TRB Calls for Papers

Committee: ANB30, Committee on Operator Education and Regulation
Title: Advances in Measurement and Intervention Efficacy of Training, Supervision, and Management of Novice Drivers
Description: A great deal remains to be learned about the assessment and prevention of novice driver risk. Numerous studies and programs conducted, developed, or in progress are designed to improve our understanding of how novices learn to drive, develop specific driving skills, attitudes, and norms; and how to improve supervised-practice driving and parental management of novice drivers. In addition to other papers relevant to operator education and regulation, the ANB30 is particularly interested in papers that describe advances in the measurement of novice driver risk and the efficacy of preventive efforts that address training, supervision, or management. Examples include the following:

- Novel measures of risk, including self-reported, observed, from archived data, etc.
- Measures of intermediate outcomes and their reliability and validity, for example, measures of attitudes and other dispositions, norms, performance outcomes (e.g. hazard identification and other attentional skills, risky driving)
- Evidence of program or experimental intervention efficacy

Primary Sponsoring Committee: Operator Education and Regulation, ANB30

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Transforming the practical driving test in Great Britain: trialing changes to stimulate on-road experience and promote safer driving post-test

One of the principles on which most driver testing regimes are based is that drivers who attain a level of competence sufficient to pass the test are given access to unsupervised driving. Demonstrating a relationship between driver testing and safety outcomes is therefore of interest to driver licensing authorities. Against such a criterion, a good test will deliver safer drivers into the licensed driving population.

One plausible mechanism by which a driving test can increase the safety of post-test driving is through stimulating an increase in the amount or variety of on-road supervised driving during the pre-test or learning phase. Data from Great Britain (GB) (Sexton & Grayson, 2010) have shown that even small amounts of practice on busy town center roads, or in poor weather conditions, seem to reduce post-test risk. Similarly, data from Sweden (Gregersen et al., 2000) and Australia (Parker, 2012) suggest that those drivers who have greater amounts of pre-test on-road supervised practice have a lower collision risk post-test.
There is currently a trial examining whether changes can be made to the GB practical driving test, with the aim of increasing the variety and amount of on-road practice undertaken by learners in the pre-test phase. Changes to the test (relative to the existing test) include new maneuvers, and a new 20-minute ‘independent driving’ section using a satellite navigation system. The changes are all designed to make the test itself (and the on-road practice people engage in to prepare for it) more reflective of ‘real world driving’.

In the evaluation study, from which preliminary findings will be reported here, it is anticipated that a final sample of 2,000 drivers will be randomly assigned to take either the trial test, or the existing test, in order to gain their GB driving license. Participants will then complete a survey measuring a range of driving-related attitudes and self-reported behaviors both when they pass their practical test and after six months of licensure. In the survey at test pass, participants will also be asked about their experience learning to drive (including amounts and types of on-road practice). In the six-month survey, participants will also give information on their post-test driving and involvement in any collisions and near misses.

Data from the test-pass survey will be reported in this presentation, along with preliminary data on six-month safety performance.

References


Sexton, B. & Grayson, G. (2010). Further analyses of accident data from the Cohort II Study: When do drivers have their first accident and does it have an impact on their subsequent driving? TRL Report PPR426. Crowthorne: Transport Research Laboratory.