



## **2007 Graduated Driver Licensing Symposium: Part II**

### **Session 3 (Continued)**

#### **Beyond GDL: Other Pieces of the Comprehensive & Collaborative Strategy**

##### **Driver Education & Graduated Licensing in North America: Past, Present & Future**

**Presenter: Daniel Mayhew, MA – Senior Vice President, Traffic Injury Research Foundation (North America)**

**Abstract:** Problem: A stated objective of driver education in North America is to produce safer drivers, typically defined as drivers less likely to crash. This paper examines the extent to which driver education has achieved this objective independently as well as the extent to which such programs can support the success of graduated licensing in reducing young driver crashes. In so doing, it discusses past experiences, recent developments, and the future direction of driver education and training in relation to graduated driver licensing. Method: Literature review and synthesis. Results: Driver education programs have yet to demonstrate consistent attainment of their safety objectives. Moreover they have not been found to enhance the safety effectiveness of graduated licensing programs – indeed, some practices, for example, “time discounts” for driver education have actually had a detrimental effect on teen safety. Discussion: Despite its disappointing safety record to date, it is important not to abandon driver education. In particular, there are opportunities to improve driver education so that it achieves its safety objectives, and ensure that programs in the future complement graduated driver licensing and contribute to its overall safety benefits. Current and future efforts to improve driver education and better integrate it with graduated licensing programs, however, need to be rigorously evaluated to determine what does and does not work to reduce young driver crashes, and as importantly, to understand why this is the case.

##### **Recent Developments in Young Driver Education, Training & Licensing in Australia**

**Presenter: Teresa Senserrick, PhD – Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (Australia/New Zealand)**

**Abstract:** Australian young driver education and training approaches have differed from the mandatory school-based programs found internationally; generally comprising voluntary programs conducted outside of licensing. This paper reports on recent developments pertaining to the pre-learner, learner, and provisional licence stages. Given its important context, state-based graduated driver licensing systems are also reviewed. There has been a shift towards starting driver education younger (pre-learner), greater involvement of parents, and more school-based programs; many now conducted by licensing authorities. The majority of initiatives are yet to be evaluated, particularly relative to crash outcomes; however, some studies suggest other positive outcomes, including increased supervised practice and delayed licensure. Furthermore, the federal government is proceeding with plans for a national license-based program. Several jurisdictions have also announced the introduction of passenger and nighttime restrictions on provisional licences. Together these initiatives offer promise of reductions in young driver-related fatalities and injuries in the very near future.

##### **Trends in Young Driver Risk & Countermeasures in European Countries**

**Presenter: Divera Twisk – Senior Researcher, SWOV Institute for Road Safety Research, The Netherlands (Europe)**

**Abstract:** This paper reviews European trends regarding young drivers’ accident risk and the effects of countermeasures. Young driver risk differs between countries, and has

improved in the last decade, probably as a result of general improvements in road safety levels. Young male drivers' relative risk is rising, indicating that current policies are less effective for males than for females. Further research is needed to understand the causes of this development. In Europe, most countries are moving towards multiphase licensing systems, including elements like accompanied driving, protective measures, and probation periods. European evaluation studies show mixed results regarding these elements, pointing to a need for more research into the effective components.

## **Other Key Constituencies Panel**

### **Project Night Life: Drive to Survive**

**Presenter: Sergeant Laurie Scott – Traffic Unit Supervisor, Omaha Police Department**

### **GDL in Iowa**

**Presenter: David L. Stutz – Executive Officer, Iowa Motor Vehicle Division Office of Driver Services**

## **Closing Session**

### **Realizing the Vision**

#### **Novice Teen Driving: GDL & Beyond**

**Presenter: James Hedlund, PhD – Highway Safety North**

**Abstract:** The Symposium on Novice Teen Driving: GDL and Beyond – Research Foundations for Policy and Practice, held in Tucson, AZ, on February 5-7, 2007, provided a detailed overview of graduated driver licensing (GDL) and other beginning driver issues in the United States. This paper summarizes the information presented at the Symposium and in its background papers.