

# Boost Your State GDL

## Recommendation:

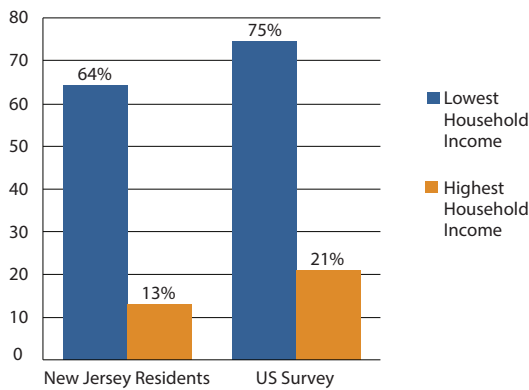
Extend Age Requirement for Intermediate License Phase of Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) to Age 21

Research from The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety indicate a significant and constant number of teens are not benefiting from GDL because they delay licensure until after age 18— the age when most states' GDL requirements end. **About one-third of all drivers are not licensed by age 18. By age 21, about 20 percent of all young adults are still not licensed.**

Using very different methods and data sources, CHOP and AAA both found similar results for the timing and age of licensure among young people as captured in the New Jersey Licensing System in 2006-2011 for 17- to 20-year-olds (CHOP) and as reported by 1,039 18- to 20-year-old young adults in a 2012 national survey (AAA).

### Delayed Licensure Is Related to Income Disparities

**% Not Licensed by 18th Birthday**

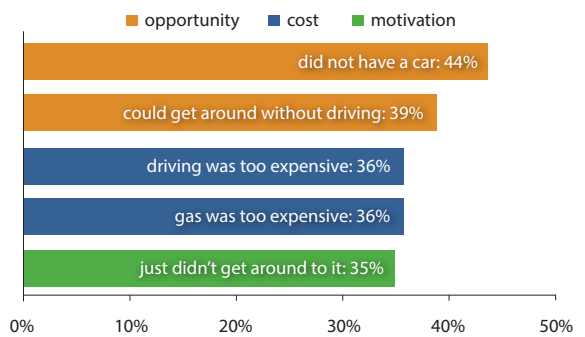


- In New Jersey, 64% percent of teens in the lowest income areas are not licensed by age 18. Conversely, only 13% of teens in the highest income areas are not licensed by age 18. Nationally, 75% of 18- to 20-year-olds with low household incomes are not licensed by age 18, compared to 21% of those with high household incomes.
- In New Jersey, among those living in the lowest income zip codes: Only 13% are licensed within one month of turning 17; 36% are licensed by age 18; and 61% are licensed by age 21.
- Nationally, there are important racial/ethnic differences. A majority (67 percent) of Non-Hispanic white teens but a minority of Non-Hispanic black teens (37 percent) and Hispanic teens (29 percent) are licensed by age 18.

Sources: Young Driver Licensing in New Jersey, 2014; Timing of Driver's License Acquisition...Among Young People in the United States, 2012. Both AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety.

### Teens Delay Licensure for Economic Reasons

**% Who Rated Item Very or Somewhat Important**

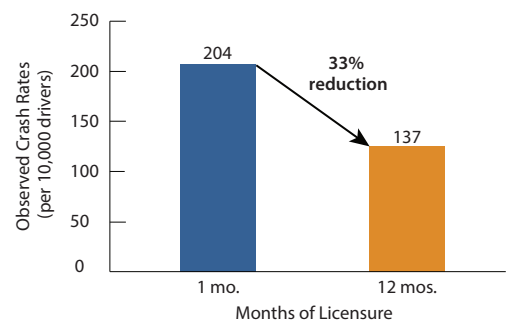


- Nationally, among those unlicensed at their 18th birthday, reasons for delay are related to opportunity, cost and motivation.
- Less than 1 in 4 teens cite special GDL requirements for young drivers as reasons.
- In New Jersey, there have been similar rates of licensure from 2006-2011— despite a recession and changes to GDL during this period. These rates are similar to licensing rates reported from a survey of New Jersey high school students 30 years ago.

Sources: AAA, 2013; AAA, 2014; Accident Analysis and Prevention, 1985.

### Experience Still Matters for Older Teen Drivers

**Crash Rates for NJ Drivers Licensed at Age 18**



- In New Jersey— where full GDL applies to all novice drivers under age 21— crash rates among teens licensed at age 18 are 33% lower after 12 months of driving as compared to their crash rates after one month of driving.
- Teens licensed at 17 years 0 months who had been driving for a year had crash rates 25 to 36% lower than the initial crash rates for newly-licensed 18-year-old drivers.
- Relative to adult drivers, crash rates among New Jersey's 17- and 18-year-old drivers decreased significantly after implementation of that state's GDL system in 2001.

Sources: Young Driver Crash Rates By Driving Experience, Age, and License Phase, AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, 2014; Traffic Injury Prevention, 2010.

## Boosting Your State's GDL Effectiveness:

By extending age requirements to protect older novice drivers, more teens will benefit from GDL's phased approach to licensure. In this process, teens are gradually exposed to high-risk driving conditions after gaining experience under less risky driving conditions. GDL is the only intervention proven effective in reducing fatal crashes among young drivers.

### Support For Extending Age Requirements for Intermediate Licenses

- Nationally, youth support a minimum age for an Intermediate License– 58 percent selected 17 or older. They also support a minimum age for a Full License without special restrictions: 87 percent selected at least age 17, of those teens 61 percent said 18 or older.
- 77 percent of New Jersey 17- to 19-year-olds approve of their state's GDL age requirements.
- Nationally, more than half of parents believe the minimum Full Licensing age should be 17 or older.

Sources: AAA, 2013; IIHS, 2010; Journal of Safety Research, 2014.

## Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) Provisions

Stages of GDL	MAP-21 Recommended Provisions*	Boost Your GDL**
Learner's Permit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Apply to any novice driver under 21 years of age</li> <li>- Minimum 6 month holding period; does not expire before age 16</li> <li>- Pass vision and knowledge tests</li> <li>- Adult licensed driver (at least 21 years old) must supervise new driver at all times</li> <li>- Minimum 40 hours of behind-the-wheel training (with a licensed driver who is at least 21 years of age, including 10 hours at night)</li> <li>- No use of personal wireless communications device while driving</li> <li>- Driver education and testing should be integrated into GDL</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Require a GDL vehicle identifier/decal</li> <li>- Require more diversity of supervised driving practice environments as well as varied conditions</li> <li>- Increase access to and affordability of DE/Training options</li> </ul>
Intermediate License	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Completed a Learner's Permit stage, passed driving skills test, and is conviction free for prior consecutive 6 months</li> <li>- Minimum 6 month holding period; does not expire before age 18</li> <li>- No more than one non-familial passenger younger than 21, unless accompanied by licensed driver at least 21 years old</li> <li>- No nighttime driving between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m.</li> <li>- No use of personal wireless communications device while driving</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Require a GDL vehicle identifier/decal</li> <li>- Extend GDL Intermediate License to all novice drivers up to age 21</li> <li>- Require a minimum licensing age of 17 years</li> <li>- Require a minimum holding period of 12 months</li> </ul>
Full License	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conviction free for prior consecutive 6 months</li> <li>- Must obey jurisdiction's traffic laws and have clean driving record</li> <li>- No use of personal wireless communications device while driving</li> </ul>	

\* Column reflects an abridged version of the MAP-21 provisions. Refer to [NHTSA.gov](http://NHTSA.gov) for complete language.

\*\* Column reflects research conducted by CHOP and other leading teen driver safety research organizations.

Go to [teendriversource.org](http://teendriversource.org) to request a list of select references for this fact sheet.