

Chapter 1

You Are the Driver



1.1 You Are Part of the System

1.3 Your Driving Responsibilities

1.2 Your Driving Task

1.4 Your Driver's License

YOU ARE PART OF THE SYSTEM

- ▶ **Risk** – Risk means DANGER. The main risk in driving is the possibility of colliding with something or someone.
- ▶ **Highway Transportation System**
 - **People** *The people who use the HTS by driving, walking, or riding are called ROADWAY USERS*
 - **Vehicles** *Cars, Trucks, Semi-Trucks, Motorcycles, Farm Vehicles, Buses, Campers, Etc.....*
 - **Roadways** *Dirt Roads – Complex Multilane Expressways*



Regulating the HTS

Federal, State, Local

Federal – National Highway Safety Act – *set of traffic safety guidelines*

State and Local Governments - Enforce guidelines
National Guidelines
Vehicle Code

Enforcement Agencies – *Assure that laws are obeyed*

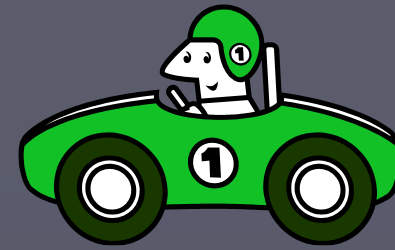
Motor Vehicle Depts – *Set rules that assure driver and vehicle standards are met*

Courts – *Decides whether drivers are violating laws*

Highway Traffic Engineers – *Plan, Build, and Maintain the complex system of roadways*



Your Driving Task



- ▶ **Driving Task** – Includes Social, Physical, and Mental Skills required to drive.
- ▶ **Social Skills** – Interaction with other drivers successfully
 - Courteous
 - Cooperation
- ▶ **Physical Skills** – Learn the physical skills so they become natural habits.
 - Lets you concentrate on social and mental tasks
 - Beginning drivers often need to concentrate heavily on physical skills
 - After extended practice, these drivers acquire the ability to control their vehicle, this helps to focus attention on social and mental aspects of driving
- ▶ **Mental Skills** – Safe, low risk driving is primarily a mental task that involves decision making.
 - Physical Skills are minor when compared to the necessary decision-making skills
 - IPDE Process – A process of seeing, thinking, and responding
 - ▶ Identify – important information
 - ▶ Predict – when and where possible conflicts will develop
 - ▶ Decide – when, where, and how to avoid conflicts
 - ▶ Execute – follow through with your decision to prevent conflicts

Smith System

Aim High

Keep Eyes Moving

Get the Big Picture

Make Sure Others See You

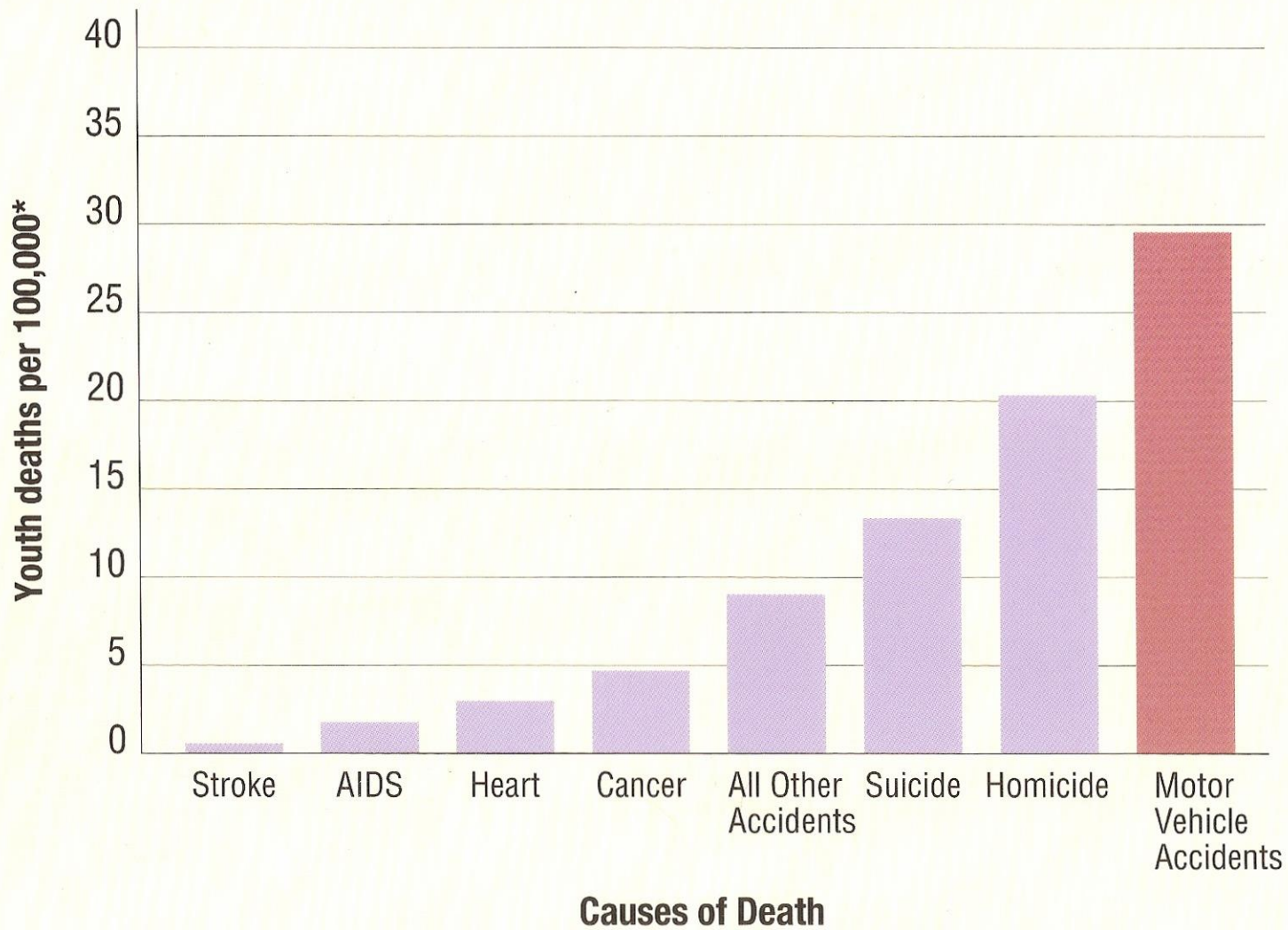
Leave Yourself a "Way Out"

Zone Control – Method for managing space around your vehicle

Defensive Driving

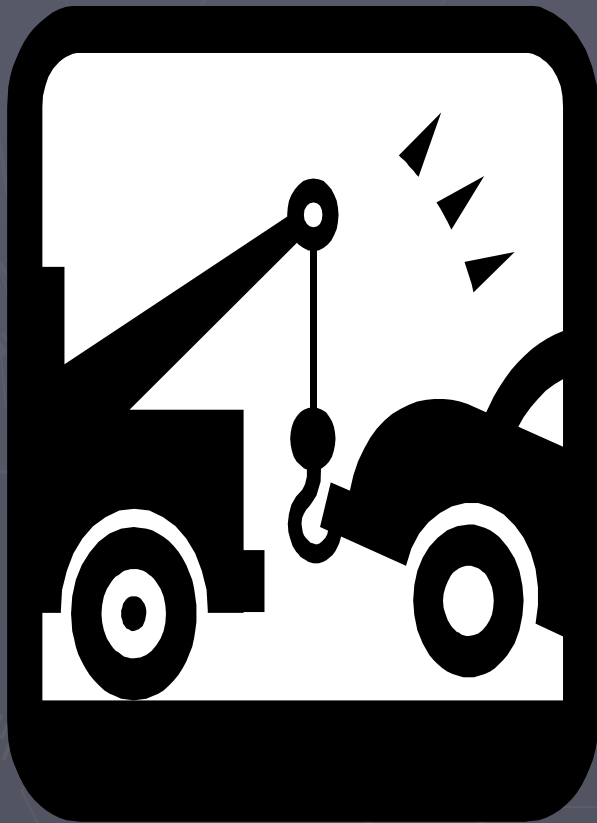
- ▶ Ability to drive in a way that reduces conflicts
- ▶ Lowers risk of conflict by protecting you and others from dangerous situations

Death Rates for Youth



*15 to 24 year old provisional death rates/100,000 population (1995 NCHS Data)

The Driving Task



- Separate hazards using knowledge and visual skills
- Obeying traffic laws
- Judging time and space
- Anticipating how your car handles situations

THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS AN ACCIDENT.

SIGMUND FREUD



Your Driver's License

- ▶ For young Drivers, The risk of driving is high.
(41% of young people who were killed in collisions, died in single-car collisions)
- ▶ **Licensing Process** (Structured practice driving time is successful)
 - **Graduated Licensing**
 - ▶ Requires drivers to progress through a series of stages.
 - ▶ **Learner's Permit Stage**
 - Parental Consent - Obtains a permit to drive with supervision
 - Held for a specified amount of time
 - Practice Driving Hours
 - ▶ **Intermediate License Stage**
 - Successfully completed Permit Stage and Driver's Education
 - Meet specified practice driving hours
 - Limits number of passengers
 - Held for period of time with violation and collision free driving
 - ▶ **Full-Licensing Stage**
 - Successful completion of Intermediate Stage
 - Violation and Collision free
- ▶ **Your Beginning**
 - Your start to becoming a responsible driver
 - **Key Concepts**
 - ▶ Mental-Decision-making Process
 - ▶ Attitude influences your driving
 - ▶ Must use safety belts and restraints
 - ▶ Never Drink and Drive
- ▶ **Remember** – Driving is a continuous process. You will need to continue to develop and improve you skills.
Good Drivers never stop learning!



Graduated licensing Program

- ▶ Nationally, 7,463 15-20-year-old drivers were involved in fatal crashes in 2006.
- ▶ Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for 15-20-year-olds.
- ▶ In 2006, 3,490 15-20-year-old drivers were killed and an additional 272,000 were injured in motor vehicle crashes.
- ▶ Among the 15 to 20-year old drivers involved in fatal crashes, 31 percent had been drinking.
- ▶ During 2006, 318 young motorcycle operators (15-20 years old) were killed and an additional 8,000 were injured.
- ▶ 38 percent of the motorcycle drivers between 15 and 20 years old who were fatally injured in crashes were not wearing helmets and 42% were either unlicensed or driving with an invalid license.
- ▶ For young drivers (15 to 20 years old), alcohol involvement is higher among males than females. In 2006, 27 percent of young males drivers involved in fatal crashes had been drinking at the time of the crash, compared with 15 percent of the young female drivers involved in fatal crashes.
- ▶ 77 percent of the young drivers who had been drinking and were killed in crashes were not wearing their seatbelts.

Permit Phase Drivers Age 15

1. Parent/guardian consent required to obtain an instruction permit.
2. Must be enrolled in an approved driver education course, and must pass vision and written exams.
3. A nighttime driving restriction is in place Sunday-Thursday, 10 p.m-6 a.m., and Friday-Saturday, 11 p.m.-6 a.m. (local curfews may differ from the nighttime driving restriction).
4. Permit must be held for a minimum of nine months.
5. Must practice driving a minimum of 50 hours, including 10 hours of nighttime driving, supervised by a parent or adult age 21 or older with a valid driver's license.
6. Must not acquire any driving convictions during the nine-month permit phase.
7. Number of passengers limited to one in the front seat and the number of safety belts in the back seat.
8. All occupants under age 19 must wear safety belts.
9. Cell phone use while driving is prohibited except in the case of an emergency to contact a law enforcement agency, health care provider or emergency services agency.
10. Permit is valid for up to two years.

Sanctions -

Limit of one court supervision for serious driving offenses. To obtain court supervision, driver must appear in person before the presiding court with a parent or legal guardian and must also attend traffic safety school.

Conviction of a moving violation results in a nine-month waiting period before applying for a driver's license.

Anyone caught driving without a permit will be ineligible to obtain a driver's license until age 18

Not eligible for any hardship permit.

Initial Licensing Phase - Drivers Age 16-17

1. Parent/guardian must certify that a minimum of 50 hours of practice driving, including 10 hours of nighttime driving, has been completed.
2. Parent/guardian must accompany teen to provide written consent to obtain a driver's license, OR complete and notarize an Affidavit/Consent For Minor to Drive form.
3. Must have completed a state-approved driver education course.
4. A nighttime driving restriction is in place Sunday-Thursday, 10 p.m.-6 a.m., and Friday-Saturday, 11 p.m.-6 a.m. (local curfews may differ from the nighttime driving restriction).
5. Must maintain a conviction-free driving record for six months prior to turning age 18 before moving to the Full Licensing Phase. A traffic conviction during the initial licensing phase may extend restrictions beyond age 18.
6. All occupants under age 19 must wear safety belts.
7. For the first year of licensing, or until the driver is age 18, whichever occurs first, the number of passengers is limited to one person under age 20, unless the additional passenger(s) is a sibling, step-sibling, child, or step-child of the driver. After this period, the number of passengers is limited to one in the front seat and the number of safety belts in the back seat.
8. Cell phone use while driving is prohibited except in the case of an emergency to contact a law enforcement agency, health care provider or emergency services agency.

Sanctions

Limit one court supervision for serious offenses. To obtain court supervision, a driver must appear in person before the presiding court with a parent or legal guardian and must also attend traffic safety school.

Conviction of any moving violation before age 18 generates a Secretary of State warning letter to the parent and teenager.

Two moving violation convictions occurring within a 24-month period results in a minimum one-month driver's license suspension. Suspension length is determined by the seriousness of the offenses and the driver's prior driving history. An additional driver's license suspension will result for each subsequent moving violation following the initial suspension.

Any moving violation conviction that occurs within the first year of licensure will result in a six-month extension of the passenger limitation, which allows no more than one unrelated passenger under age 20.

Suspended drivers are required to attend a remedial education course, may be retested and must pay a \$70 reinstatement fee.

Full Licensing Phase - Drivers 18-20

- ▶ No age-related restrictions apply except in cases where a driver fails to move from the Initial Licensing Phase to the Full Licensing Phase. Cell phone use while driving for persons under age 19 is prohibited except in the case of an emergency to contact a law enforcement agency, health care provider or emergency services agency.

Sanctions

Limit one court supervision for serious offenses.

Two moving violation convictions occurring within a 24-month period results in a minimum one-month driver's license suspension. Suspension length is determined by the seriousness of the offenses and the driver's prior driving history. An additional driver's license suspension will result for each subsequent moving violation following the initial suspension.

Suspended drivers are required to pay a \$70 reinstatement fee.

Frequently Asked Questions

- ▶ **How many hours of practice driving with my parent/guardian are required prior to obtaining my Illinois driver's license?**

The GDL law currently requires 50 hours of practice driving, including 10 hours of night driving, supervised by a parent, guardian or adult age 21 or older.

- ▶ **If I receive my instruction permit in December 2007, am I required to hold the permit for three months as required under current law or nine months as required under the new law effective January 1, 2008?**

A new driver who receives his/her instruction permit prior to January 1, 2008, will fall under current guidelines and be required to hold the permit for three months before obtaining a driver's license. A driver receiving his/her permit on January 1, 2008, or later must hold the permit for a minimum of nine months before a driver's license may be obtained.

- ▶ **What happens if a new driver is caught violating the passenger limitation rule?**

The driver of the vehicle, as well as all passengers in the vehicle, can be ticketed if the driver is in violation of the passenger restriction rule.

- ▶ **Will the new passenger restriction prevent my 16-year-old from driving his/her brother, sister and cousin to events?**

Siblings, step-siblings, children and step-children of 16-year-old drivers are exempt from passenger limitations. Cousins under age 20 are not considered immediate family members and, therefore, are not exempt from passenger limitations.

Cont.

▶ **What are the new "nighttime driving restrictions" under the new GDL provisions?**

Effective January 1, 2008, drivers under age 18 may not operate a motor vehicle between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m., Sunday through Thursday, and between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. on Friday and Saturday.

▶ **Will I lose my driver's license if I am convicted of violating the nighttime driving restrictions?**

Yes. Effective January 1, 2008, your driver's license will be suspended if you are convicted of violating the new driving curfews.

▶ **If passengers are not seat belted in the vehicle while my teenager is driving who can be ticketed?**

If the driver is under age 18, he/she can be ticketed for anyone under age 18 who is unrestrained in the vehicle. Any passenger age 16 or 17 unbuckled in the front seat may be ticketed as well. It is at the discretion of the law enforcement officer whether to cite unbuckled passengers age 16 or 17 in the back seat.

▶ **If I get a traffic ticket while I have my graduated driver license will I lose my license?**

If the ticket is for an alcohol-related offense, the driver will lose his/her license for a minimum of three months.

During the initial and full licensing phases prior to age 21, a driver who receives two moving violation convictions within a 24-month period will lose his/her driver's license for a minimum of 30 days. After the first conviction, the parents/guardians of the driver will receive a warning letter from the Secretary of State informing them of the teenage driver's initial conviction and the possibility of loss of driving privileges for future violations. Should a driver receive a license suspension for two traffic convictions, he/she is subject to additional driver's license suspensions for each subsequent traffic conviction