

PREVALENCE OF NOVICE TEENAGE DRIVER CELL PHONE USE

Driving Assessment

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Novice Teen Drivers

- 3x crash rate per mile driven than drivers 20+*
- More likely to engage in cell phone related secondary tasks than older drivers



*Federal Highway Administration. 2008. National Household Travel Survey, 2008. Washington, DC: US Department of Transportation

Previous Prevalence Estimates

- 16-17-year-olds
 - ▣ 2009 - 52% talked and 34% texted while driving (Pew)
 - ▣ 2012 - 43% texted or emailed while driving (YRBS)
- Limitations
 - ▣ “Have you ever” (Pew) “In the last 30 days”(YRBS)
 - ▣ No talking measure (YRBS) or measure of intensity
 - ▣ Surveyed all teens, rather than teen drivers

Madden, M. & Lenhart, A. (2009). Teens and distracted driving Washington D.C.: Pew Research Center.

Eaton, D. K., Kann, L., Kinchen, S., Shanklin, S., Flint, K. H., Hawkins, J. et al. (2012). Youth risk behavior surveillance - United States, 2011 (Rep. No. 61)

Aim



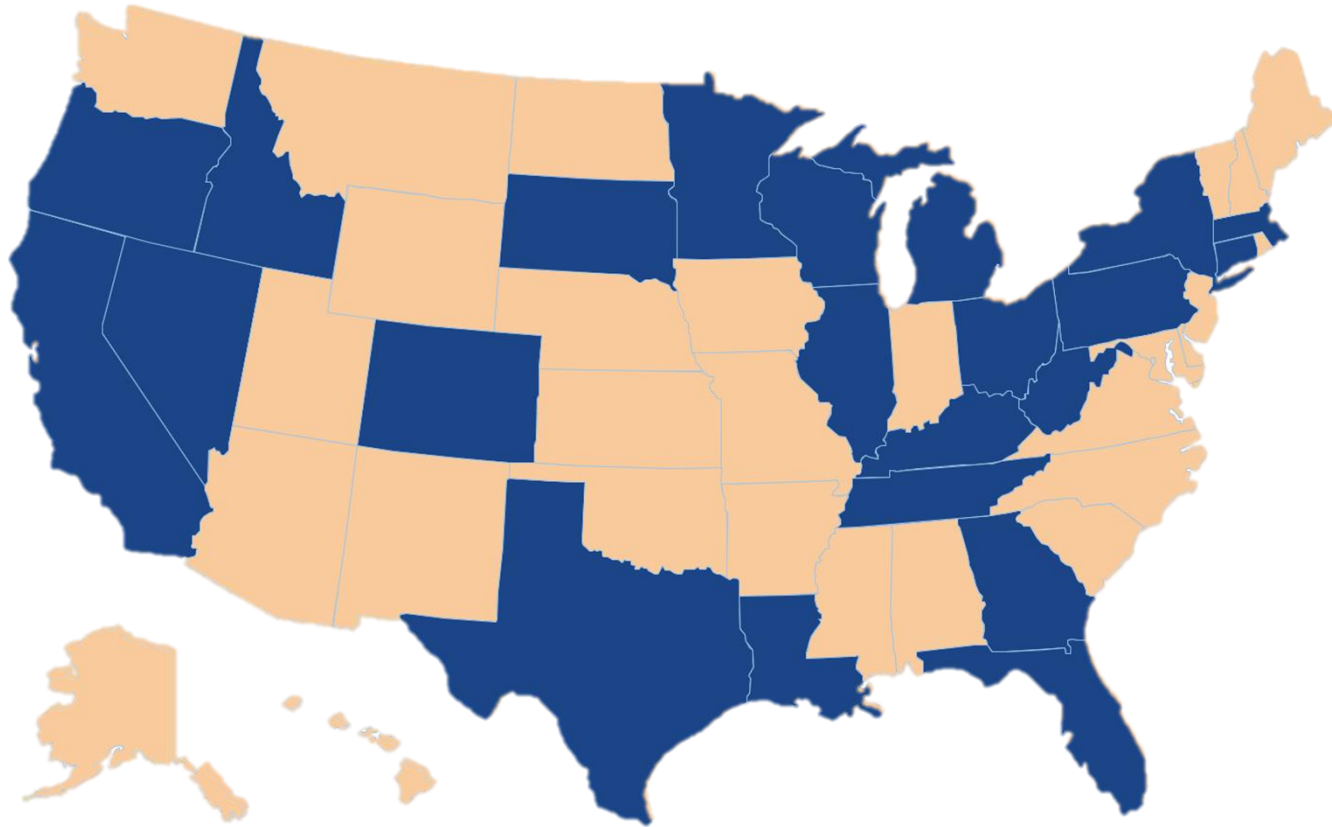
Describe the prevalence of self-reported cell phone use while driving among newly-licensed teen drivers

Method



- NEXT Generation Health Study Survey
 - ▣ Self-report questionnaire
- Outcomes
 - ▣ *Talking* (making and receiving calls)
 - ▣ *Texting* (sending and reading text messages)
- Predictors
 - ▣ Gender, Ethnicity, Family Affluence, Vehicle Access, Driving Exposure

States in the NEXT Sample



California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, West Virginia and Wisconsin

Analysis



- Conducted in SAS 9.3
- Accounted for complex survey sampling
- Estimated using Generalized Estimating Equations, accounting for:
 - binomial distribution of data
 - $\text{N days used phone while driving} \div \text{N days driven}$

Results – All Teens (N = 2,439)



- **42.0%** reported ***talking*** while driving *at least once in the last 30 days*
- **36.8%** reported ***texting*** while driving *at least once in the last 30 days*

Sample of Licensed Drivers ($n = 881$)

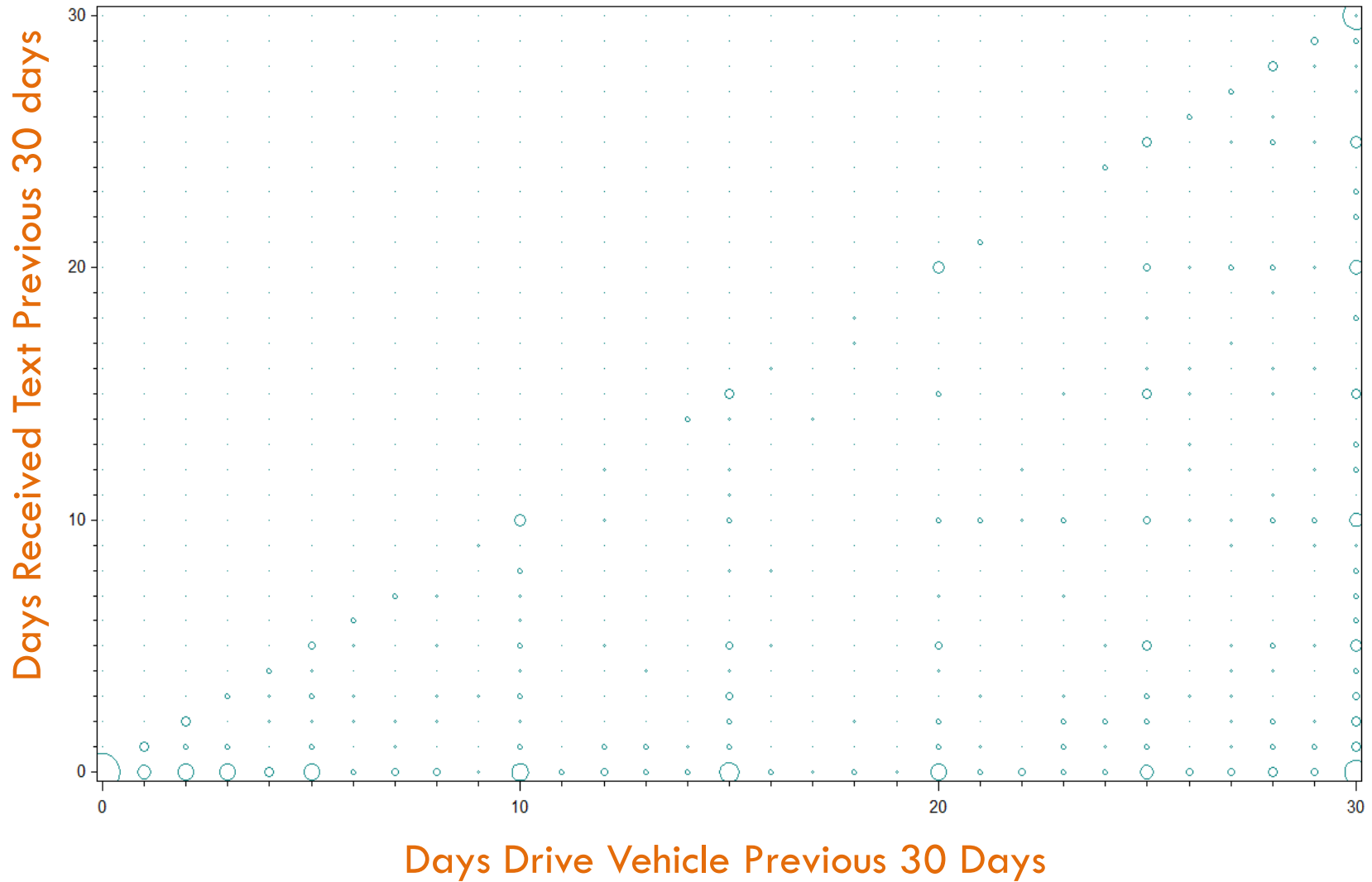
Age $M = 17.4$ years ($SD = .5$ years)			
	%		%
Gender		Family Affluence	
Male	47.6	Low	14.1
Female	52.4	Moderate	49.2
Race/Ethnicity		High	36.7
White	71.8	Driving Exposure	
Hispanic	10.5	Low	11.5
African American	13.2	Medium	15.2
Other	4.5	High	73.3
Driving exposure - Number of days driven in the last 30 days: Low ≤ 10 days, Medium 11 – 20 days, High ≥ 20 days			

Results – Licensed Drivers ($n = 881$)



- **75%** reported ***talking*** while driving *at least once in the last 30 days*
- **67%** reported ***texting*** while driving *at least once in the last 30 days*
- Ethnicity and driving exposure significantly associated with talking and texting

Days Driven vs Days Received Text



Results – Licensed Drivers ($n = 881$)



- Teens reported *talking* while driving on **32.0%** of days drove
- Teens reported *texting* while driving on **40.6%** of days drove
- Ethnicity, family affluence, and driving exposure significantly associated with talking and texting

Summary



- Overall prevalence similar to previous studies
- Among licensed drivers, prevalence of talking and texting while driving is high
- Ethnicity and driving exposure were significantly associated with ever talking and texting while driving
- Ethnicity, family affluence and driving exposure were significantly associated with percent of days talked or texted while driving

Strengths and Limitations



- Two different prevalence estimates:
 1. Ever talked in last 30 days
 2. Days talked/texted out of days driven

- Self reported behavior

- Cross sectional

Future Directions



- Prevalence of cell phone use while driving in states where cell phone restrictions in effect versus no restrictions

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