



# Mothers Vs Fathers As Learner Driver Supervisors: Time Commitment, Driving Activities And Perceptions Of Risk

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# Background

- **Parental support critical in GDL systems** (Glendon, 2013; Jacobsohn et al., 2012; Williams & Shults, 2010)
- **Parents, and other family members, believe that parents should have a strong role** (Bates, 2012)
- **Parents more likely to be primary supervisors** (Bates, 2012; Taubman-Ben-Ari, 2011)
- **Mothers appear to take more responsibility for supervision** (Goodwin et al., 2010; Scott-Parker et al., 2011)

# Key changes

- Minimum age reduced from 16.5 to 16 years
- Must obtain 100 hours of supervised practice
- 1 hour of professional instruction equals 3 hours of private supervision (up to 10 hours)

# Method

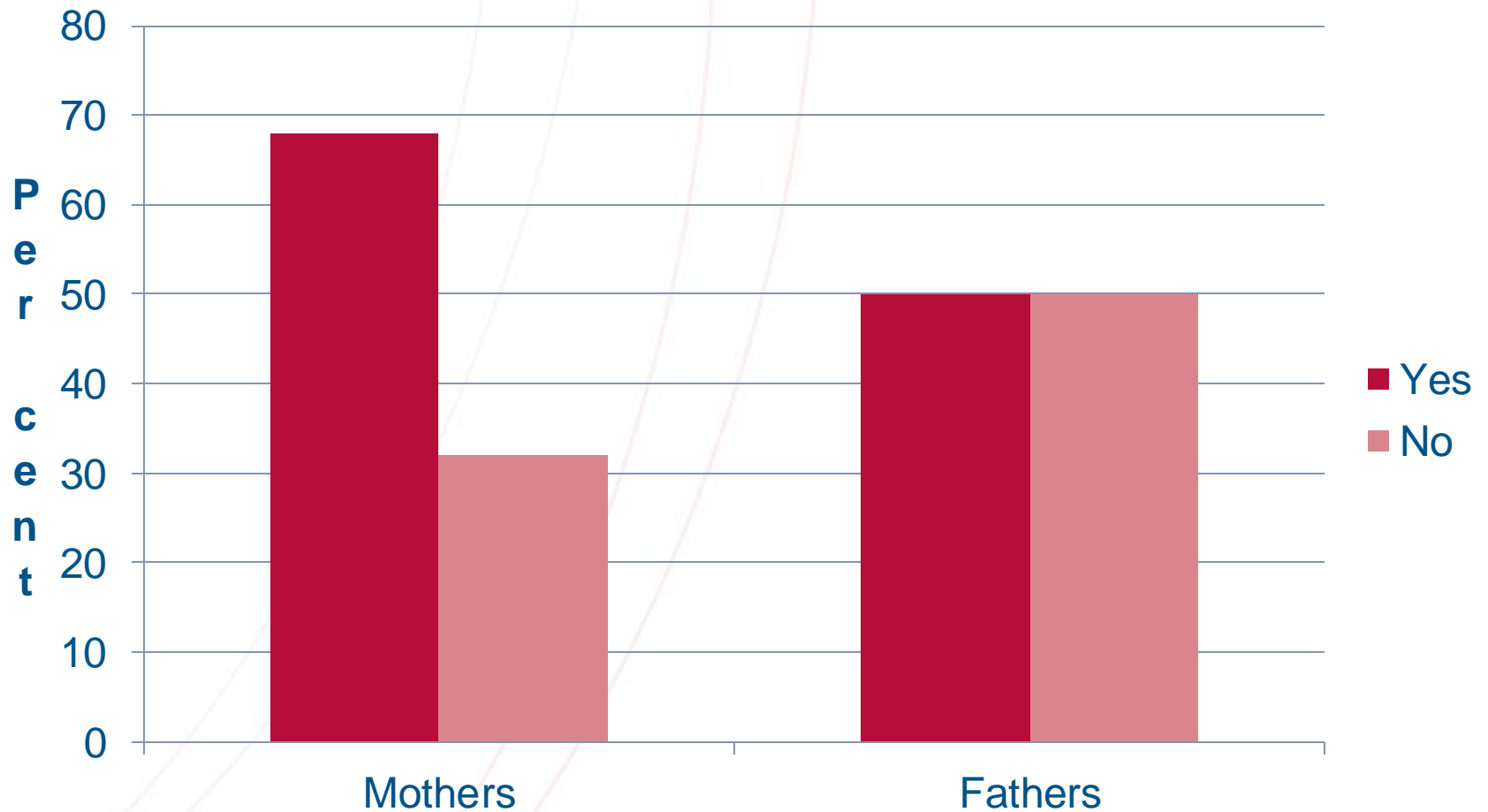
- Combination of convenience and snowball
- Internet survey
- Open between July 2009 and May 2010
- Approximately 15-20 minutes to complete

# Participants

- 116 participants
  - Mothers: 78 (67.24%)
  - Fathers: 38 (32.76%)
- Age:  $M = 44.09$ ,  $sd = 8.59$
- Marital status
  - Single: 21 (18.1%)
  - Partnered: 95 (81.9%)
- Income
  - \$40,000 or less: 32 (27.59%)
  - \$40,001 or more: 84 (72.41%)

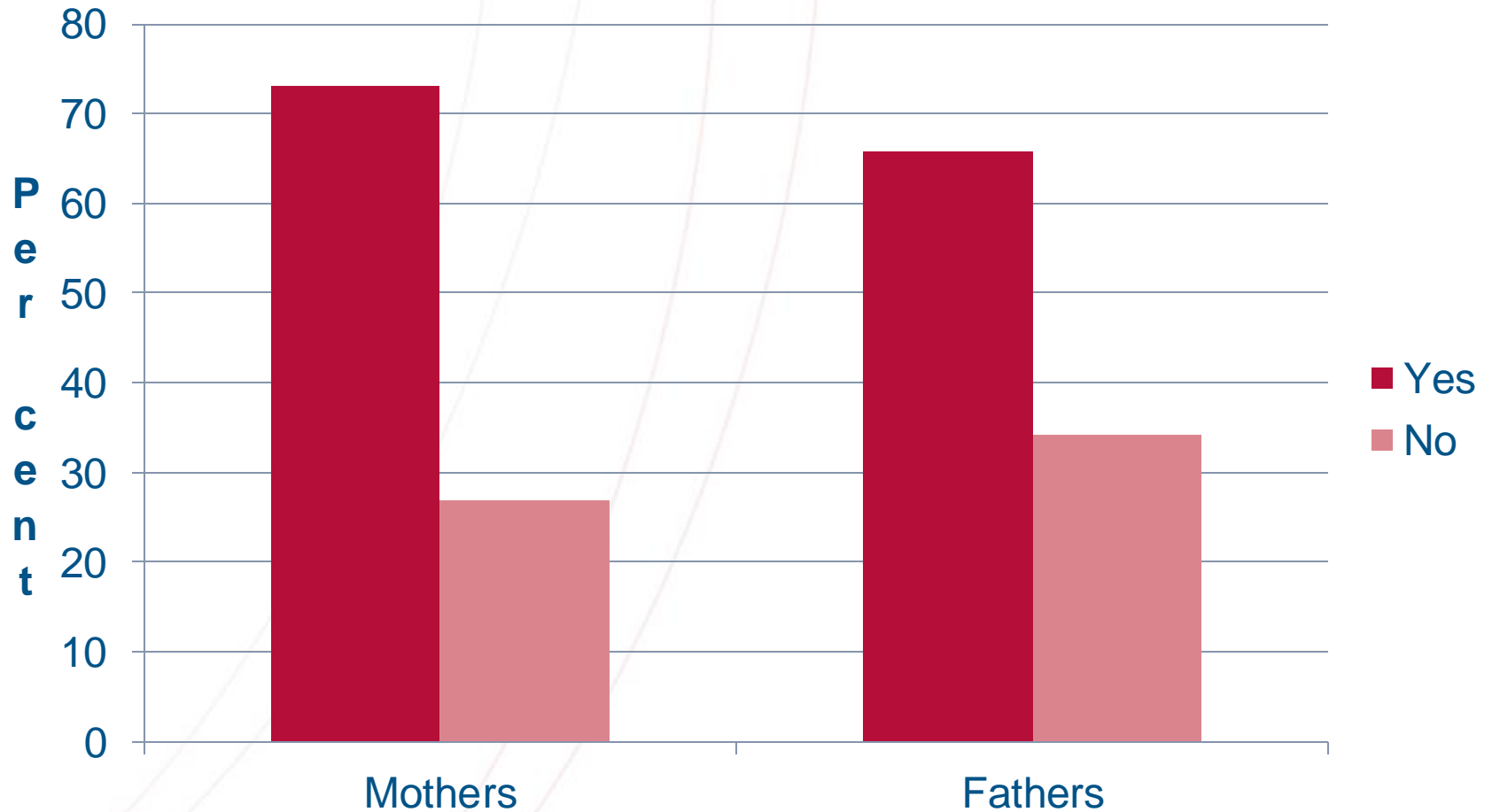
# First time supervisor

Was this the first time you have supervised a learner driver?

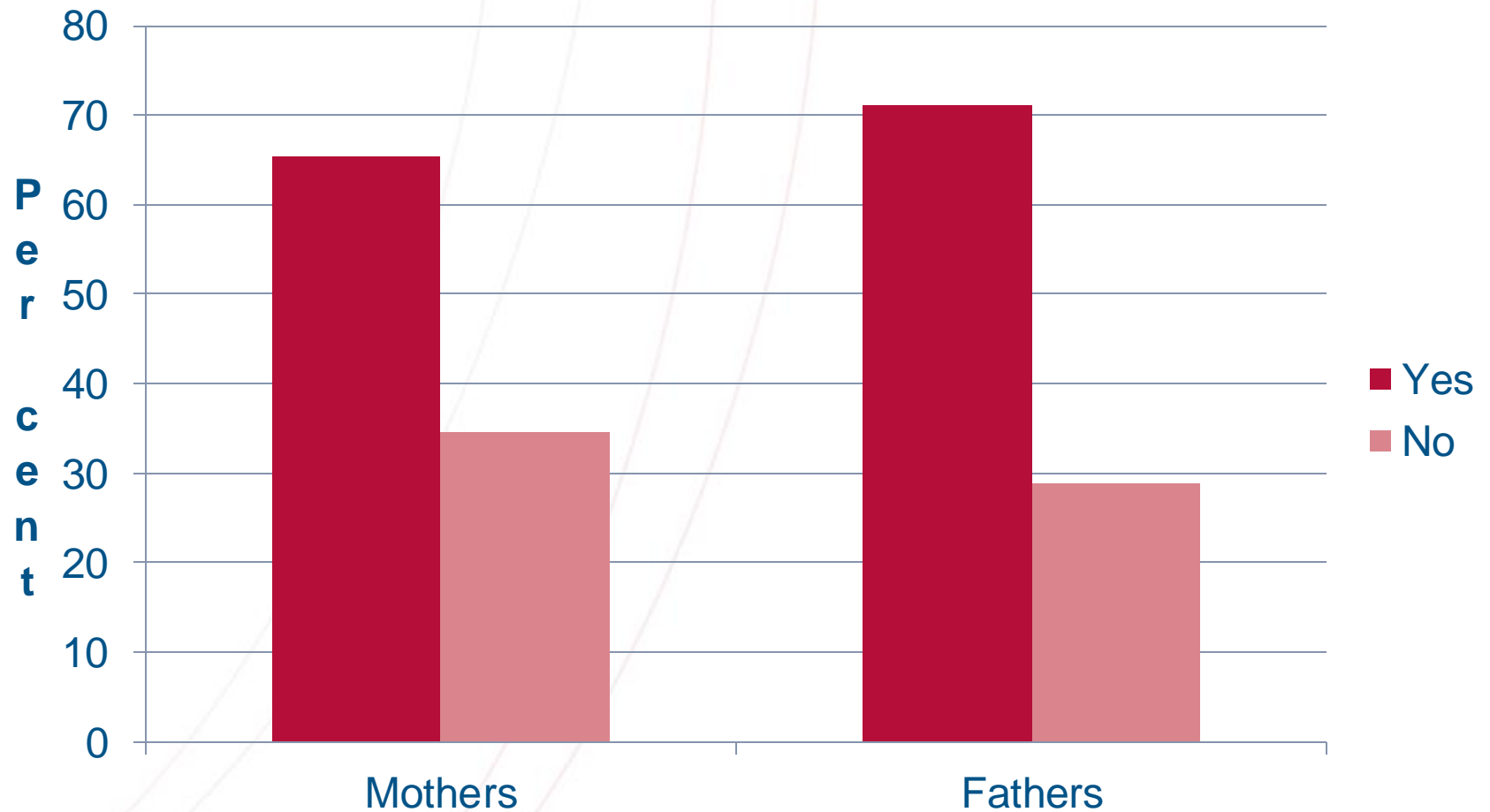


# Primary supervisor

Were you the primary supervisor for this person (most recent person supervised)?



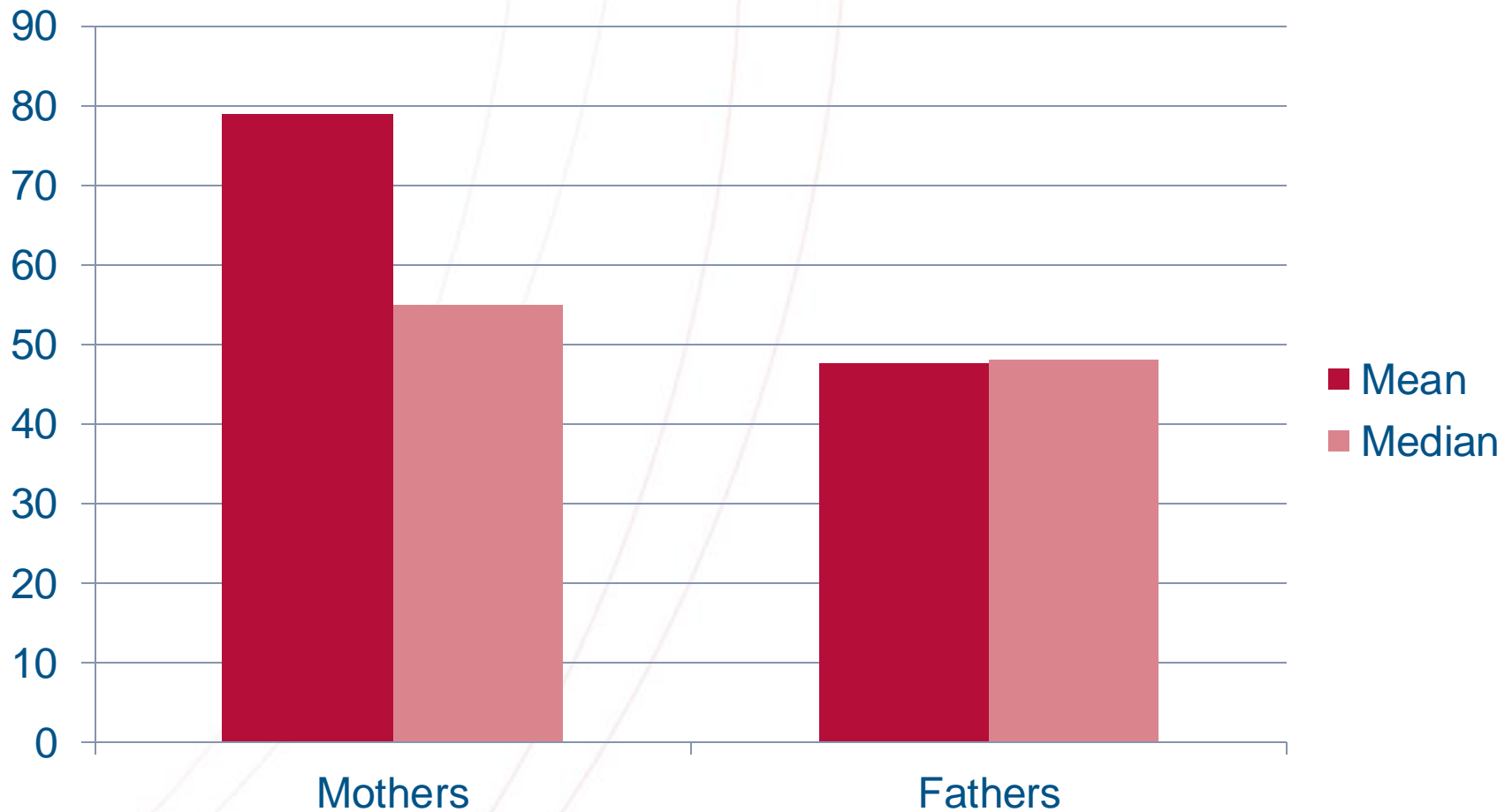
# Did the other parent supervise?





# Hours of supervision

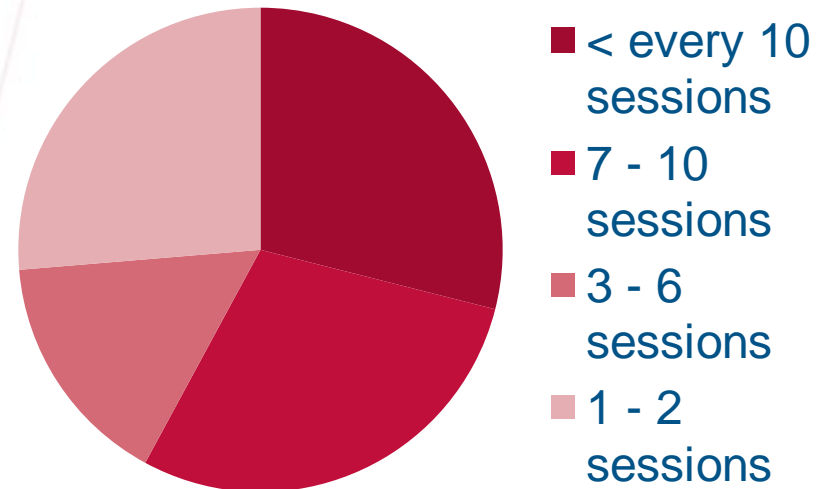
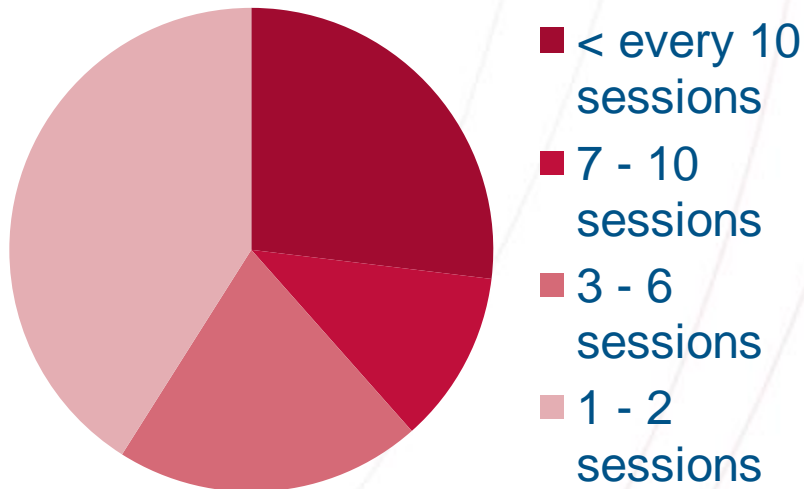
Approximately, how many hours did you supervise them for?



# Drove to and from activities the learner would have attended anyway?

Mothers

Fathers

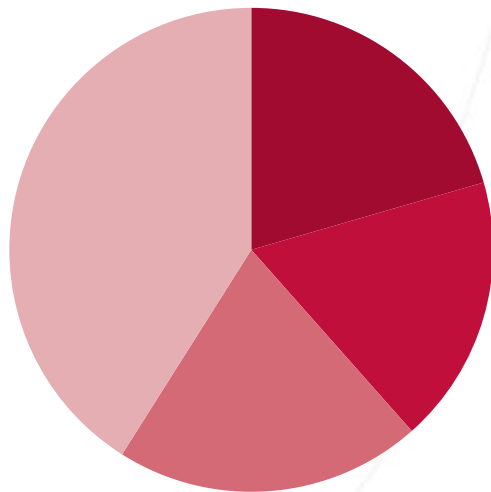


# Drove to and from activities that you would have attended anyway

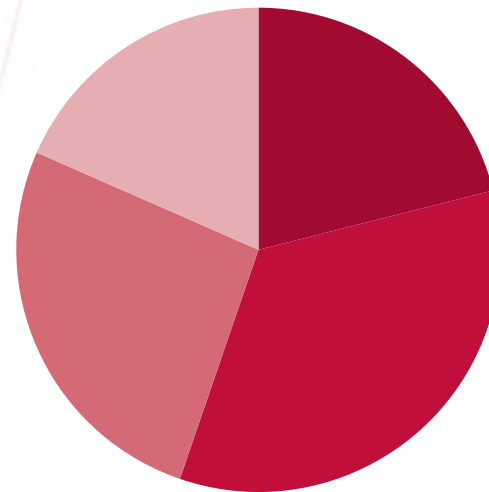
Mothers

anyway

Fathers



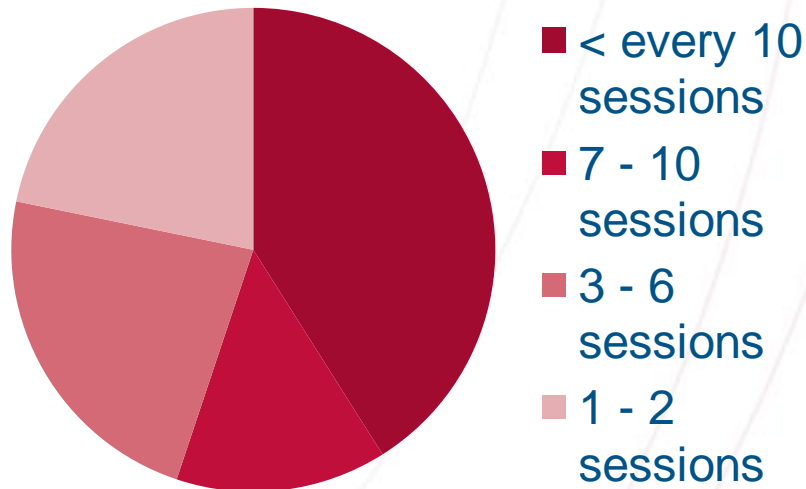
- < every 10 sessions
- 7 - 10 sessions
- 3 - 6 sessions
- 1 - 2 sessions



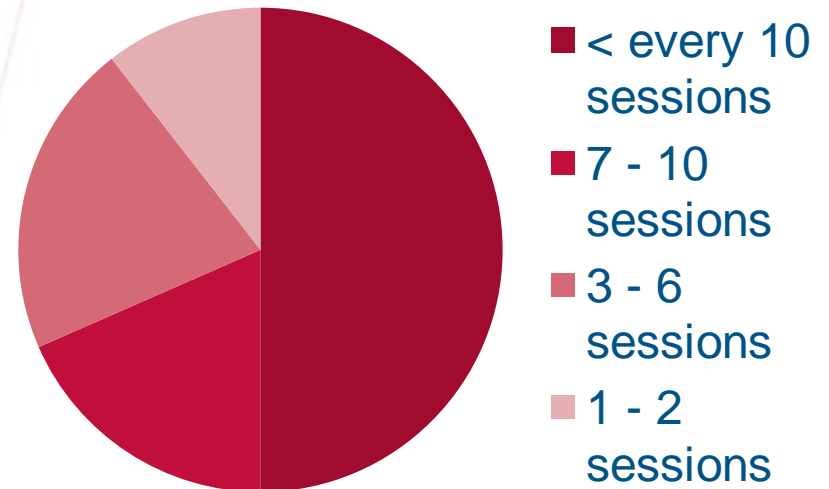
- < every 10 sessions
- 7 - 10 sessions
- 3 - 6 sessions
- 1 - 2 sessions

# Drove siblings or friends to or from activities they would have attended anyway

## Mothers

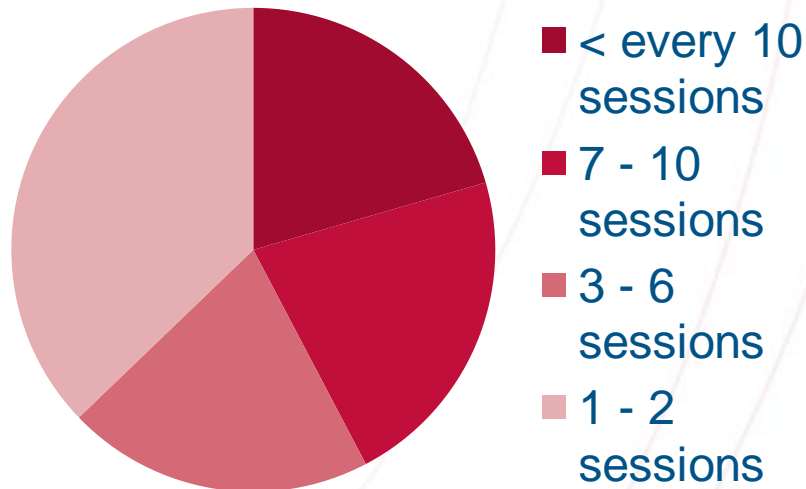


## Fathers

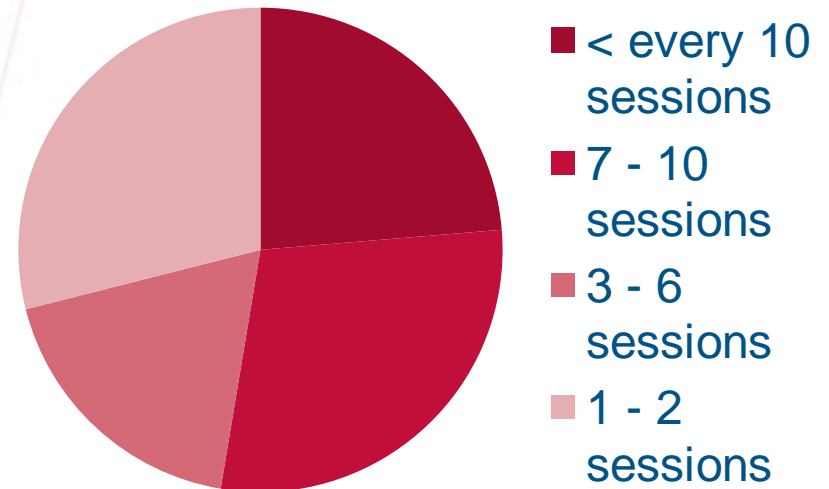


# Made special trips for the purposes of practising

## Mothers

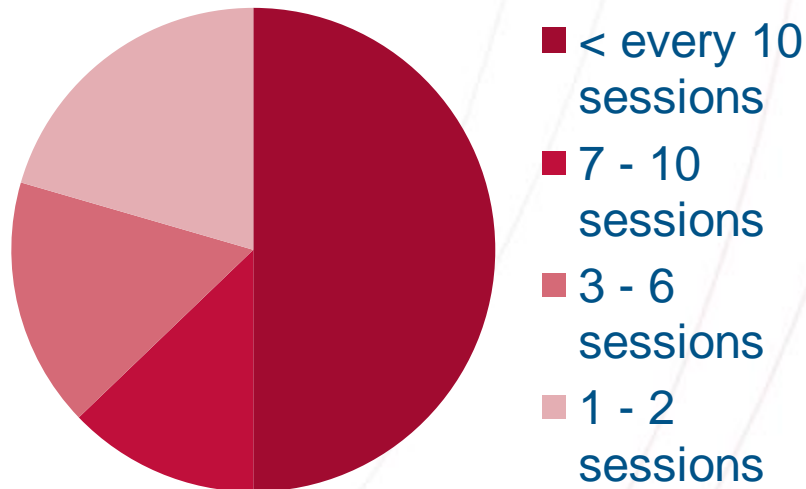


## Fathers

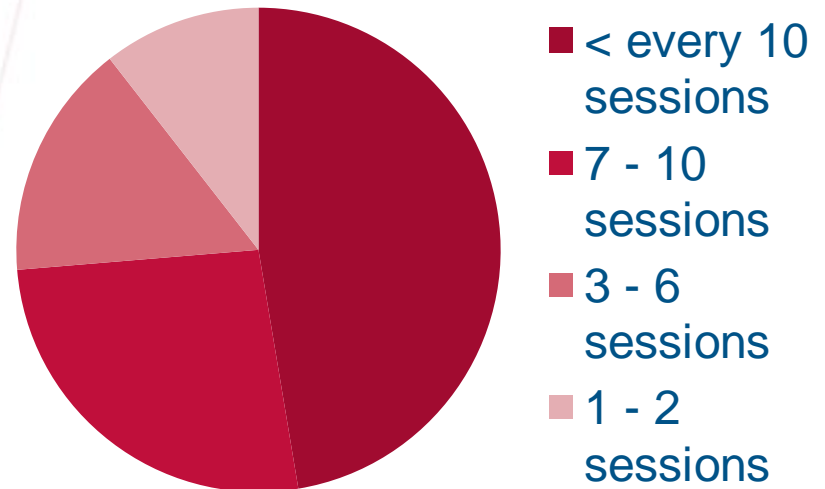


# Deliberately practised with passengers (apart from supervisor)

## Mothers



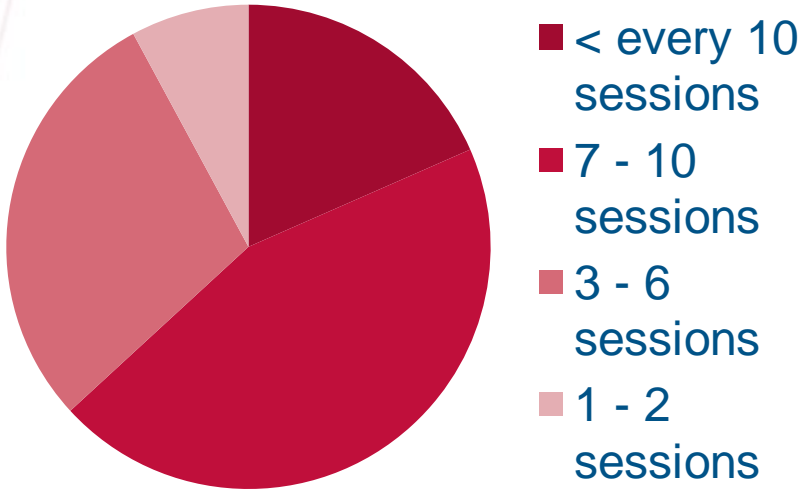
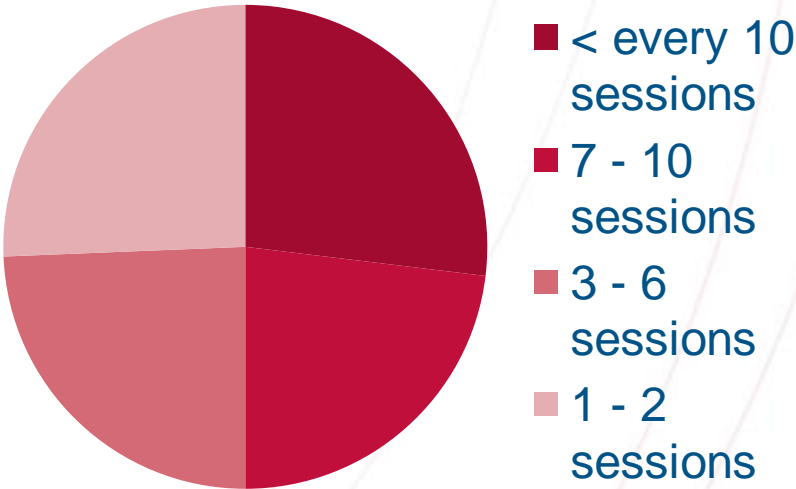
## Fathers



# Deliberately practised driving at night

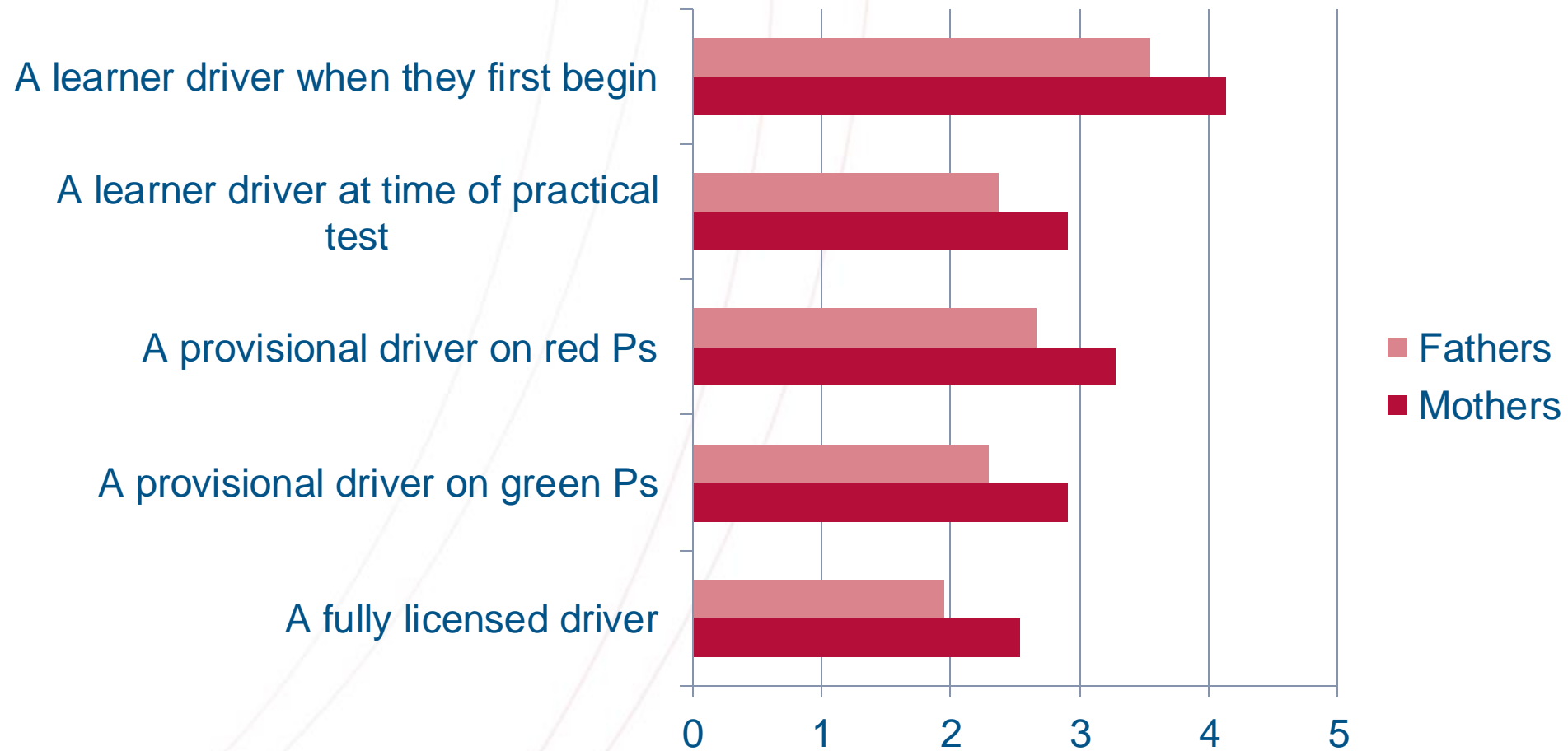
## Mothers

## Fathers



# Perception of driving risk

How risky do you think driving is for....





# Conclusions

- Many similarities between mothers and fathers
  - Proportion supervising for the first time
  - Primary supervisor of learner
  - Indicating that the other parent was involved

# Conclusions (2)

- Many similarities between mothers and fathers in the strategies used to teach their child to drive
  - ‘Normal’ driving
  - Special trips for the purposes of practising
- Mothers more likely to provide more practice driving at night
- Mothers believe driving is more risky than fathers

# Further research

- Why does only one parent supervise in approximately 1/3 of situations?
- What role do parents play in the provisional licence stage?
- How do parents provide supervision throughout the learner period?
- Replicate with a probability sample

# References

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- Williams, A., & Shults, R. A. (2010). Graduated Driver Licensing Research, 2007–Present: A Review and Commentary. *Journal of Safety Research*, 41, 77-84.

# Thank you Questions?

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