

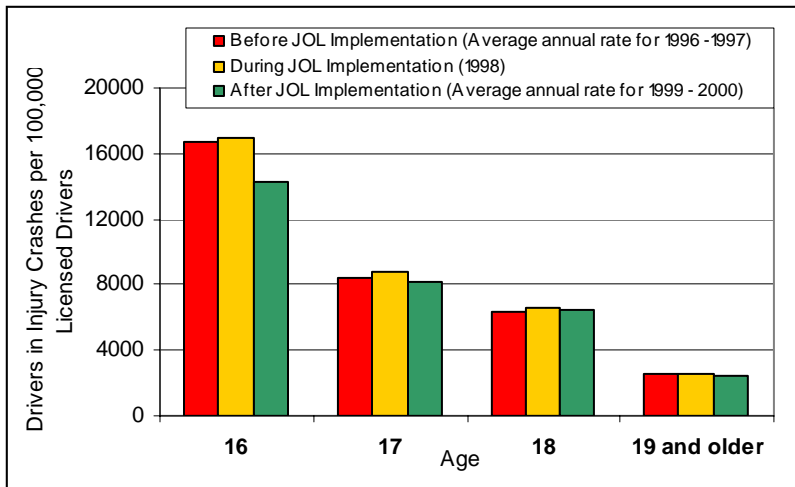


GRADUATED DRIVER LICENSING TEEN DRIVER SAFETY IN MASSACHUSETTS

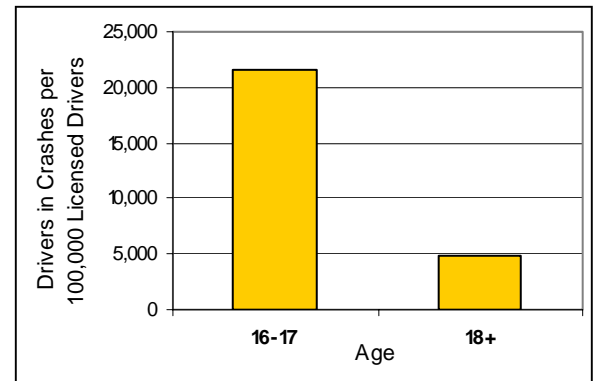
In Massachusetts:

- Drivers ages 16 and 17 have a crash involvement rate 4 times higher than for drivers 18 and older.
- The violation rate for all violations issued to 16 year old drivers was 4 times than the comparable violation rate for all drivers.
- 16 year-old drivers are overrepresented in both crashes and violations.

Rate of Drivers Involved in **Injury Crashes** per 100,000 Licensed Drivers



Rate of Drivers involved in **All Crashes** per 100,000 Licensed Drivers, 2002-2004



After JOL implementation:

- There was a **14% reduction** in the rate of drivers involved in **injury crashes** for 16 year-old drivers. Differences were very small for drivers age 17 or older.
- There was a **48% reduction** in the rate of 16 year-old drivers involved in **fatal crashes**.

Median Driver Inpatient Charges by Restraint Use^a

Age	Not Restrained	Restrained
15-17	\$21,000	\$14,000
18-20	\$17,000	\$13,000
28-30	\$14,000	\$13,000

^a Likely underreporting of charges associated with unrestrained occupants due to overreporting of restraint use in police accident reports.

Median Driver Inpatient Charges by Time of Day^b

Age	Day	Night
15-17	\$14,000	\$20,000
18-20	\$15,000	\$15,000
28-30	\$15,000	\$13,000

^b Nighttime defined as 9:00 PM to 5:59 AM.

Hospital inpatient charges associated with crashes showed:

- Drivers ages 15 to 17 had higher inpatient charges than other drivers when unrestrained. When restrained, charges for 15-17 year-old drivers were similar to other ages.
- Drivers ages 15 to 17 involved in crashes have higher associated inpatient charges when the crash occurred at night (9:00 PM to 5:59 AM) than when it occurred during the day.



UMassSAFE supports the improvement of highway safety through an

approach that combines scientific and data driven problem identification, program design, and program evaluation with more traditional highway safety practices in enforcement, education and engineering.

Program Areas:

- Data Sharing and Management
- Field Data Collection and Analysis
- Data Analysis for Applied Highway Safety Programming
- Training, Education, and Technical Assistance
- Community Programming and Evaluation
- Driver Behavior and Safety Engineering Research

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Note: Inpatient charges are rounded to the nearest thousand. This analysis was performed using preliminary linked data from the Crash Outcome Data Evaluation System (CODES).



GRADUATED DRIVER LICENSING

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATIONS FOR YOUNG DRIVER LICENSING PRACTICES IN MASSACHUSETTS

Massachusetts JOL Policy

The learner's Permit:

- Minimum age of 16 years-old;
- Minimum holding time of 6 months;
- 30 hours of classroom instruction;
- 6 to 8 hours behind-the-wheel training;
- 4 to 6 hours as an observer to another student driver; and
- 12 hours of supervised driving experience.

The Junior Operator's License:

- Minimum age of 16.5 years-old;
- No driving between the hours of midnight and 5:00 AM unless accompanied by a parent or guardian; and
- For the first 6 months, no passengers under the age of 18 unless they are supervised by a driver age 21 or older.

“Graduated Licensing: A Blueprint for North America” is a document released by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety and the Traffic Injury Research Foundation that outlines best practices and effective GDL programs. The following table is a review of this document as it compares with the Massachusetts Junior Operator Law including considerations for modifications to the current graduated licensing system in Massachusetts.

Recommendation	Current MA Policy	Considerations
Recommendations where Massachusetts is already in compliance		
Three-stage licensing	Massachusetts current graduated licensing stages are learner's permit, Junior Operators License, full licensure.	Already in compliance
Starting age of 16	Massachusetts minimum age for learner's permit is 16.	
Adult supervision	Massachusetts currently requires adult supervision in the learner's permit stage.	
Minimum 6 month learner's phase	Massachusetts currently requires a new teen driver to hold the learner's permit for six months.	
No unsupervised driving before 16.5 years-old	Massachusetts minimum age for Junior Operator's License which allows some unsupervised driving is 16.5 years-old.	
No full licensure before age 18	Massachusetts currently requires a driver to remain a Junior Operator until age 18.	
Integrate driver education	Massachusetts currently requires driver education as part of the learner's permit phase.	
Recommendations where Massachusetts is in partial compliance		
Supervised driving – 30 to 50 hours with some nighttime	Massachusetts currently requires 12 hours of supervised driving experience.	Increase supervised driving experience to at least 30 hours with some nighttime driving requirement.
Nighttime driving restriction – begin at 9 or 10 PM	Massachusetts currently restricts nighttime driving beginning at midnight.	Expand nighttime driving restriction from current hours of midnight - 5 AM to 9/10 PM - 5 AM.
None or one teenage passenger	Massachusetts currently restricts teen passengers during the first six months of unsupervised driving.	Consider expanding restriction to entire duration of Junior Operator License.
Penalties for poor driving record	Massachusetts currently implements license revocation for second offense of speeding or drag racing.	Expand penalties to include other common/high risk teen violations and consider other types of penalties (i.e. restarting JOL).
Recommendations where Massachusetts is not in compliance		
Examine whether GDL should apply to all new drivers	Massachusetts graduated licensing currently applies only to new, teen drivers.	Analyze licensed driver data to determine whether teens are largest population of new drivers.
Exit test prior to full licensure	Massachusetts does not currently require an exit test prior to moving from Junior Operator's License to full licensure.	Require a 2 nd , more difficult, road test prior to full licensure at age 18 to ensure appropriate experience has been gained and necessary skills learned.