

# Adolescent Risk Research Unit

Rise, and shine.

## Methodology and broader implications of young driver research published in *Traffic Injury Prevention* in the past five years

Scott-Parker, B. & Senserrick, T. (2013)

*Peer-Reviewed Conference Paper, Australasian College of Road Safety, "A Safe System: The Road Safety Discussion", Adelaide*

The full article is accessible at - [http://acrs.org.au/files/papers/35%20Scott-Parker\\_PR.pdf](http://acrs.org.au/files/papers/35%20Scott-Parker_PR.pdf)



### Why do this research?

Studies show young drivers are overrepresented in car crashes. Research usually investigates the relationship between behaviours and outcomes such as crashes, and finite measures, such as age or gender.

Traditionally, research is informed by prior research, and best practice interventions are also informed by prior research. Therefore, the nature of the reporting of this research is of particular interest to future researchers, practitioners, and policy-makers.

### What did we do?

We identified 30 journal papers published between 1 January 2008 and 31 December 2012 published in *Traffic Injury Prevention* using the search terms "young driver" and "teen driver". We examined the participant information and the study design of each of the 30 papers.

### What did we find?

Half of the papers reported research undertaken in the United States with the remaining research reported from Australia, New Zealand, Asia, Europe, Canada and the Middle East. Eighty percent of the papers were from countries with English as a first language, and all, except two papers, incorporated both male and female subjects.

Around one quarter of the papers used crash databases as the primary data source for their research, with relatively large sample sizes (up to hundreds of thousands). The recruitment of three-quarters of the non-crash database papers included universities and school students, attendees at driving schools and licensing centres, and other advertisements and longitudinal study follow-ups. One third of papers recruited participants according to driving experience indicated by stage of licensure. Response rates generally were provided in half of the cases, and incentive information was provided in 60% of cases where it would have been appropriate.

### **What does it mean?**

Omissions in sampling methodology and data reporting limit the comparability and generalisability of the research findings. Therefore, to improve not only subsequent research but also subsequent intervention development, implementation and evaluation, it is essential that as researchers, reviewers and editors for journals in which research is published, we rigorously ensure that we are accurate and complete in the reporting of our participant and data sampling methodologies.

**Note:** *These findings informed – [A call to improve sampling methodology and reporting in young novice driver research](#)*