



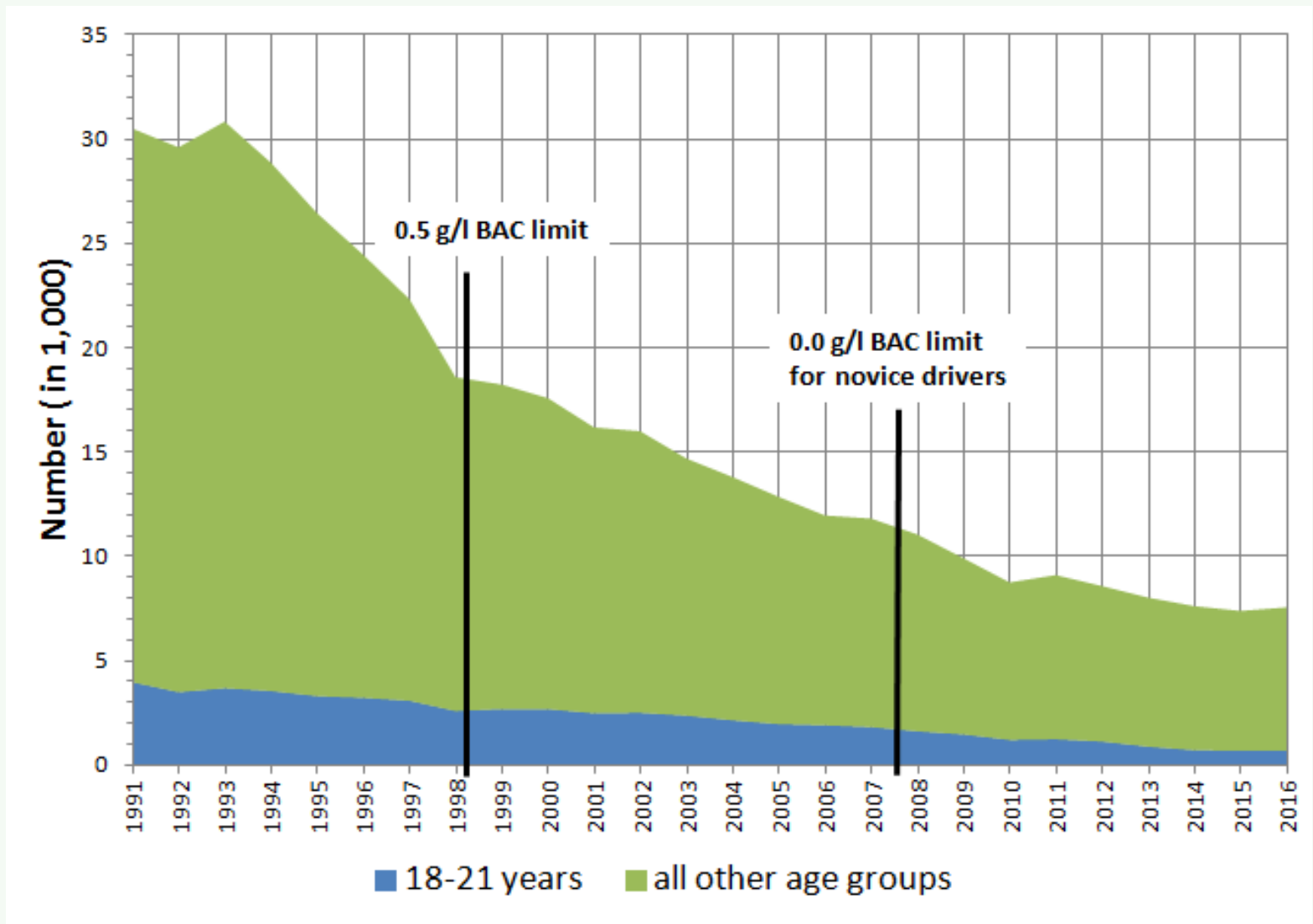
The „Zero Tolerance“ approach for young and novice drivers in Germany

Progress in reducing Drink Driving
European Transport Safety Lunch
European Parliament, 20. February 2018

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- **Drink-driving in Germany**
- **Effectiveness of the zero tolerance law**
- **Other aspects to consider**
- **Conclusions**

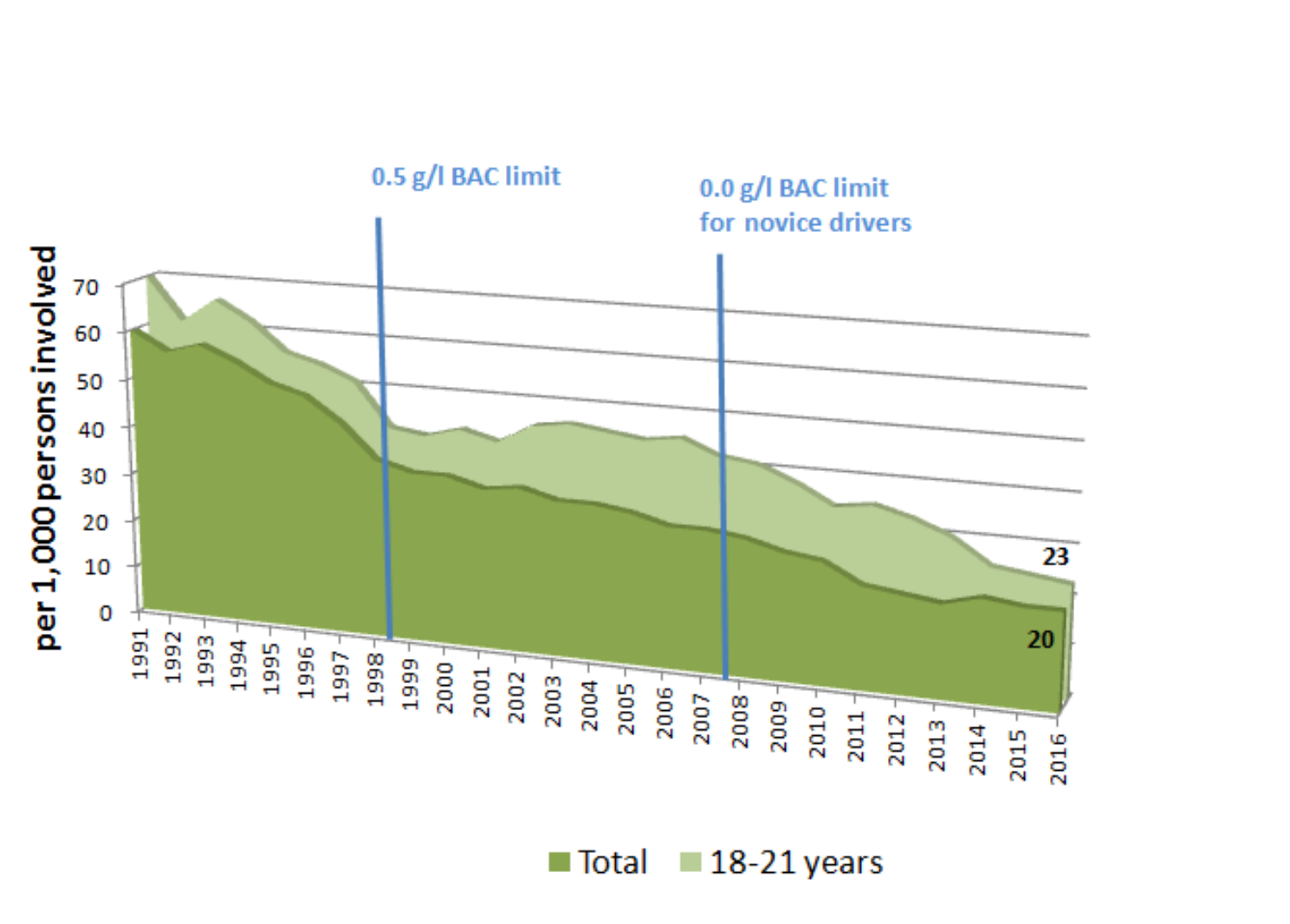
DUI drivers involved in accidents



Drink driving in Germany



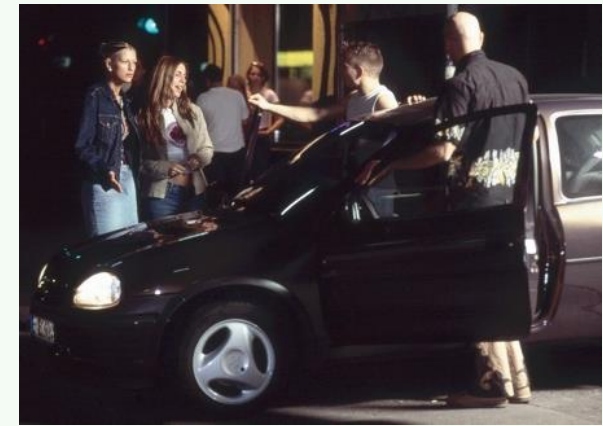
Share of DUI drivers in injury accidents



- Since **August 2007**, according to the **German Road Traffic Act (§ 24c)**
- it is prohibited for **novice drivers of all ages during two years of probation** and **all drivers under 21**
- to drive a **motorized vehicle under the influence of alcohol**

Sanctions:

- 250 Euro fine
- 1 demerit point
- Prolongation of probation period (+ 2 years)
- Educational seminar

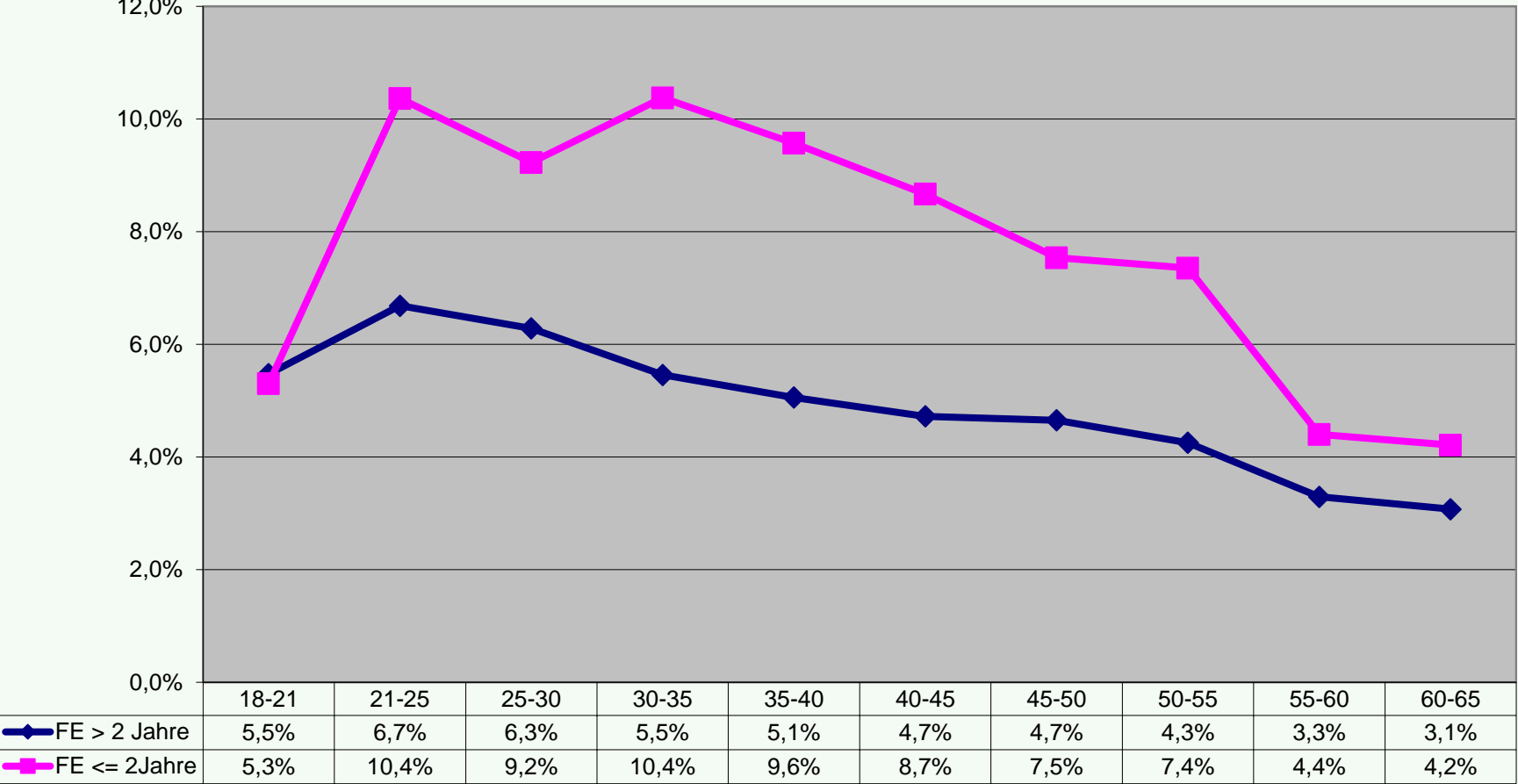


Rationale:

- A „**ban on alcohol**“ (= zero tolerance) for these groups instead of a limit should set a **clear signal to separate drinking and driving**
- DUI was defined as **0.2 mg/ml BAC or 0.1 mg/l BrAC** to exclude measurement uncertainty and endogenic alcohol
- The law should tackle both: **young age AND inexperience**

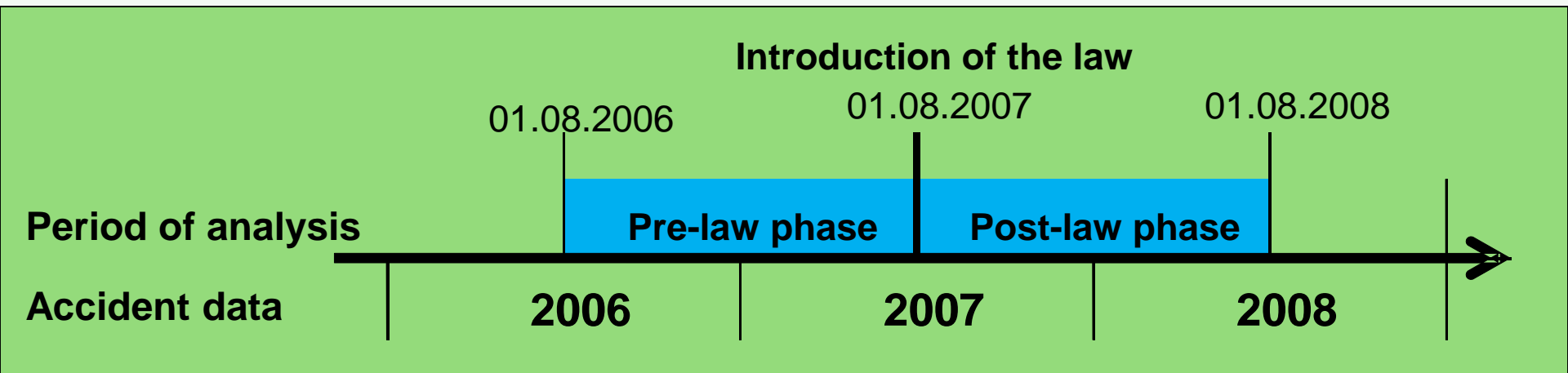
Why not only *young* drivers, but also older novice drivers?

Share of *alcohol impaired* causers (car drivers) in all causers of accidents with personal injury (car drivers) in 2005





- First evaluation: **2008**
- Investigation of effects on
 - 1. Alcohol-related accidents** => Data of the **official accident statistics**
 - 2. alcohol-related offences** => Data of the **central traffic register (offences)**
 - 3. Acceptance, attitudes and (self-reported) behaviour** => **Representative survey of novice drivers**
- Comparison **pre-law-phase vs. post-law-phase**



Accidents

- Total number of young (18-20 years) novice car drivers involved in accidents with a BAC of ≥ 0.3 g/l percent:
 - **15%** (within 12 months after law introduction)
- Strongest effect: BAC level of 0.3-0.8

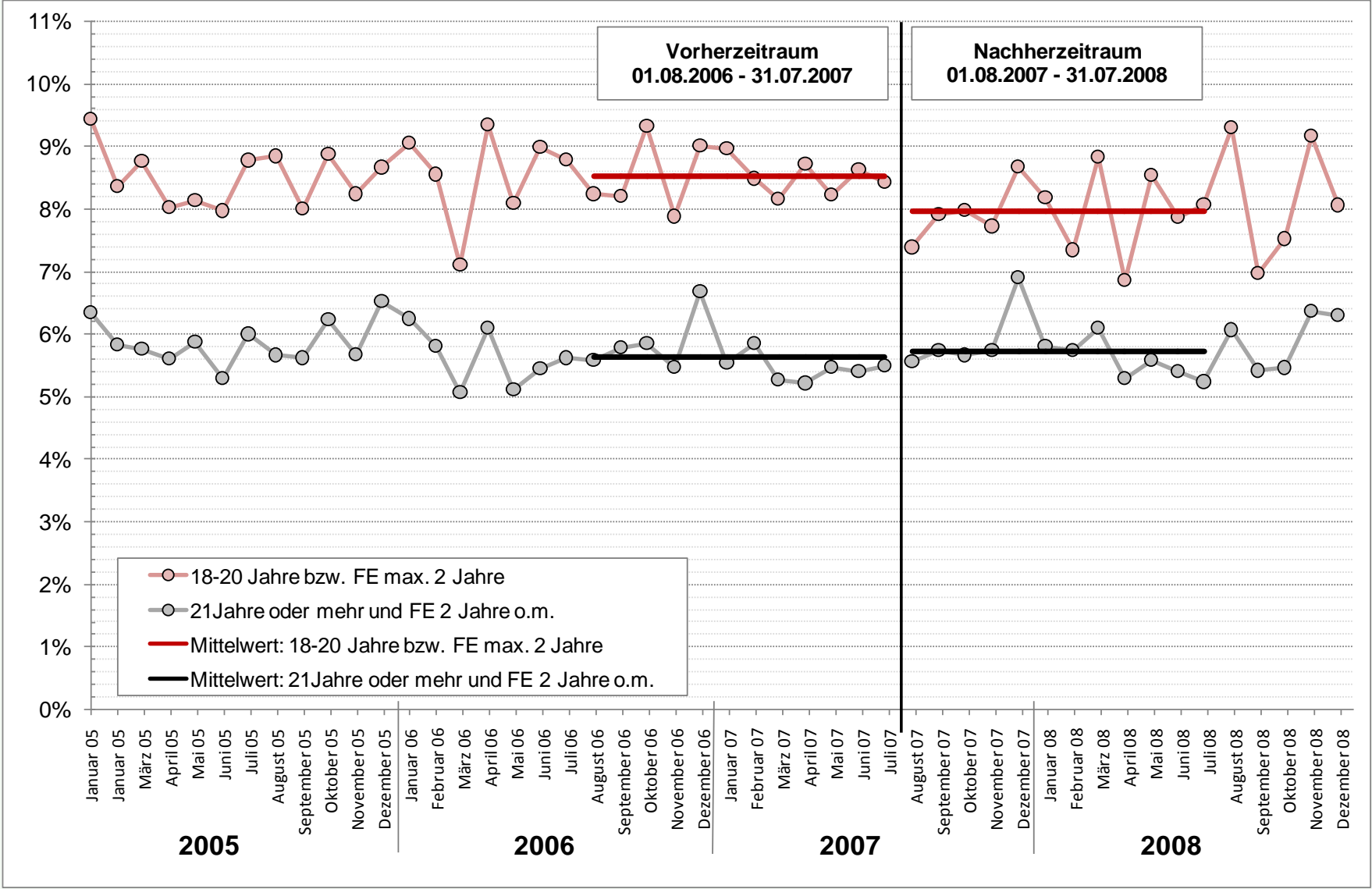
Alcohol offences

Registered alcohol offenses of young drivers (<21 years):
-**17%** (within 12 months after law introduction)

Acceptance and behaviour

- **95%** of novice drivers agree that the law makes sense
- **44%** think that novice drivers are more impaired by alcohol than experienced drivers
- **67%** abstain from drinking alcohol in order to drive themselves by car at leisure activities in the evenings

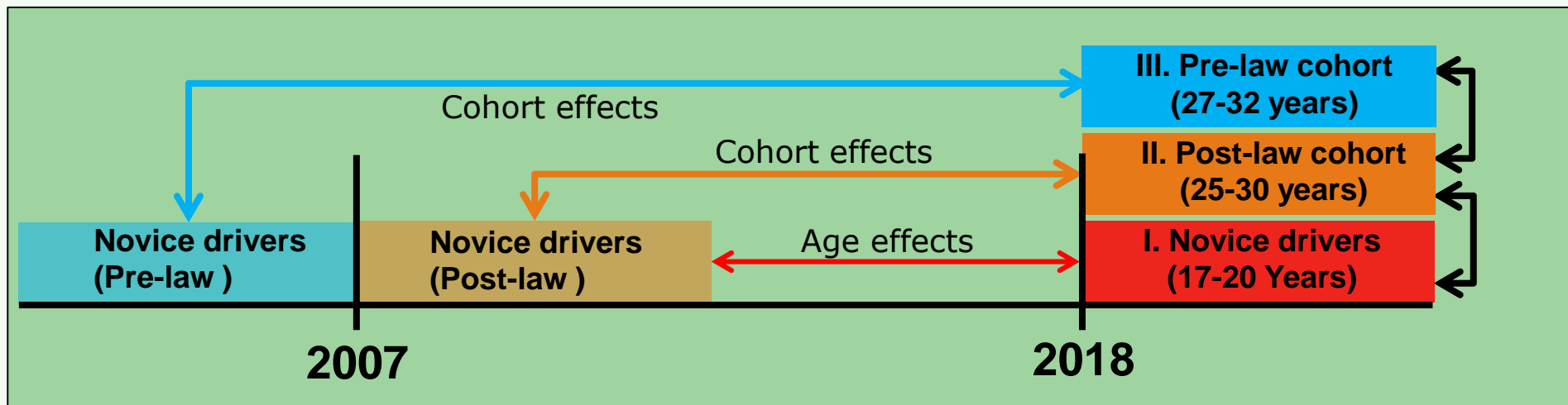
Share of alcohol impaired car drivers in all car drivers involved in an accident 2005-2008



Questions

- How effective is the law in the light of intermediate changes in legislation and society?
- Did acceptance of the zero tolerance approach change?
- Is there a long-term effect of the zero tolerance law?

➔ **Re-Evaluation:** Accidents, offences, acceptance, behaviour





- **Societal factors also influence the reduction of drink driving of young/novices**
 - Decreasing alcohol consumption in Germany
 - Changes in driver population:
 - Less young people with a driving license (demographic change, no need to drive, high expenses for licensing/car)
- **Effectiveness also depends on communication and enforcement**
 - Thematic presence of the danger of DUI driving in public (campaigns etc.) and educational measures
 - Subjective expectation of being caught should be high
- **Drink-driving prevention should start long before licensing**
 - A considerable share of teenagers (12-17 years) consumes alcohol on a regular basis (boys: 14%; girls: 6%)
 - Drug and alcohol prevention programs in school could contribute to reduce drink-driving in young/novice drivers



- The zero tolerance alcohol law for young and novice drivers is *one* important measure to reduce drink-driving in Germany
- The law was effective when introduced – its present effectiveness and long-term effects are currently investigated
- Reduction in drink-driving is not the consequence of a single law or a solitary measure, but a result from
 - different measures (BAC limits, sanctions, communication and campaigns, enforcement, rehabilitation...)
 - for different target groups (all drivers, novices, DUI offenders)
 - over a long period of time
 - influenced by societal factors



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Traffic Safety in Germany

Fatalities in Road Traffic

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