

An Overview of Teen Driver Policy

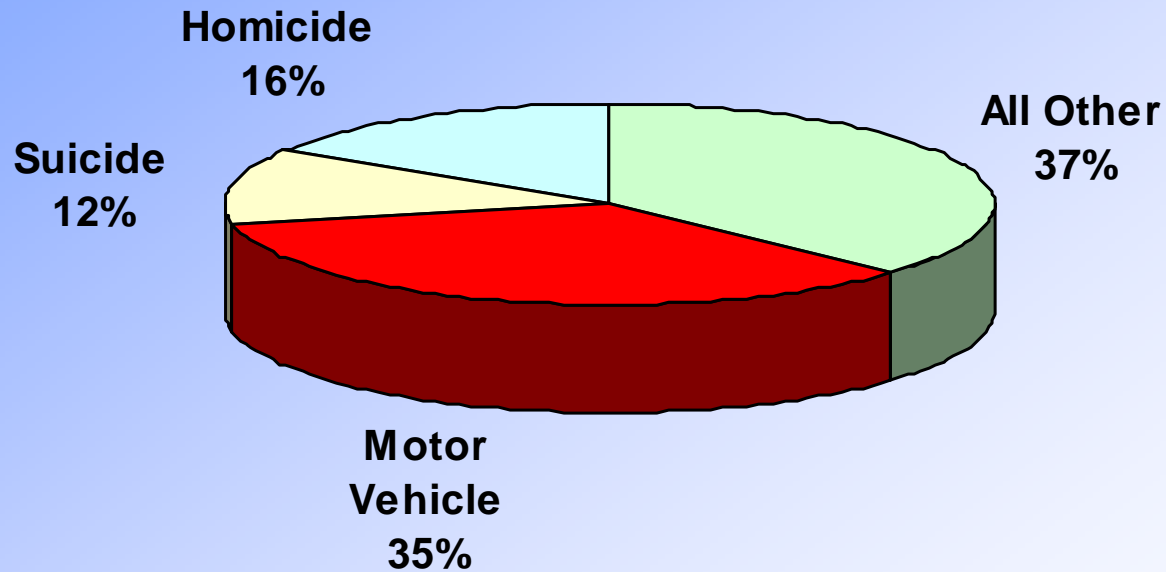
Val Pezoldt

**Center for Transportation Safety
Texas Transportation Institute**

October 25, 2008

**Teens in the Driver Seat Summit
The University of Texas at San Antonio**

15-20 Year-old Deaths in US



Where do teen driver policies come from?

- Government Departments & Agencies
 - Federal - US DOT
 - State – Legislature, TxDOT, DPS, TEA
 - Local - City Councils, Local Law Enforcement

Where do teen driver policies come from?

- Research
- Industry Groups
- Advocacy Groups

Texas Licensing Policy

- April 1, 1936: Operator's License Required
- 1967: Driver Education required if <18
- 1995: DPS waived required road test for licensure if approved DE course is completed
- April 1997: Parent Taught Driver Education Program implemented
- Jan 1, 2002: TX GDL implemented

What is a GDL?

Framework for phasing in driving

- Provides for initial driving experience in a supervised learning period.
- Typically followed by a period allowing unsupervised driving, but only under relatively low risk conditions.
- Culminates in a fully privileged, unrestricted license.

GDL Provisions Vary

- Minimum Age for Learner/Instructional Permit
- Required Duration of Learner/Instructional Permit
- Night driving restrictions
- Passenger restrictions
- Duration of restrictions
- Certified Practice Driving Requirements

Optimal/Model GDLs

- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).
- National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB).
- National Committee on Uniform Traffic Laws & Ordinances (NCUTLO).
- Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS).
- Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety.

GDL Effectiveness

Can only be expected if:

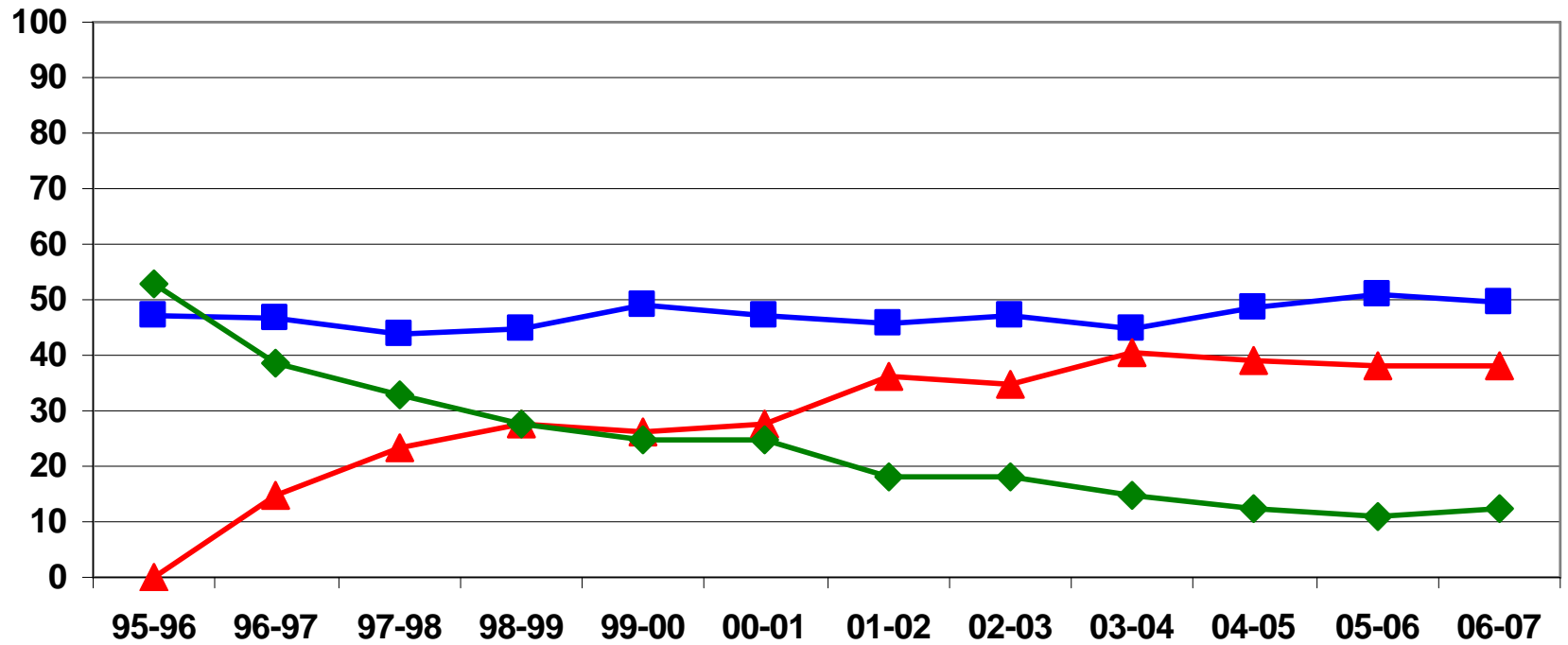
- Assure both Teens and Parents understand GDL requirements and consequences of violating them.
- Law enforcement understands and is given the capability to enforce GDL provisions.
- State motor vehicle and licensing authorities provide GDL education and monitor GDL licensees.

IHS 'Optimal' GDL & TX Provisions

	Learner Stage			Intermediate Stage Restrictions on Driving while Unsupervised			Min Age Restrictions May Be Lifted	
	Min Learner Permit Age	Mandatory Holding Period	Min Amount Supervised Driving	Min Age	Unsupervised Driving Prohibited	Passenger Restrictions	Nighttime Restriction	Passenger Restriction
IHS Optimal Provisions	16	6 mo	30-50 hr	16½	9/10 pm – 5 am	Max 1 teen passenger	18	18
Texas Provisions	15	6 mo	None	16	Midnight – 5 am	1 pass < 21	16½	16½
A Provisional License holder may not operate a motor vehicle while using a wireless communication device.								

Since 1997 the “Parent Taught Driver Education Program” has had same status as certified/ licensed Public & Commercial driving school instruction.

Percent of DE Certificates Sold by Mode



Basic Evaluation Questions

1. Differences in attitudes, knowledge and skills?
2. Differences in post-licensing crash and citation experience?

Focus Groups



Young Driver Survey

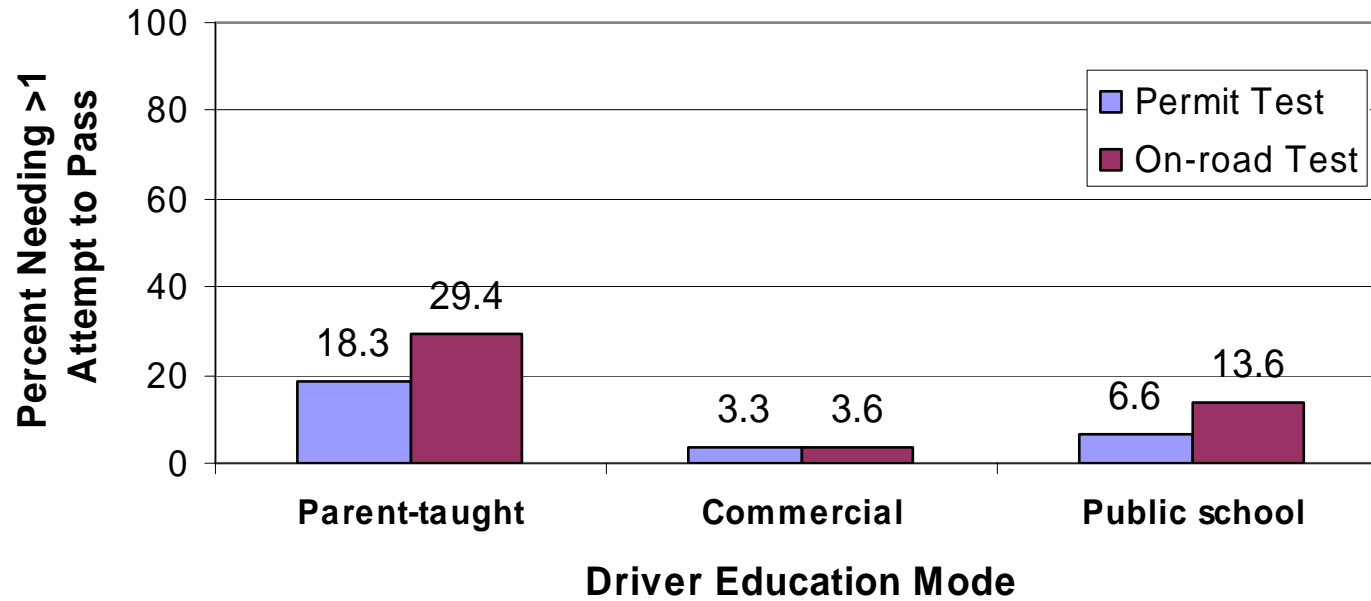


Dear Texas Driver,

You are invited to participate in a survey of your opinions about driver education and your driving experiences and attitudes. The Texas Transportation Institute at Texas A&M University is conducting a survey of drivers who are taking or have completed a driver education course since 2003. The information you share with us will be used to evaluate driver education in Texas and to identify both the good and bad driving experiences young people have had.

In Texas, there are three different ways to take driver education: at your school, at a commercial driving school, or from parents, grandparents or guardians under the Texas Parent Taught Driver Education

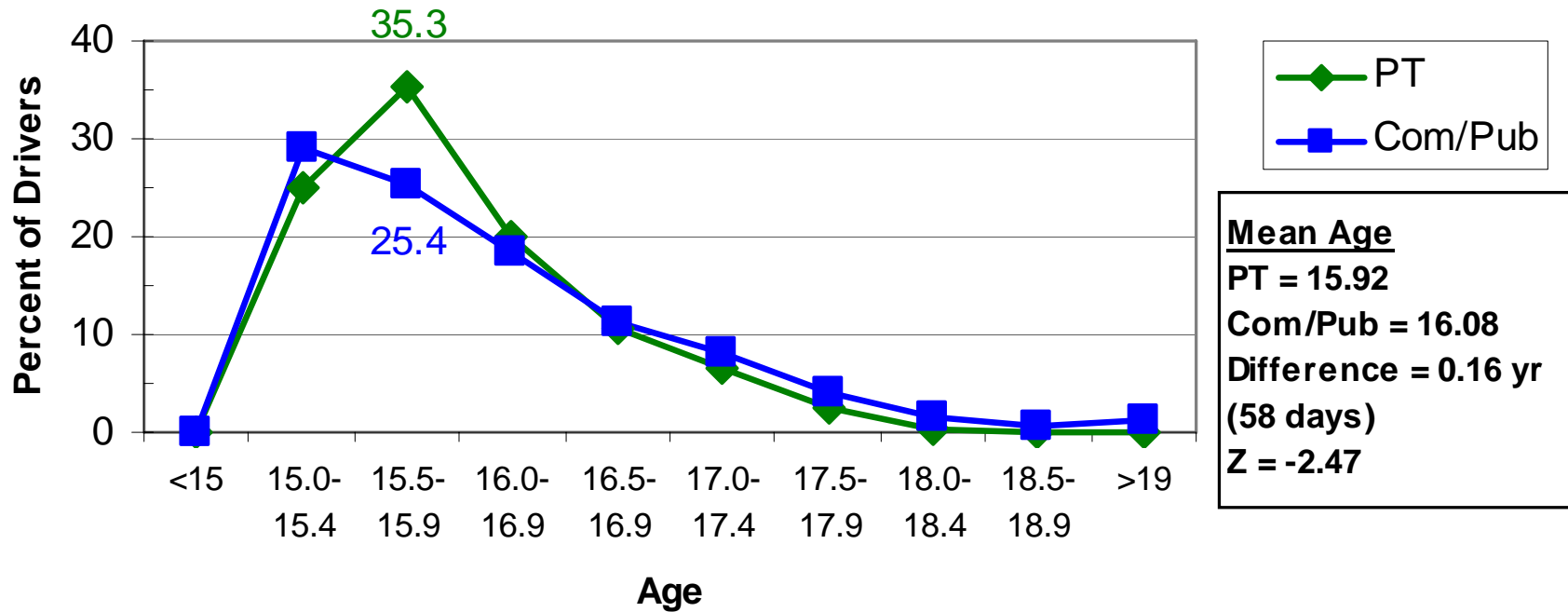
Self-reported Performance on Instructional Permit Test and DPS On-road Test: Post-GDL



Analysis of Crash & Citation Data



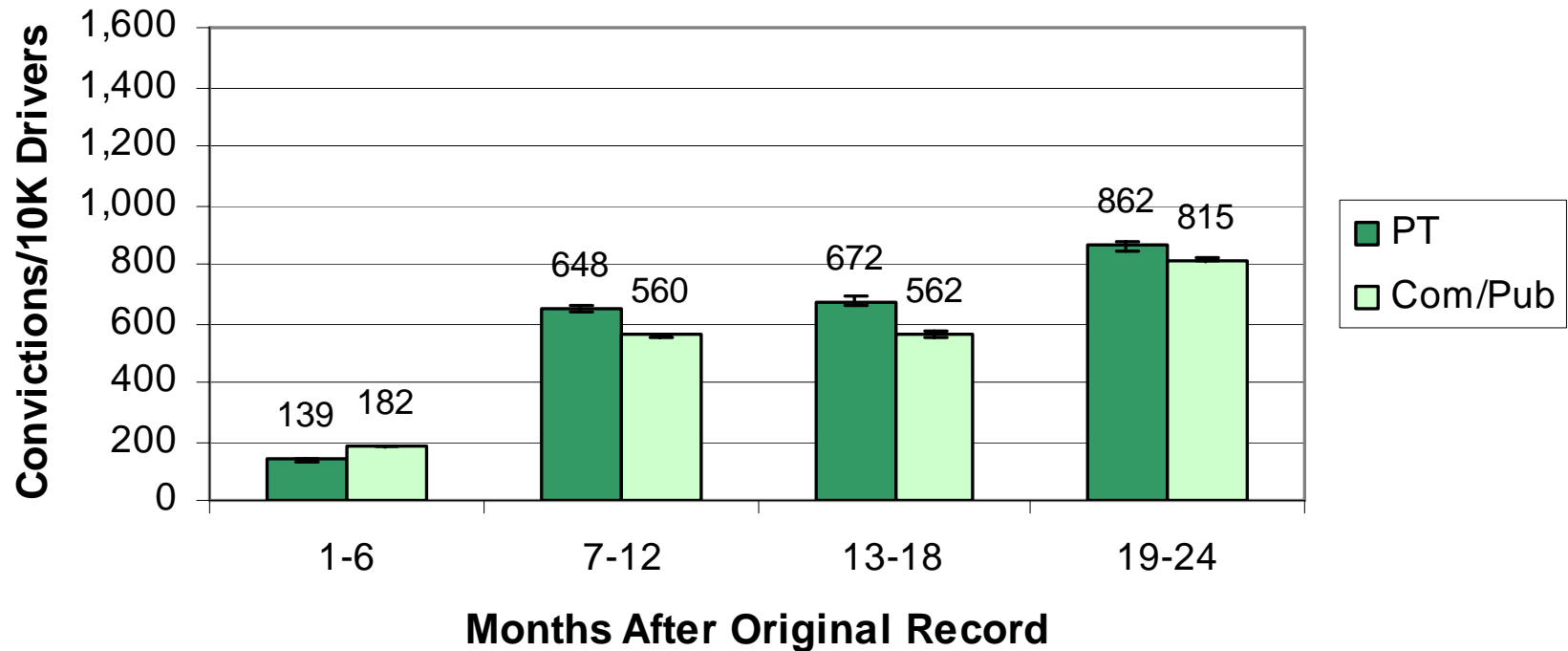
Age at date of original driver record by DE mode: Post-GDL



Conviction Groups

1. Speeding over the limit	8. Other moving violations
2. Racing/excessive acceleration	9. Alcohol & drug violations
3. Other speed-related violations	10. Negligent/anti-social violations
4. Red light/stop sign violation	11. Driver license violations/No license
5. Disregard other traffic signs, signals, markings	12. Other DL violations (commercial)
6. Failure to yield right of way	13. Mandated driving safety course/program (excludes alcohol related courses that are included in conviction group 9)
7. Improper signal/fail to signal	14. Miscellaneous violations

All convictions as a function of driver education mode: Post-GDL



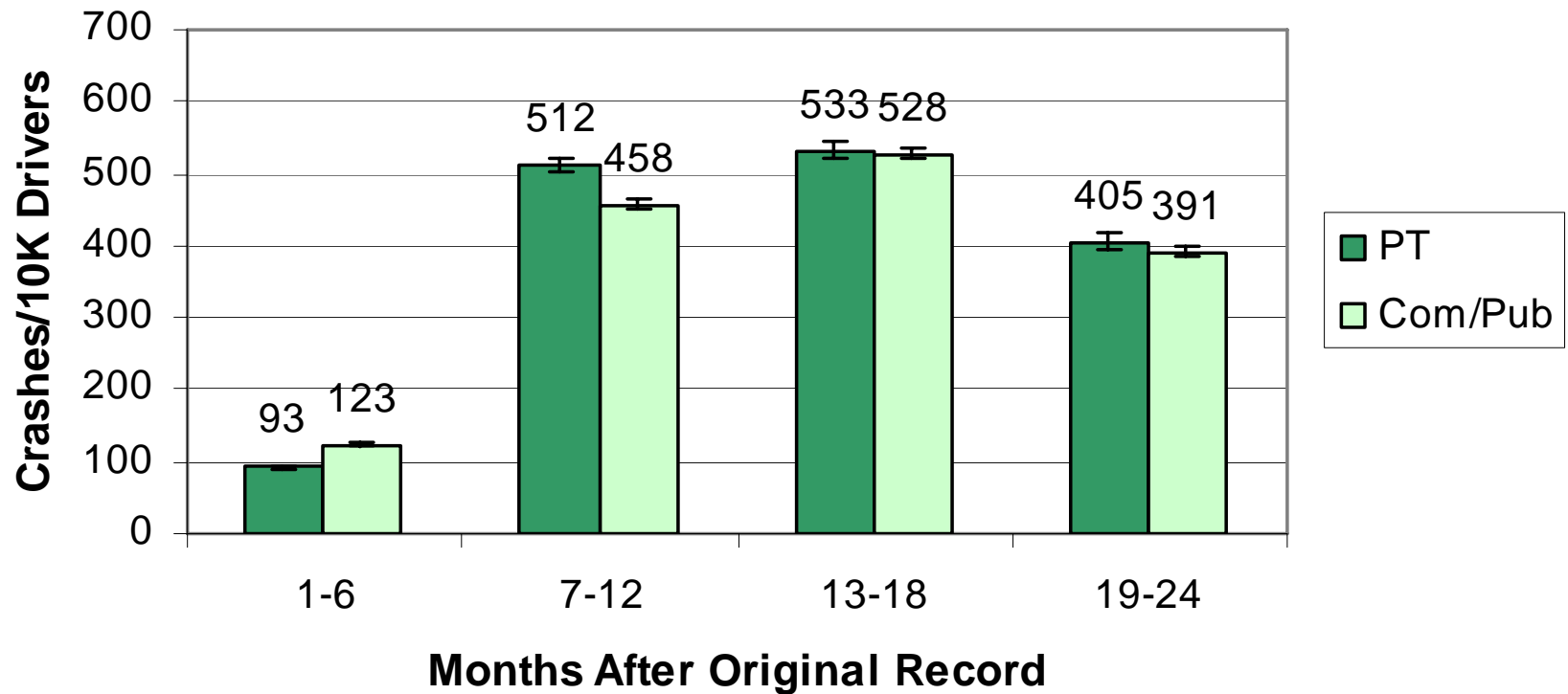
Convictions > for Com/Pub during 1st six months driving

1. Speeding over the limit	8. Other moving violations
2. Racing/excessive acceleration	9. Alcohol & drug violations
3. Other speed-related violations	10. Negligent/anti-social violations
4. Red light/stop sign violation	11. Driver license violations/No license
5. Disregard other traffic signs, signals, markings	12. Other DL violations (commercial)
6. Failure to yield right of way	13. Mandated driving safety course/program (excludes alcohol related courses that are included in conviction group 9)
7. Improper signal/fail to signal	14. Miscellaneous violations

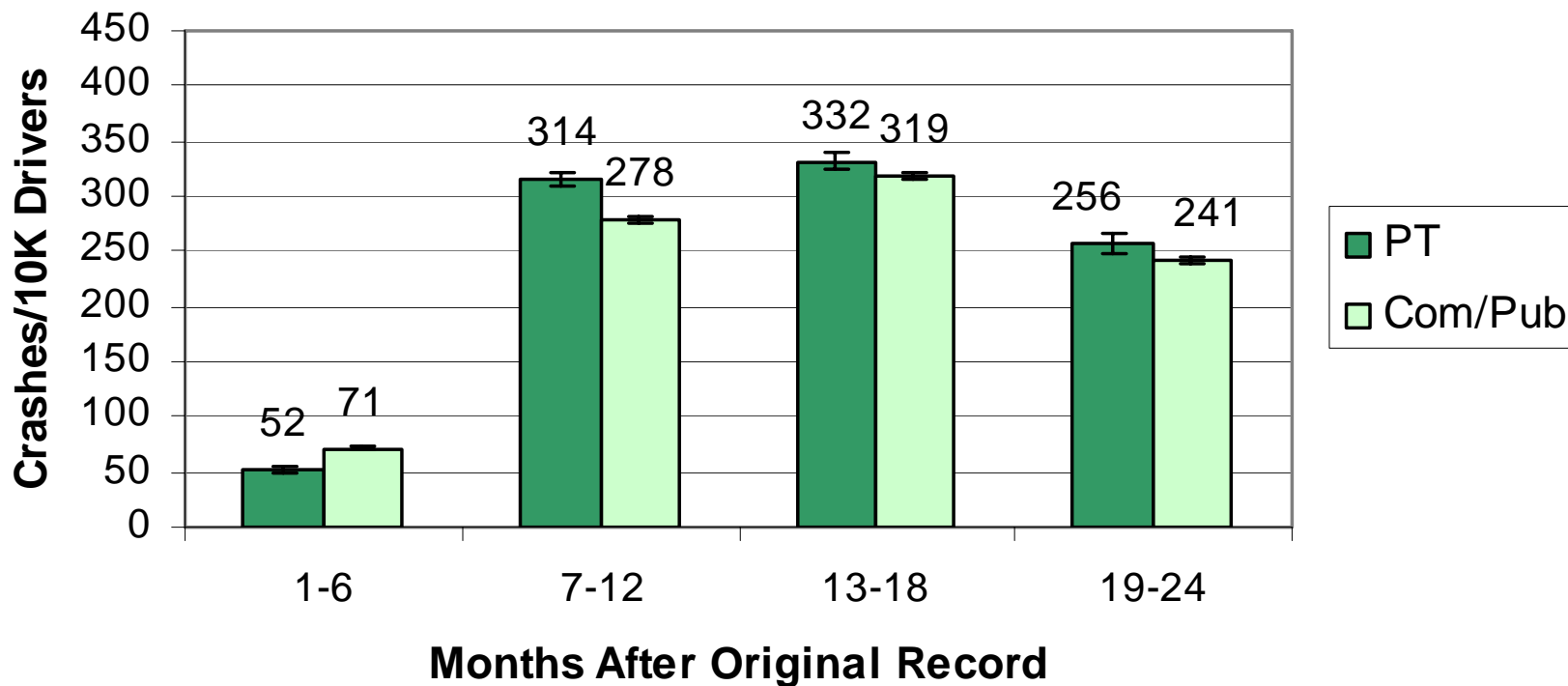
Convictions > for Parent-taught during at least 1 of 3 six-month driving periods after most supervision

1. Speeding over the limit (1)	8. Other moving violations
2. Racing/excessive acceleration	9. Alcohol & drug violations (1)
3. Other speed-related violations	10. Negligent/anti-social violations
4. Red light/stop sign violation	11. Driver license violations/No license
5. Disregard other traffic signs, signals, markings	12. Other DL violations (commercial)
6. Failure to yield right of way (3)	13. Mandated driving safety course/program (excludes alcohol related courses that are included in conviction group 9) (3)
7. Improper signal/fail to signal	14. Miscellaneous violations

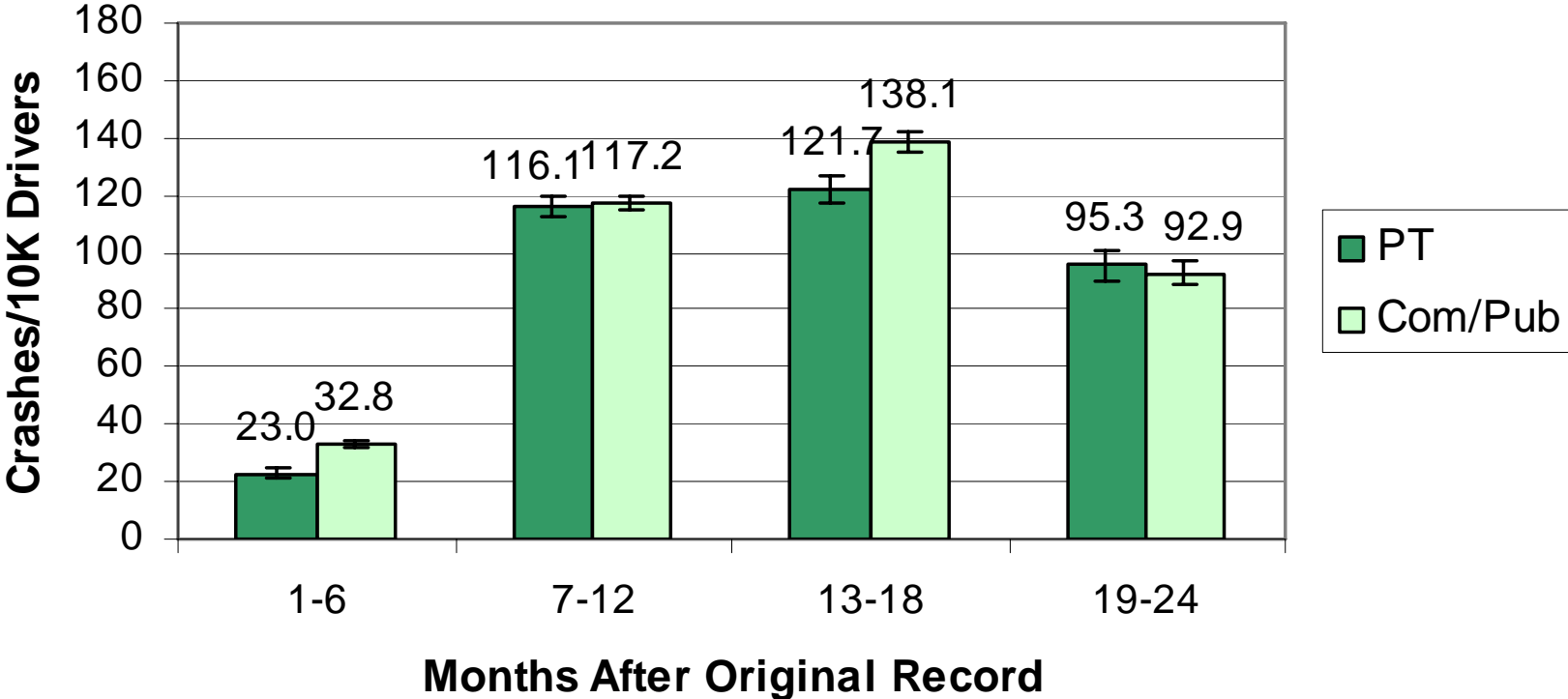
All crashes as a function of driver education mode: Post-GDL



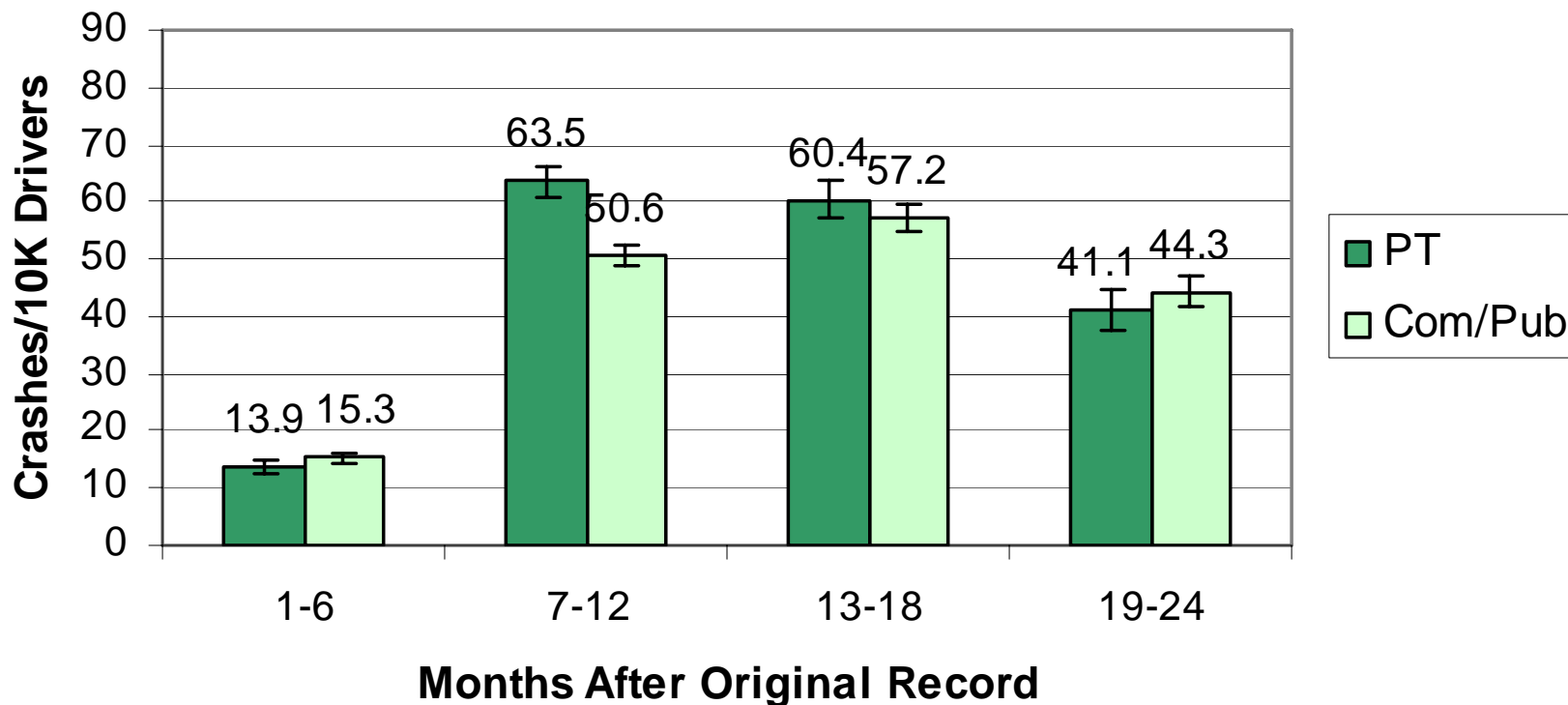
Non-injury crashes as a function of driver education mode: Post-GDL



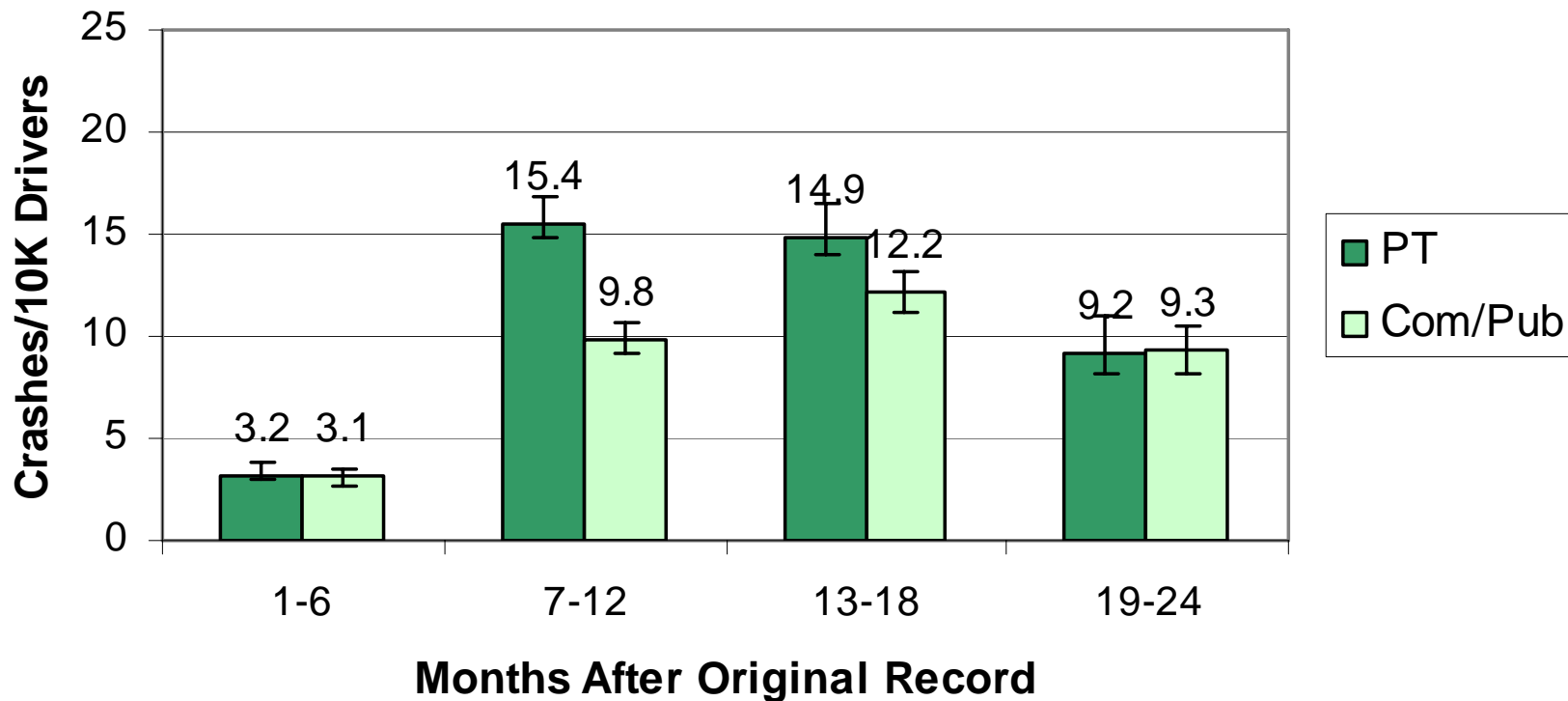
Possible injury crashes as a function of driver education mode: Post-GDL



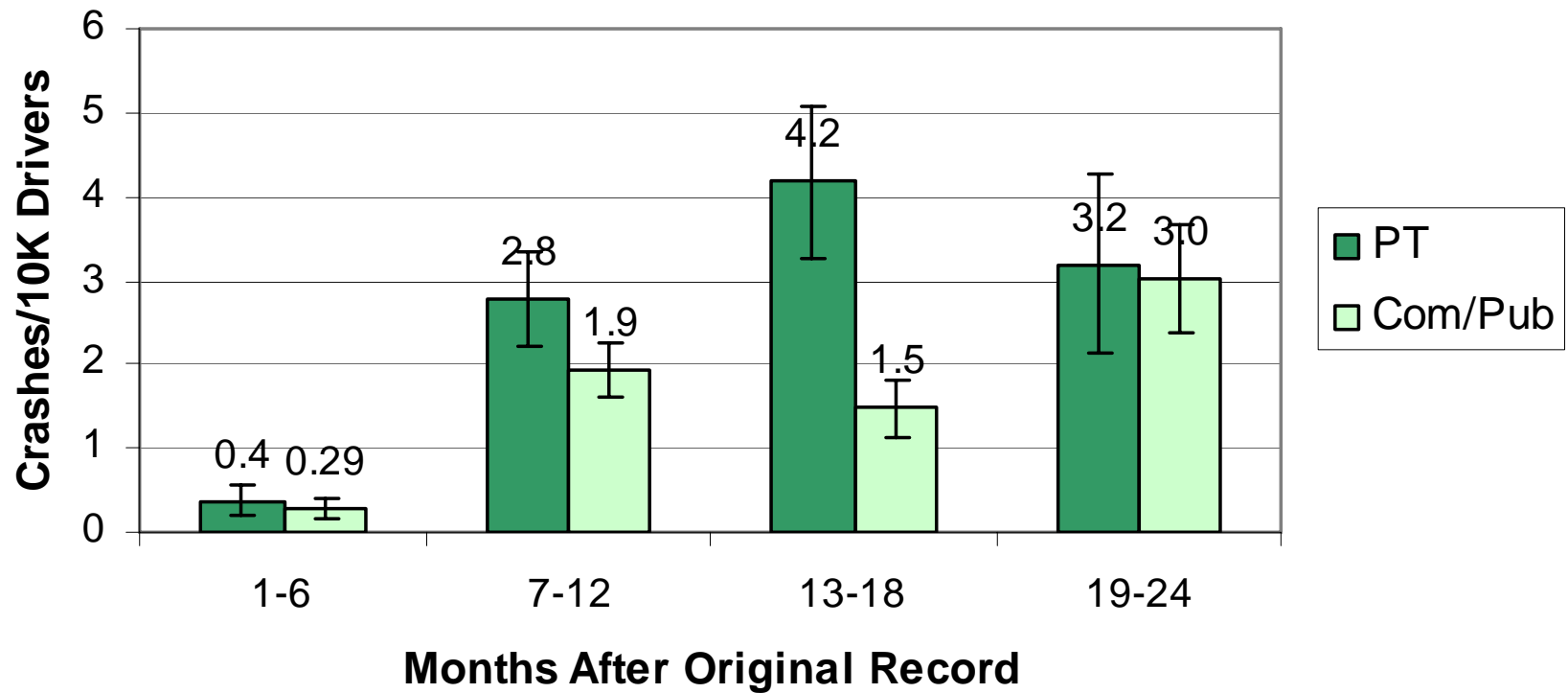
Non-incapacitating injury crashes as a function of driver education mode: Post-GDL



Incapacitating injury crashes as a function of driver education mode: Post-GDL

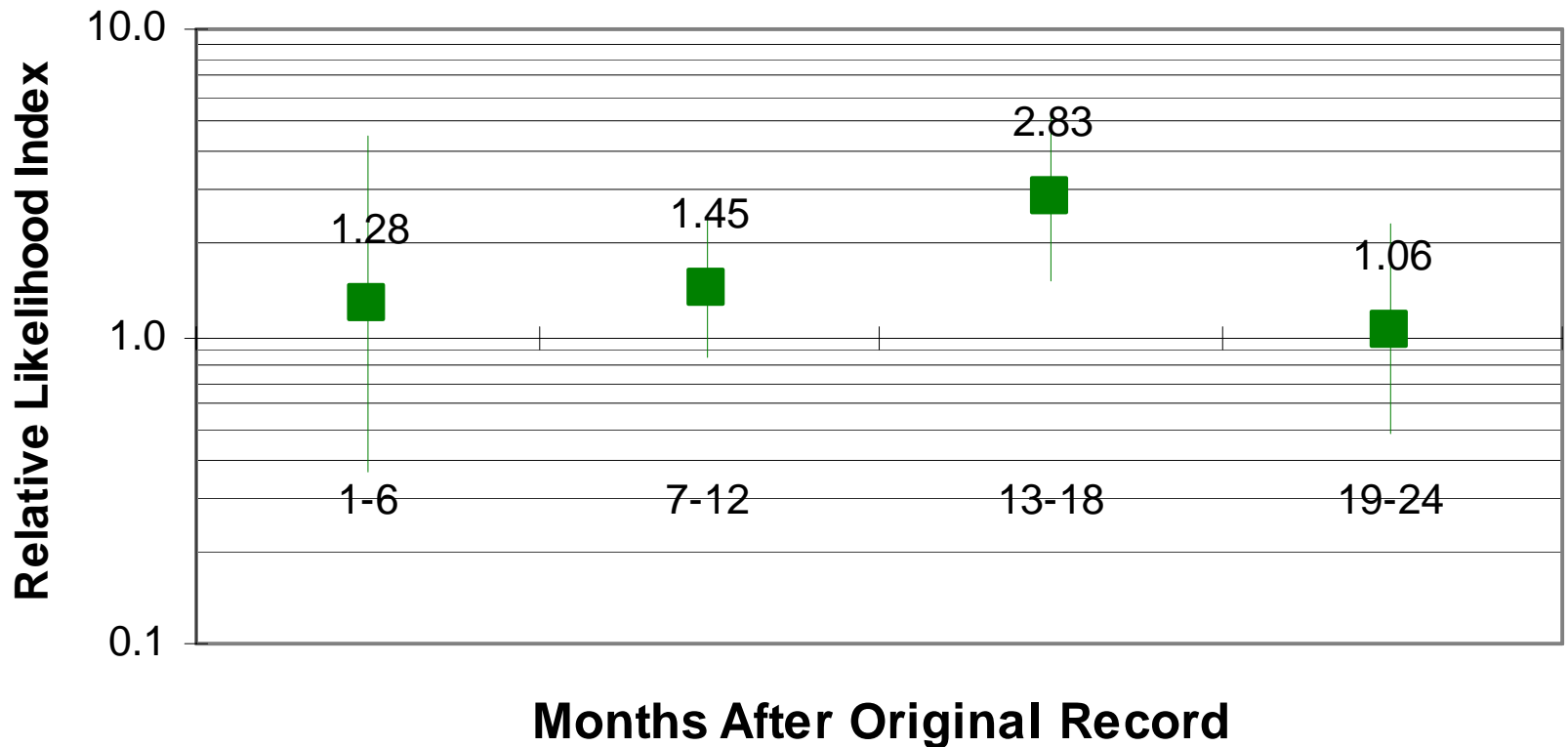


Fatal crashes as a function of driver education mode: Post-GDL



Likelihood of a crash involving Parent-taught relative to Com/Pub-taught drivers: Post-GDL

Fatal Crashes



Conclusions

Recommendations

- 1. Improve the criteria for parental participation in the parent-taught driver education program.*
- 2. Require at least some minimum training and/or testing for parents who want to teach their children to drive under the program.*

Recommendations

- 3. Improve DPS monitoring of and accountability for the activities of the PT program.***
- 4. Reinstigate a requirement for an on-road driving assessment before granting a provisional and/or unrestricted license to novices under 18.***

**Has Texas gone too far in getting
parents involved?**

Taken the Wrong Path?

What's Needed?

To Obtain Full Report

Pezoldt, V. J., Womack, K. N. and Morris, D. E. (2007, April)
Parent taught driver education in Texas: A comparative evaluation.
Final Report to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration,
DOT Contract No. DTNH22-02-D-85121, Task Order 2. (DOT
Report No. DOT HS 810 760). Washington, D.C.: NHTSA.

- Write to:
 The Office of Behavioral Safety Research
 NHTSA, NTI-130,
 400 Seventh Street SW.
 Washington, DC 20590
- Send a fax to:
 202-366-7096, or
- Download from: **www.nhtsa.dot.gov**
 Click on: **Teen Drivers**, then
 Click on: **New drivers**

Val Pezoldt
Center for Transportation Safety
Texas Transportation Institute
The Texas A&M University System
E-mail: v-pezoldt@tamu.edu
210-979-9411



http://tti.tamu.edu/conferences/traffic_safety

