

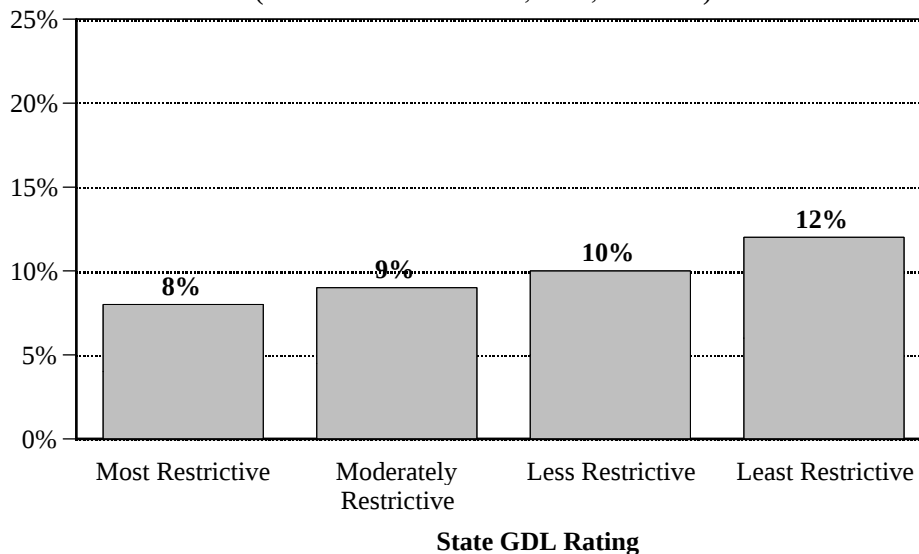
A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland, College Park

States with More Restrictive Graduated Driver Licensing Laws Less Likely to Have Teens Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol

The percentage of drivers aged 15 to 17 who drove under the influence of alcohol increased as the restrictiveness of state graduated driver licensing (GDL) laws decreased, according to data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH). While all 50 states have some form of GDL laws, such as requiring that new drivers be accompanied by an adult, placing limits on driving hours, and restricting the number of passengers, the laws vary in the extent that they restrict driving behaviors. States with the most restrictive GDL laws had the lowest percentage of teens reporting driving under the influence of alcohol in the past year (8%) while states with the least restrictive GDL laws had the highest percentage of teens reporting driving under the influence (12%). Additionally, young drivers in states with the most restrictive GDL laws had lower rates of heavy alcohol use* than did young drivers in states with the least restrictive driving laws (data not shown).

**Percentage of Drivers Aged 15 to 17 Reporting Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol
in the Past Year, by State GDL Rating,****
(Combined data for 1999, 2000, and 2001)



*Heavy alcohol use is defined as drinking 5 or more drinks on the same occasion for 5 or more days during the past 30 days.

**The GDL rating scale was adapted from a rating scheme developed by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety and the Traffic Injury Research Foundation.

SOURCE: Adapted by CESAR from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Office of Applied Studies, "Graduated Driver Licensing and Drinking among Young Drivers," *The NSDUH Report*, April 30, 2004. Available online at <http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/2k4/licenses/licenses.cfm>.

•• 301-405-9770 (voice) •• 301-403-8342 (fax) •• CESAR@cesar.umd.edu •• www.cesar.umd.edu ••

CESAR FAX is supported by BYRN 2003-1006, awarded by the U.S. Department of Justice through the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention. CESAR FAX may be copied without permission. Please cite CESAR as the source.