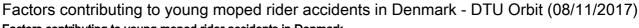
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Factors contributing to young moped rider accidents in Denmark

Young road users still constitute a high-risk group with regard to road traffic accidents. The crash rate of a moped is four times greater than that of a motorcycle, and the likelihood of being injured in a road traffic accident is 10-20 times higher among moped riders compared to car drivers. Nevertheless, research on the behaviour and accident involvement of young moped riders remains sparse. Based on analysis of 128 accident protocols, the purpose of this study was to increase knowledge about moped accidents. The study was performed in Denmark involving riders aged 16 or 17. A distinction was made between accident factors related to (1) the road and its surroundings, (2) the vehicle, and (3) the reported behaviour and condition of the road user. Thirteen accident factors were identified with the majority concerning the reported behaviour and condition of the road user. The average number of accident factors assigned per accident was 2.7. Riding speed was assigned in 45% of the accidents which made it the most frequently assigned factor on the part of the moped rider followed by attention errors (42%), a tuned up moped (29%) and position on the road (14%). For the other parties involved, attention error (52%) was the most frequently assigned accident factor. The majority (78%) of the accidents involved road rule breaching on the part of the moped rider. The results indicate that preventive measures should aim to eliminate violations and increase anticipatory skills among moped riders and awareness of mopeds among other road users. Due to their young age the effect of such measures could be enhanced by infrastructural measures facilitating safe interaction between mopeds and other road users.

General information

State: Published

Organisations: Department of Transport, Transport policy and behaviour, Danish Transport Research Institute,

Department of Management Engineering, Technology and Innovation Management

Authors: Møller, M. (Intern), Haustein, S. (Intern)

Pages: 1-7

Publication date: 2016

Main Research Area: Technical/natural sciences

Publication information

Journal: Accident Analysis & Prevention

Volume: 87

ISSN (Print): 0001-4575

Ratings:

BFI (2017): BFI-level 2

Web of Science (2017): Indexed yes

BFI (2016): BFI-level 2

Scopus rating (2016): CiteScore 3.24 SJR 1.49 SNIP 1.97

Web of Science (2016): Indexed yes

BFI (2015): BFI-level 2

Scopus rating (2015): SJR 1.206 SNIP 1.808 CiteScore 2.63

Web of Science (2015): Indexed yes

BFI (2014): BFI-level 2

Scopus rating (2014): SJR 1.19 SNIP 2.067 CiteScore 2.79

Web of Science (2014): Indexed yes

BFI (2013): BFI-level 2

Scopus rating (2013): SJR 1.359 SNIP 2.688 CiteScore 3.2

ISI indexed (2013): ISI indexed yes Web of Science (2013): Indexed yes

BFI (2012): BFI-level 2

Scopus rating (2012): SJR 1.3 SNIP 2.238 CiteScore 2.56

ISI indexed (2012): ISI indexed yes Web of Science (2012): Indexed yes

BFI (2011): BFI-level 2

Scopus rating (2011): SJR 0.922 SNIP 2.008 CiteScore 2.61

ISI indexed (2011): ISI indexed yes

BFI (2010): BFI-level 2

Scopus rating (2010): SJR 1.146 SNIP 2.356

Web of Science (2010): Indexed yes

BFI (2009): BFI-level 2

Scopus rating (2009): SJR 1.203 SNIP 1.848

Web of Science (2009): Indexed yes

BFI (2008): BFI-level 1

Scopus rating (2008): SJR 1.276 SNIP 2.228

Web of Science (2008): Indexed yes

Scopus rating (2007): SJR 1.109 SNIP 2.064

Web of Science (2007): Indexed yes Scopus rating (2006): SJR 1.5 SNIP 2.244 Web of Science (2006): Indexed yes

Scopus rating (2005): SJR 1.008 SNIP 2.387

Web of Science (2005): Indexed yes

Scopus rating (2004): SJR 0.899 SNIP 1.947

Web of Science (2004): Indexed yes

Scopus rating (2003): SJR 0.785 SNIP 1.933

Web of Science (2003): Indexed yes

Scopus rating (2002): SJR 0.614 SNIP 1.443

Web of Science (2002): Indexed yes

Scopus rating (2001): SJR 0.613 SNIP 1.368 Scopus rating (2000): SJR 0.756 SNIP 1.146 Scopus rating (1999): SJR 0.588 SNIP 1.2

Original language: English

Accident analysis, Mopeds, Road traffic accidents, Young road users

DOIs:

10.1016/j.aap.2015.11.008

Source: FindIt

Source-ID: 2289429346

Publication: Research - peer-review > Journal article - Annual report year: 2016