A Research Project About

Young Drivers

By Alasdair Rodden - Age 11

Summer 2013
PROJECT RESEARCH QUESTION

What do students and teachers at my school think causes young drivers to have traffic accidents and what can we do to make young drivers safer?

INTRODUCTION

There is lots of data showing that drivers in the 17-25 year old age group are much more likely to be involved in car accidents than other drivers. My research project is going to look at what pupils and teachers at my school think are the reasons for the high level of accidents for young drivers as well as what they think could be done to reduce the numbers of accidents for this age group.

RESEARCH METHODS

Below is a description of how I planned to do my research originally. It took me quite a bit of time to work out the questions to ask and to design my questionnaires. This took longer than I expected it to take. Also, as I had two sets of exams (school exams and SATs) during the summer term I did not have time to do point 5 which is in Italics. However, I still managed to complete most of what I had planned to do so I am quite pleased.

The approach I took was:
1. Two questionnaires. The first one had two main open questions plus a few closed questions. This was given to 10 teachers agreed by my Headmaster.
2. The results from this were used to finish the details in the second questionnaire which went to all the remaining teachers and also all year 6 to 8 pupils. This questionnaire was nearly all closed questions with tick boxes so they would be easier to analyse. There were two open questions.
3. I asked my Headmaster if I could ask people to leave their completed questionnaires at the school reception for me to collect to save costs for postage and he agreed that they could.
4. Other information such as facts on accident numbers etc I collected from other sources like the Internet and TV programmes.
5. The last activity was going to be an interview with a selection of people to test out the responses from the questionnaires and to get another perspective on the views from my school.
   a) Adults who are over 25 and have been driving for more than 10 years
   b) Young people currently taking driving lessons.
   c) Teenagers who are not old enough to start driving lessons yet.
6. All the questionnaires were done during the summer term.
RESEARCH ETHICS

At the start of my project, I gave my Headmaster a copy of my one page project proposal and asked for permission to send two questionnaire out. A copy of this note is attached at appendix A.

He said that it was acceptable to do this so I went ahead. Before I sent out each questionnaire I gave him a copy to check. I also gave a copy of each questionnaire to my project supervisor who was helping me with my project to get feedback to improve them. This was important so that everyone involved knew what I was planning and could give advice on how to do it best. My Headmaster also said he was happy for me to have a post box in his secretary’s office for students and teachers to post their questionnaires into which was really helpful.

Both of my questionnaires said that responses would be treated confidentially.

Extract from the first questionnaire:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How your responses will be used</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This questionnaire is the first of two that I will be using for my research. Your responses will be used to create a tick-box questionnaire for the remaining staff at school and also pupils in years 6-8. It is not compulsory for anyone to complete this but I hope that you will be able to spare 5 minutes to help me with this. All responses will be kept confidential and no one will be identified in my final report. Please put your completed questionnaire in the enclosed envelope and leave it in school reception by Thursday 20th June for me to collect. Thank you. I need to design, send out and receive back responses from the second questionnaire before the end of the summer term.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Extract from the second questionnaire:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How your responses will be used</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This questionnaire is being given to the teachers and other staff at school and also pupils in years 6-8. It is not compulsory for anyone to complete this questionnaire but I hope that you will complete and return it. All responses will be kept confidential and no one will be identified in the final report.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A copy of each questionnaire is attached at appendices B and C.

I also wrote a short note for each teacher asking them to hand out the blank questionnaires and a copy of this is in appendix F at the back of this report.

Although I used names of people in some documents at school, for this report I have replaced a names other than my own with “teacher” or “head teacher” to keep their names confidential.
BACKGROUND

The following extract from a newspaper article gives a good example of how easily things can go wrong. It was the experience of an 18 year old girl who was with her friends celebrating their ‘A’ Level results and planning to go to college.

“At about 4am, a group of us decided to head on to an after-party and as I was sober, I opted to drive. Four of my friends and I, including my then boyfriend, Sam, crammed into Sam’s father’s car and turned the music up, singing loudly as we sped along in the dark, empty country roads. It should have been one of the best and most memorable nights of my life, but the last memory I have was of turning too late for a right-hand bend and losing control of the car”

(Telegraph Weekend, Saturday April 27th 2013)

Although her friends escaped from this accident without being hurt the driver ended up being in a wheelchair for the rest of her life. She goes on to say later in this article that for the first time in ten years there has been a spike in the number of young people dying or being seriously hurt in car crashes and that the Government has even confirmed that driving is now the single biggest killer of young people.

The following worrying points were made in a recent television programme:
● 1 in every 3 drivers who die on UK roads is 25 or under
● 1 in 10 young people have been in a crash that has resulted in death or serious injury
● 1 in 5 young drivers has a crash within six months of passing their test

(Source: BBC3, Barely Legal Drivers, episode 1 on 2nd April 2013)

The research I did at my school was aiming to find out what people there thought about this subject.

RESPONSE RATES

Response rates - first questionnaire
Ten questionnaires were sent out to teachers and staff at school and six were returned which gives a response rate of 60%.

Response rates - second questionnaire
I sent out 118 questionnaires to pupils (70) teachers (40) and other staff (8) at school:
● Year 6 - Teacher 1 = 14, Teacher 2 = 15
● Year 7 - Teacher 3 = 17
● Year 8 - Teacher 4 = 12, Teacher 5 = 12
● Teaching staff = 40
● Office support staff = 8
To help encourage responses for the second questionnaire I used a post-box. See the picture below.

Response rates for the second questionnaire in more detail.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>group</th>
<th>Number sent out</th>
<th>Number returned</th>
<th>Response rate (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 8</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>not known</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching staff</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other staff</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>total</strong></td>
<td><strong>118</strong></td>
<td><strong>28</strong></td>
<td><strong>24</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other information on the pupils who responded

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Responses from</th>
<th>Year 6</th>
<th>Year 7</th>
<th>Year 8</th>
<th>year not known</th>
<th>totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>girls</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>boys</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>totals</strong></td>
<td><strong>6</strong></td>
<td><strong>1</strong></td>
<td><strong>13</strong></td>
<td><strong>1</strong></td>
<td><strong>21</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A response rate of 60% for my first questionnaire was really good.

I felt like it was a bit disappointing to only get a total response rate of 24% for the second one but that is about average for this type of questionnaire so I suppose it is not too bad and the 28 responses still gave me some data to analyse which is shown below.

The complete data on all responses is included in the appendices at the back of this report. They are:
- Appendix D - First Questionnaire - responses
- Appendix E - First Questionnaire - initial analysis for questionnaire 2
- Appendix G - Results from Second Questionnaire - closed questions
- Appendix H - Results from Second Questionnaire - open questions
**ANALYSIS**

I used the results from the first questionnaire to help decide what ideas to put into the two key questions in the second questionnaire. I looked at the written comments people made (see appendix D) and then grouped them into groups (see appendix E).

I also added a few ideas of my own so that each question in the second questionnaire had a number of ideas which people were asked to rate. I have been thinking about this subject for a long time and decided to use this opportunity to test out some of my own ideas too.

When I had all the responses from the second questionnaire I numbered each one so I did not get confused and then put the closed question results into a grid (this is at appendix G) and then did some work to count the number of responses for each rating for each question.

As you can see in the appendix, to help make it easier to count each type of response, I colour coded them. After I had counted up the numbers, I used these total numbers to help create a lot of graphs so I could see what the data was telling me. I looked at each graph and made comments about what it showed.

Afterwards I read through all the comments and wrote some final conclusions. I also used a question checklist from my project advisor. As there is quite a lot of data I think there could be more questions to think about but I did not have time for this report.

I also then looked at the written responses for the second questionnaire. There were only twelve written comments for the first open question and seven for the second one.

**FINDINGS**

This first set of analysis includes all the responses from the twenty-eight questionnaires I received back. Later on in my report I have split out the students’ responses into “boys only” and “girls only”.

One question on the second questionnaire was about eight different factors which could cause accidents. It asked people to say how much they thought each one was responsible for causing accidents (always, mostly, sometimes or rarely). The chart summarising these responses is on the next page.

The numbers inside the bars on the chart are the actual number of people who gave each rating. As you can see in the data in the appendix, 27 people rated all the options under question three but one only rated the first three causes and left the other five blank.
The eight factors which people thought contribute to accidents were:
1. Showing off to other young people
2. Think that driving fast is cool
3. Lack of experience of real driving situations
4. Lack of fear
5. Lack of concentration
6. Over-confidence in own ability
7. May drink and drive
8. Having new freedom to drive for the first time

Five people thought the lack of concentration was always a cause of accidents and four thought lack of experience of real driving situations was always a cause of accidents. Only one person thought that lack of concentration rarely caused accidents.

All except for 3 people thought that showing off sometimes or mostly caused accidents.

Another question asked about nine different ideas which could possibly reduce accidents. Most of these ideas came from my analysis of the first questionnaire results and I also added a few of my own ideas to test them out. People were asked to rate the likely impact of each one from “1 = not at all” to “10 = a lot”. The results for each one are shown on the pages which follow.

The number of people who answered each question ranged from 24 to 28 as some people missed out some of the ideas and did not give them a rating. The height of each bar in the charts shows the number of people who chose each rating. There is one chart for each of the nine ideas. The title for each graph is the exact wording from the second questionnaire.
Thirteen people gave ratings from 1 to 5 while the other thirteen who answered this question gave ratings from 6 to 10. More people said a “5” rating than any other option.

Twenty-two of the twenty-six people who answered this question gave ratings from 5 to 8.

The spread of rating choices covered the whole range for this question. A “10” rating was the most popular choice. Twenty-eight people answered this question.
Only twenty-four people gave a rating for this idea and the choices were again spread throughout the whole range from 1 to 10 with 8 being only slightly more popular than 3 and 5.

Slightly more people chose the lower ratings for this idea. Seventeen chose ratings from 1 to 5 with only ten choosing ratings from 6 to 10.

The choices here are the same for 1 and 10 with both getting 6 responses. Four people each chose 4, 5 and 8 ratings. There is no particular pattern to the other responses.
The most popular choice this time was rating number 9, closely followed by 10. Eighteen people gave ratings from 6 to 10 with only ten giving ratings from 1 to 5.

The main choice here was rating number 9 chosen by seven people. Four other choices had three responses and most of the remaining ones only two responses each. Nine people chose ratings from 1 to 5 and eighteen chose ratings from 6 to 10 which is the same pattern as the last idea above.

The 10 rating was the most popular choice with six people giving that response. 1, 5, 6, and 7 each had four responses.
Comparing responses from boys and girls

It would be interesting to know whether there are differences to the responses given by boys and girls, so the following graphs compare the responses from boys and girls at my school. 21 of the 28 responses I had came from children split into 12 girls and 9 boys.

The chart below shows the responses from the boys for question 3.

![Chart showing responses from boys for question 3]

The chart below shows the responses from the girls for question 3.

![Chart showing responses from girls for question 3]

The numbers inside the bars on each graph show the number of children who chose each rating.

The eight factors which people thought could cause accidents were:
1. Showing off to other young people
2. Think that driving fast is cool
3. Lack of experience of real driving situations
4. Lack of fear
5. Lack of concentration
6. Over-confidence in own ability
7. May drink and drive
8. Having new freedom to drive for the first time

The boys chose the “always” option twelve times which was four times more often than the girls chose that option.

For the following nine graphs the scales are:
- along the x-axis shows answers for the question “How much do you think the following ideas would reduce the number of car accidents for young drivers?” (the ratings are from “1 = not at all” to “10 = a lot”)
- the y-axis shows how many people chose each rating.

There is not much difference between the responses from the boys and girls for this idea although one third of the girls chose a middle option of 5 meaning that they thought that using black boxes would have some impact on safety for young drivers.

Most of the boys and girls thought that more courses and education for young drivers would reduce road accidents. One girl thought it would help a lot, while two others (one boy and one girl) thought it would not help at all.
Overall the responses were spread across the range with the girls being slightly more in favour of a probation period as an idea.

Most of the ratings were chosen by at least one person and again the girls seem a little more in favour of this version of a probationary period than the boys did.

When thinking about the idea of a time curfew, the girls’ responses ranged from 2 yo 8, however, the boys were more extreme in both directions (both thinking it would help a lot and also not at all).
More than half the boys thought that only allowing young drivers to have a smaller engine size would have no impact on the number of accidents. The girls’ responses were more varied.

Girls were generally more in favour of restricting the torque output to prevent accidents than the boys were.

The girls were more supportive of this idea to provide safe practice spaces away from the public roads for young drivers than the boys were.
Girls generally thought that this was a better idea than the boys did but the responses for all the children were spread across the range from 1 to 10.

The pattern of responses from girls for the above nine graphs seems to be slightly more positive than boys for most of the nine ideas. The graph below shows the total number of responses for each rating for all nine ideas for boys and girls. This confirms that generally the girls gave more positive responses than the boys.

However, there were 12 responses from girls and only 9 from boys, so the graph below shows the actual number of responses as a percentage of the total responses for boys and then the same for the girls as a fairer comparison. My calculation is explained on the next page.
For example, nine boys responded so the maximum number of ratings that they could have given for nine questions was 81 (9x9). However, as one person missed out a question there were only 80 responses, so the calculation for rating number 1 was 21 responses divided by 80 and multiplied by 100 to give 26%. The same calculation was done for all the other ratings to give the chart above for the boys and the same was done for the girls. This was to give a fairer comparison of the results.

The boys were still not as positive as the girls about the nine ideas despite doing the comparison on a percentage of responses basis.

Written comments

The written comments for questionnaire two are all shown below and came from two questions.

The first one said “Can you think of any other reasons why young drivers have so many accidents? If so, please explain below” and twelve people answered this one.

- They like to show off in their cars by driving fast and drink driving.
- Yes. Listening to loud music and talking while driving
- Coughing fits
- Mobile phones, may see an ice-cream van and watch it drive by then crash
- Because they are tired
- Not aware of other drivers and surroundings
- Wreckless (this was how it was spelt on the questionnaire)
- Taking drugs
- They may want to show of the other female people
- Talking to passengers in rear seats
- Possibly related to films, T.V. etc - i.e. copying
- Because they are depressed or worried

Several of these ideas were to do with the driver being distracted or losing concentration. One reminded me of the article in the newspaper earlier in my report where the girl driving said that they were playing music loudly and singing along. She may also have been tired as it was late and also she may have been talking to passengers in rear seats.

The second one asked “Have you got any other ideas for reducing accidents for young drivers? If so, please explain below” and seven people answered this one.

- By not drink and driving, not drinking before you get into your car and have longer learning practises. (this is how it was spelt on the questionnaire)
- Yes not allowing girls to be in the same car as 17-25 yr old boys
- I don’t have any ideas
- More stricter rules
- A bigger fine if they are caught speeding
- Less restrictions
- Set up support groups to show how it can affect lives

The one of these answers which I had not thought of before was setting up support groups to help young people see how accidents can affect lives.
CONCLUSION

The data on the graphs shows that there is no one main thing which people thought would cause accidents. I think this because the responses were generally spread right across the range of rating options for each of the ideas. There were two things however which lots of people thought would prevent accidents:

- Probation period with speed restrictions for the first year after passing a driving test
- No modifications to be added to cars until the driver is over 25 years old

For the comparison of boys and girls I think that the boys generally did not think that the ideas would be as effective as the girls did. I do not know why this is the case, however, it is possible than one 'cool' boy might have influenced others to copy his ideas but I do not know as I was not with them when they completed the questionnaire.

From the first questionnaire the written ideas for causes and preventative measures were easy to group into some themes for the second questionnaire which shows that there is some agreement to what causes and could prevent accidents. The first questionnaire was only sent to adults so perhaps they knew more about the issues than the children who responded. I suspect this may be the case but do not know for certain as I have not asked them.

Two new ideas for preventing accidents which came from the second questionnaire that surprised me were:

- setting up support groups so that young people can understand how accidents affect lives.
- not allowing girls to be in the same car as 17-25 year old boys.

The first one of these might be worth doing some more research on but I do not think that the second one would be possible to get people to agree to it.

The data from my research does support the experience of the young girl in the newspaper article on page four of my report. In particular she said about listening to loud music, also that she had been busy all day celebrating getting exam results and the crash took place late a night.

It takes quite a long time to analyse the data and to create graphs to display it. I think it if I had the time it would have been interesting to compare the adult and child responses to these questions to see if there are any differences.

Originally I had hoped to do some interviews but as I was away for most of the summer holidays I did not have the time to arrange them. They might have helped answer some of my assumptions about why the results ended up as they did.

I think that there is lots more research that could be done on this subject of young drivers and accidents.
REFERENCES

BBC3, Barely Legal Drivers, episode 1 on 2nd April 2013

Telegraph Weekend, Saturday April 27th 2013

Various course materials from The Children’s Research Centre at the Open University, including things like questionnaire design, the structure for writing up research and ideas for analysis of data.

APPENDICES

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<th>Appendix A</th>
<th>Note to my Headmaster asking for permission to do research at school</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Appendix G</td>
<td>Results from Second Questionnaire - closed questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix H</td>
<td>Results from Second Questionnaire - open questions</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX A

The following note is what I sent to my Head Master asking for permission to conduct my research at school. I also gave him drafts of the two questionnaires for him to check them before I sent them out.

Research project - Questions for Mr Headmaster

- Please may I collect data using a two step questionnaire process at school?

- Is it OK to send my first questionnaire to the following people?
  - Headmaster’s PA
  - Teacher
  - Headmaster
  - Teacher
  - Teacher
  - Teacher
  - School Nurse
  - Teacher
  - Teacher
  - Graduate Teaching Assistant

- Can I put a small post box in reception for the questionnaire replies?

- If the first questionnaire can go out on Monday 17th June and the return date is Thursday 20th June there will be time to do the second one this term which I need to do to be in time for the Children’s Research Centre deadline at the Open University.

- Can I send the second questionnaire out to all in years 6, 7 and 8 plus the remaining staff please? If I get a 20-30% response rate then I will still have enough to analyse.

- Would you like to see the finalised second questionnaire before it goes out? Most of it is in the pack with the other documents but the content in the middle needs to come from the first questionnaire.
APPENDIX B

First Questionnaire

RESEARCH PROJECT - ALASDAIR RODDEN - SUMMER 2013

Introduction
I am keen to investigate why young drivers in the 17-25 year old age group in Britain are some of the most dangerous in Europe.

- 1 in every 3 drivers who die on UK roads is 25 or under
- 1 in 10 young people have been in a crash that has resulted in death or serious injury
- 1 in 5 young drivers has a crash within six months of passing their test

(Source: BBC3, Barely Legal Drivers, episode 1 on 2nd April 2013)

In addition, I would like to see what could be done for young drivers to make the roads safer for all road users.

How your responses will be used
This questionnaire is the first of two that I will be using for my research. Your responses will be used to create a tick-box questionnaire for the remaining staff at school and also pupils in years 6-8. It is not compulsory for anyone to complete this but I hope that you will be able to spare 5 minutes to help me with this. All responses will be kept confidential and no one will be identified in my final report. Please put your completed questionnaire in the enclosed envelope and leave it in school reception by Thursday 20th June for me to collect. Thank you. I need to design, send out and receive back responses from the second questionnaire before the end of the summer term.

1. How many years is it since you passed your driving test? ______ years
2. On average, how many miles do you drive each year? ________ miles.
3. Of those, roughly how many miles are on 30mph roads ______ and how many on roads over 30mph ______?
4. Why do you think that drivers in the 17-25 year old age group (an 8 year age span) are more likely to be involved in car accidents than other drivers older than 25 years (a age span of more than 45years)?
   Please explain below

5. What do you think might help reduce the number of car accidents for the 17-25 year old age group?
   Please explain below

6. Are there any specific examples of poor driving skills or behaviours you have seen demonstrated by young drivers?
   If so, please explain what you have seen.

Please put your completed questionnaire in the enclosed envelope and leave it in school reception by Thursday 20th June for me to collect. Thank you.
APPENDIX C
Second Questionnaire

YOUNG DRIVERS - RESEARCH PROJECT - SUMMER 2013

Introduction
I am keen to investigate why young drivers in the 17-25 year old age group in Britain are some of the most dangerous in Europe.
1 in every 3 drivers who die on UK roads is 25 or under
1 in 10 young people have been in a crash that has resulted in death or serious injury
1 in 5 young drivers has a crash within six months of passing their test
(Source: BBC3, Barely Legal Drivers, episode 1 on 2nd April 2013)

In addition, I would like to see what could be done for young drivers to make the roads safer for all road users.

How your responses will be used
This questionnaire is being given to the teachers and other staff at school and also pupils in years 6-8.
It is not compulsory for anyone to complete this questionnaire but I hope that you will complete and return it.
All responses will be kept confidential and no one will be identified in the final report.

1. Which year are you in?  (please circle one)  Year 6  Year 7  Year 8  other
2. Which are you?  (please circle one)  girl  boy  teacher  other staff
3. Which of the following reasons do you think contribute to the high numbers of car accidents for young drivers?
   (please tick against each reason)

   a) Showing off to other young people
   b) Think that driving fast is cool
   c) Lack of experience of real driving situations
   d) Lack of fear
   e) Lack of concentration
   f) Over-confidence in own ability
   g) May drink and drive
   h) Having new freedom to drive for the first time

4. Can you think of any other reasons why young drivers have so many accidents? If so, please explain them below.

5. How much do you think the following ideas would reduce the number of car accidents for young drivers?
   (please tick against each idea the degree to which you think it would work)

   a) Black boxes put into cars linked to insurance companies which record how the driver drives
   b) Courses & education, in addition to driving lessons, including showing the results of bad driving habits like driving too fast and over-taking dangerously
   c) Probationary period with speed restrictions for the first year after passing a driving test
   d) Probation period where the young driver must be accompanied by someone over 25 for the first three months after passing their driving test
   e) Stop young drivers driving in the dark so have a curfew starting at dusk and lasting until dawn for the first year after passing a driving test
   f) Only allowing young drivers to drive cars with an small engine size (e.g. up to 1.6L) for first year
   g) Only allowing young drivers to drive cars with a maximum torque output of 275Nm (this influences how fast a car can accelerate so reducing the ability to race between the traffic lights like a drag race)
   h) Creating safe off-road places (such as disused airfields) set out for young drivers to get more driving experience in a safer environment (safer for them and other road users).
   i) No modifications to be added to cars driven by young drivers until the driver is over 25 years old.

6. Have you got any other ideas for reducing accidents for young drivers? If so, please explain them below.

Please return your completed questionnaire c/o Mr Headmaster and post it into the yellow box in Headmaster’s PA’s office by Friday 5th July. Thank you.
APPENDIX D

FIRST QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

One of the first questionnaires was sent back in at the same time as the second questionnaire. The new information from the late questionnaire is in red below.

The parts in black below were the original responses which I received in time to analyse for the second questionnaire.

Sent out 10 to teachers and staff at school
Received 5 back now 6
Response rate of 50%. Now 60%

1. How many years is it since you passed your driving test? ______ years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respondent</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>E</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Answer</td>
<td>35+</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Later response 25 years

2. On average, how many miles do you drive each year? ________ miles.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respondent</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>E</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Answer</td>
<td>12,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>13,000</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Later response 6000

3. Of these, roughly how many miles are on 30mph roads ______ and how many on roads over 30mph ______?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respondent</th>
<th>30mph</th>
<th>Over 30mph</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>11,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12,000</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>4,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Late response 30 mph 1000 miles and over 30 mph 5000 miles
4. Why do you think that drivers in the 17-25 year old age group (an 8 year age span) are more likely to be involved in car accidents than other drivers older than 25 years (a age span of more than 45years)?

Please explain below

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respondent</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| A          | Inexperience  
Too much haste |
| B          | Lack of experience of real driving experience, not just lessons  
Over-confidence in own ability  
Peer pressure to take risks i.e. If carrying younger passengers  
Lack of concentration  
Showing off and impatience |
| C          | Over-confidence?  
Speed?  
Lack of fear?  
Youth feels it may be invincible?  
Inexperience of driving?  
May like to drink and drive? |
| D          | Is trying to impress  
New freedom |
| E          | 17-25 year olds tend to show off to their friends and think that driving fast is cool |

Late response
Need for speed to impress friends  
Haven’t worked out yet that getting from A to B can be done safely  
Not really aware of the consequences - financially / family etc

5. What do you think might help reduce the number of car accidents for the 17-25 year old age group?

Please explain below

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respondent</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Use of technology linked to insurance ( to monitor speed)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| B          | Probationary period after test is passed  
Speed restrictions for younger drivers - limiters on vehicles?  
Stop young drivers driving in dark and after certain time i.e. a curfew |
| C          | May be greater education @ driving lessons  
Can young drivers be shown footage of results of high speed driving? |
| D          | Course & education  
Impatient  
Leave racing at the race track  
Bigger fines and monitoring on local streets |
| E          | Black boxes put into cars linked to insurance companies which record how the driver drives (my brother has one and it definitely makes him a better, safer driver and bad driving means paying more money!) |

Late response
Low cc engines  
Probationary periods e.g. 2 yrs until a full licence granted
6. Are there any specific examples of poor driving skills or behaviours you have seen demonstrated by young drivers? If so, please explain what you have seen.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respondent</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Unsafe over-taking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Plenty of examples unfortunately!:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dangerous overtaking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Speeding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Use of mobile phones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aggressive driving behaviour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jumping traffic lights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Driving too close to other vehicles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Young drivers racing each other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Driving too fast in built up areas and on motorways</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Excitable youngsters in car, distracting young driver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Speeding on roads and turns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aggressive driving close to other cars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dangerous over-taking moves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Turning in on other road users</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Driving in the wrong lane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Overtaking in the wrong lane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>Fast drivers in 30 areas = dangerous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reckless, silly driving, loud music, lots of people in the cars, taking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>roundabouts too fast, skidding etc</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Late response**

- Using mobile phones whilst driving
- Excessive speeds
APPENDIX E

FIRST QUESTIONNAIRE - initial analysis for questionnaire 2

Things which contribute to accidents. These are all taken from question 4 responses and then grouped. The bold words are a summary of the points above them and it was the bold words that I used to create most of the ideas in my second questionnaire.

Groups of ideas:

Inexperience
Lack of experience of real driving experience, not just lessons
Inexperience of driving?
Lack of experience of real driving situations

Too much haste
Speed?
think that driving fast is cool

tend to show off to their friends
Is trying to impress
Peer pressure to take risks i.e. If carrying younger passengers
Showing off to other young people

Over-confidence?
Over-confidence in own ability

May like to drink and drive?
May drink and drive

New freedom
Having new freedom to drive for the first time

Lack of fear?
Youth feels it may be invincible?
Lack of fear

Lack of concentration
Lack of concentration

All bold ones used in second questionnaire
Things which might help reduce accidents. These are all taken from the answers to question 5 and then grouped to get the ideas to put into the second questionnaire.

Groups of ideas:

Use of technology linked to insurance (to monitor speed)
Black boxes put into cars linked to insurance companies which record how the driver drives (my brother has one and it definitely makes him a better, safer driver and bad driving means paying more money!)

Black boxes put into cars linked to insurance companies which record how the driver drives

Can young drivers be shown footage of results of high speed driving?

Courses & education
May be greater education @ driving lessons

Courses & education in addition to driving lessons including showing footage of the results of bad driving habits like driving too fast

Probationary period after test is passed
Speed restrictions for younger drivers - limiters on vehicles?

Probationary period with speed restrictions for the first year after passing a driving test

monitoring on local streets
Stop young drivers driving in dark and after certain time i.e. a curfew

Stop young drivers driving in the dark so have a curfew starting at dusk and lasting until dawn for the first year after passing a driving test

Leave racing at the race track
Bigger fines and
Impatient

Plus my own ideas:

- Only allowed to drive cars with an small engine size (e.g. up to 1.6L) for first year
- Only allowed to drive cars with a maximum torque output of 275Nm (this influences how fast a car can accelerate so reducing the ability to race between the traffic lights like a drag race)
- Probation period where the young driver must be accompanied by someone over 25 for the first three months after passing their driving test
- Safe off-road places (such as disused airfields) set out for young drivers to get more driving experience through in a safer environment (safer for them and other road users).
- No modifications to be added to cars until the driver is over 25 years old.
**APPENDIX F**

This is a copy of the letter I put with each set of questionnaires for each of the teachers in years 6, 7 and 8.

---

**Dear Teacher**

Please can you hand out one of these questionnaires to each child in your class during registration this week so that they have time to complete the questionnaire and return it before Friday 5th July?

Thank you.

When completed, they need to be posted into a yellow box in The Headmaster’s PA's office.

You will also find a copy in your pigeon hole for yourself. If you are able to complete one too that would be great, thank you.

They should only take a few minutes to complete.

Alasdair Rodden (6BT)


**APPENDIX G**

This is my raw data from the second questionnaire - the tick-box questions. I added up responses and used this to create my graphs.

| Question | answer | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | Totals |
| 1        | year 6 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 7 |
| year 7   |        | 1 | 1                  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 2        | other  | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 |
| 3        |         |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 4        | comment| 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| no comment|       | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 5        |         |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 6        |         |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| no comment|       | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

- Rarely
- Sometimes
- Mostly
- Always
The answers below are typed exactly as they were given, with no editing.

4. Can you think of any other reasons why young drivers have so many accidents?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respondent</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>They like to show off in their cars by driving fast and drink driving.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>NO COMMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Yes. Listening to loud music and talking while driving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>NO COMMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Coughing fits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>NO COMMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Mobile phones, may see an ice-cream van and watch it drive by then crash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Because they are tired</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>NO COMMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>NO COMMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>NO COMMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Not aware of other drivers and surroundings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Wreckless</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>NO COMMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Taking drugs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>They may want to show of the other female people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Talking to passengers in rear seats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>NO COMMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Possibly related to films, T.V. etc - i.e. copying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>NO COMMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>NO COMMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>NO COMMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>NO COMMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>NO COMMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>NO COMMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Because they are depressed or worried</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Not counting the “no” comments, 12 people made comments on this question.
6. Have you got any other ideas for reducing accidents for young drivers?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Respondent</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>By not drink and driving, not drinking before you get into your car and have longer learning practeses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>NO COMMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Yes not allowing girls to be in the same car as 17-25 yr old boys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>NO COMMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>I don’t have any ideas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>More stricter rules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>NO COMMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>NO COMMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>NO COMMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>NO COMMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>NO COMMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>A bigger fine if they are caught speeding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Less restrictions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Nope</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>NO COMMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>NO COMMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>NO COMMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>NO COMMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>NO COMMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>NO COMMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>NO COMMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>NO COMMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>NO COMMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>NO COMMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>NO COMMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Set up support groups to show how it can affect lives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Not counting the “no” and “nope” comments, 7 people made comments on this question.