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Young, inexperienced and on the road. Do novice drivers comply with road rules?

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YOUNG NOVICE DRIVERS

- Are at considerable risk of injury and fatality, particularly when they first drive independently
- Graduated driver licensing (GDL) has been introduced in numerous jurisdictions to allow more driving experience in conditions of reduced risk and increasing driving privileges over a longer duration
- Queensland, Australia, enhanced GDL July 2007.
 - Learners must record 100 hours in a logbook (10 hours at night) over 1 year, no mobile hands-free/ loudspeaker by driver or any passenger
 - Provisional 1 (P1) drivers must not carry ≥ 2 peer passengers 11pm-5am, no mobile hands-free/ loudspeaker by any passenger
- Self-reported compliance with new GDL and general road rules has not been examined

Study Aims

- Explore young novice driver compliance with new GDL requirements and general road rules
- Explore predictors of P1 self-reported speeding

METHOD

Drivers were recruited at government licensing centres as they passed their practical driving assessment and advanced from a Learner to a Provisional licence.

Survey 1

$N = 1032$ (609 females, 14.4% response rate)

- Pre-Licence driving
- Learner driving behaviours and rule compliance

Six months later drivers filled in a second survey.

Survey 2

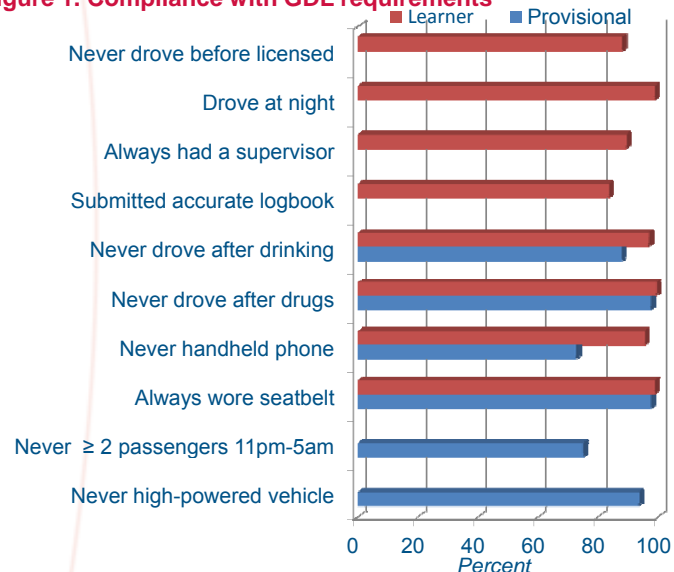
$N = 343$ (238 females, 67.8% attrition rate)

- Behaviours and compliance during the first six months of independent driving

RESULTS

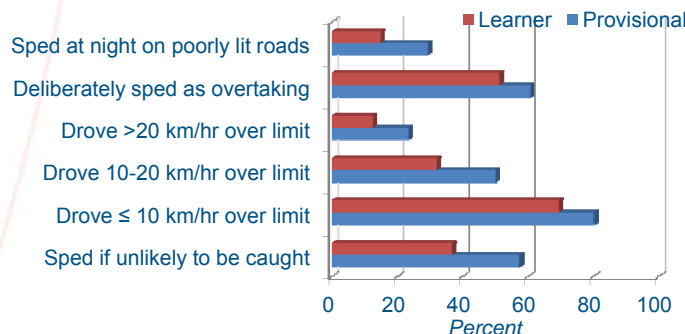
Most Learner and P1 drivers reported complying with GDL requirements (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Compliance with GDL requirements



Young novice drivers reported they were less-compliant with speeding rules (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Compliance with general speeding rules



RESULTS

Predicting P1 speeding

Combination of variables explained 33.4% of variance in self-reported P1 speeding in hierarchical multiple regression analysis, $F(21, 281) = 11.46$, $p < .001$

Significant predictors:

Step 1: Sociodemographic variables ($R^2 \Delta = .127$)

- Age (younger drivers report more speeding, $sr^2 = .014$)
- Relationship status (in a relationship report more speeding, $sr^2 = .014$)

Step 2: Pre-Learner, Learner, P1 variables ($R^2 \Delta = .461$)

- Learner drove unsupervised (more speeding, $sr^2 = .013$)
- Logbook accuracy (Learners who submitted an inaccurate logbook report more speeding, $sr^2 = .020$)
- Learner speeding (Learners who reported more speeding report more P1 speeding, $sr^2 = .178$)

CONCLUSIONS

- The majority of novice drivers (Learner and P1) report that they comply with their GDL-specific requirements
- The requirement to display plates may have encouraged compliance and assisted police detection and enforcement
- Most novices comply with general road rules
- Unsurprisingly, P1 drivers report less compliance with speed limits
- A small proportion of Learners were non-compliant, and they continue to be non-compliant as P1 drivers
- Earlier and greater involvement of parents and law enforcement may be beneficial

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