

DRIVER COACH STUDY:
**Psychosocial and personality characteristics of
teen drivers whose parents used post-hoc
feedback vs those who did not?**

Gayatri Ankem, Research Associate, VTTI

Charlie Klauer, Lead Scientist, VTTI

Tina Sayer, Toyota



Driver Coach Study(DCS): Motivation

- In 2014, motor vehicle crashes caused ~ 55.2% of all deaths among teens aged 15-24, resulting in a total of 6,531 teen deaths.
- Previous NDS focused on teen drivers,
 - (1) Crash/near crash (CNC) rate of teen drivers is significantly higher than for adults (at least four times greater);
 - (2) Rates of elevated g-force events (i.e., kinematic risky driving), distraction, and speeding were significantly higher in teen drivers than in adults
 - (3) Elevated g-force event rates in previous month are predictive of CNC occurrence

DCS: Motivation (contd)

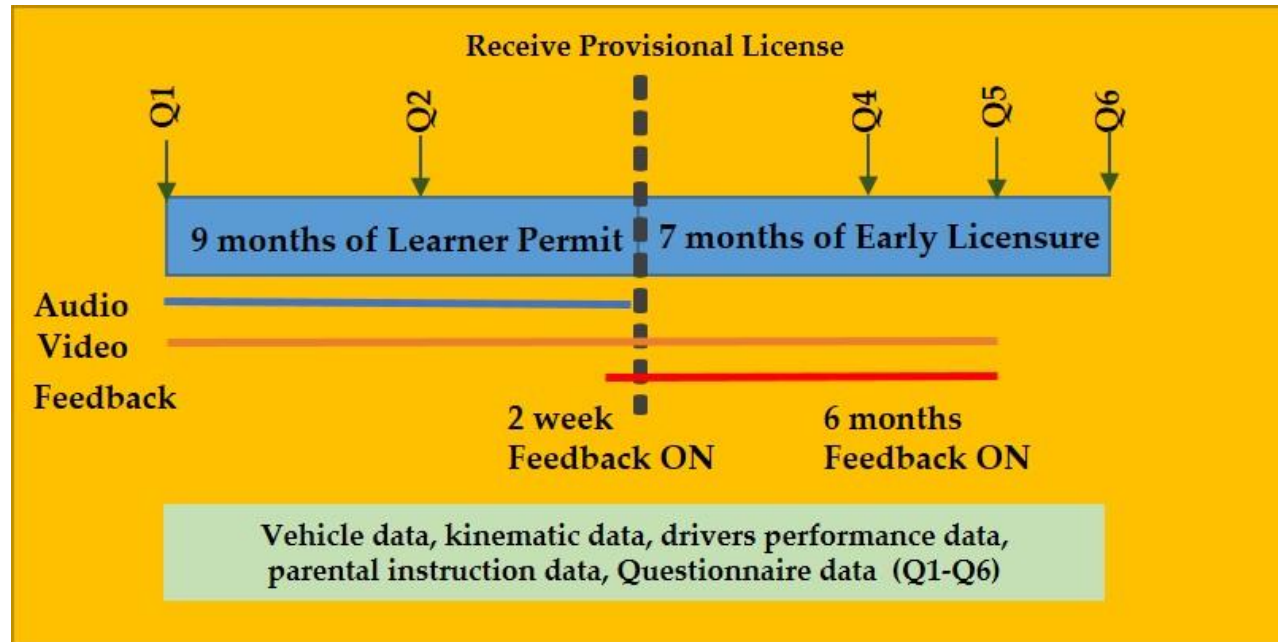
- Results from other studies
 - Parents are the key!!
 - With parental oversight, novice drivers reduce the frequency of elevated g-force events (hard braking/hard cornering) over time.
- Results from other monitoring/feedback studies
 - Non-video based In-vehicle data recorders (IVDR) with feedback –least promising results in improving teen driving safety.
 - Event triggered video based IVDR showed promise.



Purpose

Determine if real-time and post-hoc feedback delivered to both teens and parents can reduce crash rates for novice drivers during the most dangerous first 6 months of driving.

Overview



- Q1- Beginning of study
- Q2- Six months into participation
- Q3- Upon receipt of licensure
- Q4- Three months post-licensure
- Q5- Six months post-licensure
- Q6- End of study


- 92 newly licensed teen drivers/parents dyads.
- Age: 15.5 and 16.1 at the recruitment.
- Teens received their learner's permit no more than two weeks prior to initial paperwork and instrumentation
- Data collected: June 2013- August 2015

Driver Coach MiniDAS



MiniDAS as compared to a standard AA battery.

Real-time Driver Feedback

- When a participant exceeded a trigger threshold, the MiniDAS provided an audible three-tone alert 

Trigger Type	Threshold Values	Alert Speech Component
Longitudinal Deceleration	≤ -0.55 g longitudinal deceleration for duration of ≥ 500 ms. Minimum speed threshold of 5 m/s (11 mph).	<i>"Hard Brake"</i>
Longitudinal Acceleration	≥ 0.35 g longitudinal acceleration for duration of $\geq 1,000$ ms. No minimum speed threshold.	<i>"Fast Start"</i>
Lateral Acceleration	± 0.5 g lateral acceleration with a minimum speed of ± 5 m/s (11 mph).	<i>"Hard Turn"</i>
Lane Departure Warning	Crossing a lane line without turn signal activated. Minimum speed of 20.1 m/s (45 mph).	<i>"Lane Crossing"</i>
Swerve	Exceeds a 19 deg/s/s	<i>"Swerve"</i>
Speed	≥ 75 mph for a duration of greater than 15,000 ms.	<i>"Speeding"</i>
Critical Incident Button	Boolean input	<i>None</i>

Driver Coach Feedback Website

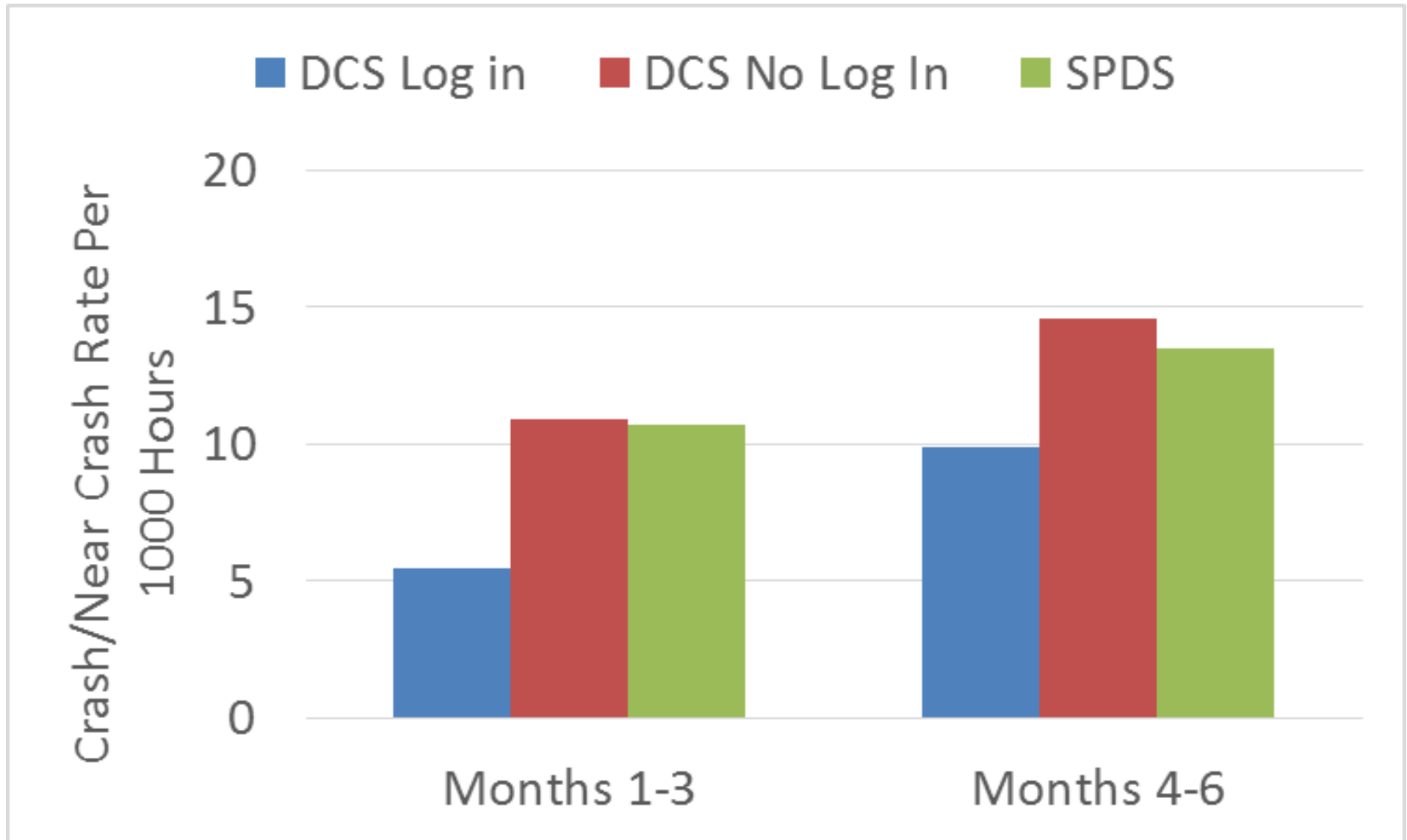
The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `https://drvcoach.vtti.vt.edu/mc/`. The page title is "VTTI Driver Coach". In the top right, there is a user profile for "James Smith". On the left, it shows "Last Login: 2/14/2014" and "New Events: 2". The main content area is titled "DriverCoach Report Card" and "Event Player". It features two photos of drivers in a car. The central text reads "DriverCoach Report Card (Last updated: 3/26/2014)". Below this, a red banner asks "What was Jason's performance for the week of 3/18/2014 - 3/25/2014?". A paragraph explains that a dial on the right reflects the teen driver's overall level of safety for the week, based on event quantity and severity. A green button labeled "View Events" is present. To the right is a semi-circular gauge with a scale from 0 to 100, divided into red (0-20), yellow (20-40), and green (40-100) sections. The needle points to approximately 45. Below this, another red banner asks "Is Jason's driving safety improving or getting worse?". A paragraph explains that the safety trend is determined by comparing the current week's safety event rate to previous weeks. A line graph on the right shows a fluctuating trend line. At the bottom left, there is a traffic light icon.

Number of teen drivers by gender and by parental log in status

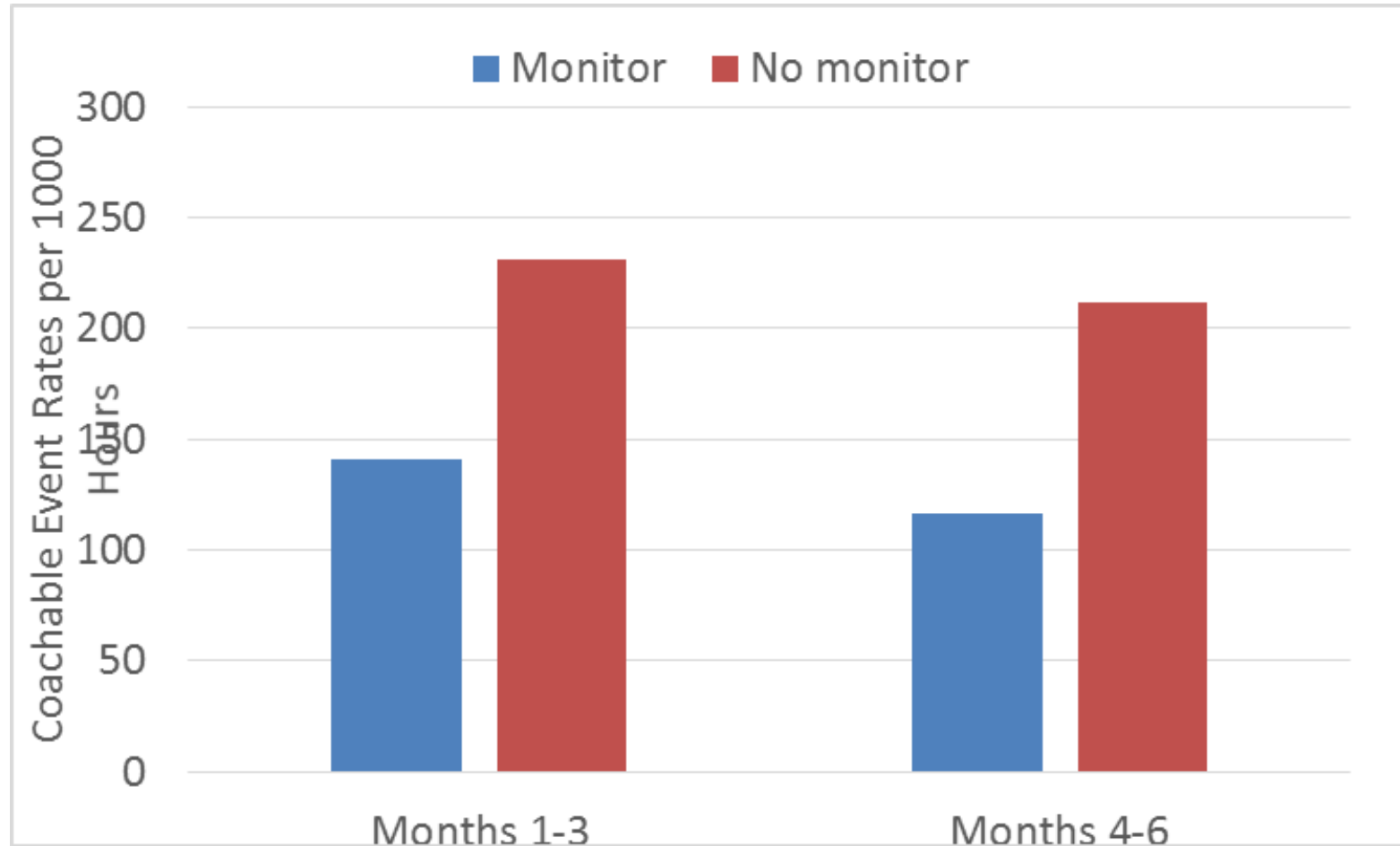
Log In Status	Female	Male	Grand Total
No Parent Log In	21	17	38
Parent Log In	25	29	54
Grand Total	46	46	92

58% parents logged in at least once

Objective 1: Does Real-Time and Post Hoc Feedback Reduce Rates of CNC Involvement?



Does feedback improve coachable event rates?



Research Question

- What are **Psychosocial and personality characteristics of teen drivers whose parents used post-hoc feedback vs those who did not?**

Psychosocial and personality variables of all teen drivers

Selected 5 appropriate driving related questionnaires out of 27 types of questionnaires administered at predetermined time points during the study.

Teen perceived risk
Parent Restriction
Friends' Risky Behavior
Thrill Seeking
Parent Imposed Driving Limits as perceived by Teens

How much risk of injury or crash when novice teens drive unsupervised in several situations? (DUI, night etc.)

How likely your parents restricted driving privilege if you did following : no seat belt use, pulled over by police etc?

Number of teen passengers, signing parent-teen driving contract etc.

Psychosocial and personality variables of all teen drivers

Psychosocial and personality variables	# of items	Range	Mean (SD)	Cronbach's Alpha
Teen perceived risk	14	1-5	3.2 (0.54)	0.849
Parent Restriction	13	1-7	5.3 (1.11)	0.925
Friends' Risky Behavior	7	1-7	2.08 (0.73)	0.723
Thrill Seeking	8	1-7	2.4 (1.27)	0.856
Parent Imposed Driving Limits as perceived by Teens	2	1-10	4.01 (2.68)	0.897

Teens whose parents logged in vs who did not log in with statistical difference

Psychosocial and personality variables	Descriptive stats Mean (SD)	
	Log in	Did not log in
Friends' Risky Behavior*	2.146 (.763)	1.757 (0.856)
Thrill Seeking**	2.625 (1.334)	1.804 (1.175)

(*significance at $p < 0.05$; ** significance at $p < 0.005$)

Conclusion

- Teens with parents who actively monitored their driving have teens who scored themselves higher on risky friends and sensation seeking behaviors than those whose parents who did not monitor their teen's driving.
- There is no difference in teens perceived risk or parent restriction or parent imposed driving limits as perceived by teens.

Acknowledgments

- VTTI team: Feng Guo, Peter Baynes, Youjia Fang, Whitney Atkins, Stephanie Baker, Rebekah Duke
- National Institute of Child Health and Human Development
- National Surface Transportation Safety Center for Excellence
- Toyota Collaborative Safety Research Center
- Virginia Center for Transportation Innovation and Research

THANK YOU
QUESTIONS??