

20.12: Driving

Learning Objectives

- Driving in inclement weather



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Overview

Many people believe that weather patterns influence driving safety. As a result, there are many web sites and other publications dedicated to giving people tips about how to drive in various weather conditions (see references and links below). Additionally, car accidents are often attributed to bad weather (e.g., see Taylor & Quinn, 1991). This study examines the beliefs and behaviors of people with respect to the important topic of driving in inclement weather.

The participants in this study filled out a questionnaire consisting of some demographic questions and then questions asking about their transportation habits and other beliefs concerning inclement weather. This questionnaire was administered to a convenience sample of 61 University of Houston - Downtown students at various locations (i.e., classrooms, hallways, and the food court).

Questions to Answer

Is gender or age related to the likelihood of driving in inclement weather? Does the number of accidents that someone thinks occur during inclement weather relate to how often he or she takes public transportation or chooses to drive during inclement weather?

Design Issues

This is a correlational study, so we cannot infer causation.

Descriptions of Variables

Variable	Description
Age	The age of the participant in years
Gender	1 = female, 2 = male
Cho2drive	How often he or she chooses to drive in inclement weather 1 = always, 3 = sometimes, 5 = never

Pubtran	% of travel time spent on public transportation in inclement weather
Accident	% of accidents thought to occur from driving in inclement weather

Data Files

Driving.xls

Links

Driving on Wet Roads. Jokes about Driving in Inclement Weather.

References

- Galski, T., Ehle, H. T, & Bradley, W. J. (1998). Estimates of driving abilities and skills in different conditions. American Journal of Occupational Therapy, 52, 268-275.
- Griffin, J., & Murdock, G. (1993, August). Wet weather driving. Consumers' Research Magazine, 76, 2.
- Taylor, G. W., & Quinn, H. (1991, January 14). An arctic winter rage. Maclean's, 104, 12-13.

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