GRADUATED DRIVER LICENSING

In June 2013, the State Farm® Strategic Resources Department conducted an online survey to examine teen drivers' and parents' views on Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) laws. State Farm surveyed a sample of 500 parents of teen drivers and an independent sample of 500 teen drivers.

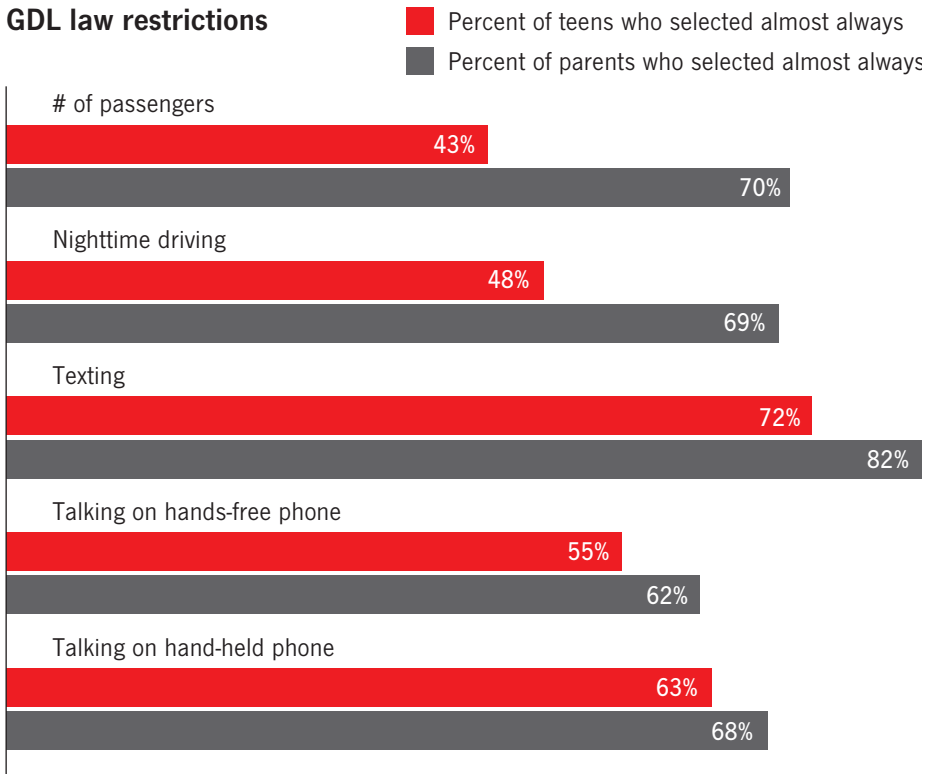
TEEN:
How often do you follow or will follow the laws?

PARENT:
How often do you believe your teen follows or will follow the laws?

Parents were significantly more likely to report that teens almost always follow the individual GDL laws compared with the extent to which teens report almost always following these individual laws.

Base: Parents (n = 487), Teens (n = 482)

Response Options: Almost never, Rarely, Sometimes, Often, Almost always, Not a law in my state, Don't know



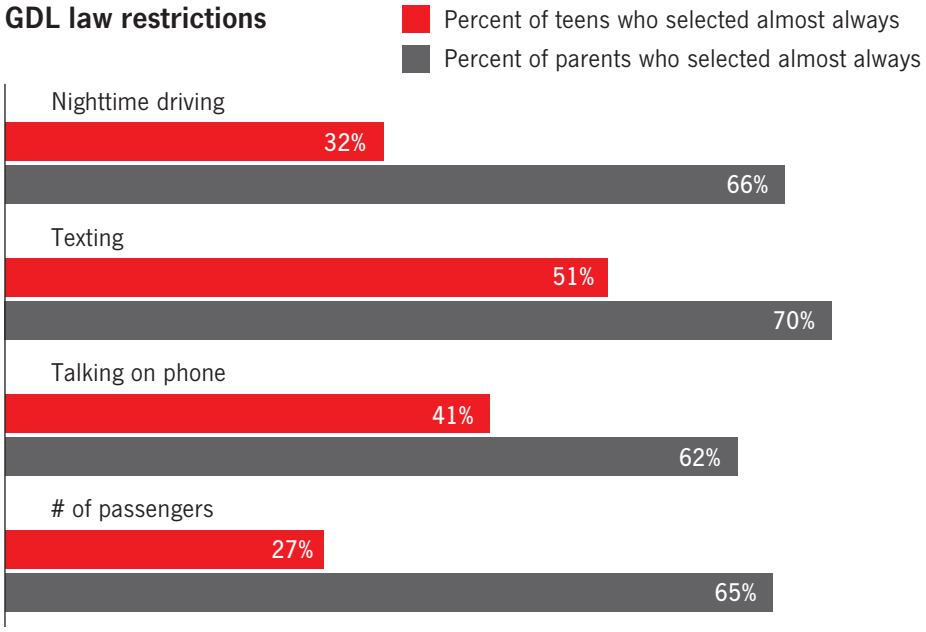
TEEN:
To what extent do your parents monitor if you follow the laws?

PARENT:
To what extent do you monitor if your teen follows the laws?

Parents were significantly more likely to report that they almost always monitor whether teens follow the GDL laws compared with the extent to which teens report that their parents almost always monitor whether they follow GDL laws.

Base: Parents (n = 487), Teens (n = 482)

Response Options: Almost never, Rarely, Sometimes, Often, Almost always, Not a law in my state, Don't know



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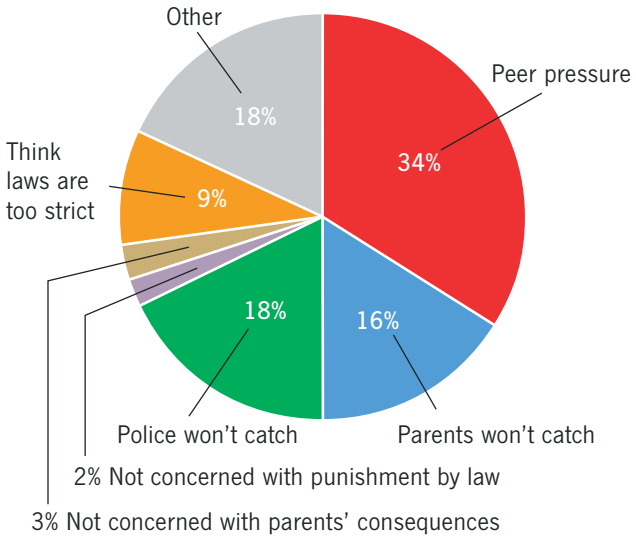
TEEN: Please list the most likely reason why you do not or will not follow the driving restrictions for newly licensed drivers.

PARENT: Please list the most likely reason why your teen does not or will not follow the driving restrictions for newly licensed drivers.

Parents listed peer pressure as the most likely reason teens do not follow GDL laws (34 percent), whereas teens listed their belief that police will not catch them as the most likely reason (32 percent).

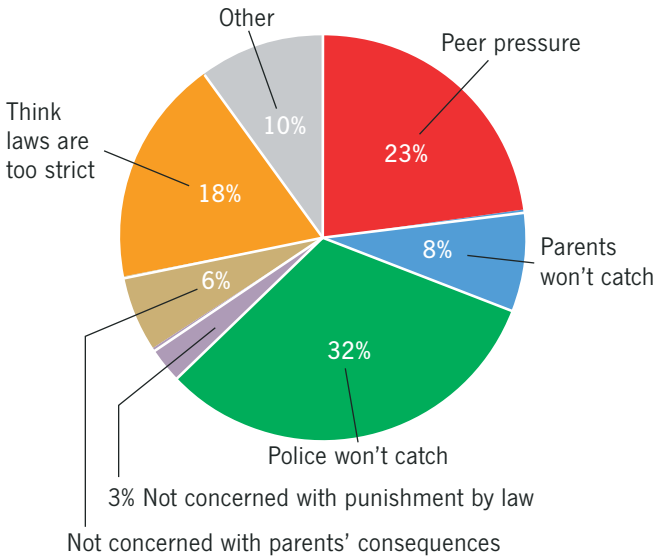
PARENTS

Base: Parents (n = 487)



TEENS

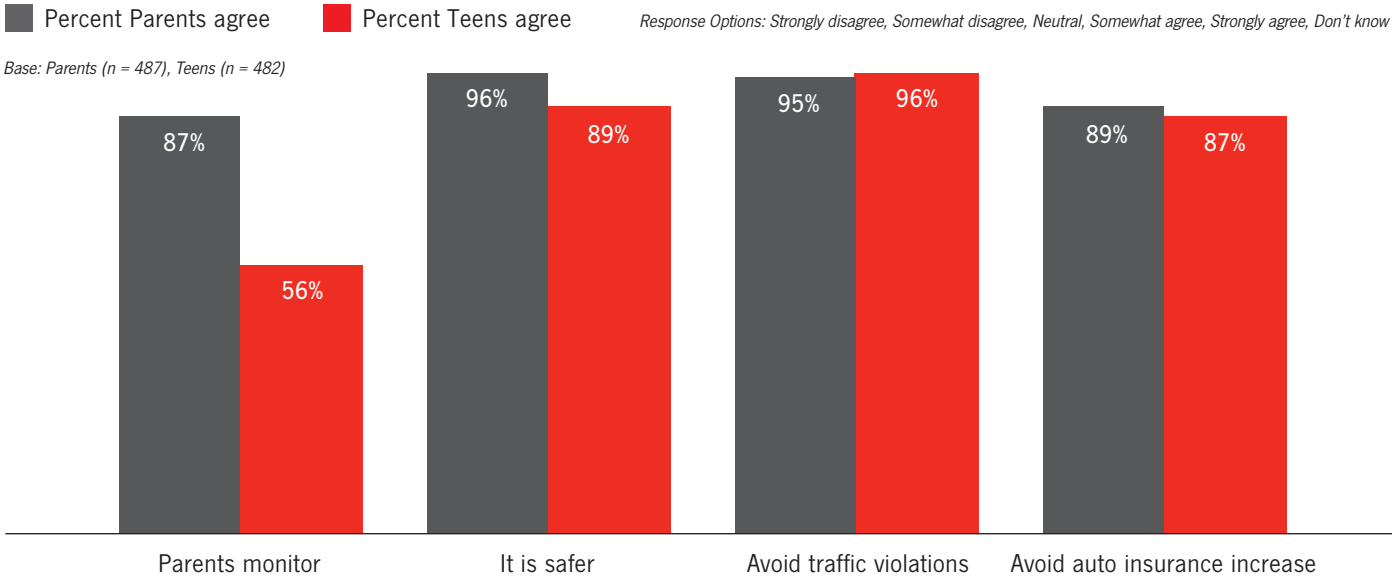
Base: Teens (n = 482)



TEEN: When I follow or will follow the driving restrictions for newly licensed drivers, it is because…

PARENT: When my teen follows or will follow the driving restrictions for newly licensed drivers, it is because…

Parents were significantly more likely to say teens will follow the driving restrictions due to parental monitoring (87 percent vs. 56 percent, respectively).



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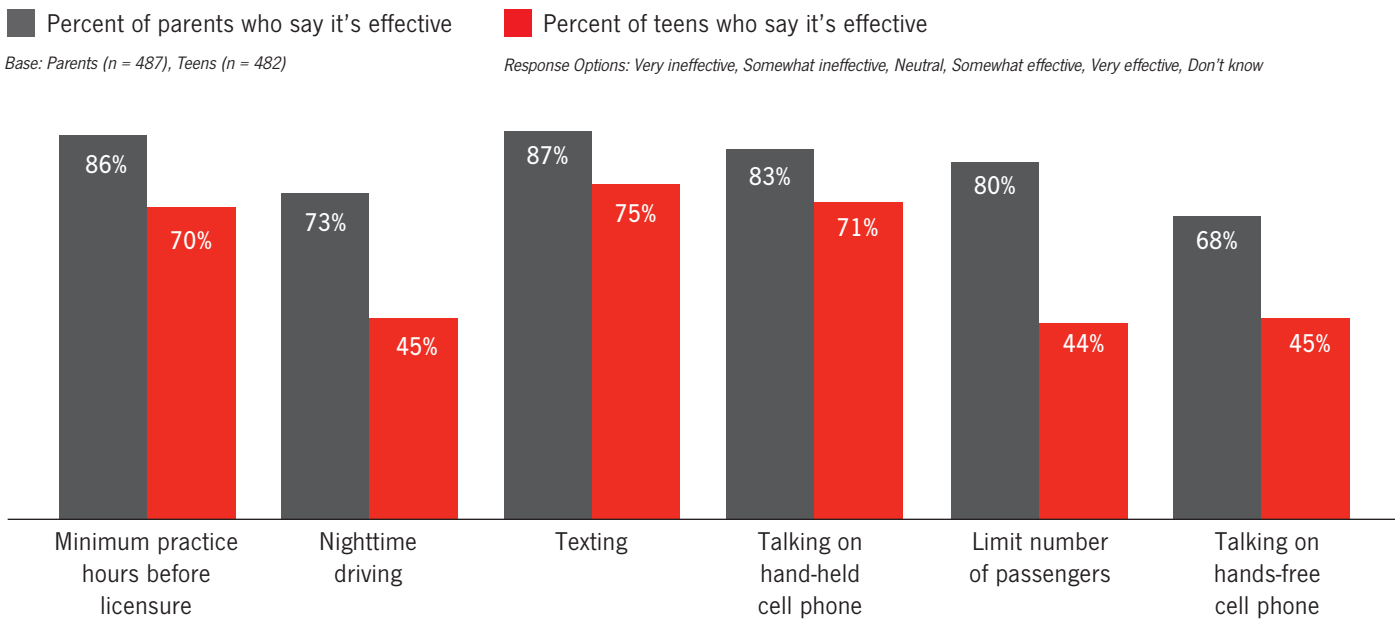
How effective or ineffective do you think each of the following restrictions are (or would be) at helping new drivers be safer behind the wheel?

Parents were significantly more likely than teens to believe GDL laws are effective in helping new drivers be safer behind the wheel.



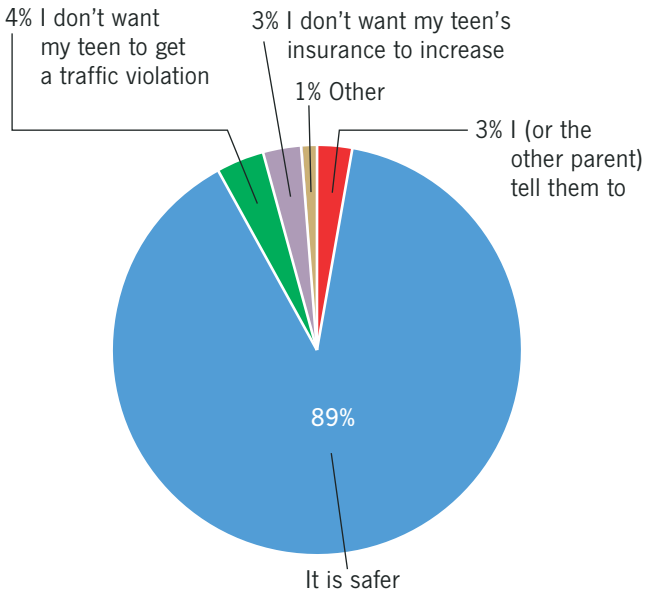
TEEN: Please list the most important reason why you should follow the driving restrictions for newly licensed drivers.

PARENT: Please list the most important reason why your teen should follow the driving restrictions for newly licensed drivers.

Parents were significantly more likely than teens to list safety as the most important reason to follow GDL laws (89 percent vs. 51 percent, respectively).

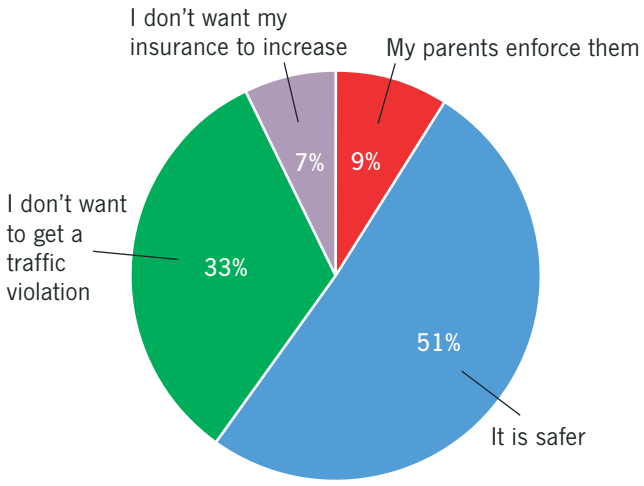
PARENTS

Base: Parents (n = 487)



TEENS

Base: Teens (n = 482)



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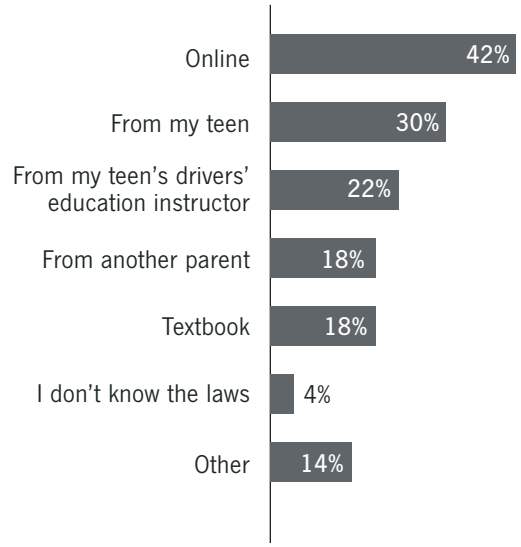
How did you learn about your state's driving restrictions for newly licensed drivers?

Parents most often learn about GDL laws online (42 percent), and from their teen (30 percent), whereas teens most often learn about GDL laws from their driver's education instructor (61 percent).

PARENTS

Base: Parents (n = 487)



TEENS

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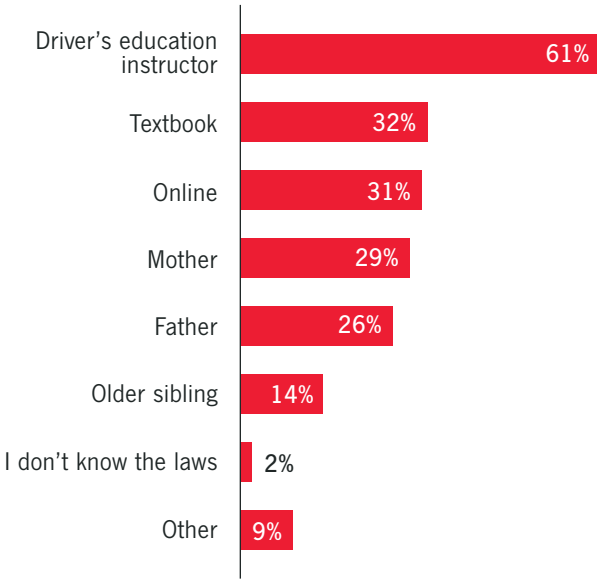
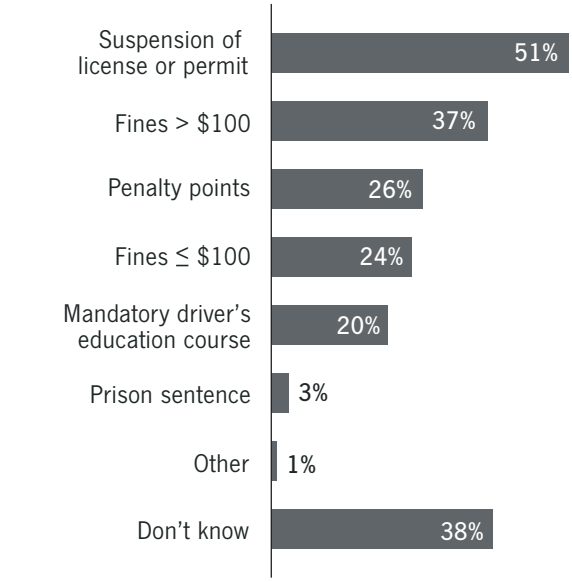


Which of the following consequences may be enforced by law if a police officer catches your teen/you not following the restrictions for newly licensed drivers?

More than 30 percent of parents and teens reported that they don't know the consequences enforced by law if a teen is not following GDL laws and is caught by police.

PARENTS

Base: Parents (n = 487)



TEENS

Base: Teens (n = 482)

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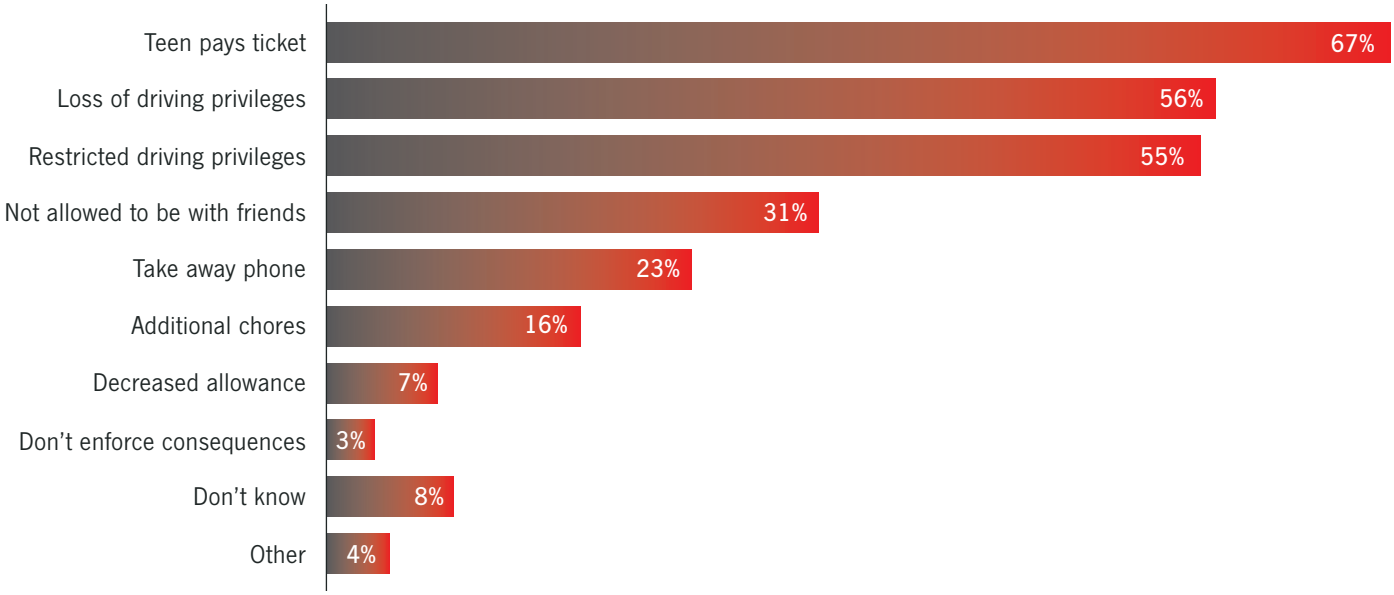
TEEN: Which of the following consequences do or will your parents enforce if you are caught not following the restrictions for newly licensed drivers?

PARENT: Which of the following consequences do or will you enforce if your teen is caught not following the restrictions for newly licensed drivers?

For both parents and teens, the most commonly reported consequences imposed by parents whose teen didn't follow GDL laws included the teen paying the ticket, revoking driving privileges, and restricting driving privileges.

PARENTS and TEENS

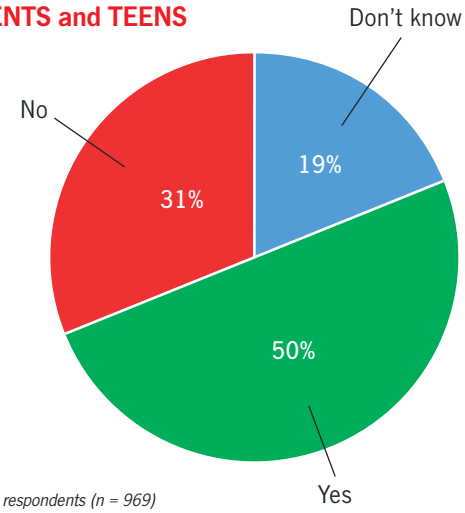
Base: Parents + Teens (n = 969)



Do you/your parents set additional driving restrictions above and beyond the driving restrictions set by law?

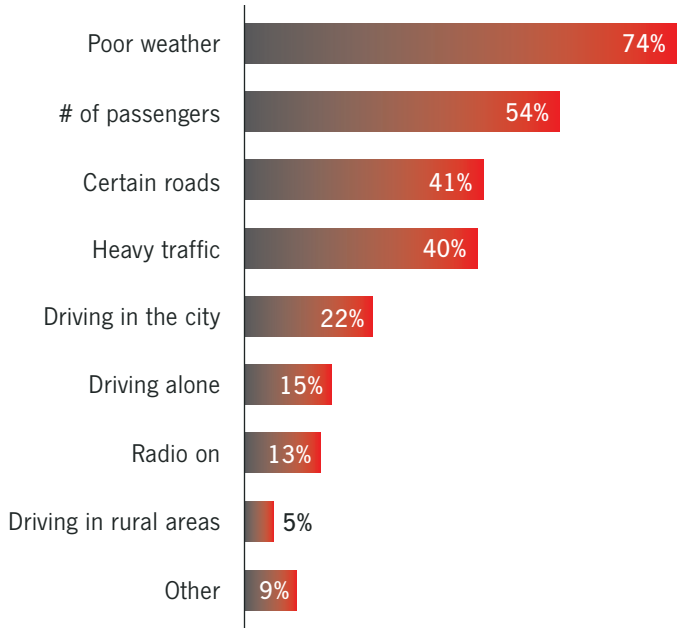
Fifty percent of parents and teens indicated having additional restrictions above and beyond GDL laws. Among these respondents, nearly three-fourths indicated not being able to drive in poor weather as an additional restriction.

PARENTS and TEENS



Base: All respondents (n = 969)

What additional situations?



Base: All respondents who have additional restrictions, multiple responses allowed (n = 486)

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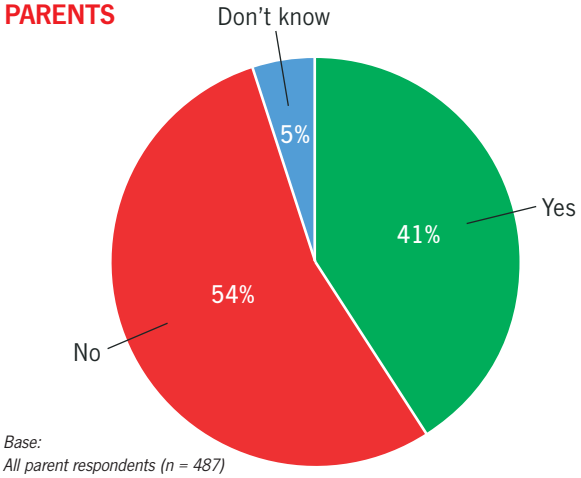
Did or will your teen/you wait longer than the minimum age to get a permit or driver's license?

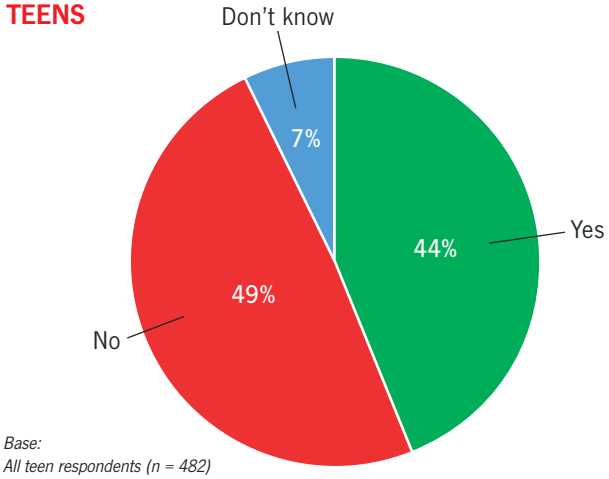
Among teens and parents, more than 40 percent indicated that the teen did or will wait longer than the minimum age to get a permit or license, with teens "being busy with other activities" as the top reason for waiting.

PARENTS



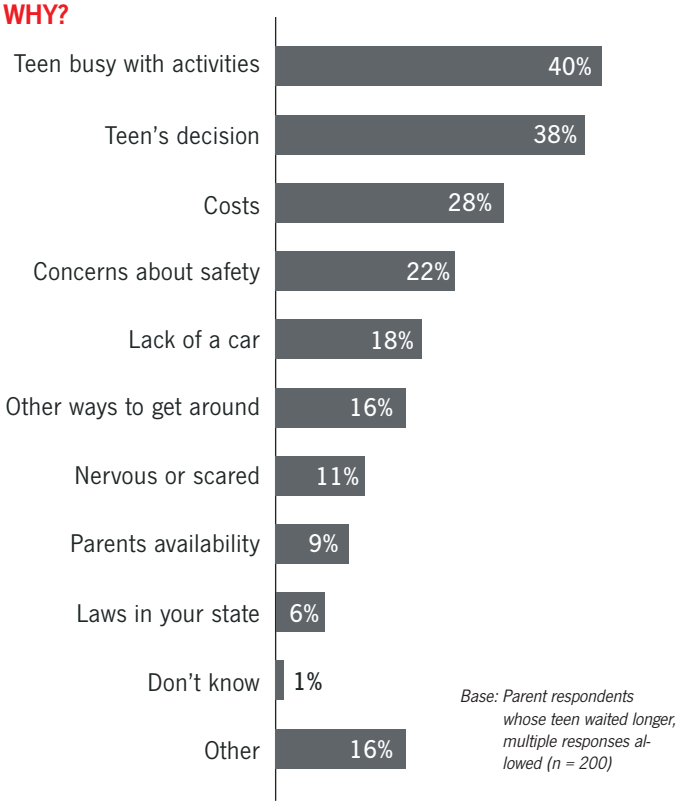
Base: All parent respondents (n = 487)

TEENS

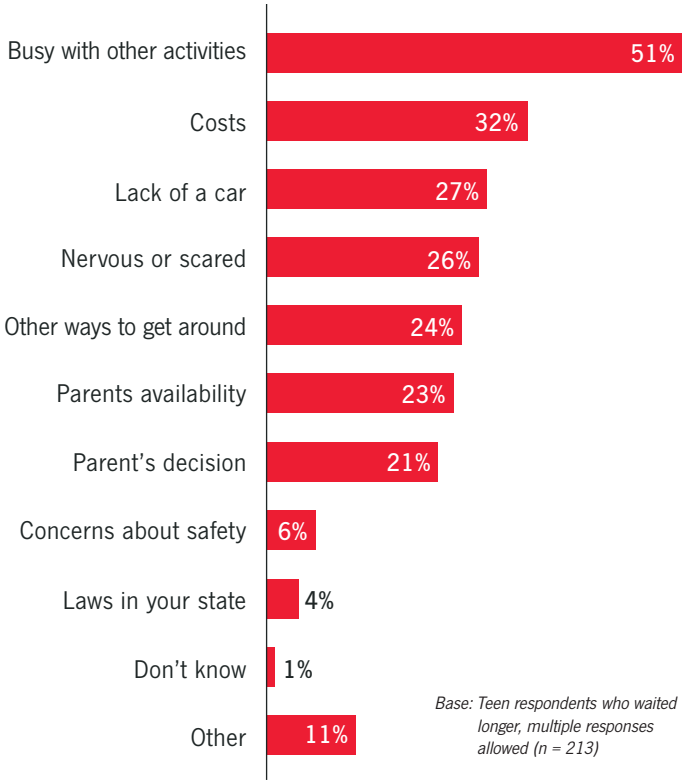


Base: All teen respondents (n = 482)

WHY?



Base: Parent respondents whose teen waited longer, multiple responses allowed (n = 200)



Base: Teen respondents who waited longer, multiple responses allowed (n = 213)

Teens with involved and supportive parents are half as likely to be in a crash. Let State Farm help you get involved in your teen's driving.

METHODOLOGY

An online survey was conducted through the State Farm Center for Consumer Feedback from June 10 - 28, 2013 with a sample balanced by gender and driver licensing status (learner's permit or driver's license). 500 US parents of a 14 - 17 year-old with a learner's permit or driver's license (after data quality screening, the final sample was 487) and 500 US teens ages 14 - 17 (after data quality screening, the final sample was 482) responded to the survey.

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