

# Crash Rates of Teens Delaying Licensure Compared with Those Not Delaying Licensure

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**Impact**  
Teen Drivers



# Background

- Nationally, GDL associated with higher 18–19-year-old fatal crash rates (Fell, Jones, Romano & Voas, 2011; Males, 2007; Masten, Foss, & Marshall, 2011; Masten & Hagge, 2003)
- Possible mechanisms:
  1. More 18–19 Novices: Delayed licensure to avoid GDL
  2. Lower 18–19 Competency: GDL limits real-world driving experience

# Research Questions

1. Do CA teens appear to delay licensure to avoid GDL?
2. How do CA teens who delay licensure drive compare to their same-age peers?
3. How do CA teens who delay licensure compare to novices of other ages?

# Method

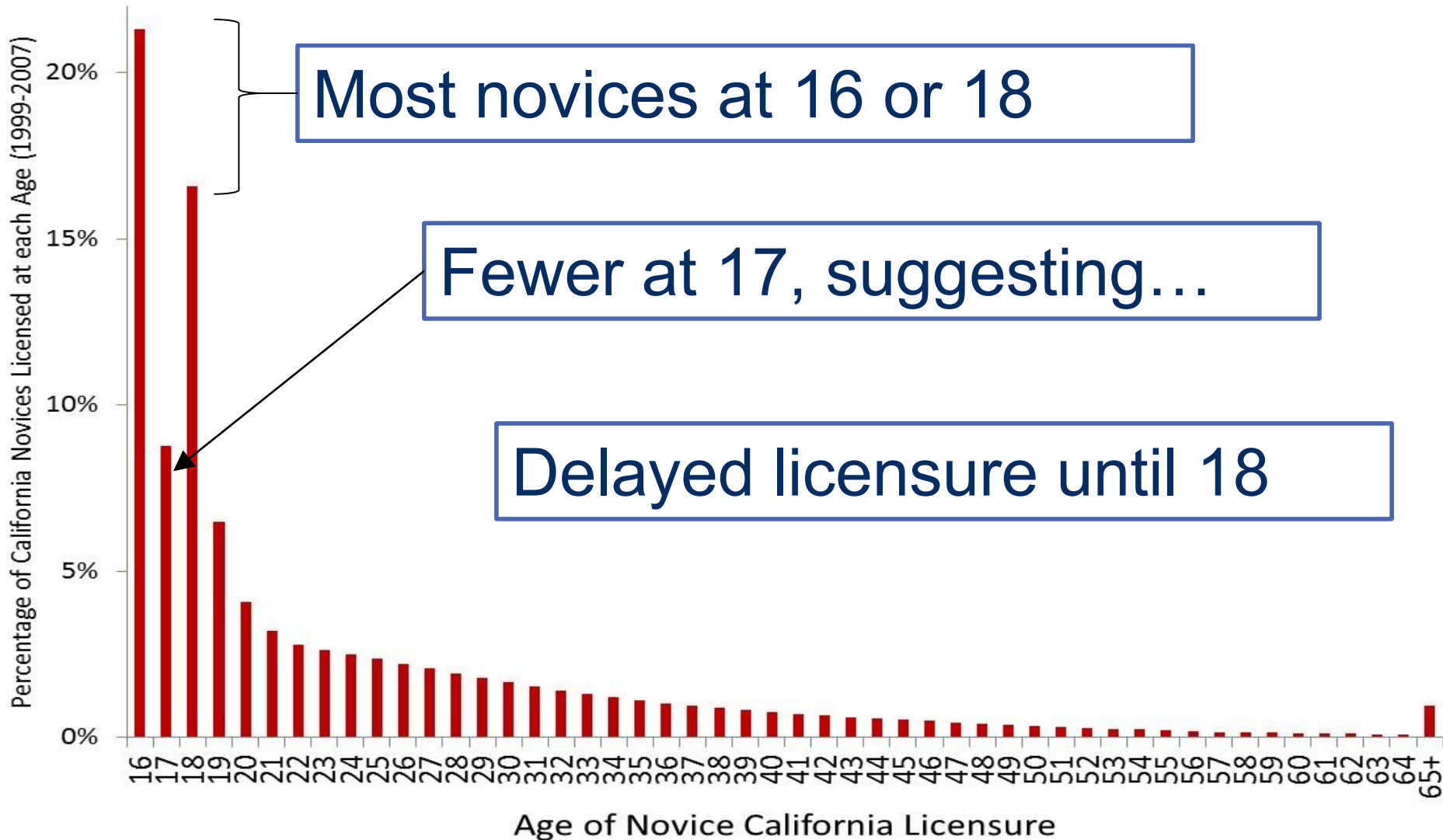
## □ Data

- Random 10% of CA newly-licensed (novices), 1999–2007 (post-GDL)
- 3-year total & fatal/injury crashes

## □ Analyses

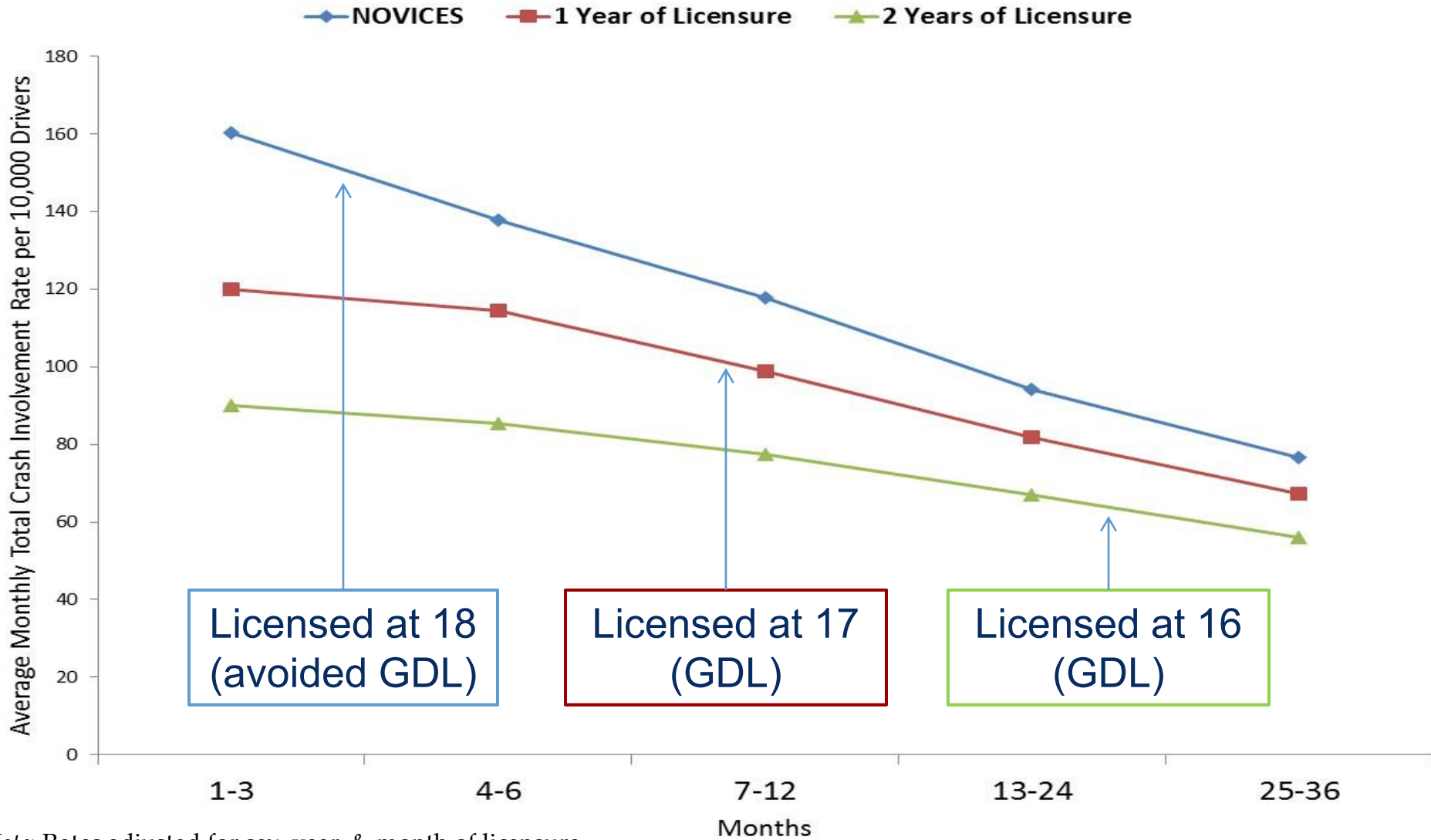
- Age of novice CA licensure
- Novices vs. same-age peers licensed 1 or 2 years prior
  - Separate Poisson models 18, 19, 20, 21–24, & 25–35
- Different-aged novices vs. each other

# Age of Novice CA Licensure, 1999-2007



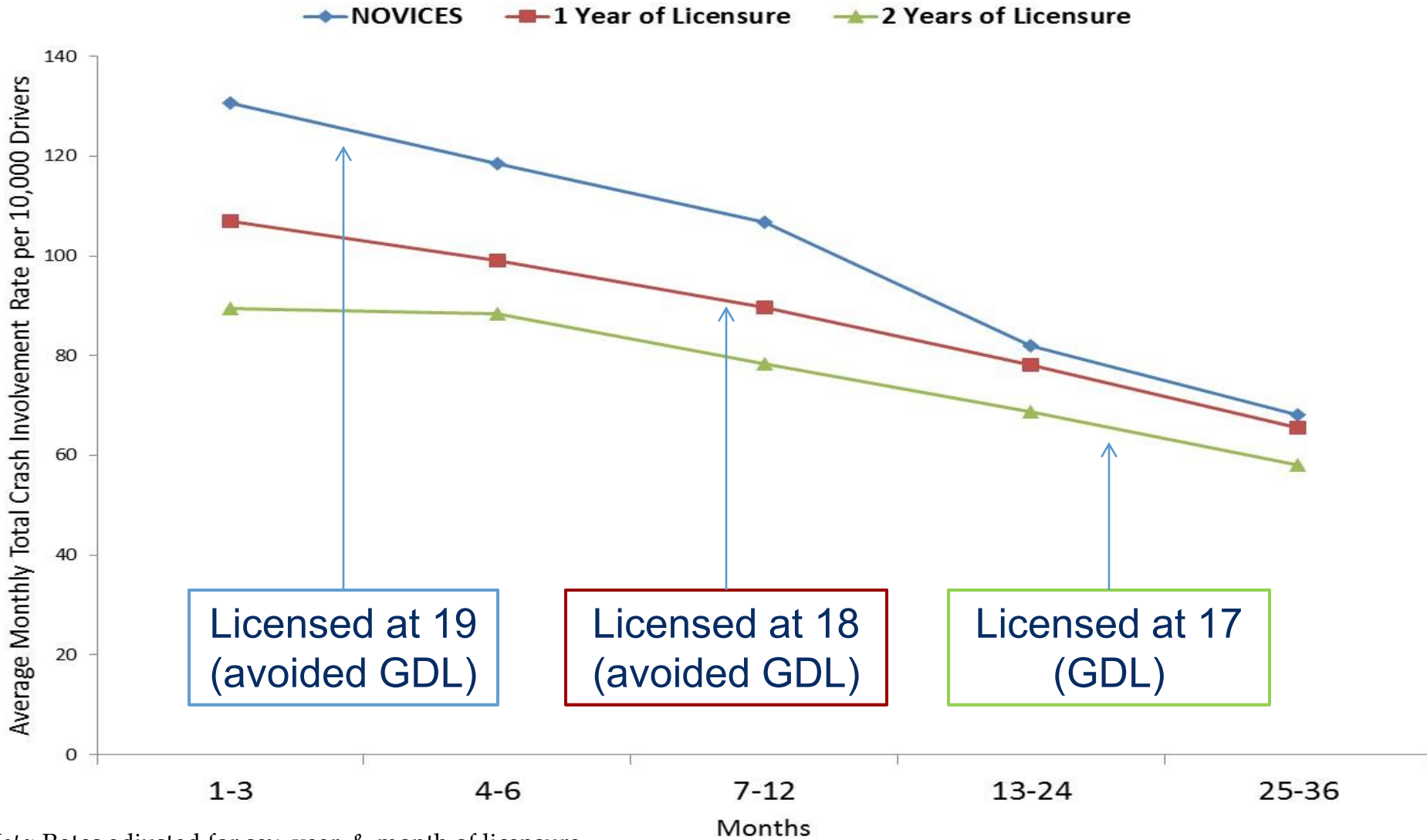


# Age 18 Novices vs. Age 18 Experienced



Note: Rates adjusted for sex, year, & month of licensure.

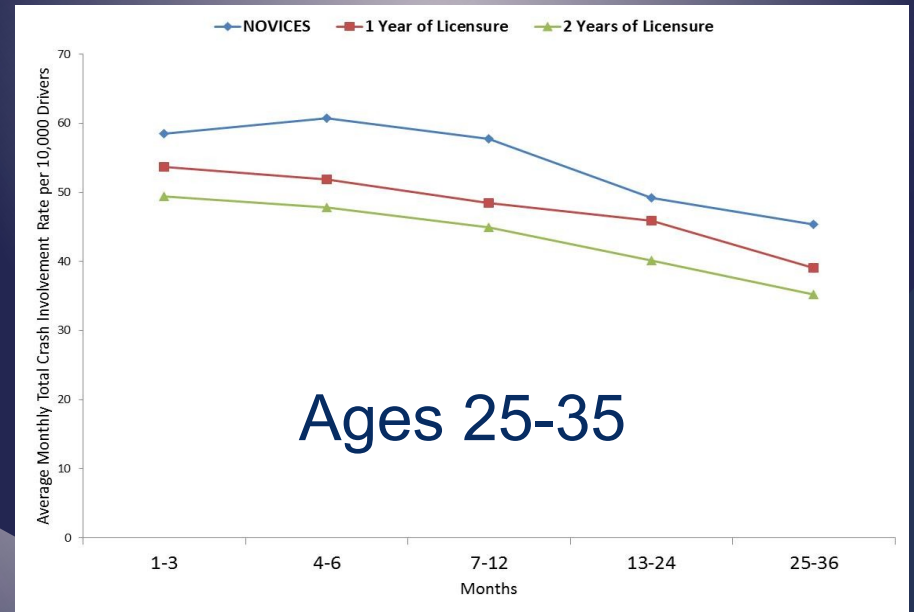
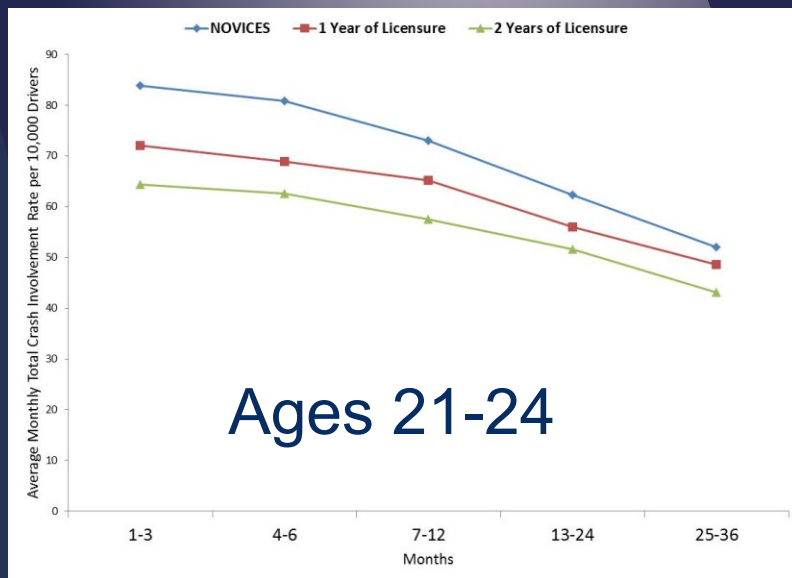
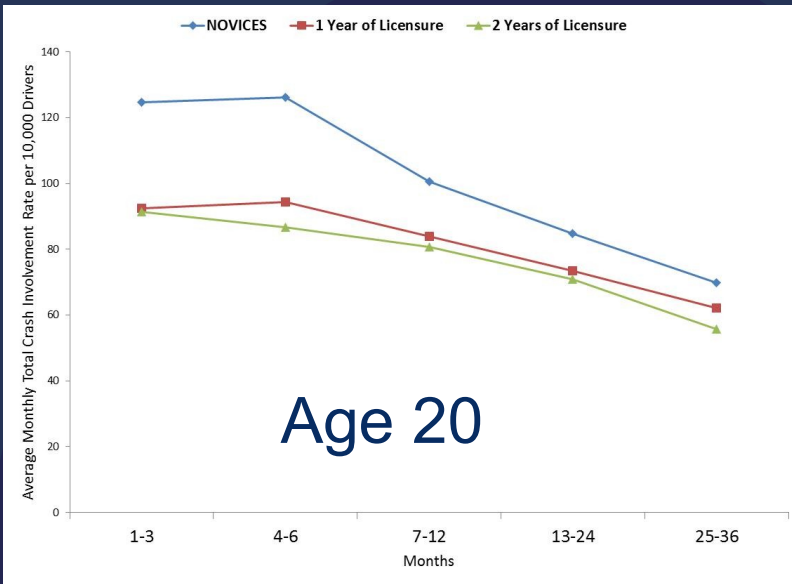
# Age 19 Novices vs. Age 19 Experienced



Note: Rates adjusted for sex, year, & month of licensure.

# Age 20+ Novices vs. Age 20+ Experienced

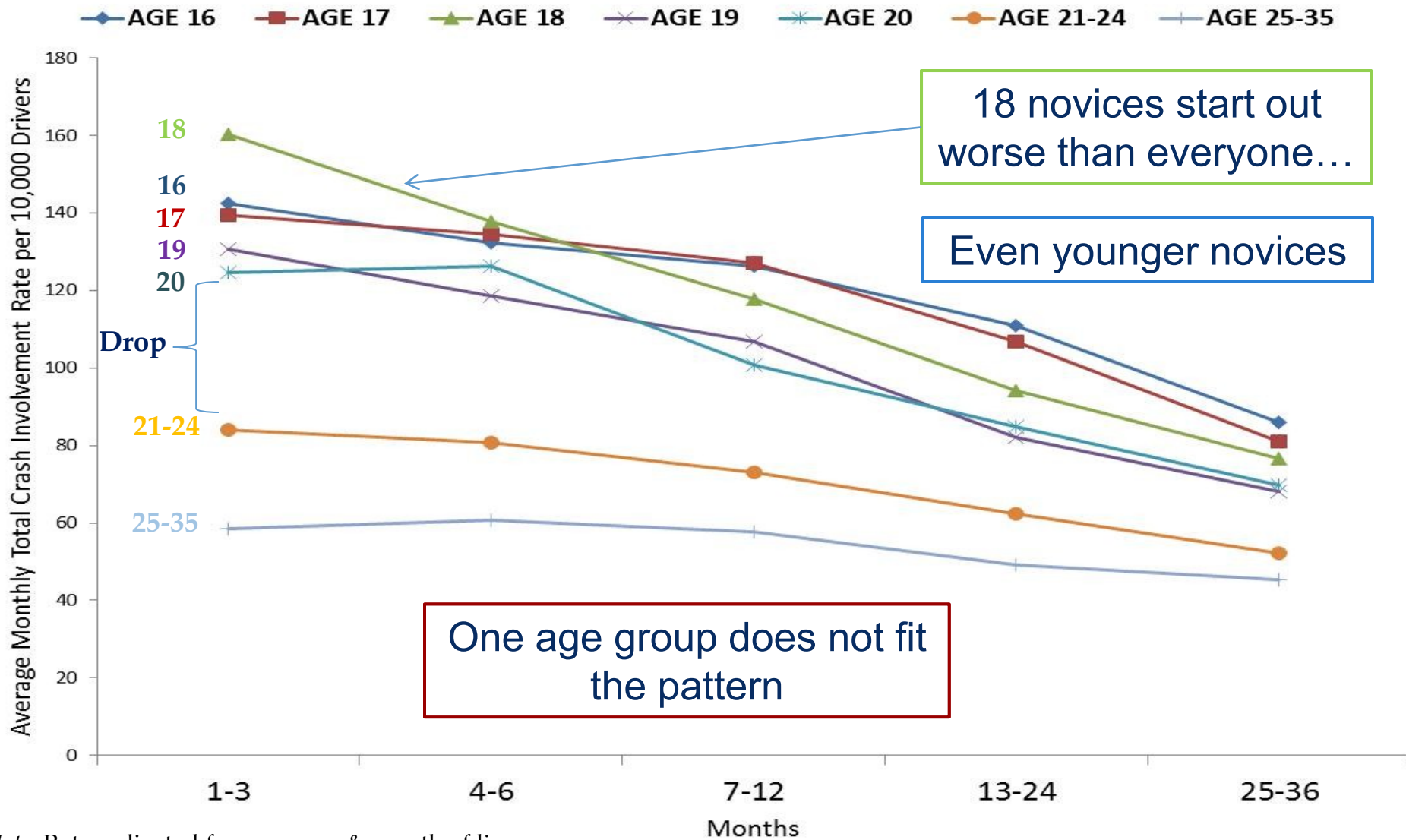
Experience associated with fewer crashes for all ages...



Novices of all ages are worse drivers than same-age peers.

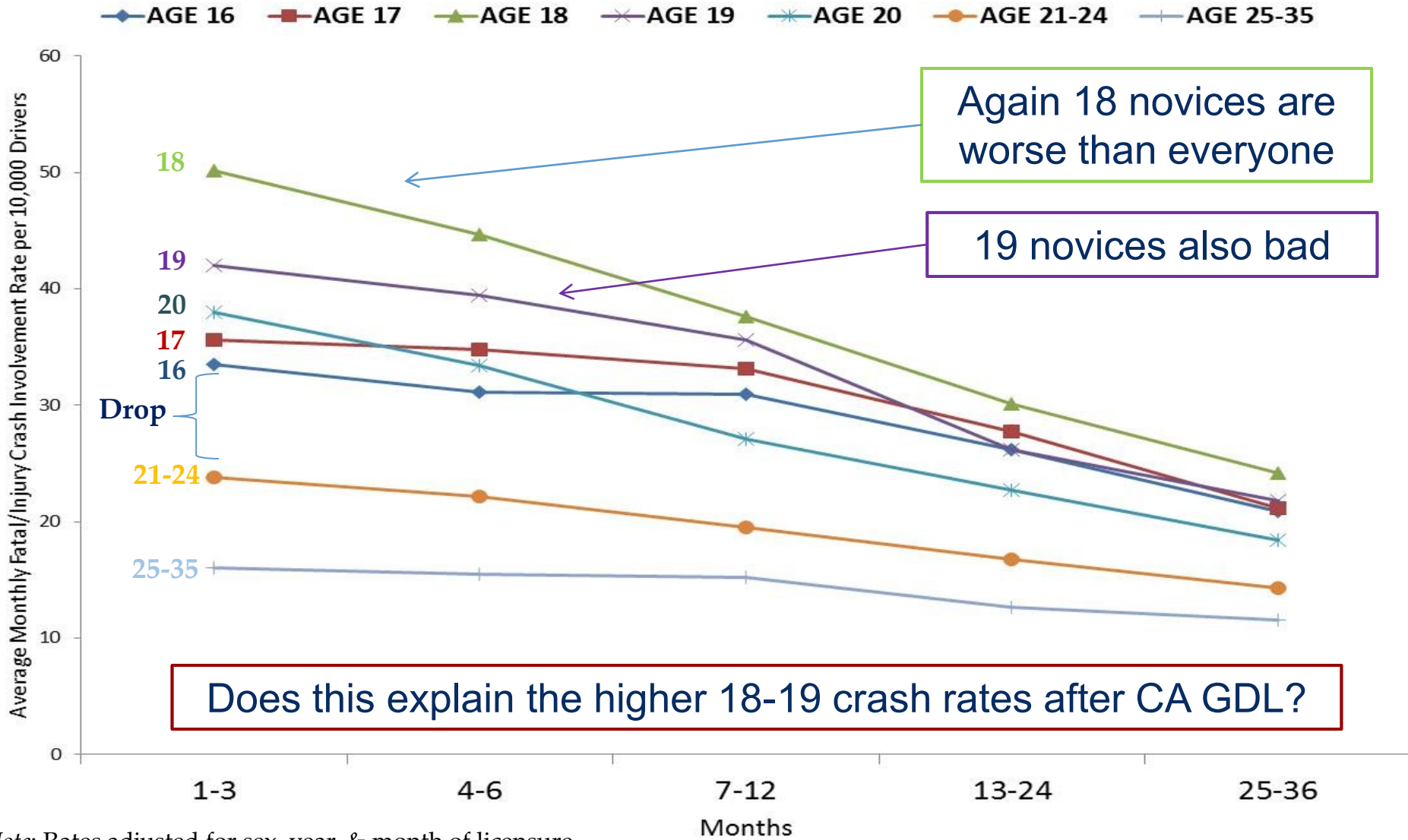


# Novices of Different Ages (Total Crashes)



Note: Rates adjusted for sex, year, & month of licensure.

# Novices of Different Ages (Fatal/Injury)



Note: Rates adjusted for sex, year, & month of licensure.

# Research Question #1

Do CA teens appear to delay licensure to avoid GDL?

Yes:

- ❑ Fewer teens licensed at 17
- ❑ Licensure pops up again at 18

# Research Question #2

How do CA teens who delay licensure drive compare to their same-age peers?

They have higher crash rates:

- ❑ CA 18 and 19 year-olds who delay licensure crash more than their same-aged peers...
- ❑ But this is true for novices of all ages compared to their same-age peers

# Research Question #3

How do CA teens who delay licensure compare to novices of other ages?

They have higher crash rates:

- ❑ Delaying 18 year-olds have higher total and fatal/injury crash rates than other novices.
- ❑ Delaying 19 year-olds have higher fatal/injury crash rates than other novices.



# Conclusions

- ❑ Some CA teens appear to delay licensure until age 18: No GDL or driver education.
- ❑ 18-19 novices who avoid GDL are worse than ALL other novices, even younger teens
  - ❑ Was this a result of implementing GDL?
- ❑ All novices worse than their experienced peers: GDL may benefit novices of all ages.

# Questions & Discussion

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