant turned 18, the applicant may reapply for a driver's license but would be required to take the written, vision, and driving tests as a first time applicant.

On January 1, 2001 the GDL program was implemented in West Virginia. This three phase system made critical changes to the infrastructure of the pre-existing licensing system. While the minimum age to apply for a learner's permit remained, a minimum holding period of 6 months was added to the previous requirements. In addition to the holding requirement, a minimum of 30 documented, supervised driving hours were required to be logged prior to the applicant moving on to phase two of the program. However, no supervised driving time is required if integrated in a Department of Education approved drivers education course.

The second (intermediate) phase of the GDL program allows unsupervised driving but with certain restrictions. The permit holder must be 16 years old and may only drive unsupervised between the hours of 5:00 AM and 11:00 PM, unless going from work, school, or religious functions. Additionally, no more than three passengers under the age of 19 may be in the vehicle while it is being operated by the permit holder (excluding immediate family). At 17 years old, all restrictions may be lifted and the permit holder may operate a motor vehicle with full driving privileges.

On July 10, 2009 three changes were made to the 2001 GDL program: 1) mandatory supervised driving hours increased from 30 to 50 with the addition of a minimum of 10 hours of

night driving; 2) unsupervised driving was prohibited between 10:00 PM and 5:00 AM; and 3) during the first 6 months of driving, no passengers under age 20 are permitted in the vehicle, excluding immediate family members; during the second 6 months, no more than one passenger under age 20 may be transported by the permit holder.

Changes were made to the WV GDL law as a result of extensive research that showed curfews and additional unrelated teen passengers were a significant factor in fatalities and crashes. (Dale, 2011) West Virginia was one of the first states to prohibit texting and handheld cell phone use for drivers under the age of 18. However, despite these strengthened regulations, the crash rates for novice drivers remain elevated relative to adult levels. (NHTSA, 2006). This study adds to the limited literature on GDL programs and aims to provide insights into ways to enhance compliance and increase safety. Other states' GDL programs, research, enforcement, and compliance efforts were examined to inform this effort.

2.2: Peer State Selection Criteria

West Virginia was used as a standard of comparison for selecting peer states for this study. Peer states allow for a measure of effectiveness of the GDL program in West Virginia compared to other states based on shared factors. Peer states were broken down into three categories for analysis: program peers, geographic peers, and demographic peers, the criteria for which will be described below.

2.3: Program Peers

Program peer state selections were made based on similarities between the GDL program in place in West Virginia and to GDL programs nationwide.

Learner Stage

- Minimum Entry Age: Deviation from standard no greater than plus or minus 6 months.
- Minimum Holding Period: Greater than or equal to the standard.
- Total Supervised Driving Time: Equal to the standard.

Intermediate Stage

- Restricted Driving Begins: Deviation from standard no greater than plus or minus 1 hour.
- Restricted Driving Ends: Deviation from standard no greater than plus or minus one hour.

Based on these selection criteria, this study's program peers include: California, Florida, Hawaii, Louisiana, Montana, Michigan, Nevada, Oklahoma, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

2.4: Geographic Peers

Geographic peers were selected if the state shares a common border with West Virginia.

Geographic peer states are: Kentucky, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.

2.5: Demographic Peers

In order to select demographic peers, 2010 United States Census was analyzed for all 50 states. Demographic peers were selected based on relative population density per square mile, population based on race, resident education level, household size, and income.

Peer states that share similar demographics to West Virginia include Arizona, Colorado, Iowa, Oregon, and Washington.

2.6: Peer State Comparisons

GDL laws place legal boundaries on new drivers. Legal restrictions help keep novice drivers safe as they continue to develop cognitively into their late teens/early 20s and gain more driving experience. All peer states that have studied the effects of the graduated driver licensing program have seen a net reduction in crashes involving those drivers who are affected by the restrictions placed on their driving privileges. Findings of these studies are summarized in Table 2.7-1, which lists program peer states' GDL restrictions.

2.7: Program Peers

Table 2.7-1: Characteristics of Program Peer State GDL Programs

| State | Learner Stage | | | Intermediate Stage | | |
|---------------|--------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|---|--|
| | Minimum Age | Holding Period | Supervised driving | Minimum Age | Night Restriction | Passenger Restriction |
| West Virginia | 15 years | 6 months | 50 hours, 10 must be at night | 16 years | 10:00 PM – 5:00 AM | <i>First 6 months- no passengers under 20. Second 6 months- no more than 1 passenger under 20. First 12 months: no passengers under 20 years old</i> |
| California | 15 years, 6 months | 6 months | 50 hours, 10 must be at night | 16 years | 11:00 PM - 5:00 AM | 20 years old |
| Florida | 15 years | 12 months | 50 hours, 10 must be at night | 16 years | 11:00 PM - 5:00 AM (AGE 16) 1:00 AM-5:00 AM (AGE 17) | none |
| Hawaii | 15 years, 6 months | 6 months | 50 hours, 10 must be at night | 16 years | 11:00 PM - 5:00 AM | No more than one passenger under 18 years old (immediate family excluded) |
| Louisiana | 15 years | 6 months | 50 hours, 15 must be at night | 16 years | 11:00 PM - 5:00 AM | No more than one passenger under 21 years old from 6:00 PM - 5:00 AM |
| Michigan | 14 years, 9 months | 6 months | 50 hours, 10 must be at | 16 years | 10:00 PM - 5:00 AM | No more than one passenger |

| | | | | | | |
|----------------|--------------------|----------|-------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--|
| | | | night | | | under 21 years old |
| | | | | | | <i>First 6 months:</i> No more than one passenger under 18 years old. |
| Montana | 14 years, 6 months | 6 months | 50 hours, 10 must be at night | 15 years | 11:00 PM - 5:00 AM | <i>Second 6 months:</i> No more than 3 passengers under 18 years old. |
| Nevada | 15 years, 6 months | 6 months | 50 hours, 10 must be at night | 16 years | 10:00 PM - 5:00 AM | <i>First 6 months:</i> No passengers under 18 years old |
| Oklahoma | 15 years, 6 months | 6 months | 50 hours, 10 must be at night | 16 years | 10:00 PM - 5:00 AM | No more than one passenger |
| South Carolina | 15 years | 6 months | 40 hours, 10 must be at night | 15 years, 6 months | 8:00 PM - 6:00 AM | No more than 2 passengers under 21 (unless transporting students to and from school) |
| Tennessee | 15 years | 6 months | 50 hours, 10 must be at night | 16 years | 11:00 PM - 6:00 AM | No more than one passenger |

Source: (Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, 2011)

2.7.1: California

A study that used data through 2005 to examine the association of California's GDL law and fatalities involving drivers ages 16-19 found that 16 year old California drivers subjected to the GDL law experienced a motor-vehicle fatality rate 15% lower than 16 year olds did before the law took effect (Males, 2007). However, a large increase in fatalities for 18 and 19 year olds offset the 15% reduction of fatal crash involvement for 16 year olds

An earlier study (Masten & Hagge, 2004) evaluated the safety impact of several GDL enhancements made in July 1998 for drivers under age 18. This evaluation found that the GDL

program enhancements alone do not result in a significant overall reduction in teenage fatalities or crash involvement. .

Carlos et al., (2009) explored the factors influencing teen driving behavior by asking teens about their perceptions of driver education and training, and about their driving practices. The study subjects were high school seniors in Central Valley, Los Angeles. Various issues relevant to driving, including training and education, most helpful learning resources, parental expectations, and reasons for driving, were explored. Students were asked about driving with friends and whether they or their friends participated in risky behaviors while driving and, if so, if they spoke up about it. Students were also asked about their involvement in auto accidents and the circumstances. The data suggest that the graduated driver licensing laws are reducing violation rates for novice drivers, yet a fair number continue to break one or more laws. For example, 53% reported violating the driving curfew at least once.

Results also indicated that parents are a strong influence on young people's driving. Nearly half (47%) of all respondents (N=623) cited their parents as the most helpful resource that they had available while learning to drive than driver training (25%), driver education classes (11%), other relatives (5%) and friends (4%). In an open-ended question about how driver education or training could be improved, 48% indicated that teaching quality should be improved. Nearly 20% said driver education should be more practical or hands on, and more than 12% suggested changing the amount of time for training (most wanted it to be longer). Approximately 12% said the training time was okay.

However, 38.4% reported distractions by their passengers while driving. The most common distraction reported was a passenger talking, yelling, arguing, or being loud (nearly

45% of those who reported distractions). More than 22% of the teenage drivers said that they were distracted by passengers “fooling around”, “wrestling”, or otherwise behaving playfully or foolishly. In addition, more than 59% of respondents reported being passengers when a friend was driving dangerously.

When asked if they had been in any car crash as a driver, 328 teens (20.5%) responded positively. The majority of crashes occurred during daylight (63%). Speeding or reckless driving was the contributing factor most often identified (29.7%). Other contributing factors included bad weather (18%), car problems (11%), cell-phone use (11%), and alcohol or drug involvement (10%). Among additional responses about 10% said a lack of attention contributed to the crash. State data of California car crashes indicate that drivers 15-17 years old were at fault in 68% of fatal accidents.

2.7.2: Florida

Following adoption of graduated licensing in Florida, there was a decline in the crash rates of those affected by the law (15-17 year olds), while the rate for 18 year olds did not change significantly (Ulmer, Preusser, Williams, Ferguson, & Farmer, 2000). On a percentage basis, the greatest decline was among 15 year olds, followed by 16 year olds, and then 17 year olds, and the effects of graduated licensing were found to be more pronounced on nighttime than daytime crash involvements.

2.7.3: Michigan

Reductions in crash risk among 16 year olds between 1996 and 2001 were 29% for all crashes and 44% for fatal crashes (Shope & Molnar, 2004).

2.8: Geographic Peers

Geographic peer states and their GDL program restrictions are shown in Table 2.8-1, and relevant research studies are summarized.

| State | Learner Stage | | | Intermediate Stage | | |
|---------------|--------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|--|--|
| | Minimum Age | Holding Period | Supervised driving | Minimum Age | Night Restriction | Passenger Restriction |
| West Virginia | 15 years | 6 months | 50 hours, 10 must be at night | 16 years | 10:00 PM – 5:00 AM | <i>First 6 months- no passengers under 20. Second 6 months- no more than 1 passenger under 20.</i> One passenger under 20 years old unless supervised by driving instructor |
| Kentucky | 16 years | 6 months | 60 hours, 10 at night | 16 years, 6 months | 12:00 AM - 6:00 AM | <i>First 5 months:</i> No passengers younger than 18 years old |
| Maryland | 15 years, 9 months | 9 months | 60 hours, 10 at night | 16 years, 6 months | 12:00 AM - 5:00 AM | No more than one passenger unless supervised |
| Ohio | 15 years, 6 months | 6 months | 50 hours, 10 at night | 16 years | 12:00 AM - 6:00 AM (AGE 16) 1:00 AM - 5:00 AM (AGE 17) | none |
| Pennsylvania | 16 years | 6 months | 50 hours | 16 years, 6 months | 11:00 PM - 5:00 AM | <i>First 12 months:</i> One passenger under 18 <i>Thereafter: 3 passengers under 18</i> |
| Virginia | 15 years, 6 months | 9 months | 45 hours, 15 at night | 16 years, 3 months | 12:00 AM - 4:00 AM | |

Table 2.8-1: Characteristics of Geographic Peer State GDL Programs

Source: (Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, 2011)

2.8.1: Ohio

Overall, crashes in Ohio involving drivers ages 16 and 17 decreased after GDL implementation. When comparing pre-GDL and GDL groups, the crash involvement rate of the

GDL group was 23% less than that of the pre-GDL group, while the at-fault crash rate was only 1% less. Fatal crash involvement as well as at-fault fatal crash involvement was less than the pre-GDL group by 24% and 7%, respectively (Shope & Molnar, 2003).

2.8.2: Pennsylvania

In Pennsylvania, crashes and fatalities were reduced by 27% and 58% for 16-year-old drivers between 1999 when the GDL went into effect, and 2000. From 1999 to 2001, a 45% reduction in fatalities occurred (Shope & Molnar, 2003).

2.9: Demographic Peers

Demographic peer states and their GDL restrictions appear in Table 2.9-1, with relevant study findings below.

Table 2.9-1: Characteristics of Demographic Peer State GDL Programs

| State | Learner Stage | | | Intermediate Stage | | |
|---------------|--------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---|
| | Minimum Age | Holding Period | Supervised driving | Minimum Age | Night Restriction | Passenger Restriction |
| West Virginia | 15 years | 6 months | 50 hours, 10 must be at night | 16 years | 10:00 PM – 5:00 AM | First 6 months- no passengers under 20. Second 6 months- no more than 1 passenger under 20. |
| Arizona | 15 years, 6 months | 6 months | 30 hours, 10 at night | 16 years | 12:00 AM - 5:00 AM | <i>First 6 months: No more than one passenger under 18</i> |
| Colorado | 15 years | 12 months | 50 hours, 10 at night | 16 | 12:00 AM – 5:00 AM | <i>First 6 months: No passengers under 21. Second 6: only one passenger under 21</i> |
| Iowa | 14 years | 6 months | 20 hours, 2 at night | 16 years | 12:30 AM - 5:00 AM | None |
| Oregon | 15 years | 6 months | 50 hours, 0 at night | 16 years | 12:00 AM – 5:00 AM | <i>First 6 months: No passengers under 20. Second 6 months: No more than 3 passengers under 20.</i> |
| Washington | 15 years | 6 months | 50 hours, 10 at night | 16 years | 1:00 AM - 5:00 AM | <i>First 6 months: No passengers under 20. Second 6 months: No more than 3 passengers under 20</i> |

Source: (Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, 2011)

2.9.1: Iowa

After the implementation of the GDL in Iowa, a larger decrease was experienced in the crash rates of 15, 16, and 17 year old drivers than the 35 to 44 year old age group (Hallmark, Veneziano, Falb, Pawlovich, & Witt, 2007). For unknown reasons, 15 year old drivers experienced a much smaller crash decrease. However, it is speculated that the prevalence of the minor school license¹ may have been the major factor why the GDL did not reduce crashes for this specific age group

2.9.2: Washington

Since Washington's implementation of its intermediate licensing program in 2001, teenage fatalities have decreased 69% for drivers aged 16 to 19 (Figure 4.2). In addition, there have been significant reductions in collisions for 16 year olds. However, Washington's restrictions on teenage drivers fall behind the recommended national standard from Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (René Ewing & Associates, LLC, 2007).

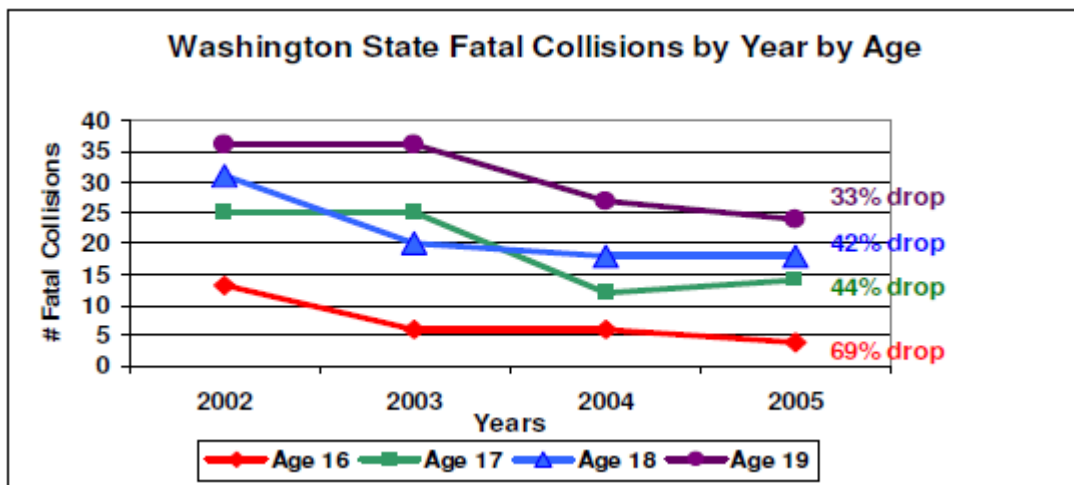


Figure4.2-2: Washington State Fatal Collisions by Year by Age (René Ewing

¹ A driver'

& Associates, LLC, 2007)

2.10: Enforcement

According to Steven Dale (2011), assistant to the Commissioner of the WV DMV, West Virginia GDL laws are primary enforcement laws and include seatbelts and cell/texting use. He explained:

The number of citations issued for GDL component infractions are low. I would tend to agree with the second part of the question that drivers are more likely to be ticketed for offenses like speeding. However, issuing tickets is not the primary objective of GDL laws in my opinion. To me, GDL laws are about behavior modification...provide parents with a blue print for what should be considered as safe behavior for young drivers. If curfews, passenger restrictions, etc. are in the Law...more parents are more likely going to provide their young drivers with rules such as be home by 10:00 PM or restricting the son or daughter from transporting classmates.

According to Dale, compliance with highway safety laws can be categorized in three groups:

- A. Persons who know and understand that not wearing seatbelts, cell phone/texting, speeding, drinking before driving, aggressive driving, and tailgating are unsafe activities, and that their chances of avoiding crashes are better if they and those with whom they travel avoid these actions.
- B. Persons who do not engage in a particular activity because they know it's against the law and, therefore, understand that the activity must be unsafe.
- C. Persons who will drive however they want, regardless of the laws.

Implicit in Dale’s remarks and suggested by the studies about California’s and Wisconsin’s (described below in section 6.0) GDL experiences, keys to GDL effectiveness include knowledge/training, positive attitudes/understanding, compliance, and enforcement. Without all four elements, optimal safety results are not likely to be attained. Therefore, to better inform our study, peer states and their enforcement policies are included in the Tables below, with compliance and awareness efforts described in the sections that follow.

2.11: Program Peer States

Program peers and their Intermediate Stage Enforcements and Fines appear in Table 2.11-1 below.

Table 2.11-1: Program Peers Component Enforcement for Intermediate Stage

| State | Unsupervised Driving Prohibited | Passenger Restriction | Safety Belt Compliance | Fine (If Listed) | Mobile Phone Use |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| West Virginia | Secondary | Secondary | Secondary | \$25.00 | Primary |
| California | Secondary | Secondary | Primary | \$144.00 | Primary |
| Hawaii | Secondary | Secondary | Primary | \$92.00 | - |
| Louisiana | Secondary | Secondary | Primary | \$25.00 | Primary |
| Florida | Secondary | Secondary | Primary | \$30.00 | - |
| Montana | Secondary | Secondary | Primary | \$20.00 | - |
| Michigan | Secondary | Secondary | Primary | \$25.00 | - |
| Nevada | Secondary | Secondary | Secondary | \$25.00 | Primary |
| Oklahoma | Secondary | Secondary | Primary | \$20.00 | Primary |
| South Carolina | Secondary | Secondary | Primary | \$25.00 | Primary |
| Tennessee | Secondary | Secondary | Primary | \$50.00 | Primary |

Source: IIHS, Governor's Highway Safety Association, 2011 Roadmap to State Highway Safety Laws

2.12: Geographic Peer States

Geographic peers and their Intermediate Stage Enforcements and Fines appear in Table 2.12-1 below.

Table 2.12-1: Geographic Peers Component Enforcement for Intermediate Stage

| West Virginia | Secondary | Secondary | Secondary | \$25.00 | Primary |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| State | Unsupervised Driving Prohibited | Passenger Restriction | Safety Belt Compliance | Fine (If Listed) | Mobile Phone Use |
| Pennsylvania | Secondary | Secondary | Secondary | \$10.00 | - |
| Maryland | Secondary | Secondary | Primary | \$25.00 | Primary |
| Virginia | Secondary | Secondary | Secondary | \$25.00 | Primary |
| Kentucky | Secondary | Secondary | Primary | \$25.00 | Primary |
| Ohio | Secondary | Secondary | Secondary | \$25.00 | - |

Source: IIHS, Governor's Highway Safety Association, 2011 Roadmap to State Highway Safety Laws

2.13: Demographic Peer States

Demographic peers and their Intermediate Stage Enforcements and Fines appear in Table 2.13-1 below.

Table 2.13-1: Demographic Peers Component Enforcement for Intermediate Stage

| West Virginia | Secondary | Secondary | Secondary | \$25.00 | Primary |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| State | Unsupervised Driving Prohibited | Passenger Restriction | Safety Belt Compliance | Fine (If Listed) | Mobile Phone Use |
| Arizona | Secondary | Secondary | Secondary | \$10.00 | - |
| Colorado | Secondary | Secondary | Secondary | \$71.00 | Primary |
| Iowa | Secondary | Secondary | Primary | \$25.00 | Primary |
| Oregon | Secondary | Secondary | Primary | \$110.00 | Primary |
| Washington | Secondary | Secondary | Primary | \$124.00 | Primary |

Source: IIHS, Governor's Highway Safety Association, 2011 Roadmap to State Highway Safety Laws

2.14: Innovative Enforcement Strategies

New Jersey has attempted to increase GDL restriction compliance through a unique law, known as Kyleigh's Law. Named after Kyleigh D'Alessio of Washington Township, NJ, a 16 year old female who was killed in a crash in which another teenager was driving, Kyleigh's Law

was signed April 15, 2009 and became effective May 1, 2010. The law requires any driver under the age of 21 who holds a permit or provisional driver license to purchase a pair of magnetic decals from the DMV (for \$4.00 a pair) and display them on the top left corner of the front and rear license plates of their vehicle to make these drivers easier to identify by police. In turn, it



Figure 2-3: The GDL identification decal used in New Jersey.

allows police to more effectively enforce GDL restrictions. Failure to display the decals can result in a fine of \$100 in addition to any other fines incurred.

Of course, this law does not come without its share of debate. Concerned parents have argued that Kyleigh's Law singles out teens for unintended identification by pedophiles and rapists. Youth rights groups are encouraging New Jersey drivers to sabotage the effectiveness of the law by having all drivers place these decals on their vehicles.

Delaware has a free, voluntary novice driver alert program that became effective on July 1, 2009. All GDL recipients may elect to place a reflective (Diamond Grade (DG3)) magnet on



Figure 2-4: Novice driver magnet used by the Delaware GDL Program

the rear of their vehicles. It is suspected that other drivers on the road will slow down and give more room to the novice driver displaying the magnet. This program is used only as an additional safety tool for new drivers and their sponsors during the GDL period.

2.15: GDL Public Awareness

Wisconsin

In the years following the implementation of the GDL in Wisconsin², there was a 15% reduction in crashes involving 16-year-old drivers. This reduction was significantly lower than the reductions experienced by other states (e.g. Michigan at 25%; North Carolina, at 27%). The variability in effectiveness could be attributed to lack of program understanding, program diversity, or noncompliance.

GDL knowledge and attitude surveys were administered to Wisconsin teen drivers and their legal guardians to determine teen and parental knowledge and perception of the Wisconsin GDL program (McIntosh, 2005). 76% of parents supported the GDL while 70% of teens disapproved. Reasons for disapproval varied between parents and teens. Parents often cited inconvenience and restrictiveness, while teens most often cited passenger restrictions. It was suggested that overall, negative attitudes, more than lack of knowledge, may weaken GDL compliance.

2.16: Innovative Public Awareness Campaigns

Nevada, Oregon, and Connecticut have worked to instill greater awareness of, understanding about, and positive attitudes toward their state's respective GDL program through concerted public awareness campaigns.

² Pre GDL years: 1997–1999; post GDL years: 1999–2003

Nevada's campaign, called *Prevent All Crashes Everyday (PACE) Program*, was implemented to encourage safe-driving habits among young drivers (15 ½ to 20 years old) and to increase awareness of seat-belt usage and the dangers of impaired and distracted driving among all drivers. The multi-platform advertising campaign included television, website, and in-program elements. In the fall of 2010, a local Las Vegas television station aired four public service campaign announcements during each of its 13 local high school football game broadcasts. In addition to the live broadcasts, the games ran an encore presentation each Saturday. Campaign signage also appeared at the playing fields and on air.

At the heart of the Oregon Driver's Education curriculum is parental involvement, and parents are required to attend a meeting as part of their teen's driver training. The Oregon Parent Involvement Resource guide was developed in 2006. Parents are provided with "The Oregon Parent Guide to Teen Driving," a resource completed through a joint partnership with the Oregon Transportation Safety Division and Driver and Motor Vehicle Services.

Parents of new drivers are presented with a folder on Parent Night, which includes a PowerPoint presentation, teacher's notes, recommended activities and demonstrations that address the parent's responsibility in parental monitoring. During the parent meeting, information is given to educate parents on risk management driving and Graduated Driver Licensing laws and restrictions. Expectations for parental involvement in the education of their novice drivers are also presented. Oregon driver's education providers reinforce safe driving practices through lesson plans and education progressions that incorporate home practice, under parental supervision. Parent/Teen contracts also are available through a variety of sources. These contracts may be used to clearly convey parental expectations as well as teen expectations.

Contracts may be used to underscore and define driving restrictions, rules, privileges, and consequences.

Connecticut is the first state to require a parent of 16 and 17 year olds to complete a two hour training course prior to licensure. The program success was evaluated in 2010 (Chaudary et al.) The topics covered and amount of time allocated to each topic is listed below in Table 2.16-1.

Table 2.16-1: CT DMV required topics and time allotment for 2-hour parent class

| Topic | Time allotment (min.) |
|---|-----------------------|
| Cognitive development | 20 |
| Risks | 15 |
| Parents role | 15 |
| Why graduated licensing? | 10 |
| What are the provisions of GDL? | 10 |
| New penalties and other provisions | 10 |
| New driver challenges and what is required to drive will | 10 |
| Solutions (follow GDL rules, seat belts, avoidance of drinking/driving) | 10 |
| Skills needed to pass behind-the-wheel driving test | 10 |
| Hazard awareness | 5 |
| Teen-parent contract | 5 |
| Four basic driving rules | 5 |

The parents and teens who participated in the program were interviewed within one year of program completion. Respondents were asked questions about their ratings of the course, how helpful they thought it was, and whether they agreed with the requirement that it be taken. The results of the parent interviews are shown below in

Table 2.16-2.

Table 2.16-2: Parent attitudes about the CT DMV course

| | Strongly agree | Somewhat agree | Somewhat disagree | Strongly disagree |
|------------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Training helped me | 41% | 43% | 8% | 7% |
| Will prevent crashes | 21% | 50% | 18% | 13% |
| Knowledgeable trainer | 82% | 15% | 2% | 1% |
| Well organized | 72% | 18% | 6% | 3% |
| Informative | 60% | 31% | 6% | 3% |
| Approve of requirement | 62% | 21% | 7% | 9% |

Parents were also surveyed about their knowledge of the GDL program and other factors that affect teen crash involvement and injury. The results of the knowledge portion of the survey are shown below in Table 2.16-3. A substantial deficiency in core GDL restrictions prior to completing the program was noted. After completing the program there was a marked increase in knowledge of the passenger restriction, night driving restriction, and GDL penalties.

Table 2.16-3: Parent knowledge of topics covered

| Topic | Topic was covered | Prior awareness of topic |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Alcohol | 98% | 99% |
| Passenger restriction | 96% | 77% |
| Night driving restriction | 96% | 71% |
| Distraction | 94% | 93% |
| Penalties | 93% | 58% |
| Teen involvement in fatal crashes | 90% | 84% |
| Brain development | 52% | 54% |
| Vehicle choice | 31% | 46% |

The positive response from the parents about program participation was clear. Paired the increased knowledge of GDL restrictions, this program is a promising complement to the GDL program.

2.17: Literature Review Summary

Based on the available research, it seems clear that GDL restrictions decrease teen accidents by limiting teenage drivers' exposure to some high risk situations early in their driving experience. However, GDL's full potential to reduce accidents and fatalities seems limited by people's knowledge, understanding, compliance, and enforcement of the laws. Therefore, an increase in both teen and parental awareness and understanding of GDL laws and rationales could help create more positive attitudes toward and voluntary compliance of its regulations.

This study seeks to add to the current GDL literature by assessing current knowledge, attitudes and behaviors of a sample of West Virginia driver's education students and their parents as well as police officers. Such information can then be used to identify gaps in knowledge and understanding of the Graduated Driver's Licensing program. Analyzing this information will allow us to identify the deficiencies in the program if they exist, and improve upon them. Additional communication between parents, driver's education instructors, and students would improve program effectiveness along with more GDL/teenage driver education for parents. Having more programs and tools available to allow parents and teens to better understand the rules and purpose of the GDL program would be beneficial to the program.

3.0: Research Approach

The success of the GDL program has been evaluated in other states; however no studies of GDL effectiveness have been conducted specifically for West Virginia. Since each state is permitted to adopt its own GDL policies with varying levels of strictness it is important that West Virginia analyzes the effectiveness of its program.

To date, most studies of GDL programs have analyzed effectiveness strictly with respect to teenage crash involvement. While crash involvement is an important factor to investigate in overall program effectiveness, another vantage point worthy of investigation is the knowledge and opinion of those most directly affected by the GDL program.

While crash involvement may vary from year to year, the reason for these variations may not necessarily be a result of new legislation. Finding out if the program is being used as it is intended will provide insight as to whether the program is responsible for the change in crash involvement as well as ways to improve program participation. A study analyzing the knowledge, compliance, and opinion of the GDL program will provide further depth and reason to the numbers. A positive attitude about the program would likely increase program involvement. This would strengthen the results of a crash study if it were to be done in the future.

Survey Development and Distribution

Surveys were developed with the intent to extract information from the students, parents, and law enforcement officers about GDL knowledge, awareness, and compliance. Surveys were distributed in paper and electronic formats, and were distributed to students and their parents

through school channels, surveys were completed on a voluntary basis, and all responses kept confidential.

Student/Parent Survey

The major objective of this study is to examine how the role and effectiveness of the GDL in the driving training of students in West Virginia. A survey was designed to assess the awareness, compliance, and opinion on enforcement of the GDL program among students and parents in West Virginia.

Awareness: To assess the awareness of the GDL a knowledge survey was developed and administered to determine if students and parents were knowledgeable about basic GDL concepts. The data collected will be used to compare student and parent knowledge, and to make insights as to who is more knowledgeable and why.

Compliance: Questions to determine whether students comply with the restrictions put in place by the GDL and if parents use the program were developed. If the GDL is deemed ineffective, it could be because people are not compliant with the program or are not using the program as it was intended by the state.

Enforcement: To determine how students and parents view the enforcement of the program. Questions about how and if the police enforce the program were developed. Information about perceptions of rules and consequences as set by the parents has also been obtained. This allows us to determine if more police action is needed or if parent education on the GDL needs to be revised.

Opinion: Suggestions for program improvement were solicited from the students and their parents. Data on teenager driving habits (destination, time of day) also have been obtained.

Juniors and seniors: Juniors and seniors were surveyed because of their experience with the program and their driving experience. Juniors and seniors along with their parents are the best source of GDL opinion since they have been through or currently involved in the GDL program.

Enforcement Survey

To determine how well the GDL is being enforced in West Virginia, a survey of law enforcement officers was also conducted. A knowledge survey tested the officers' general program knowledge, while an opinion survey was designed to solicit the opinion of those enforcing the GDL on the program's strengths and weaknesses.

Awareness: To assess the awareness of the GDL a knowledge survey was developed and administered to determine if law enforcement officers were knowledgeable about basic GDL concepts. The data collected will be used to compare program knowledge between different agencies, and to draw insight as to who is more knowledgeable and why.

Compliance: To assess teen compliance of the GDL program, law enforcement was surveyed to obtain an alternative point of view. Questions were designed to obtain the opinion of law enforcement officers on the frequency of GDL violations by teen drivers, and which restrictions particular are prone to violation.

Enforcement: In order to determine how frequently restrictions are being enforced, the police were asked directly how often citations for GDL violations were written. Since the GDL

is subject to secondary enforcement, questions were also asked about what impact changing the GDL to a primary enforcement law would have on enforcement/compliance, if any.

Opinion: Suggestions for programmatic changes to correct for potential noncompliance and barriers to enforcement of program guidelines are solicited from law enforcement. Questions regarding safety at present and the program's potential for safety improvements were raised.

Locations

Urban and rural populations were surveyed to gauge their opinions on the awareness, compliance, and enforcement of the GDL program. Their responses were compared and the differences in their responses were noted. Differences in awareness, compliance, and enforcement could implicate a difference in how the GDL is regarded between urban and rural populations.

4.1: Parent Survey Findings

Parents are intended to be the primary enforcers of the GDL program. In order for the program to operate most efficiently current parents must be knowledgeable about the program rules and restrictions. Ninety of parents of current high school juniors and seniors from urban and rural regions in West Virginia participated in this survey of the Graduated Driver Licensing program. Only forty-six percent of parents had heard of the GDL program, while the remaining fifty-four percent did not know about the program or were unsure if they had heard of it before.

Do parents know of the GDL

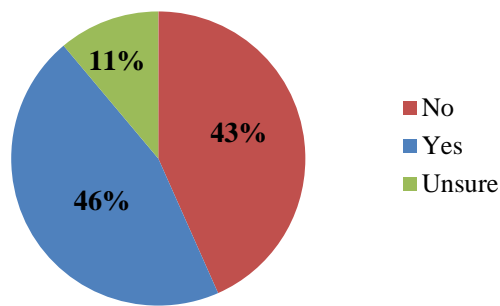


Figure 4-1: Parents who have heard of the GDL Program

Of the parents who heard of the GDL approximately twenty-nine percent had heard about it through DMV literature; the same amount of parents were unsure or could not remember from where they heard of the GDL program. Nineteen percent of parents heard about the GDL program from their son or daughter.

A five question survey was distributed to the parents of high school juniors and seniors who are currently or have recently been under the Graduated Driver Licensing program. This survey was designed to test the parent’s knowledge of the most elementary components of the

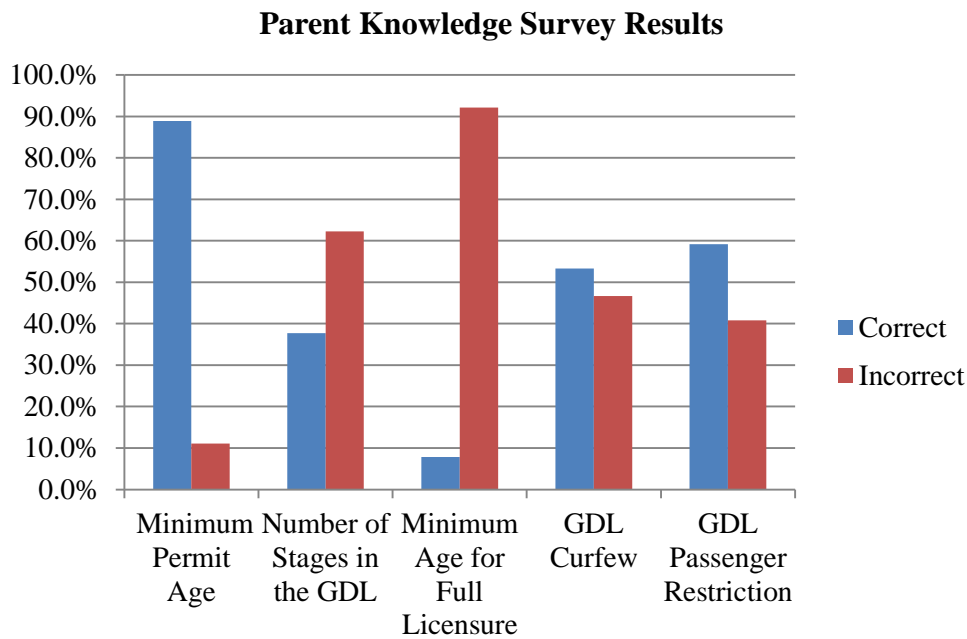


Figure 4-2: Parent Knowledge Survey Results

GDL.

Just under ninety percent of parents knew the minimum age which their son/daughter could obtain a permit to operate a vehicle, however ninety-two percent of parents did not know at what age their son/daughter could obtain their full operator’s license. Fewer than sixty percent of parents were knowledgeable of the GDL curfew and passenger restrictions, which have a large impact on the program’s success or failure.

Trips taken most often by students, according to parents are school related, either driving to and from classes or other school sponsored extracurricular activities. Academic trips were followed by social trips. A surprisingly low number of trips were associated with household

activities. Parents allow their children to drive to and from their academic and extracurricular activities. These activities begin and end at a time of day where if the parents were required to pick up their students at these times would create a large discord in their daily activities, such as arriving to work late, leaving early, or driving to pick up their son/daughter when their time could be spent doing other things.

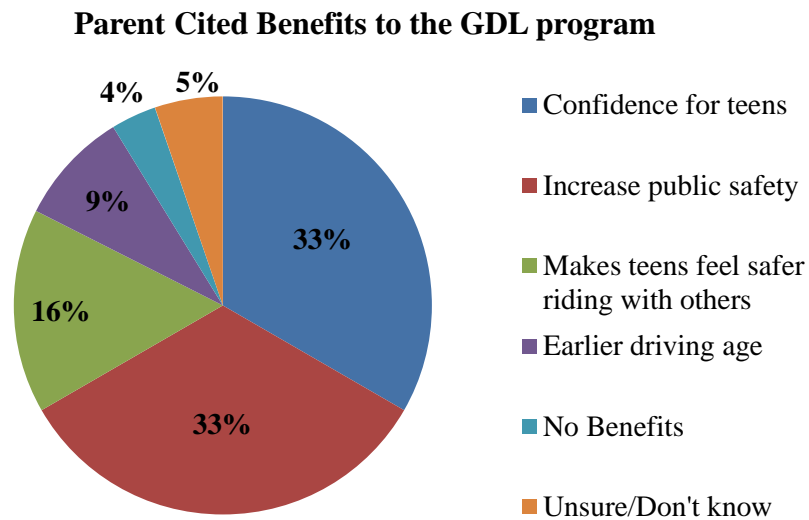


Figure 4-3: Parent Cited Benefits to the GDL program

About fifty-four percent of parents believe that teenage drivers violate the GDL curfew and passenger restrictions frequently. Parents have cited that the most often violated restriction by teen drivers is the passenger restriction, followed closely by mobile phone use and the curfew restriction. A majority of parents believe that the police rarely or never enforce the restrictions associated with the Graduated Driver Licensing program. The most common way to improve the GDL program cited by parents is to increase police enforcement and penalties. Many parents believe that the GDL program is not a substitute for school driver’s education courses and training programs. This indicates that parents believe that if law enforcement officers enforced the restrictions associated with the GDL fewer teen drivers would violate the restrictions.

Fifty-six percent of parents believe that the GDL program is a very fair program, while thirty-four percent believe that it is not very fair. Fifty-five percent of parents believe that the GDL program increases safety, thirty-six percent do not believe that the program increases safety. A majority of parents believe that the GDL raises teen driver confidence and increases public safety.

Sixty-two percent of parents cited that their son/daughter drives most often between the hours of 3:00 PM and 6:59 PM; seventy-one percent of parents state that they use the GDL to restrict their son/daughter's driving while twenty-three percent of parents do not and six percent only use it some of the time.

Many parents impose additional restrictions on their child's driving, the most common being that their son/daughter must report their destination and obtain permission before driving. Parents also want their child to report expected return times and place limitations on their travel during severe weather conditions. The consequences for when a teen driver violates his or her parent's restrictions are varied. The most common of these consequences is limited driving.

Most often violated GDL restriction as cited by parents

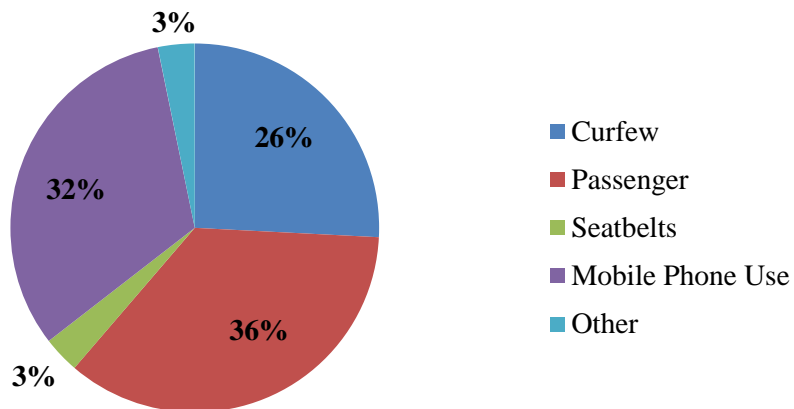


Figure 4-4: Parent cited GDL violations

This seems to imply that having driver other than a parent in the household is convenient for the parents, and by suspending their teen’s driving entirely would create an additional burden for them.

4.2: Student Survey Findings

Student surveys were distributed through schools. Over 400 student responses were collected. The survey was designed to gage student’s opinions on program compliance, fairness, and effectiveness. Suggestions for program improvement were also requested from students participating in the surveys.

Student knowledge of the Graduated Driver’s Licensing program was lower than expected with only fifty-three percent of students reporting that they had heard of the program.

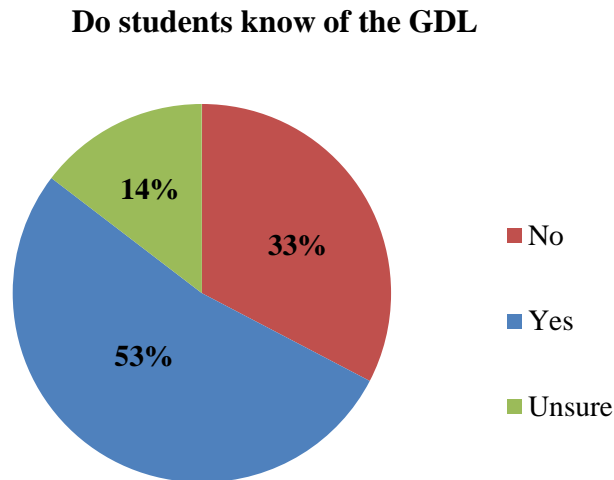


Figure 4-5: Students who know of the GDL program

With respect to specific provisions of the GDL program, students were far more knowledgeable about the minimum permit age and restrictions than they were about the number of stages in the GDL program or the minimum age for full licensure. Students were more knowledgeable about aspect of the program that initially affected their ability to drive and the

restrictions placed on their driving after they were permitted to do so. Students were less knowledgeable about subsequent aspects of the program that was not inherently important in their ability to drive. This indicates that students are more concerned about obtaining the privilege to drive than they are about the rules that affect their ability to maintain that concession.

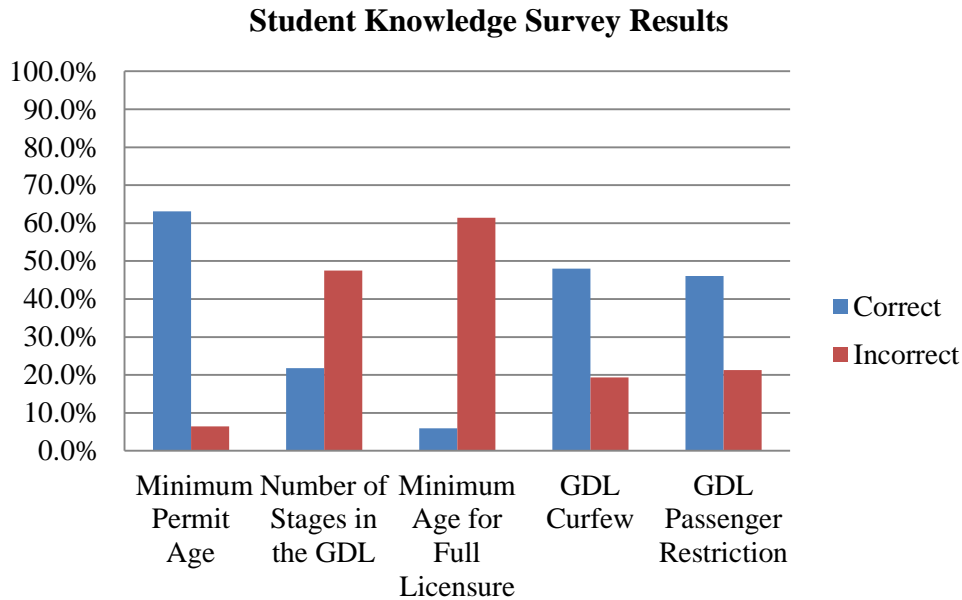


Figure 4-6: Student GDL Knowledge Survey Results

The largest benefit of the program cited by the students is the increased confidence and that the program increases public safety. Only six percent of student drivers see no benefits to the GDL program. Twenty-four percent of students said that decreasing insurance rates for non-offenders would improve the GDL program. Seventeen percent of students said that more GDL education for students would improve the program while only nine percent of students thought that the parents needed more GDL education. Seventeen percent of students wanted more GDL education for students and nineteen percent of students wanted more police enforcement and penalties. Many students see a positive impact in the GDL program. The students show stronger desire to incentivize the program than parents do, however students indicate that more police

enforcement and penalties are needed for GDL offenders, and an increase in GDL education would also improve the program.

Thirty-seven percent of students said that their most frequent reason for driving was for a social trip. Thirty-two percent cited household related trips. Thirty-five percent of trips were academic related. Very few students cited work trips as their reason for driving. A relatively even distribution of students cited school, social, and household trips as the reason for their driving.

Table 4.2-1: Student Reported: Additional restrictions imposed on students by parents

| Restrictions | Student |
|--|---------|
| Must report destination | 42% |
| Permission before driving | 39% |
| Limits on travel during severe weather | 37% |
| Must report expected time of return | 30% |
| Must report passengers | 28% |
| Limits on time of day | 22% |
| No restrictions | 18% |
| Limits on distance traveled | 14% |
| Limits on roads traveled | 11% |
| Other | 2% |

Eighteen percent of students say their parents impose no additional restrictions on their driving. The most frequently cited restriction is the students must report their destination to their parents. An additional table of student reported restrictions is listed Table 4.2-1.

The most often violated GDL restriction as cited by the student drivers is mobile phone use followed by the seatbelt restriction. The seatbelt requirements and curfew restrictions seem to be violated less frequently, but are still perceived to be violated by more than fifteen percent

of teen drivers. This could be a reason for wanting more police enforcement by increasing police enforcement, the effectiveness of the GDL program may be increased.

Most often violated GDL restriction cited by students

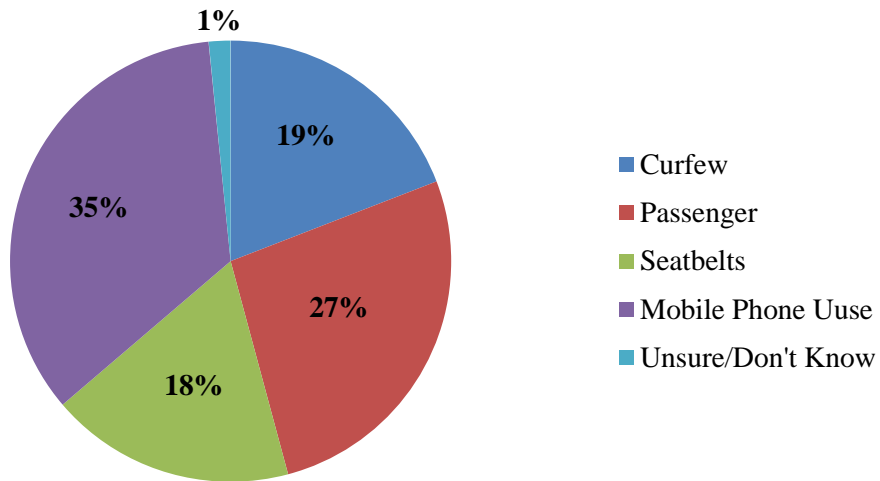


Figure 4-7: Student Cited GDL Violations

4.3: Enforcement Survey Findings

Over 100 West Virginia law enforcement officers were surveyed for this study, sixty-seven percent of respondents have been police officers for over ten years. Eighty-two percent of respondents have heard of the GDL. Twelve percent have not, and six percent were unsure.

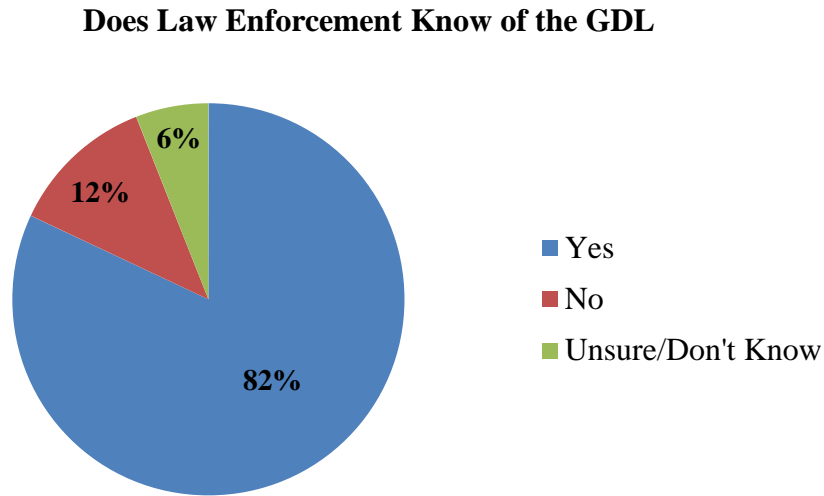


Figure 4-8: Law Enforcement officers who know of GDL program

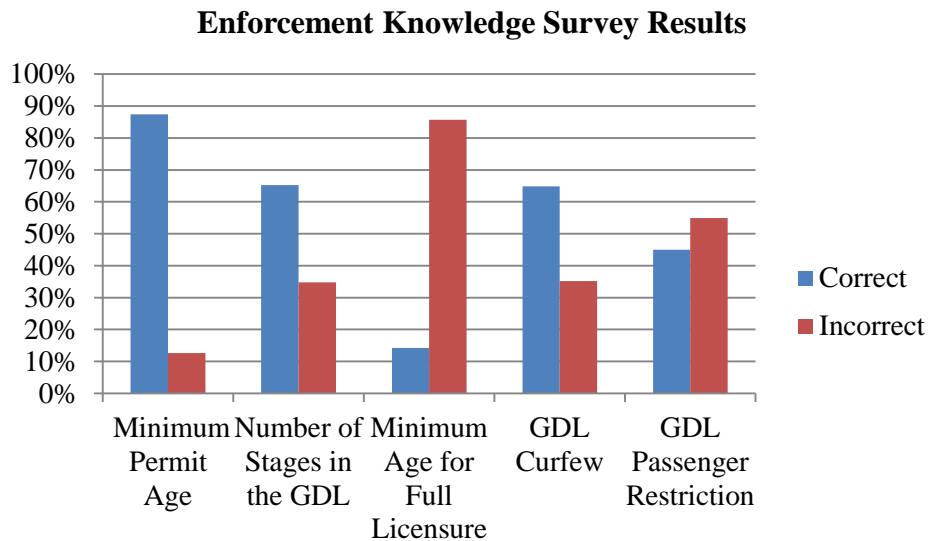


Figure 4-9: Law Enforcement Officer Knowledge Survey Results

Almost all officers were aware of the minimum age for a teen to obtain a learners permit. Fewer officers knew of the number of stages in the program and hardly any knew what the minimum age for full licensure was. Less than 60% of officers knew the parameters of the curfew and passenger restrictions.

Seventy-eight percent of police officers believe that the curfew restriction is violated by teen drivers frequently. Seventy-six percent believe that the passenger restrictions are violated frequently. Despite these large percentages only three percent of officers surveyed stated that they frequently issue curfew citations and two percent frequently issue passenger citations.

Sixty-five percent of the officers surveyed believe that the GDL program increases safety. Some officers went on to specify that the GDL has the potential to increase safety if students and parents adhere to the program.

Many officers would leave the GDL the way it is, or make it stricter only four percent of respondents would like to see the GDL become less strict. Officers would like to see an increase in parental awareness. Suggestions from officers also included; increased police officer training on how to enforce the law, decals placed on the vehicles of those under the GDL, and educating the public about the GDL and why it is in place.

Seventy-three percent of officers believe the GDL should be subject to primary enforcement, indicating that they believe that if the GDL were subject to primary enforcement, it would increase safety.

The police officers were asked to select the single best way to improve GDL compliance. Thirty-one percent cited an increase in parent GDL education; twenty-three percent cited more police enforcement. Other unique suggestions were increase GDL education for the students

who violate the GDL and their parents. This suggestion would be very useful and would likely increase the effectiveness of the GDL program if more police enforcement were available. However, since the amount of police enforcement is perceived to be low the practicality of implementing this suggestion is minimal at best.

The data collected from law enforcement officers seems to indicate that they view the GDL as an important issue, however due to how difficult the program is to enforce and the lack of parental knowledge and involvement the program is not as effective as it could be. If programs could be put in place to increase parental involvement or make program restrictions easier to enforce for police officers the GDL program will likely increase safety in West Virginia.

A possible explanation for why GDL restrictions are violated is parents are more concerned about speeding/safety than their child being past curfew. It is understandable that there are occasions where a teen driver may lose track of time while they are out, and in this instance a parents concern would be their child arrive home as soon as possible but safely regardless of the time that has elapsed since the curfew. However, the perceived frequency of curfew violations as indicated by the participants of this survey indicate that curfew is violated more often than it should be.

Police officers believe the GDL increases safety, but have issues with enforcing it. They admit that the program is not enforced well and state why. Many GDL violations occur when the officer is busy with other things (DUIs, non-traffic violations). With the low rate of program enforcement it makes sense that there is a low rate of GDL compliance.

Benefits of the program as cited by all parties surveyed are increased confidence for teen drivers and increased public safety. However, if the program is not being complied with it is very difficult to see how the GDL is actually increasing public safety. By having this program in place but it not being complied with we are putting a bunch of overly confident teen drivers behind the wheel with minimal enforcement and repercussion while they violate program restrictions.

5.0: Conclusions and Recommendations

The goal of the GDL is to keep teen driving independent but restricted, allowing teens to gain experience without the direct supervision of parents in as much of a controlled environment as possible. Parents are still the first line of enforcement of the GDL program and are instrumental to increasing the safety of teenage drivers, and need to be more involved, informed, and aware of the GDL and the realities teen driver behavior. Very few parents were knowledgeable about the GDL program rules and restrictions.

While many parents use the GDL program to limit their son/daughter's driving the gaps in knowledge and the frequency of perceived GDL violations do not indicate that the program is being used at its most optimal level. Based on the lack of knowledge about the GDL program and educational program would be beneficial to student and parent knowledge and subsequently to program compliance. Increasing student and parent education and understanding of the GDL and developing a program to be used as a tool for communicating the expectations of parents and students for driving rules and responsibilities.

According to police officers the GDL program is difficult to enforce without primary enforcement, police officers see a lot of GDL violations but cannot enforce the law due to limited staffing and difficulty identifying those who are under the restrictions of the GDL. To attempt to address this issue it is recommended that the West Virginia DOH look into a way that the GDL could be enforced as a primary law as it is in New Jersey.

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Student Survey

Thank you for participating in this study of the West Virginia Graduated Driver's Licensing Program. Your GDL experiences and attitudes are very important to us. Please know that your participation is strictly voluntary, and you may skip any question or quit the survey at any time. The survey should take approximately 10 minutes to complete, and all responses will remain anonymous. Therefore, do NOT put your name on this form.

Please select the responses that most accurately reflect your opinion. All responses will remain anonymous.

1. How long have you been a resident of West Virginia?
 - a. Less than a year
 - b. 1 to 3 years
 - c. 4 to 15 years
 - d. 6 to 10 years
 - e. more than 10 years
2. Have you heard of West Virginia's Graduated Driver's License (GDL) program?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Unsure/Don't Know (If you answered NO or Unsure/Don't know, you may stop the survey now)
3. If yes, where did you first hear about it?
 - a. From a high school teacher
 - b. From a son or daughter
 - c. From a friend, relative or neighbor
 - d. From Dept. of Motor Vehicles literature
 - e. From local media (television, newspaper or radio)
 - f. From social media (Facebook, My Space, Twitter)
 - g. Somewhere else (please specify _____)
 - h. Don't know/Can't recall
4. What is the youngest age one may apply for a learner's permit?
 - a. 14
 - b. 15
 - c. 16
 - d. 17
 - e. Unsure/Don't know
5. How many driving stages make up the GDL program?
 - a. 1
 - b. 2
 - c. 3
 - d. 4
 - e. Unsure/Don't know

6. What is the youngest age in which one is eligible for full driving/operator privileges?

- a. 15
- b. 16
- c. 17
- d. 18
- e. Unsure/Don't know

7. What is the night time driving restriction for the GDL in WV?

“No unsupervised driving between the hours of _____”

- a. 9:00 PM and 6:00 AM
- b. 10:00 PM and 5:00 AM
- c. Midnight and 5:00 AM
- d. Sunset to Sunrise
- e. Unsure/Don't know

8. What is the passenger restriction under the GDL?

- a. During the first 6 months, no passengers under 20 years old. During the second 6 months, one passenger under 20 years old.
- b. One passenger under 20 years old for the duration of the intermediate stage.
- c. No passengers.
- d. As many passengers as there are safety belts.
- e. Unsure/Don't know

9. At what age did you begin driving?

- a. 14 or younger
- b. 15
- c. 16
- d. 17
- e. 18 or older
- f. Not yet driving
- g. Don't know/not sure

10. Please select the response that best reflects how often you drive for each of the following activities.

| | Never | Sometimes | Often | Very Often | Unsure/Don't Know |
|---|-------|-----------|-------|------------|-------------------|
| Household/Family related | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Social (Recreational) | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Work (Commuting) | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| School (Academic) | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| School (Athletics / extracurricular activities) | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Other (Please specify) _____ | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

| | Never | Sometimes | Frequently | Always | Unsure/ Don't Know |
|---|--|-----------|------------|--------|-----------------------|
| How often do you believe WV teenagers violate the GDL curfew restrictions ? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| How often do you believe WV teenagers violate the GDL passenger restrictions ? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| How often do you believe police enforce night driving restrictions ? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| How often do you believe police enforce the passenger restrictions ? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Do you believe the GDL law is fair? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Do your parents use the GDL to enforce restrictions on your driving? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes | | | | |
| Do you believe the GDL law increases safety? (Please check only one) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure/Don't know Comments: _____ _____ | | | | |
| In your opinion, what are the benefits of the GDL? (Please select all that apply) | <input type="checkbox"/> Helps teens gain confidence before assuming full driving responsibilities <input type="checkbox"/> Increases public safety <input type="checkbox"/> Makes teens feel safer when riding with other teens <input type="checkbox"/> Allows teens to start driving at an earlier age <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> I see no benefits of the program <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure/Don't know | | | | |
| What restriction of the GDL do you believe is violated most often ? (Please check only one) | <input type="checkbox"/> Curfew <input type="checkbox"/> Passenger <input type="checkbox"/> Seatbelts <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Phone use <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please specify) _____ | | | | |
| Please indicate the time of day you do the most driving. (Please check only one) | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 am - 9:59 am <input type="checkbox"/> 10 am - 2:59 pm <input type="checkbox"/> 3 pm - 6:59 pm <input type="checkbox"/> 7 pm - 10:59 pm <input type="checkbox"/> After 11 pm | | | | |
| Which of the following restrictions do your parents impose on your driving? (Please check all that apply) | <input type="checkbox"/> Must always get permission before driving <input type="checkbox"/> Must report destination <input type="checkbox"/> Must report expected return time <input type="checkbox"/> Must report passengers <input type="checkbox"/> Limits on roads traveled (for example; no driving on the interstate) <input type="checkbox"/> Limits on distance traveled <input type="checkbox"/> Limits on travel during severe weather | | | | |

| | |
|---|---|
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Limits on time of day <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> No restrictions |
| <p>If you were to break your parent's driving rules, what would be the consequences? (Please check all that apply)</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> Warning/Lecture <input type="checkbox"/> Grounded/Punished <input type="checkbox"/> Limited driving <input type="checkbox"/> No driving <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure/Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Nothing/No consequences |
| <p>What do you believe is the best way to improve GDL compliance? (Please check only one answer)</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> More police enforcement/penalties <input type="checkbox"/> More GDL education for students <input type="checkbox"/> More GDL education for parents <input type="checkbox"/> More severe penalties by parents <input type="checkbox"/> Peer pressure/influence <input type="checkbox"/> Increase insurance rates for offenders <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease insurance rates for non-offenders <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure/Don't know |
| <p>If you could make changes to the GDL law, what would they be? (Please specify)</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> I would make it more strict by: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> I would make it less strict by: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> I would leave it the way that it is <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure/Don't know |
| <p>Do you believe the GDL law is a substitute for Driver's Education in schools? (Please check only one)</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know/Unsure |
| <p>Please provide additional comments you'd like to share about your experience with the WV GDL.</p> | |

Parent Survey

Thank you for participating in this study of the West Virginia Graduated Driver's Licensing Program. Your GDL experiences and attitudes are very important to us. Please know that your participation is strictly voluntary, and you may skip any question or quit the survey at any time. The survey should take approximately 10 minutes to complete, and all responses will remain anonymous. Therefore, do NOT put your name on this form.

Please select the responses that most accurately reflect your opinion. All responses will remain anonymous.

1. Have you heard of West Virginia's Graduated Driver's License (GDL) program?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Unsure/Don't Know (If you answered NO or Unsure/Don't know, you may stop the survey now)

2. If yes, where did you first hear about it?
 - a. From a high school teacher
 - b. From a son or daughter
 - c. From a friend, relative or neighbor
 - d. From Dept. of Motor Vehicles literature
 - e. From local media (television, newspaper or radio)
 - f. From social media (Facebook, My Space, Twitter)
 - g. Somewhere else (please specify _____)
 - h. Don't know/Can't recall

3. What is the youngest age one may apply for a learner's permit?
 - a. 14
 - b. 15
 - c. 16
 - d. 17
 - e. Unsure/Don't know

4. How many driving stages make up the GDL program?
 - a. 1
 - b. 2
 - c. 3
 - d. 4
 - e. Unsure/Don't know

5. What is the youngest age in which one is eligible for full driving/operator privileges?
 - a. 15
 - b. 16
 - c. 17
 - d. 18
 - e. Unsure/Don't know

6. What is the night time driving restriction for the GDL in WV?
 “No unsupervised driving between the hours of _____”
- 9:00 PM and 6:00 AM
 - 10:00 PM and 5:00 AM
 - Midnight and 5:00 AM
 - Sunset to Sunrise
 - Unsure/Don’t know
7. What is the passenger restriction under the GDL?
- During the first 6 months, no passengers under 20 years old. During the second 6 months, one passenger under 20 years old.
 - One passenger under 20 years old for the duration of the intermediate stage.
 - No passengers.
 - As many passengers as there are safety belts.
 - Unsure/Don’t know
8. At what age did your oldest son/daughter begin driving?
- 14 or younger
 - 15
 - 16
 - 17
 - 18 or older
 - Is not yet driving
 - Unsure/Don’t know
9. If you have more than one son/daughter driving, at what age did your youngest son/daughter begin driving?
- 14 or younger
 - 15
 - 16
 - 17
 - 18 or older
 - Is not yet driving
 - Unsure/Don’t know

If you have more than one son/daughter driving please answer these questions with respect to your youngest licensed driver.

10. Please select the response that best reflects how often your child drives for each of the following activities.

| | Never | Sometimes | Often | Very Often | Unsure/Don’t Know |
|---|-------|-----------|-------|------------|-------------------|
| Household/Family related | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Social (Recreational) | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Work (Commuting) | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| School (Academic) | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| School (Athletics / extracurricular activities) | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Other (Please specify) _____ | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

| | Never | Sometimes | Frequently | Always | Unsure/Don't Know |
|--|---|-----------|------------|--------|-------------------|
| How often do you believe your WV teenagers violate the GDL curfew restrictions ? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| How often do you believe WV teenagers violate the GDL passenger restrictions ? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| How often do you believe police enforce GDL night driving restrictions ? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| How often do you believe police enforce the GDL passenger restrictions ? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Do you believe the GDL law is fair? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Do you believe the GDL law increases safety? (Please check only one) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure/Don't know Comments: _____ _____ | | | | |
| In your opinion, what are the benefits of the GDL? (Please check all that apply) | <input type="checkbox"/> Helps me gain confidence in my son/daughter before they assume full driving responsibilities <input type="checkbox"/> Increases public safety <input type="checkbox"/> Makes me feel safer when my son/daughter is riding with other teens <input type="checkbox"/> Allows teens to start driving at an earlier age <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> I see no benefits to the program <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure/Don't know | | | | |
| What restriction of the GDL do you believe is violated most often ? (Please check only one) | <input type="checkbox"/> Curfew <input type="checkbox"/> Passenger <input type="checkbox"/> Seatbelts <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Phone use <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure/Don't know | | | | |
| Please indicate the time of day your son/daughter does the most driving. (Please check only one) | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 am - 9:59 am <input type="checkbox"/> 10 am - 2:59 pm <input type="checkbox"/> 3 pm - 6:59 pm <input type="checkbox"/> 7 pm - 10:59 pm <input type="checkbox"/> After 11 pm | | | | |
| Do you use the GDL to enforce rules on your son/daughters driving? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes | | | | |

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>Which of the following additional restrictions do you impose on your son/daughter? (Please select all that apply)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Must always get permission before driving <input type="checkbox"/> Must report destination <input type="checkbox"/> Must report expected return time <input type="checkbox"/> Must report passengers <input type="checkbox"/> Limits on roads traveled (for example; no driving on the interstate) <input type="checkbox"/> Limits on distance traveled <input type="checkbox"/> Limits on travel during severe weather <input type="checkbox"/> Limits on time of day <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> No restrictions |
| <p>If your son/daughter were to break any of your driving rules, what would be the consequences? (Please select all that apply)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Warning/Lecture <input type="checkbox"/> Grounded/Punished <input type="checkbox"/> Limited driving <input type="checkbox"/> No driving <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure/Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Nothing/No consequences |
| <p>What do you believe is the best way to improve GDL compliance? (Please check only one)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> More police enforcement/penalties <input type="checkbox"/> More GDL education for students <input type="checkbox"/> More GDL education for parents <input type="checkbox"/> More severe penalties by parents <input type="checkbox"/> Peer pressure/influence <input type="checkbox"/> Increase insurance rates for offenders <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease insurance rates for non-offenders <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure/Don't know |
| <p>If you could make changes to the GDL program, what would they be? (Please specify)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> I would make it more strict by: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> I would make it less strict by: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> I would leave it the way that it is <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure/Don't know |
| <p>Do you believe the GDL law is a substitute for Driver's Education in schools? (Please check only one)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure/Don't know |

11. How long have you been a resident of West Virginia?

- a. Less than 1 year
- b. 1-5 years
- c. 6-10 years
- d. 11-15 years
- e. More than 15 years

12. What is your current age?

- a. Under 35
- b. 35 to 44
- c. 45 to 54
- d. 55 to 64
- e. 65 or older

13. Number of children in your household? _____

14. Marital Status? Single Married Separated

Please provide additional comments you'd like to share about your experience with the WV GDL.

Enforcement Surveys

Thank you for participating in this study of the West Virginia Graduated Driver's Licensing Program. Your GDL experiences and attitudes are very important to us. Please know that your participation is strictly voluntary, and you may skip any question or quit the survey at any time. The survey should take approximately 10 minutes to complete, and all responses will remain anonymous. Therefore, do NOT put your name on this form.

Please select the responses that most accurately reflect your opinion. All responses will remain anonymous.

1. How long have you been a police officer?
 - a. Less than a year
 - b. 1 to 3 years
 - c. 4 to 15 years
 - d. 6 to 10 years
 - e. more than 10 years
2. Have you heard of West Virginia's Graduated Driver's License (GDL) program?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Unsure/Don't Know (If you answered NO or Unsure/Don't know, you may stop the survey now)
3. What is the youngest age one may apply for a learner's permit?
 - a. 14
 - b. 15
 - c. 16
 - d. 17
 - e. Unsure/Don't know
4. How many driving stages make up the GDL program?
 - a. 1
 - b. 2
 - c. 3
 - d. 4
 - e. Unsure/Don't know
5. What is the youngest age in which one is eligible for full driving/operator privileges?
 - a. 15
 - b. 16
 - c. 17
 - d. 18
 - e. Unsure/Don't know
6. What is the night time driving restriction for the GDL in WV?
"No unsupervised driving between the hours of _____"
 - a. 9:00 PM and 6:00 AM
 - b. 10:00 PM and 5:00 AM
 - c. Midnight and 5:00 AM
 - d. Sunset to Sunrise
 - e. Unsure/Don't know

7. What is the passenger restriction under the GDL?
- During the first 6 months, no passengers under 20 years old. During the second 6 months, one passenger under 20 years old.
 - One passenger under 20 years old for the duration of the intermediate stage.
 - No passengers.
 - As many passengers as there are safety belts.
 - Unsure/Don't know

| | Never | Sometimes | Frequently | Unsure/Don't Know |
|--|---|-----------|------------|-------------------|
| How often do you believe the GDL curfew restrictions are being violated? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| How often do you believe the GDL passenger restrictions are being violated? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| How often do you issue citations for GDL night driving restrictions ? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| How often do you issue citations for GDL passenger restrictions ? | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Do you believe the GDL law increases safety? (Please check only one) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure/Don't know Comments: _____ _____ | | | |
| If you could make changes to the GDL program, what would they be? (Please specify) | <input type="checkbox"/> I would make it more strict by: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> I would make it less strict by: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> I would leave it the way that it is <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure/Don't know | | | |
| What do you believe is the most frequently cited moving violation for teenage drivers? (Please check only one) | <input type="checkbox"/> Failure to yield <input type="checkbox"/> Speeding <input type="checkbox"/> Aggressive Driving <input type="checkbox"/> Failure to obey a traffic control device <input type="checkbox"/> DUI <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____ | | | |
| What do you believe are the most significant barriers to enforcing GDL restrictions? (Please check all that apply) | <input type="checkbox"/> Difficult to determine who is under restrictions <input type="checkbox"/> Secondary law <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied with more serious motor vehicle violations <input type="checkbox"/> Not established as a priority in our agency <input type="checkbox"/> Staffing/limited resources <input type="checkbox"/> There are no barriers <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure/Don't know <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____ | | | |
| Do you believe the GDL should be subject to primary enforcement? (Please check only one) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure/Don't know | | | |
| If the law were subject to primary enforcement, do you believe it would increase safety? (Please check only one) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure/Don't know | | | |

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>In your opinion, what are the benefits of the GDL? (Please check all that apply)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Helps teenagers gain confidence before they assume full driving responsibilities <input type="checkbox"/> Increases public safety <input type="checkbox"/> Allows teens to start driving at an earlier age <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> I see no benefits to the program <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure/Don't know |
| <p>What GDL restriction do you believe is violated most often? (Please check only one)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Curfew <input type="checkbox"/> Passenger <input type="checkbox"/> Seatbelts <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Phone use <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure/Don't know |
| <p>Please indicate the time of day GDL violations most frequently occur. (Please check only one)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 6 am - 9:59 am <input type="checkbox"/> 10 am - 2:59 pm <input type="checkbox"/> 3 pm - 6:59 pm <input type="checkbox"/> 7 pm - 10:59 pm <input type="checkbox"/> After 11 pm |
| <p>What do you believe is the best way to improve GDL compliance? (Please check only one)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> More police enforcement/penalties <input type="checkbox"/> More GDL education for students <input type="checkbox"/> More GDL education for parents <input type="checkbox"/> More severe penalties by parents <input type="checkbox"/> Peer pressure/influence <input type="checkbox"/> Increase insurance rates for offenders <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease insurance rates for non-offenders <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____ |
| <p>Please provide additional comments you'd like to share about your experience with the WV GDL.</p> | |