

# Attitude of young drivers and future drivers toward injury risks in Hungary 2009

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# Prequel - questionnaires

- In 2006, under the Apollo project an international survey was conducted, in which, among others, the risk competence of road users was investigated. In this form questions regarding road safety were complex.
- The questionnaire served as a good base to formulate more specific questions about each of the traffic risks.

# Prequel – Why youngsters?

- In the 2006-2009 years we participated in the AdRisk project of the EU, which is about the risk taking behavior of adolescents.
- It is a known fact that in the age group 15-24 risk seeking behavior is much higher than other age groups.
- Our goal was to discover in what fields and in what extent risk taking behavior is higher.

# Method

- We elaborated a short, 2 pages questionnaire with 2x15 points
- In the first part the driving attitude was examined in a 1-5 scale.
- In the second part of the questionnaire the road users' attitude was tested.

# Method (2)

- Taking in account that different risks do not have the same importance, not every risk has the same value. To weight the results, we used the results from an adult group (mainly psychologists specialized in driving behavior).
- The answers were examined in two aspects: how important in general the question is, and in what extent they follow the given rule or advice in their own practice.

# Questions about driving attitudes

- Smoking while driving
- Eating or drinking while driving
- Using cell phone without handsfree set while driving
- Listening to loud music while driving
- Driving more than two hours without break
- Exceeding legal speed limit
- Not maintaining safety distance
- Not heeding warning signs
- Provoke other road users
- Driving aggressively
- Not taking in account that pedestrians, cyclists etc. are more vulnerable road users
- Not keeping the vehicle in good mechanical condition
- Driving under influence of alcohol
- Driving under influence of narcotics
- Driving after a night-long party without resting

# Questions about road using attitudes

- Fastened seatbelt protects from serious injuries
- Seatbelts should be fastened even in short trips
- Seatbelts should be fastened even if the car is equipped with airbags
- Seatbelts should be fastened in the front right seat
- Seatbelts should be fastened in the rear seats
- The rear seat is the safest place for children
- Only a child booster seat properly fitted in the vehicle is safe
- Wearing a helmet when riding a motorcycle
- Wearing a helmet when riding a bicycle
- Helmet should be in the correct size and worn in the correct position
- Wearing reflective vest or stripes on clothing when riding or walking on main
- Proper lighting on bicycle at night or improper visibility
- Crossing roads according to rules and in pedestrian crossings if available
- Walking on the side of the road facing oncoming traffic
- Teaching children how to use the road safely at very young age (kindergarten, elementary school)

# Results

- Number of respondents:
  - 587 persons from highschool
  - 170 persons from college

(In our presentation we use highschools repondents' answers.)

Age group: 15-19 years old

Proportion of young males: 65%



# General statements

- Taking in account the answers of young people, the problem seems always more serious if we are speaking in general. Regarding themselves they are less strict.
- Among adult specialists sometimes we can see opposite answers: they are more allowing to general population
- Adults' responses show higher rank than youngsters', except using seatbelt when the car has airbag , and using seatbelt on right and rear seats.

# Most important differences in drivers' attitudes (1)

- Smoking is dangerous while driving
  - Adult : young people= 4 : 2.8
    - Difference: -1.2
    - frequency below mean of adults: 65%
- Listening too loud music while driving
  - Adult : young people= 3.5 : 2.6
    - Difference: -0.9
    - frequency below mean of adults: 70%

# Most important differences in drivers' attitudes (2)

- Ignoring signs of danger – not heeding warning signs
  - Adult : young people= 4.7 : 3.8
    - Difference: -0.9
    - frequency below mean of adults: 58%
- Provoke other road users
  - Adult : young people= 4.5 : 3.3
    - Difference: -1.2
    - frequency below mean of adults: 73%

# Most important differences in drivers' attitudes (3)

- Driving aggressively
  - Adult : young people= 4.8 : 3.4
    - Difference: -1.4
    - frequency below mean of adults: 71%
- Drinking and driving
  - Adult : young people= 4.8 : 4.1
    - Difference: -0.7
    - frequency below mean of adults: 38%

# Most important differences in drivers' attitudes (4)

- Using illicit drugs and driving
  - Adult : young people= 5.0 : 4.1
    - Difference: -0.9
    - frequency below mean of adults: 36%
- Driving car after night-long party without resting
  - Adult : young people= 5.0 : 3.5
    - Difference: -1.5
    - frequency below mean of adults: 65%

# Road users' attitudes – taking account themselves (1)

- Fastened seatbelt can save life or protect from fatal injury
  - Adult : young people= 4.7 : 3.6
    - Difference: -1.1
    - frequency below mean of adults: 64%
- Only child booster seat properly fitted in the vehicle is safe
  - Adult : young people= 5 : 3.9
    - Difference: -1.1
    - frequency below mean of adults: 47.5%

# Road users' attitudes – taking account themselves (2)

- Wearing helmet when riding a motorcycle
  - Adult : young people= 5 : 3.9
    - Difference: -1.1
    - frequency below mean of adults: 49%
- Wearing helmet when riding a bicycle
  - Adult : young people= 3.7 : 2.8
    - Difference: -0.9
    - frequency below mean of adults: 65%

# Road users' attitudes – taking account themselves (2)

- Wearing reflective vest or stripes on clothing when riding or walking
  - Adult : young people= 4.2 : 3.3
    - Difference: -0.9
    - frequency below mean of adults: 70%
- Proper lightening of bicycle at night
  - Adult : young people= 5 : 3.9
    - Difference: -1.1
    - frequency below mean of adults: 49%



# Education

- Teaching children how to use road safely at very young age (kindergarten, elementary school)
  - Adult : young people= 5 :3.9
    - Difference: -1.1
    - frequency below mean of adults: 49%

# Conclusion

- This questionnaire can be used in training groups. The answers could be informative for teachers about risk taking behavior of the group in total and in persons.
- Based on this information the learning process can be focused on dangers which are low estimated by the group.
- In the future we would like to improve this questionnaire and put it on a website making possible to use it not only for groups but private persons as well.
- Our aim was to put some parts of GDE matrix into questionnaire and make used in practice.