

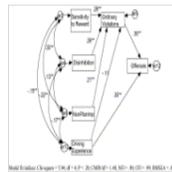
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Abstract

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Risky and aggressive driving in young adults: Personality matters

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Abstract

Young, novice drivers constitute a disproportionate percentage of fatalities and injuries in road tra accidents around the world. This study, attempts to identify motivational factors behind risky driv behavior, and examines the role of personality, especially sensation seeking, impulsivity and sensitivity punishment/reward in predicting negative driving outcomes (accident involvement and traffic offenc among young drivers. Gender and driver's age are additional factors examined in relation to driv outcomes and personality. Adopting the contextual mediated model of traffic accident involvement (Sür 2003), the study is based on the theory that personality, age and gender represent distal factors t predict accident involvement indirectly through their relationship with stable tendencies towards aberr driving behavior. Results from correlations and Structural Equation Modeling using AMOS 6 indicated t direct personality effects on driving outcomes were few, whereas personality had significant correlati with aberrant driving behavior, showing that personality is a distal but important predictor of negat driving outcomes. These high risk traits appear to be at a peak among young male drivers. Th personality is important in understanding aggressive and risky driving by young adults and needs to taken into consideration in designing targeted accident prevention policies.

Research highlights

- Associations between personality, driving behaviour and offences were studied.
- Young age, gen and personality were considered distal predictors of crashes.
- Driving behaviour was considere proximal predictor.
- Disinhibition, sensitivity to reward and impulsivity predicted traffic violations
- Ordinary violations in turn predicted self-reported driving offences.

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Keywords

Traffic accidents; Impulsivity; Sensation seeking; Inhibition; Driving

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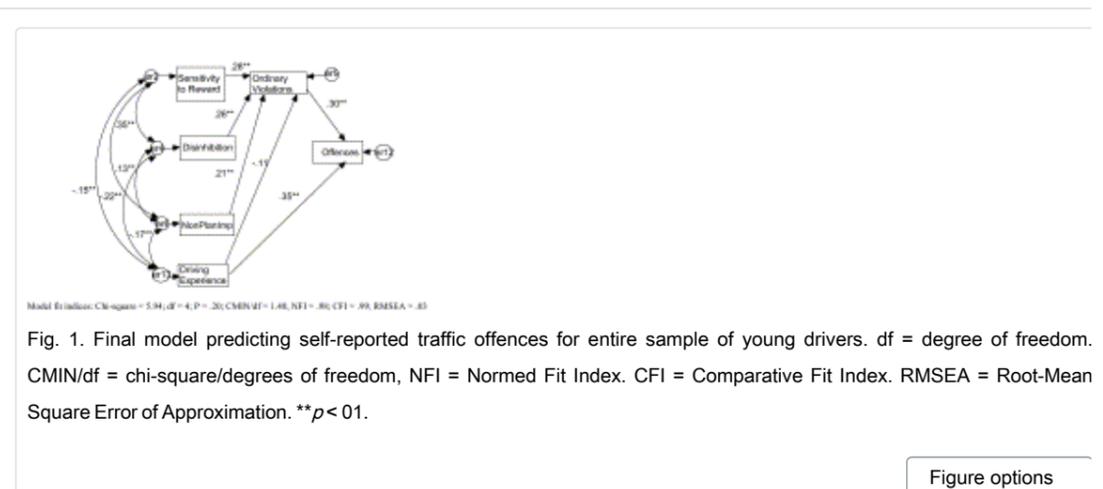


Figure options

Table 1. Means, S.D.s and reliabilities for measures used in the study.