

Lifesavers Conference 2022  
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Distracted Driving Among Teens,  
Latest Data & Solutions Workshop

Panelist

**Steve Barrow**, State Program Director

California Coalition for Children's Safety and Health

California Emergency Medical Services Commissioner

Co-Chair California Unintentional Injury Prevention Strategic Plan Project

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# Intro

**Steve Barrow**, State Program Director

California Coalition for Children's Safety and Health

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Steve has been working on children, youth, family, and health and safety issues for more than 35 years. For the last ten years he has been the State Program Director for CCCSH providing technical assistance and training for local, regional, and safety programs on organizational development issues, and evidence-based injury prevention best practices legislation.

He is currently the lead team member for a broad coalition supporting 2022 legislation to expand California's successful teen driver safety Graduated Driver License program's age range to cover first time drivers through age 20.

# Why Distracted Driving So Important

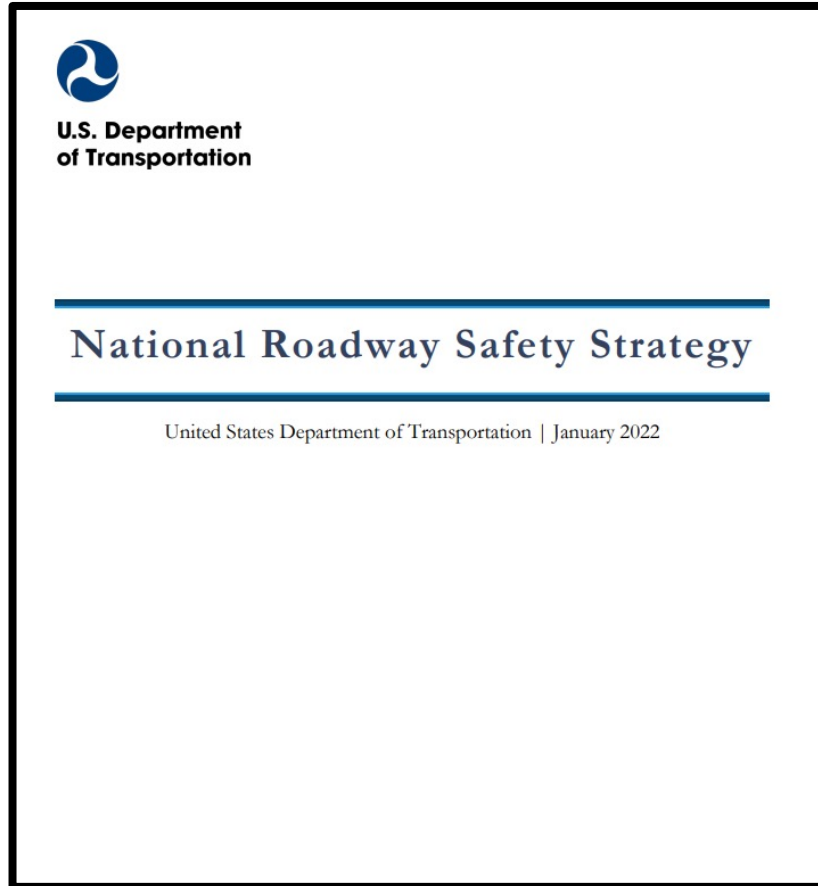
- The impact of distracted driving crashes is individually devastating
- There are far too many fatal crashes caused by distracted driving
  - U.S. data
  - CA data as an example of state impact
- The national transportation strategic plan calls for zero fatal crashes
- Solving the distracted driving issue is critical to get to zero fatalities
- Addressing distracted driving in first time teen/youth drivers part of the solution
- The impact of distracted driving fatalities is not just data it is personal

# Distracted driving fatalities data is made up of individual stories

## Natalia Salicido 15 y/o



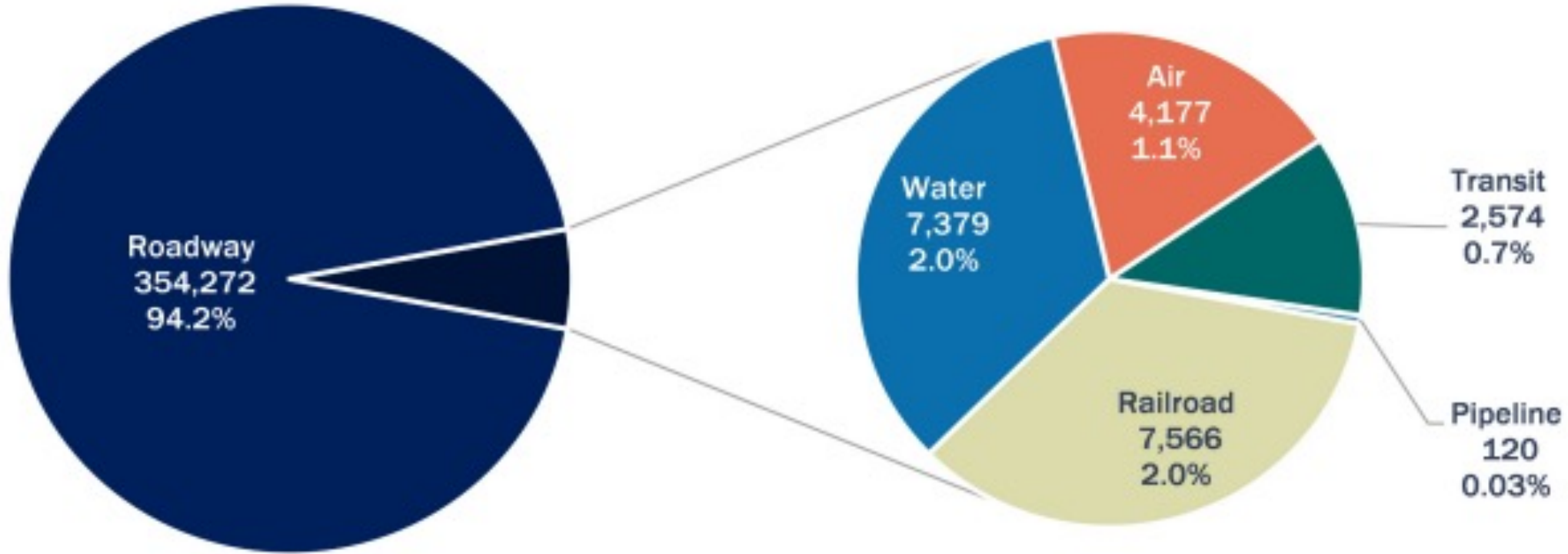
# Distracted Driving a Major Cause of Fatal Crashes



- *“Traffic crashes are a leading cause of death for teenagers in America, and disproportionately impact people who are Black, American Indian, and live in rural communities.”*
- *In 2019 there were 36,096 traffic crash fatalities – 9% or 3,142 direct result of distracted driving.*

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More than 370,000 people died in transportation incidents over the last decade (2011-2020) in the United States. More than 350,000 of them died on our roads.



## Let us do some Math [U.S. Dept Transportation 2022 report data]

- 2011-2020 Traffic Fatalities 354,272
- Conservatively 9% or **31,884 deaths** due to distracted driving
- Millions of others hospitalized and severely injured in distracted driving caused crashes
  
- In 2020 teens and youth between 16-24 crash fatalities climbed faster than any other age group
- 15% more young fatalities in 2020 than 2019 the other aged drivers' crash fatalities climbed less than 10%
- In 2019 (CDC Transportation Safety Data) 2,400 young people 13-19 were killed due to traffic crashes
- That translates into more than 156,000 years of lives lost
- 2020 more than 258,000 young people were hospitalized due to traffic crashes
- Fun fact: It takes more than a dozen hospital staff to care for each hospitalized teen, so these hospitalized teens took 3,096,000 staff to care for them. In the same year hospitals were drowning in COVID patients.

# Example teen/youth increased distracted driving

Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) data

There are three main types of distraction:

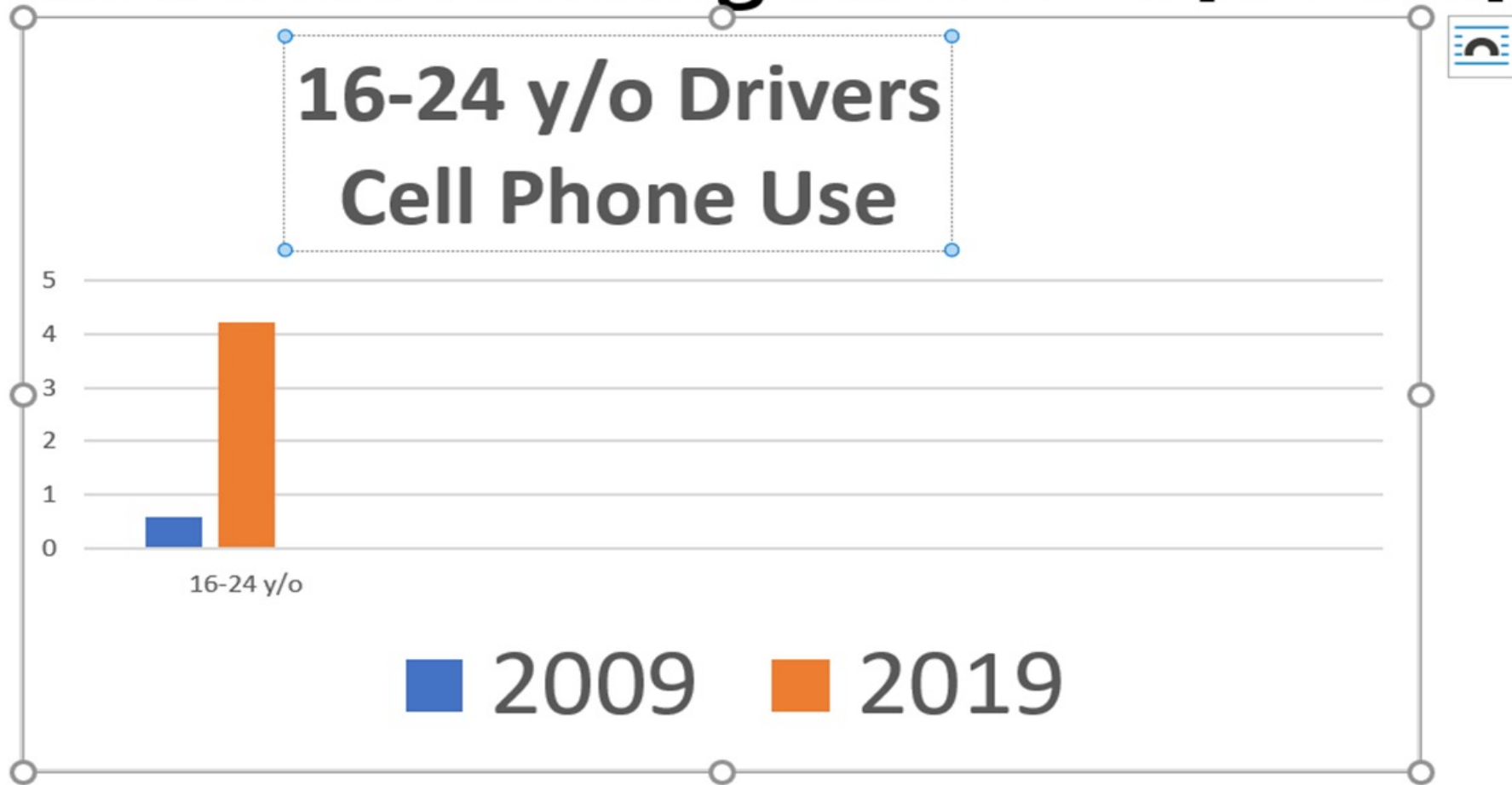
- **Visual**: taking your eyes off the road
- **Manual**: taking your hands off the wheel
- **Cognitive**: taking your mind off driving<sup>2</sup>

What complicates and contributes to distracted driving fatality crashes

- Alcohol DUI – less reaction ability to avoid sudden hazards
- Speed – less time to react and avoid sudden hazards
- Driving drowsy – unaware of hazard until too late
- For teen and young novice drivers – Interacting with friends and passengers
- Cell phones and texting



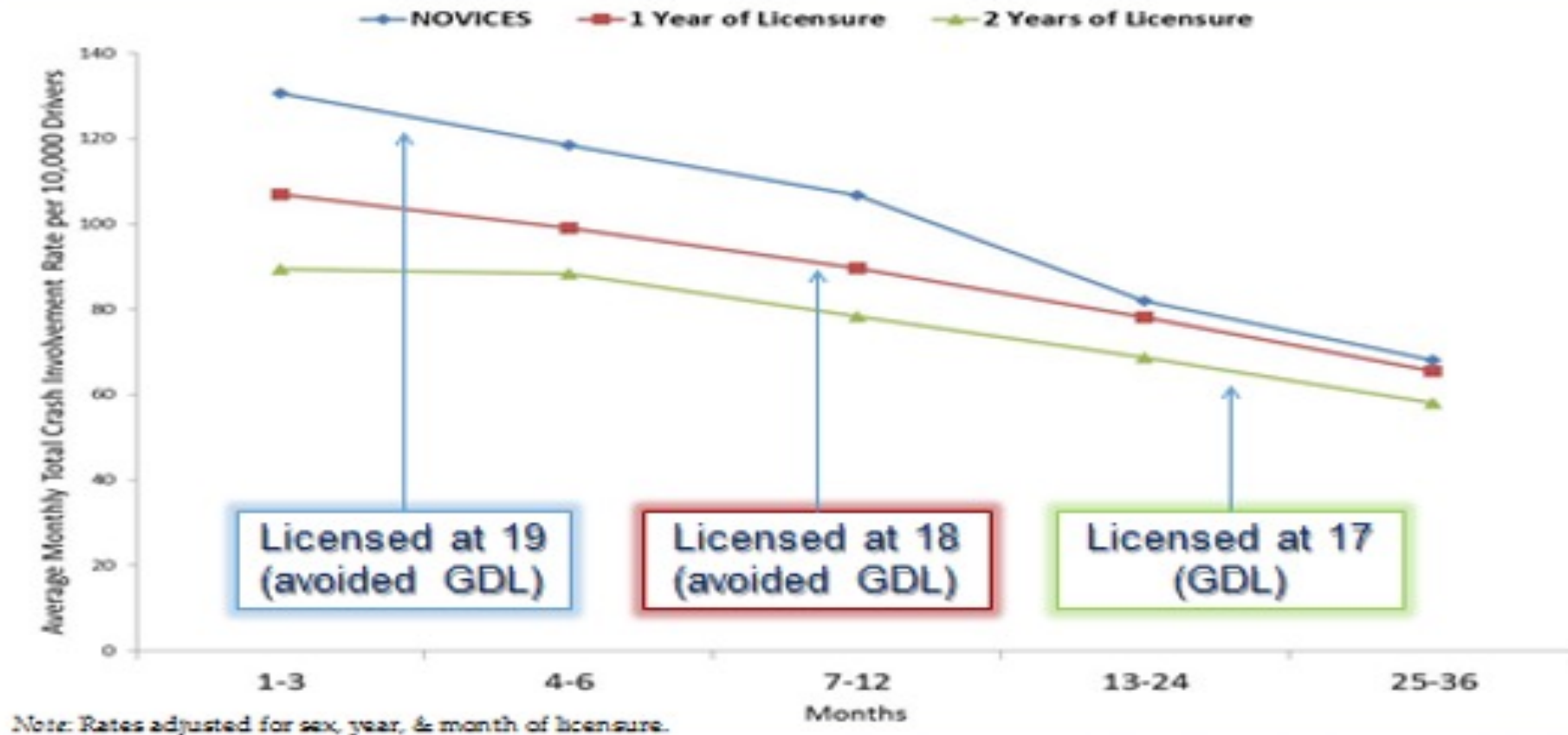
# Let's look at just one type of distracted driving observed [IIHS data]



# Why is it important to tackle distracted driving Involving novice teen/youth drivers

- Increasing numbers of young first-time drivers are not obtaining their first driver's license until they are 18, 19 and 20
- In California our DMV estimates 45% of young drivers wait until 18 or later to get first license – primarily due to economics of owning an car and driving (insurance, gas, parking, maintenance, etc.)
- In our state that translates into 1.4 million new young drivers who do not receive the benefits of GDL
- 18, 19 and 20 y/o first time drivers without GDL have 40% to 60% higher fatal crash rates

# Age 19 Novices vs. Age 19 Experienced



Eric A. Chapman, Scott V. Masten & Kelly K. Browning, *Crash Rates of Teens Delaying Licensure Compared with Those Not Delaying Licensure, 2013.*

*The impact of distracted driving fatalities is not just data it is personal  
Nora Rose Hines 19 y/o Daughter, Sister, Musician, Actress, Playwright,  
Traffic Safety Teacher to Children  
Nora was one of us .....She still is*

