

The analysis on the driving behaviour of full-score drivers in China

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Abstract

Driving safety has become a serious problem in China due to its rapid motorization. Therefore, a demerit point system, called full-score drivers, has been introduced in order to help authorities to identify and regulate drivers committing traffic offenses repeatedly. This research aims to analyze the point system and driving behaviours, comparing full-score drivers whose deduction has reached maximum with those whose deduction has Not reached maximum. 694 drivers, 46.3% of them being full-score drivers, fill in a questionnaire on driver status & driving behaviour, driver self-image, attitudes, and personality. It is observed that full-score drivers are significantly younger than non-full-score drivers; and there are fewer professional drivers in the full-score group. In univariate analysis, full-score drivers report more unwanted driving behaviour (aggressive violations, errors), fewer safety-promoting attitudes, and more thrill-seeking than the non-full score group do. They also estimate their driving skills to be higher, with the lie scale included revealing that they tend to present a truer picture of themselves. Logistic regression shows that younger age, male gender, higher weekly kilometrage, non-professional driver status, lower safety-orientation, and less safe speeding & risk attitudes are significant predictors for full-score drivers.

Keywords – full-score driver, Driving Behaviour Questionnaire (DBQ), Driving Skill Inventory (DSI), attitude, demerit point system

1. Introduction

China is experiencing its' fast industrialization process. Accordingly, automobile industry has developed quickly as well. Meanwhile, traffic accidents have become one of the most serious social problems in Chinese society. According to the statistics of Traffic Administration Bureau, Ministry of Public Security of PRC, there happened 378,781 traffic accidents in 2006, in which 89,455 people died. Among them, 76,350 people's death is directly attributed to driver's offenses in the official statistics. The relationship between violations and accidents involvement has been established in the west for years, and so far has been testified in China as well [4,8,21,26].

To address this issue, the Chinese National Congress passed the Road Traffic Safety Law in 2003, China's first-ever law on road traffic safety. In the law, accumulated point system was first introduced in mainland China. In a point system, a driver's licensing authority issues points to drivers who are convicted of road traffic offenses. Full-score drivers are a group of people whose frequent violations cause them to accumulate 12 or more points in one tally period (normally 12 months). They are regarded as dangerous drivers in China and capture the great attention of the Traffic Administration Bureau of Chinese government. According to the law, full-score drivers are obliged to take the re-training course of High-way Code and an exam organized by the Traffic