23 September 2010

Road traffic crash casualty injury severity – crashes involving young drivers compared with older drivers

Presenter: Dr Sarah J Jones

Churchill Auditorium, 10am
Introduction

- Crashes declining in Great Britain
- Different patterns of change for different drivers

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Two teenagers killed in car crash

Two 17-year-old boys have been killed and a third boy was injured in a crash during the night on a road in the Vale of Glamorgan.

South Wales Police said the injured boy, also 17, is being treated in the Princess of Wales Hospital at Bridgend.

The crash, involving a black Suzuki Swift car, happened at 2300 GMT on Monday on Ogmore Road, Ogmore by Sea.

Officers are appealing for anyone who saw the crash or the car being driven before it, to contact them.

Anyone who has information should call South Wales Police on 101.
“Are casualties in young driver crashes likely to sustain more serious injuries than casualties in crashes involving older drivers?”
Methods

• Stats 19 police road traffic crash reports
• Wales, GB
• 2000-2007

• Young drivers aged 17 to 19 years
• Older drivers aged 20+
Analysis

- Casualties
  - Passengers and pedestrians

- Severity
  - Fatal
  - Serious
  - Slight

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Results

- 106959 casualties
- 17020 YD casualties
- 12191 pedestrian casualties
- 32265 passenger casualties
Findings – pedestrian casualties

- n=784, 6%, in YD crashes
- n=11407, in OD crashes
- YD 25.5% KSI
- OD 18.8% KSI
- OR 1.48, 95%CI 1.25 to 1.75
Findings – passenger casualties

• n= 4461 (13.8%) in YD vehicle
• n= 2166 (6.7%) in YD crash, OD vehicle
• n= 25638 (79.5%) in OD crash

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Findings – passenger casualties

- 12.0% KSI in YD vehicles in YD crashes
- 6.6% KSI in OD vehicles in YD crashes
- OR 1.92, 95% CI 1.59 to 2.33
- 8.7% KSI in OD vehicles in OD crashes
- OR 1.44, 95% CI 1.30 to 1.59.
Limitations

• Severity is assigned by police officers

• Analysis of different types of YD crashes not carried out
  – Findings may be different
Conclusion

- Passengers in young driver vehicles and pedestrian casualties injured by young drivers are significantly more likely to be killed or seriously injured than those in older driver vehicles or injured in older driver crashes.
“The most dangerous thing most teenagers will ever do is drive, or ride as a passenger with a teen driver”

Foss and Goodwin, 2003
Now

With Graduated Driver Licensing

- 1 in 5 newly qualified drivers crash within 6 months of obtaining their licence.
- Most newly qualified drivers are aged under 25.
- 4 people per day are killed or seriously injured in crashes involving young drivers in the UK

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