

Car driving licenses for 17-year-olds - road safety effects in Finland

IRTAD Conference, 27-28.9.2022
Riikka Rajamäki

New Driving Licence Act on 1 July 2018

- ▶ Easier to get an age exemption permit to acquire a category B driving license at the age 17: long distances and missing or very slow public transport connections to school, work or hobbies
- ▶ Other changes:
 - ▶ Driving test time increased from 45 minutes to 60 minutes
 - ▶ From three-phase education model to one-phase model
 - ▶ Less compulsory education
 - ▶ Easier to combine driving school and driving instruction permit education
- ▶ Target: Cheaper to get a driving licence. Lighter regulation.



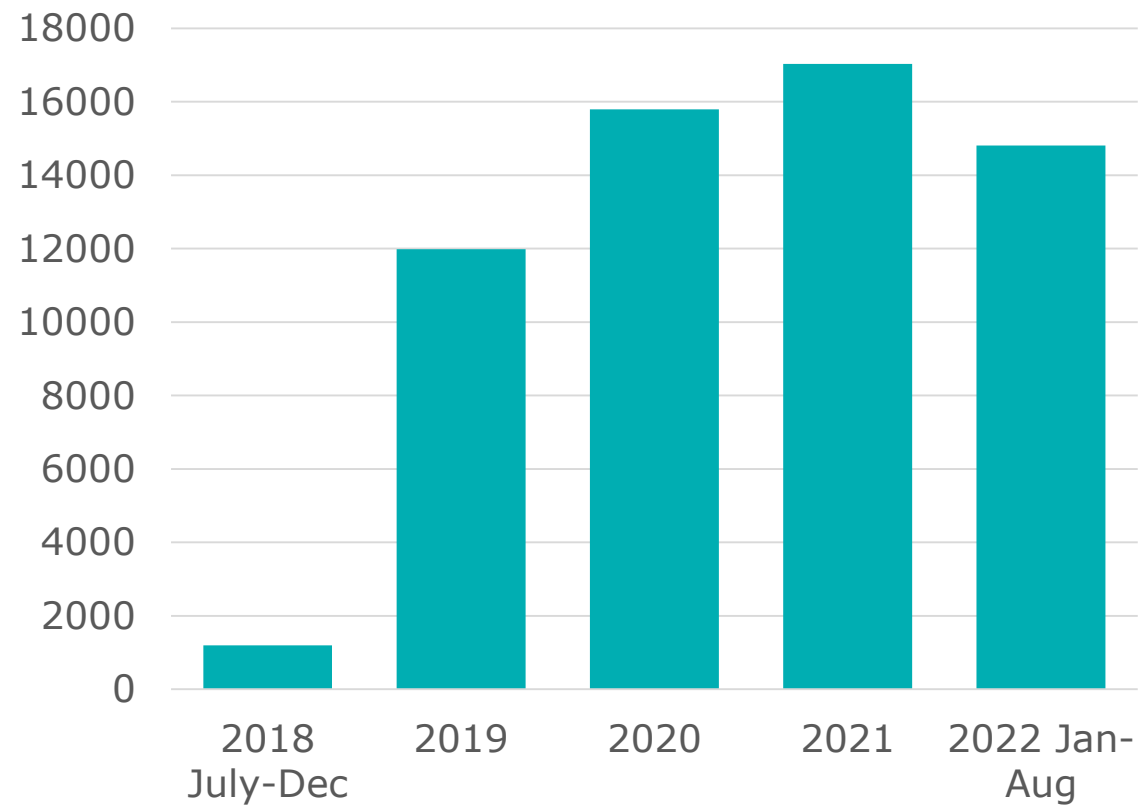
Monitoring the effects

- ▶ Driving licence statistics
- ▶ Driving test statistics
- ▶ Driving bans
- ▶ Survey after first year with category B driving licence
- ▶ Road accident statistics
- ▶ Statistical analysis of accident data using modeling, by VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland

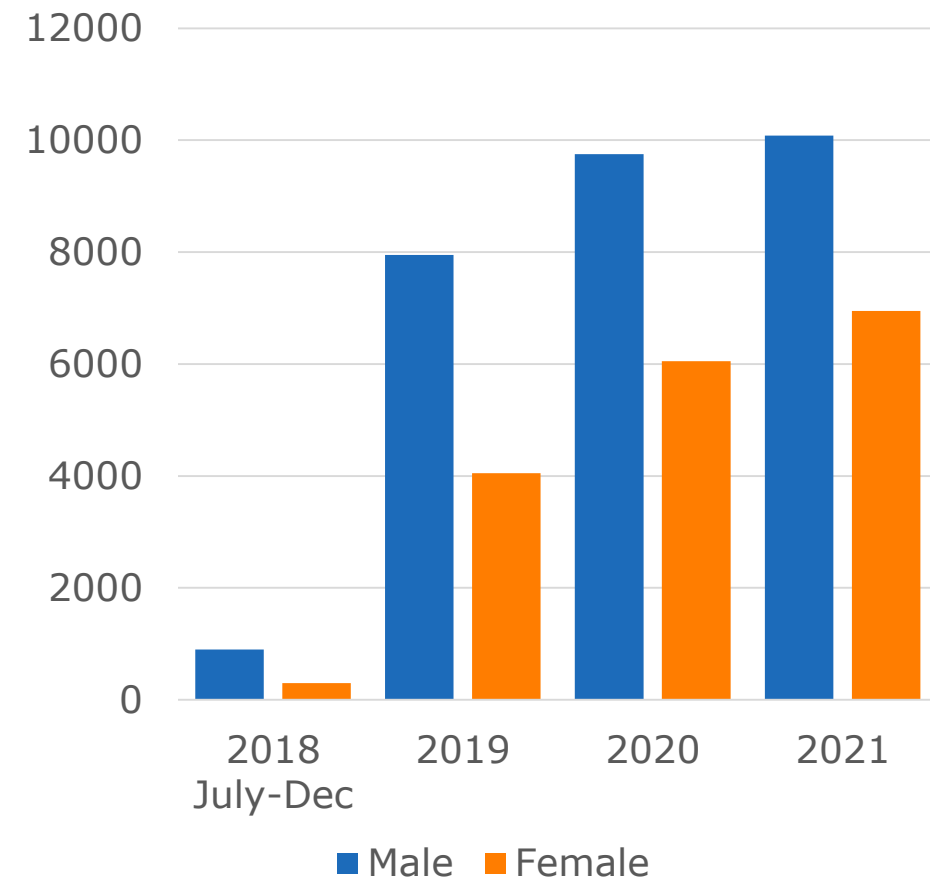


Age exemption permits

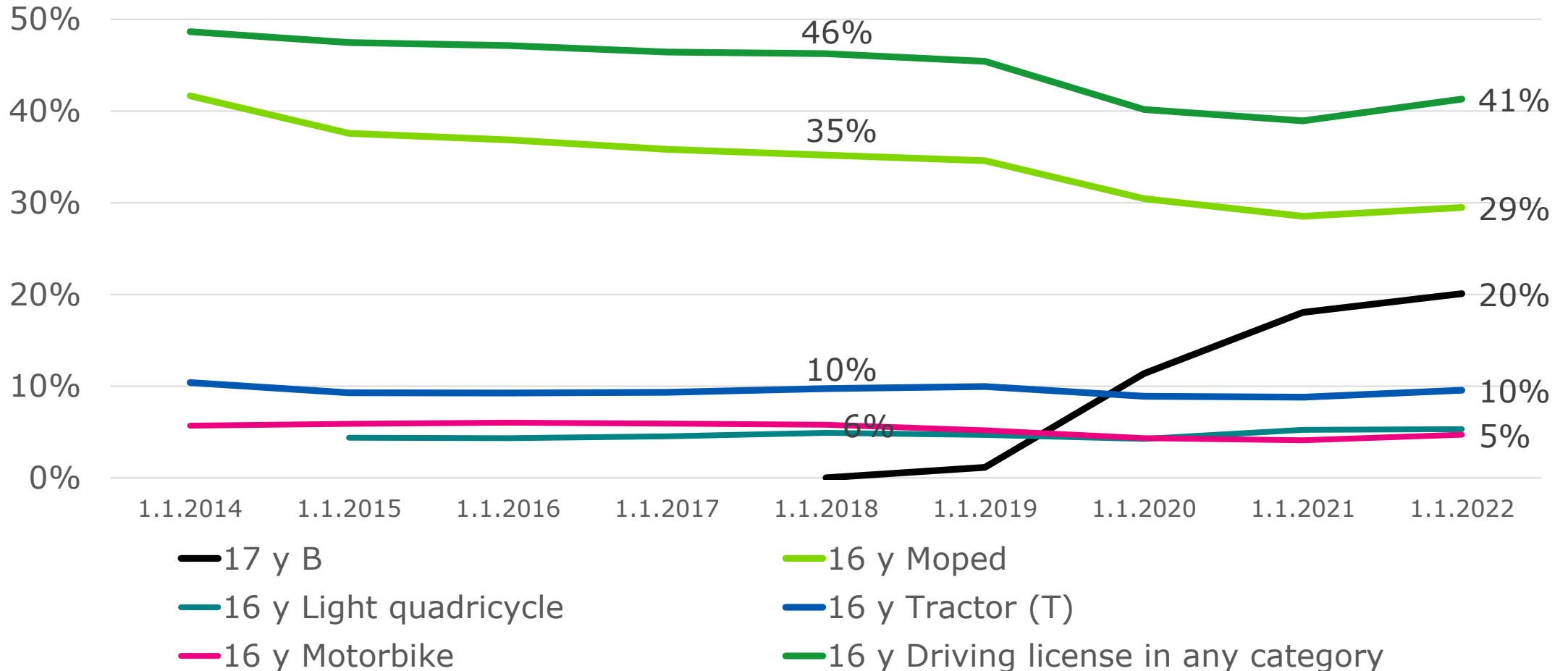
Annually



By gender

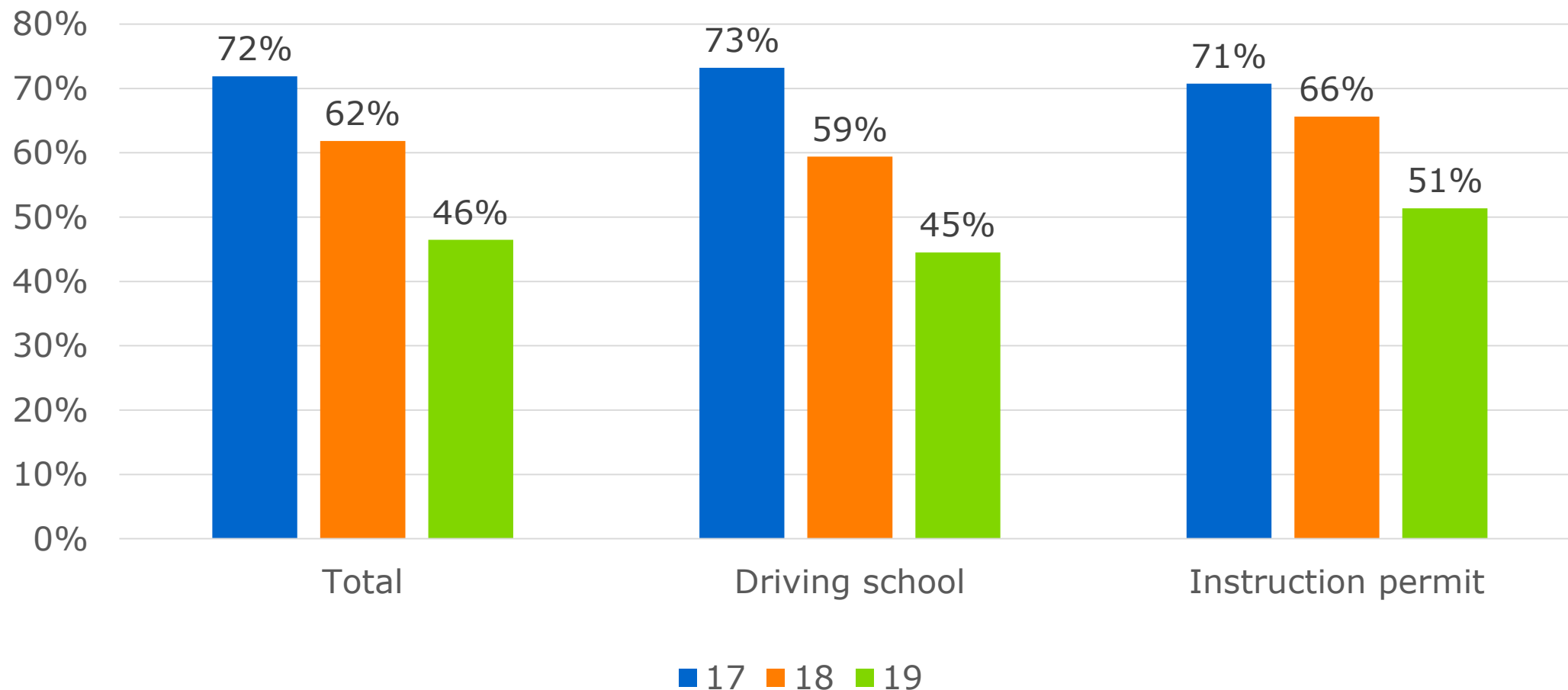


Proportion of 16-17 year olds with driving licence in different categories

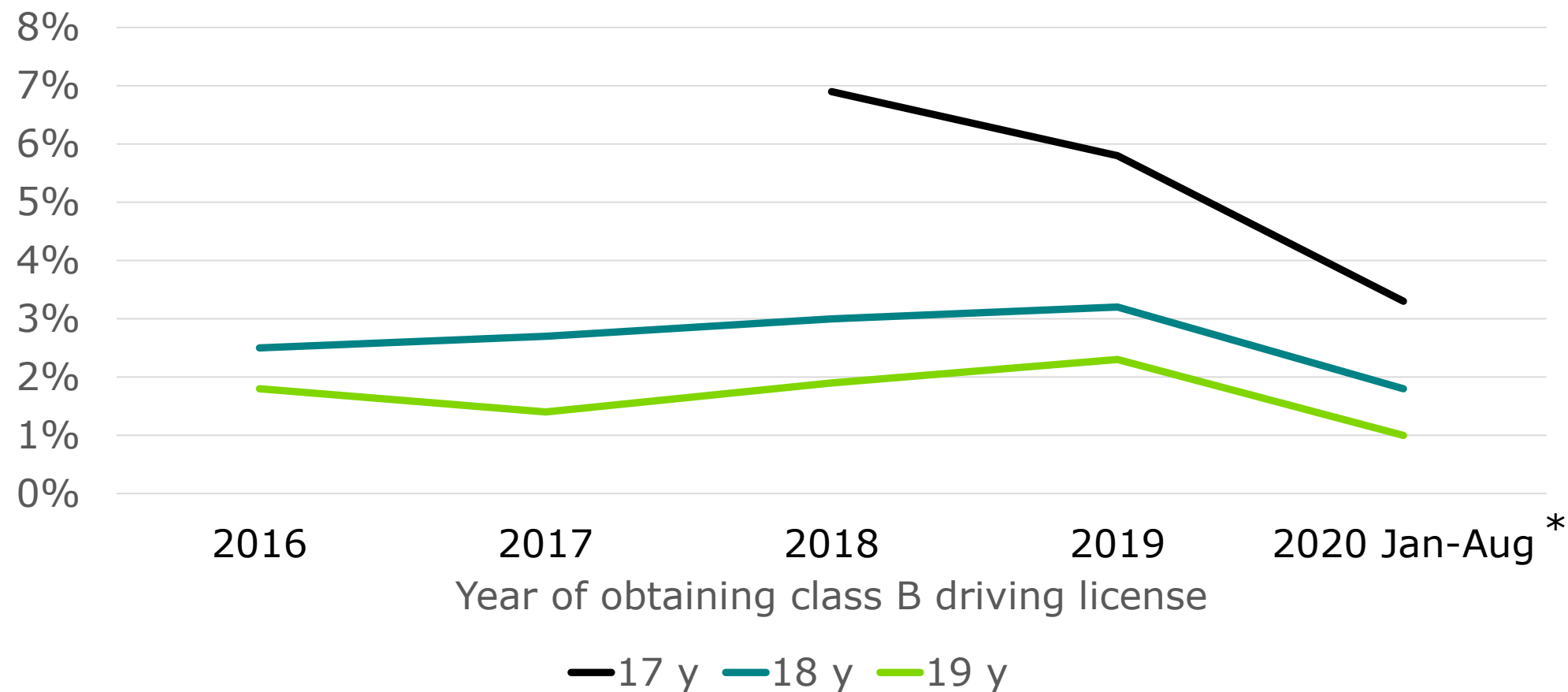


Success in category B driving test

Acceptance rate at first attempt by age, 2019-2021



Driving bans during the first year with a driving license



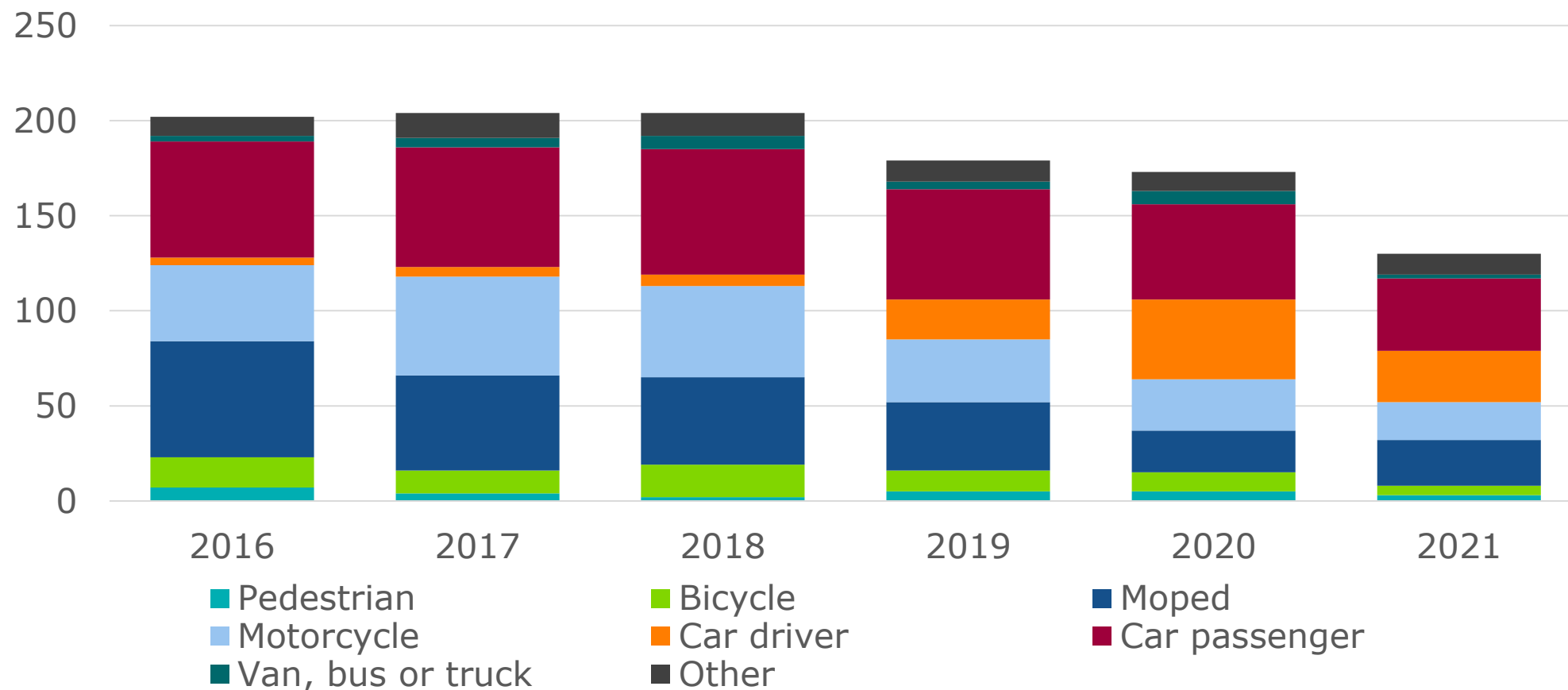
*shorter follow-up time

Survey after first year with B-class driving license

- ▶ Annual survey since 2001
- ▶ In 2020 additional sample of drivers who had got their licence with age exemption permit at age 17
- ▶ 1908 answers from age exemption permit drivers. Response rate 24%.

	Age exemption permit	Normal group
Kilometres driven, average	16 600 km	10 500 km
No penalties and no accidents	54 %	63 %

17 years old injured in traffic, by mode of transport, police reported injuries

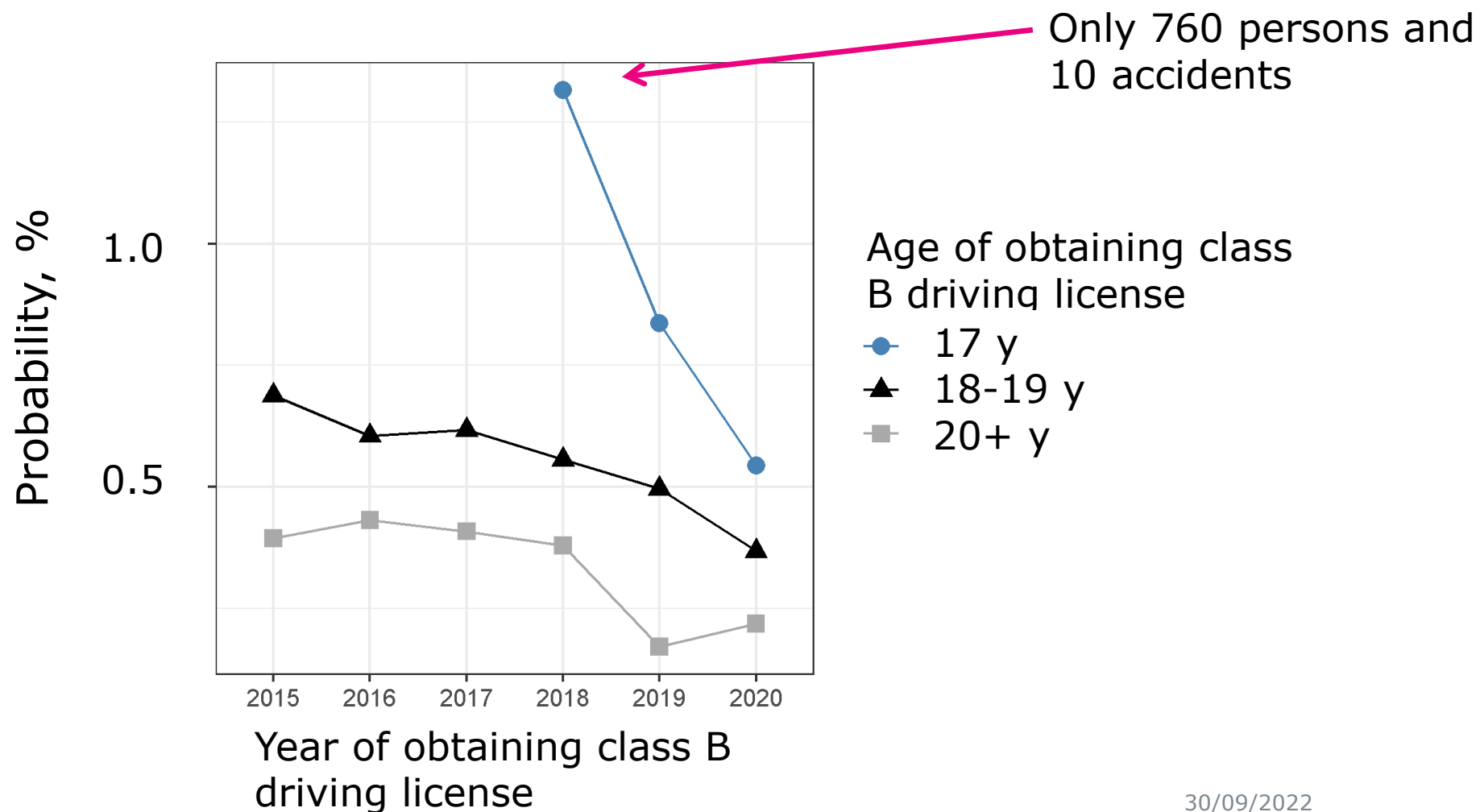


Source Statistics Finland

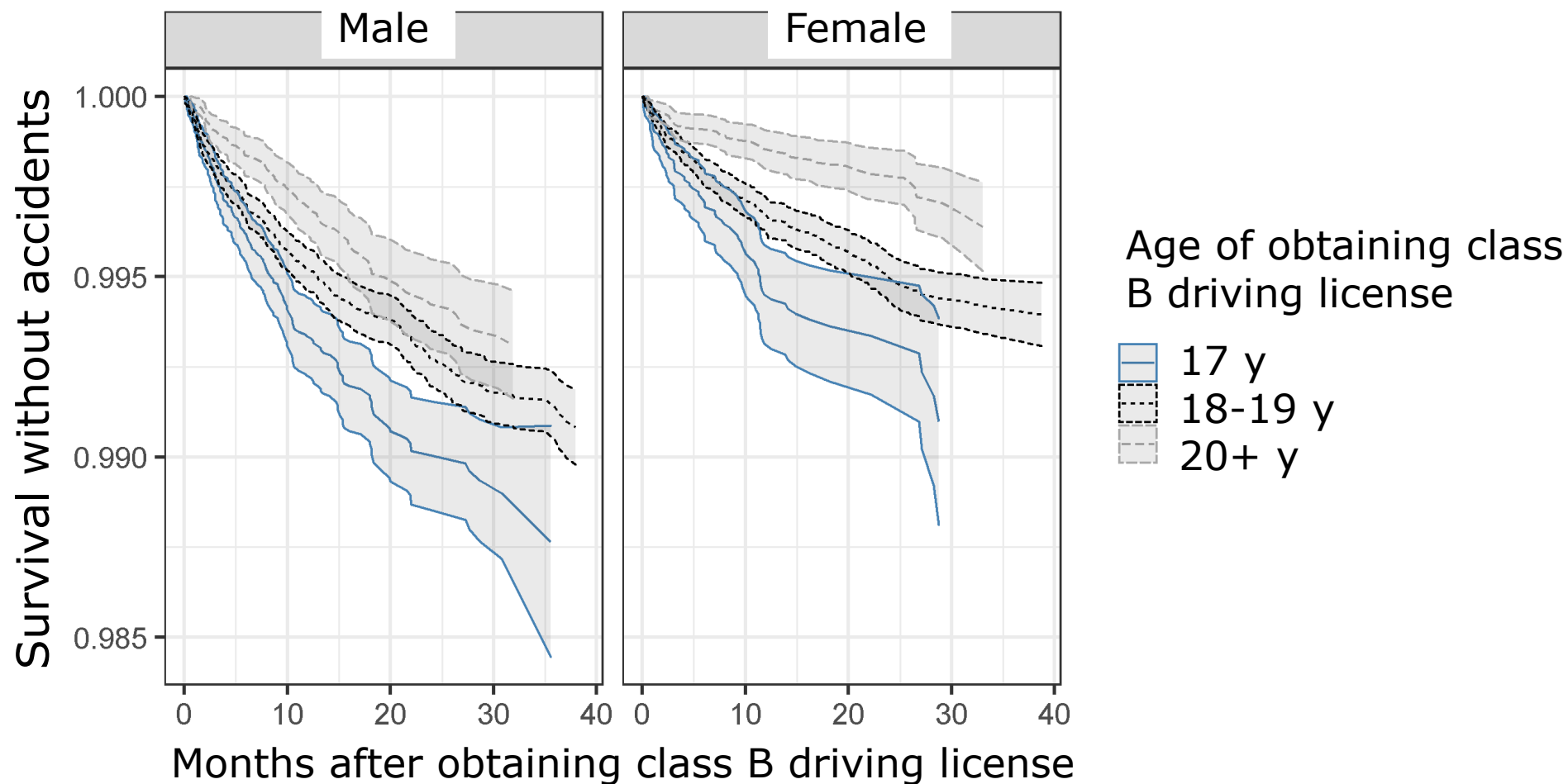
Statistical analysis of accident data, by VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland

- ▶ No statistically significant change in the number of 17 year olds injured in traffic, when all transport modes are taken into account
- ▶ Shift from moped, motorcycle and light quadricycle accidents to car accidents
- ▶ More passengers and people in other vehicles involved and injured in accidents
- ▶ 17 year olds have higher probability to be involved in a personal injury accident as a car driver during the first year with a driving license compared to 18-19 year olds
 - ▶ May be explained by higher mileage, bigger share of male drivers and regional differences

Probability to be involved in a personal injury accident during the first year with a B-class driving license (from VTT study)



Probability to survive without personal injury accidents, by age and gender (from VTT study)



Summary

- ▶ 17 year olds with an age exemption permit do better in the driving test
- ▶ 17 year olds, who get an age exemption permit because of travel needs, drive more than average 18 year olds
- ▶ 17 year olds have more driving bans and car accidents during first year as car driver compared to 18-19 year olds
- ▶ If the survey data on mileage is correct, 17 year olds have lower accident risk as car driver than 18-19 year olds
- ▶ Car driving license for 17 year olds reduces their moped, motorcycle and light quadricycle travel and accidents
- ▶ The study found no effect on the total number of accidents



Publications

[Driving Licence Act reform: impact on traffic safety \(Traficom Research Reports 3/2022, with summary in English\)](#)

[Driver's education and qualification reform in 2018 - An overview of the effects \(Traficom Publications 6/2021, in Finnish\)](#)

[Monitoring study of new drivers – Satisfaction with driver instruction and experiences in traffic of drivers who were issued a driving licence based on an age exception permit \(Traficom Research Reports 4/2021, with summary in English\)](#)

[Economic impact of the reform of the act on driving licenses \(Traficom Research Reports 18/2021, with summary in English\)](#)