



UMTRI

*Young Driver Problem
What's Going on?*

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Preventing Motor Vehicle Crashes among Young Drivers**

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH INSTITUTE

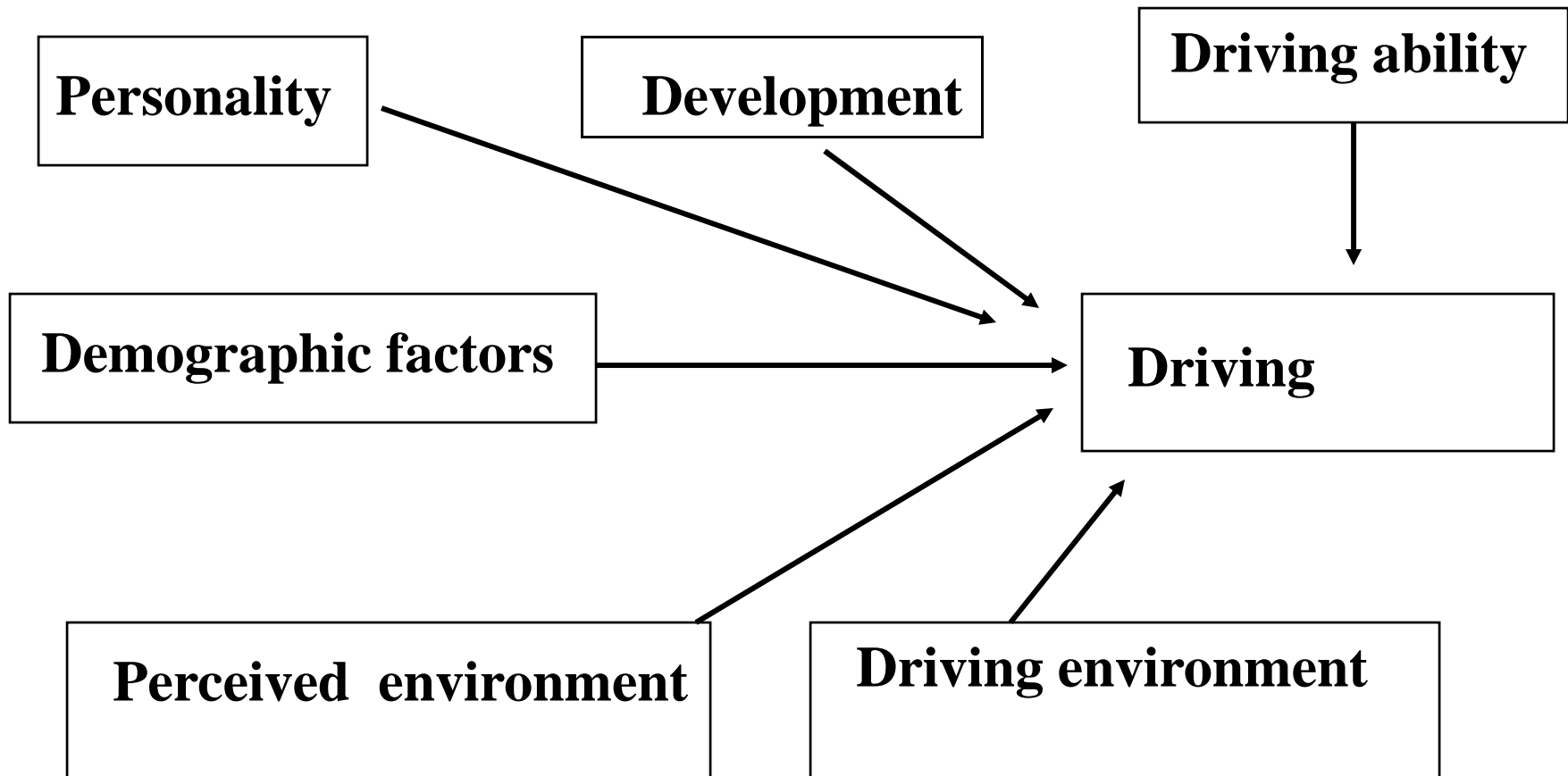
What relates to teen driver crash risk (population)?

- **Young age (immaturity)**
- **Male gender**
- **Night**
- **Passengers (number, age)**
- **First months of driving solo (inexperience)**
- **Alcohol (less likely but high risk)**
- **Low belt use (increases injury risk)**

Why is young driver risk high? What influences each driver?



Influences on Young Drivers



Young Drivers

Driving

Speeding

Unsafe passing

Tailgating

Failure to yield

Impaired driving

Lack of safety belt use

Influences on Young Drivers

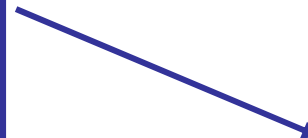
Personality

Risk-taking propensity

Hostility/aggressiveness

Tolerance of deviance

Susceptibility to peer pressure



Driving

Influences on Young Drivers

Development

Physical

Hormones, energy, brain, sleep

Psychosocial

Emotional, social (identity, sexuality)

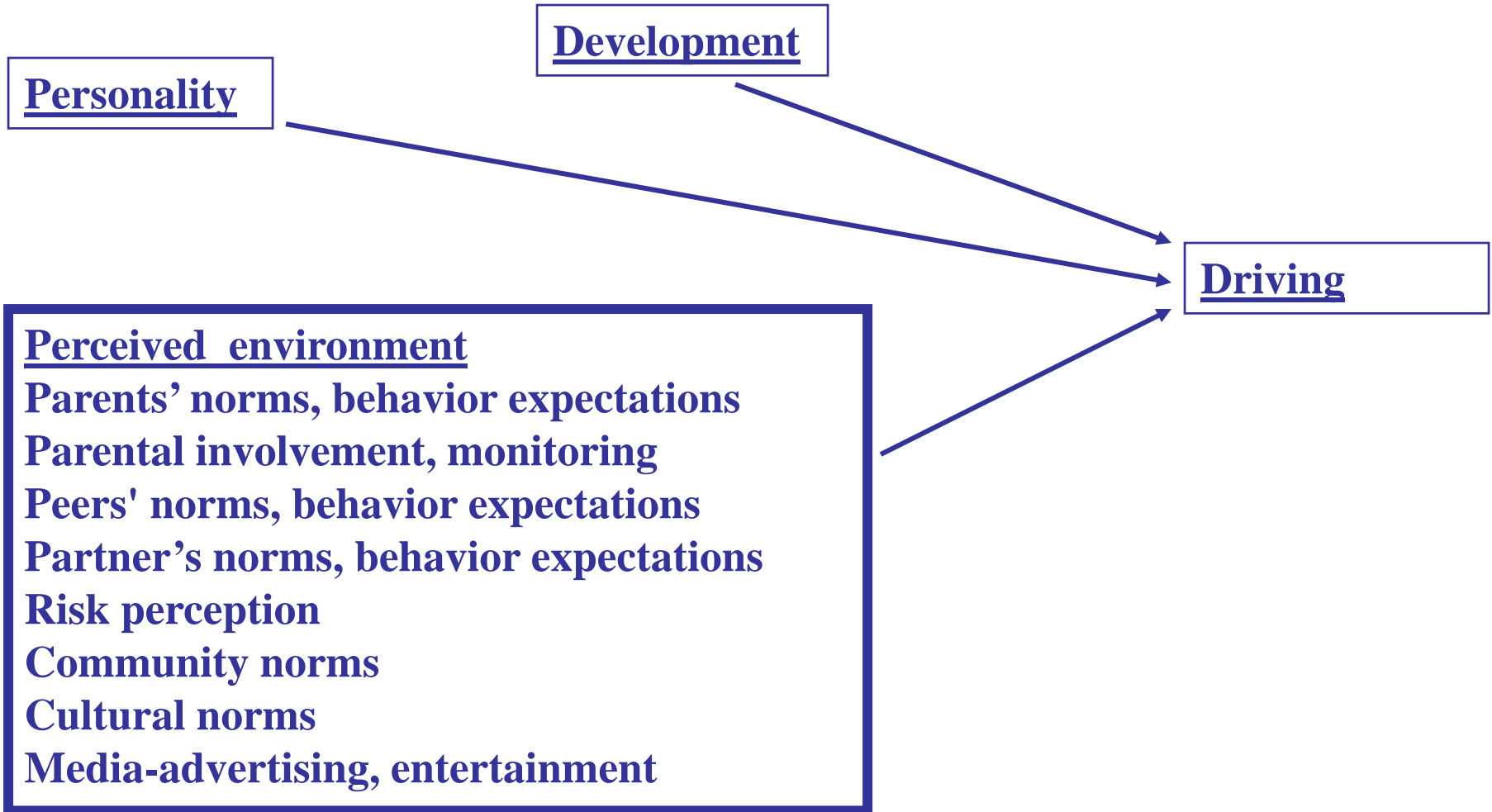
Transitions

Personality

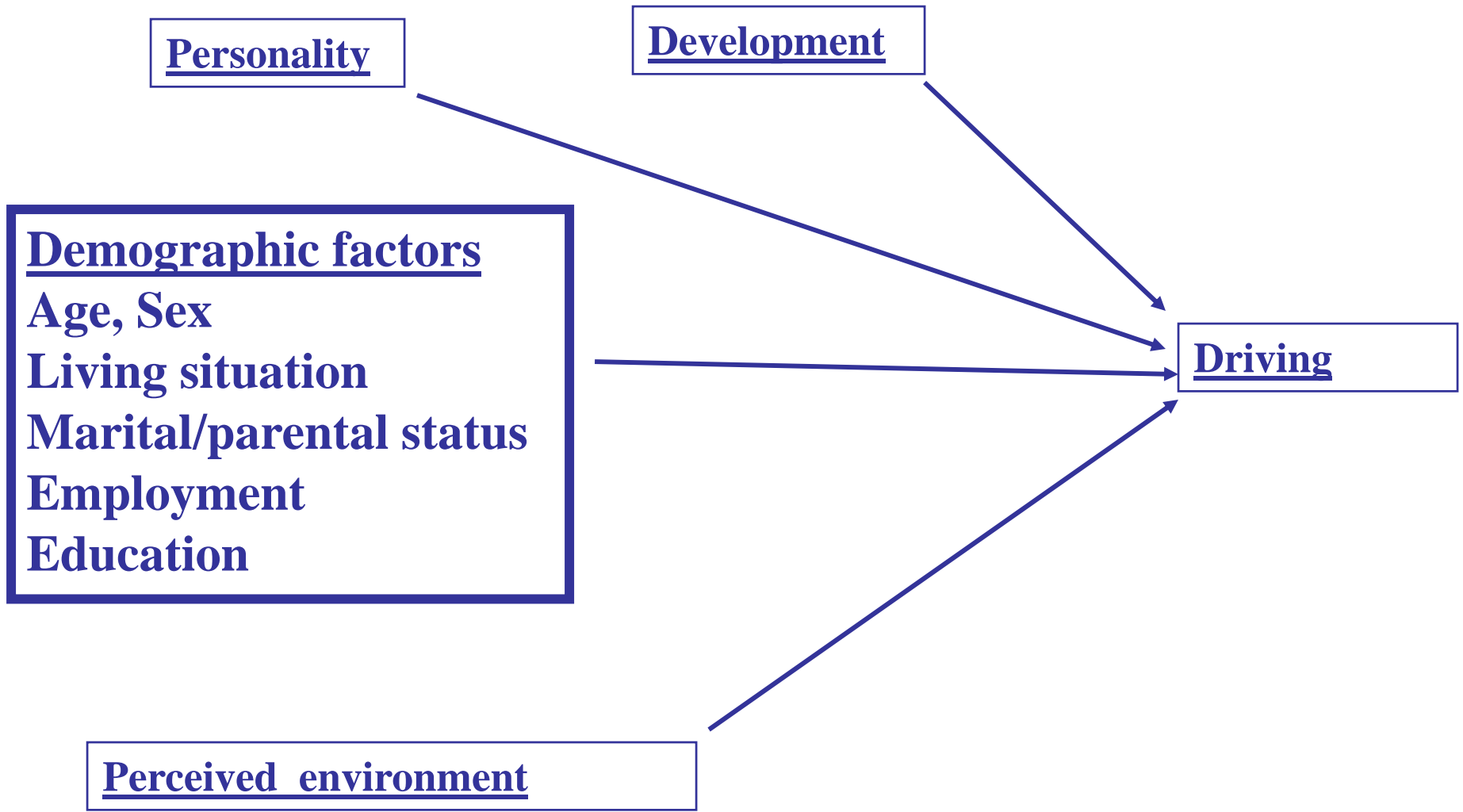
Driving



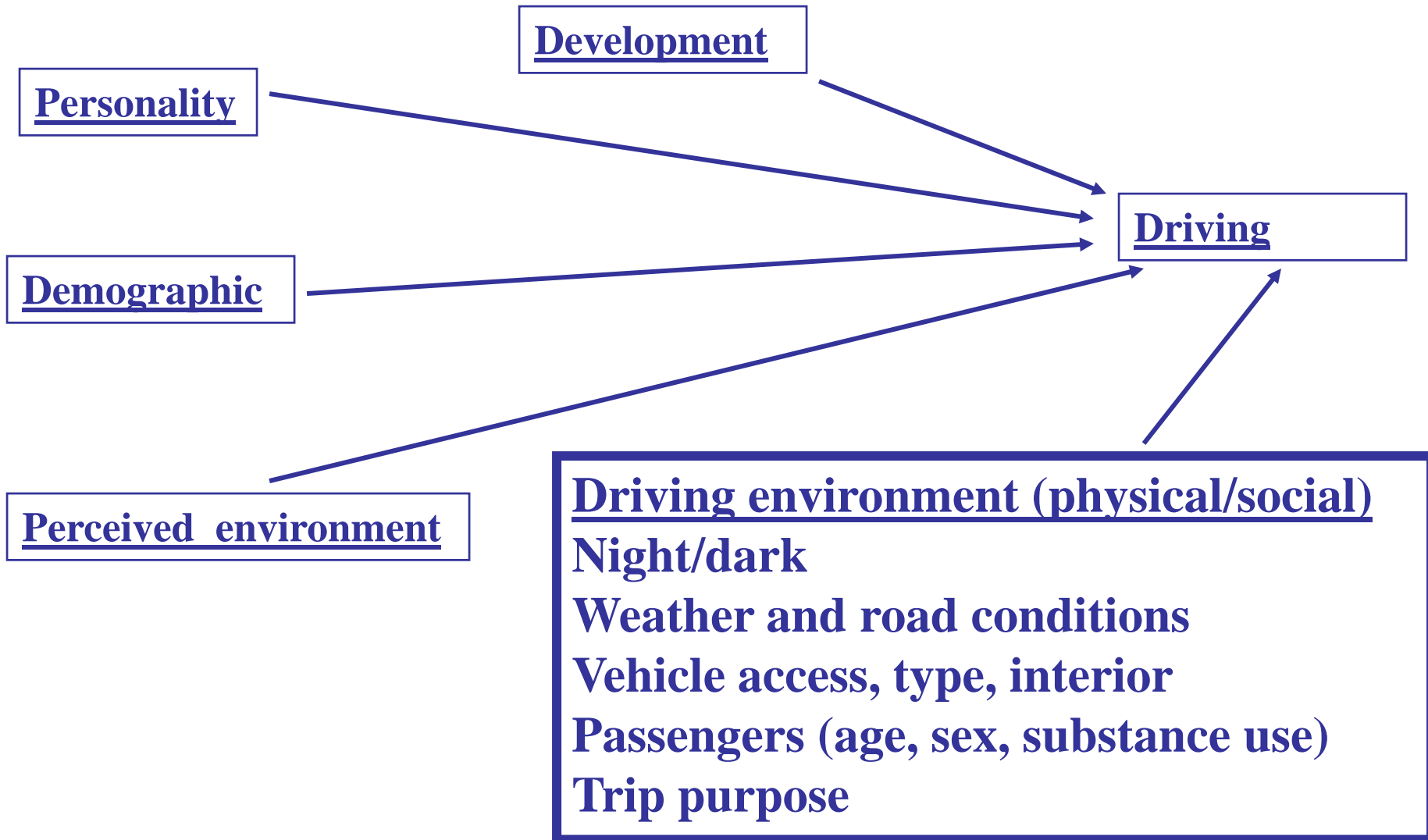
Influences on Young Drivers



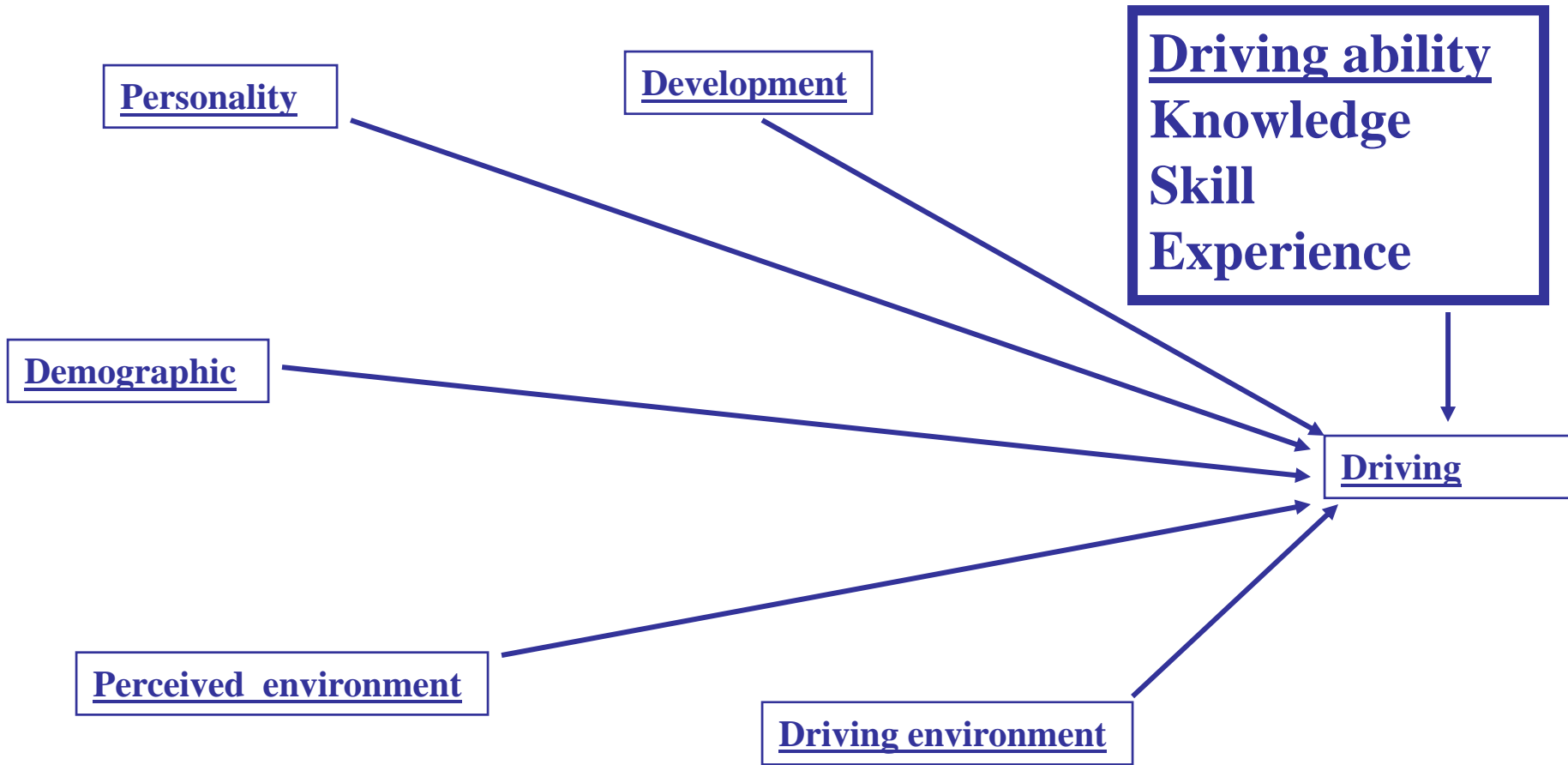
Influences on Young Drivers



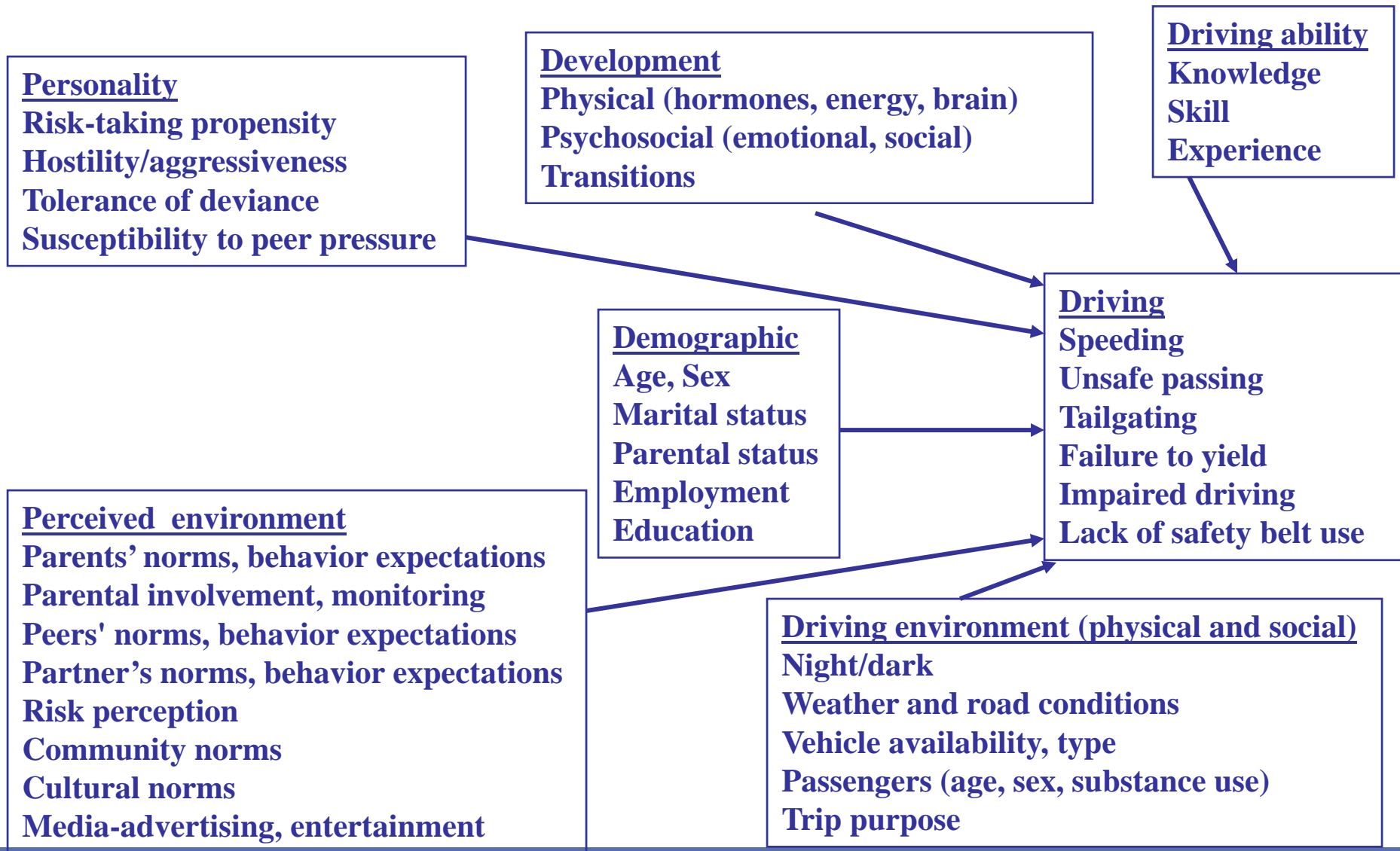
Influences on Young Drivers



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Influences on Young Drivers



Summary

- **Young driver crash risk very high**
 - When novices start driving solo
 - At night and with young passengers
- **Why is young driver crash risk high?**
 - Many factors - some for all, some for individuals
 - Very complex skill, complex picture
 - Important to understand before try to intervene
 - Unintended consequences possible

Discussion Topics

- What would be the effect on crashes of delaying licensure by 6 months?
- Why is there little effect of driver education or supervised practice on first-year crashes?
- How does learning driving resemble other complex psychomotor skills (sports, carpentry)?
- What road conditions increase risk, and how can we reduce exposure to these?
- How do we solve the novice driver dilemma - need to drive solo to learn, but the more driving, the more risk?
- How can the various influences on teen driving be used to prevent crashes?