

Adolescent Risk Research Unit

Rise, and shine.

Comparison of self-reported driving behaviours and experiences of immediate-uptake and delayed-uptake license holders: An application of self-reported methodology

Scott-Parker, B., Watson, B., King, M.J. & Hyde, M.K. (2013)

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Why do this research?

In Queensland, learner drivers are required to fill in a logbook with 100 hours minimum practice. We know very little about the experience of drivers filling in this logbook, and in particular the experiences of 'older' young drivers.

What did we do?

928 learners aged 17 or 18 years and 158 learners aged 19 or 20 years ('older young drivers') completed an online survey.

What did we find?

Older learners aged 19 to 20 years, had significantly more difficulty getting supervised driving practice, which meant they were much more likely to report driving unsupervised as a learner. These learners also spent much more time deliberately avoiding on-road police presence, which may be reflective of their unsupervised driving.

What does it mean?

We know that older young drivers who may have left home already (possibly because they are studying or working) are experiencing greater difficulty gaining supervised driving practice. Furthermore, as risky behaviours in the learner phase are repeated during the provisional licence phase, mentoring programs that can assist these older learner drivers to meet their graduated licencing conditions should be considered.