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Research Result Summaries

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Personality and Driving Behaviour

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This investigation examined the relationships among individuals' personality and motivational tendencies, demographic characteristics, and their propensity for aggressive driving. Two hundred participants recruited from the Psychology Participant Pool completed an online survey that examined demographic variables, driving behaviours, and measures of personality and motivation. Findings indicated that propensity for aggressive driving was not related to the demographic variables examined, except that individuals with more years of driving experience tended to show a greater tendency for driving aggression. Individuals who were higher in trait anger, impulsivity, rebelliousness, and those who were "night people" vs. "morning people" showed greater propensity for aggressive driving. Narcissism was also examined, but did not emerge as a significant predictor of proneness for driving aggression when examined in conjunction with the other predictors in this study. Understanding personality, motivational, and demographic predictors of aggressive driving will inform the development of more effective driver training programs to prevent aggressive driving, which can lead to improvements in road user safety.