Innovative theoretical perspectives for young driver enforcement

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Young drivers and violations

- Provisional drivers have low compliance with road laws
- Their compliance decreases as they gain driving experience
  
  (Bates, Darvell & Watson, 2017; Scott-Parker, Watson, King & Hyde, 2012)

- One Californian study identified that 55% of young drivers have a traffic conviction within the first three years of driving
  
  (Chapman, Masten & Browning, 2014)

- As young drivers’ confidence and perceived skill increases, so do violations
  
  (McKenna, 2018)
Traditional Deterrence Theory

- Certainty
- Severity
- Swiftness

Deterrence
Deterrence theory and drink driving

- Random breath testing a good example of general deterrence
- RBT often accompanied by media campaigns
- Since RBT introduced
  - Alcohol-related crashes have decreased
  - Increase in number of people who disapprove of drink driving
  - Australians support RBT programs

(Ferris, Mazerolle, King, Bates, Bennett & Devaney, 2013; Freeman & Watson, 2009; Watson & Freeman, 2007)
Deterrence theory and young drivers

- **Study 1**
  - Informal deterrence is more important than formal deterrence in predicting compliance
  - Shame was an important mediator

- **Study 2**
  - Parental enforcement important for transient offences
  - ‘Emboldening effect’ from previously being exposed to enforcement

(Allen, Murphy & Bates, 2017)

(Bates, Darvell & Watson, 2017)
Procedural Justice

- Citizen participation
- Neutrality
- Trustworthy motives
- Dignity and respect

Procedural justice

Citizens’ view police and their authority as legitimate

Obey the law and trust police

- Comply with directives
- Cooperate with police
- Assist police by reporting crime
- Participate in crime prevention activities
- More willing to accept outcomes (eg. fines)
Queensland Community Engagement Trial (QCET)

- Drivers in the procedurally just interaction:
  - 1.24 times more likely to report views on drinking and driving changed
  - Higher levels of satisfaction with police
  - Higher levels of compliance

(Mazerolle, Bennett, Antrobus & Eggins, 2012)

- Procedurally just interaction took longer
  - Appears 1 minute and 50 second interaction optimal

(Mazerolle, Bates, Bennett, White, Ferris, Antrobus, 2015)
Procedural justice and young drivers

- Focused on two types of speed enforcement
  - Point-to-point speed cameras
  - Mobile speed cameras
- Perceptions of procedural justice for point-to-point cameras affected self-reported speeding behaviour
- Only neutrality associated with both camera types

(Bates, Allen & Watson, 2016)
Third-Party Policing

Key Concept 1: Use their Resources

Key Concept 2: May need Coercion

(Mazerolle, Higginson, & Eggins, 2016)
Work to date

1. Interviews with parents in Queensland

2. Interviews with dyads in the ACT

3. Survey with parents & children in the ACT & Qld
Findings

- Parents have an incomplete knowledge of the P-plate restrictions
- Trust their young driver knows the rule
- Interviews suggest parents impose complimentary restrictions
- Survey suggests less than 15% impose additional rules
Findings (cont)

- Parents more likely to believe that their child complied if they lived at home and were high in control.
- Parents more likely to impose restrictions if they were high in control.
- Parents teach values associated with safe driving, and believe it is the parents' role to police this.
- Parents use a range of strategies to encourage safe driving.
What does this mean for Third Party Policing?

- Parents
  - Willing to be involved
  - Able to use resources (i.e. emotions and knowledge of individual factors) not available to police

*Therefore appear to have potential to be a ‘third party’*
BUT Is the legal lever strong enough?
Partnership Policing

Public Police

Partners

Target Population

Partnership

General Police Response

Influence
Partnership Policing (young drivers)
Implications – Deterrence theory

- Initiatives based on deterrence principles (e.g. RBT) are effective
- Can’t assume that deterrence theory is the right theoretical basis for all interventions
Implications – Procedural justice

- A single interaction with police can impact on drivers’ perceptions
- Police should be conscious of their manner
- Police need to be fair in road policing interactions
- Must be genuine and not impression management
Implications – Third party policing

- Emerging area in road safety
- Exploratory study suggests there may be potential
- Are we looking at partnership policing?
Young driver road policing framework

Is it possible to combine

- Deterrence theory
- Procedural justice
- Third party policing/Partnership policing
YOU could answer this question...

- Focus on a group of more consistent offenders known as ‘young problem drivers’
- 3 year full time scholarship
- $27,082 per annum

References


Ferris, J., Mazerolle, L., King, M., Bates, L., Bennett, S., & Devaney, M. (2013). Random breath testing in Queensland and Western Australia: Examination of how the random breath testing rate influences alcohol related traffic crash rates. *Accident Analysis & Prevention, 60*, 181–188. doi:10.1016/j.aap.2013.08.018


THANK YOU

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