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safety science

What factors can predict why drivers go through yellow traffic lights? An approach based on an extended Theory of Planned Behavior

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Abstract

Red-light running is a major road-safety problem. It is rarely fully deliberate and usually occurs when a driver tries to go through a yellow light. The present research investigates drivers′ motivations for continuing when the light turns yellow. A survey based on an extended version of the Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB, Ajzen, 1985) was conducted in France on a sample of drivers ($n = 103$) with an average age of 35.6 years (range: 18– 75). The driver′s characteristics, TPB factors, and some additional factors accounted for a significant part of the variance in the intention to go through a yellow light ($R^2 = 0.73$). As for the TPB factors, attitude and the descriptive norm were significant predictors. However, facilitating circumstances were the most predictive of all factors examined. The results are discussed in view of determining how to make drivers less inclined to go through yellow lights.

Highlights

► We used an extended Theory of Planned Behavior to predict the intention to run a yellow light. ► A survey was carried out among car drivers. ► Situational context factors, TPB factors and driver characteristics were predictive.
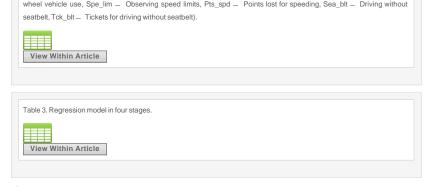
Keywords

Yellow-light running; Drivers′ motivation; TPB; Survey

Figures and tables from this article:

Table 1. Significative sex differences in the measures.

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Table 2. Correlations between measurements (Intent — Intention, AR_tck — Anticipated regret if ticketed, AR_cra — Anticipated regret if crash, Att_dir — Direct measure of attitude, Att_bel — Attitudinal beliefs, Inj_nor — Injunctive norm, Des_nor — Descriptive norm, Inf_pas — Influence of passenger, PBC — Perceived behavioral control, Det_cir — Deterring circumstances, Fac_cir — Facilitating circumstances, Pro_tck — Probability of ticket, Pro_cra — Probability of crash, Dir_exp — Direct experience of risk, Yrs_drv — Years of driving, Kil_yr — Annual no. of kilometers, Pas_beh — Past behavior, Tck_run — Tickets for yellow and red light running, Cra_car — Number of crashes, Two_whe — Two-

wheel vehicle use, Spe_lim — Observing speed limits, Pts_spd — Points lost for speeding, Sea_blt — Driving without seatbelt, Tck_blt — Tickets for driving without seatbelt).

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Table 3. Regression model in four stages.

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