



Personal information on the author

First Name: Divera

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Most important career path

Divera started her career in traffic safety in the Traffic Research Centre in Groningen, but later joined TNO to study the effects of prolonged exposure to low doses of organic solvents on the Central Nervous System. She returned to safety when she was offered a position at SWOV Institute for Road Safety Research, and for the last 20 years she worked in the field of novice drivers, accident analyses, training, human factors and adolescent development. She has collaborated and supervised many (inter) national studies on driver training (e.g. GADGET, DAN, PROMISING) and is now supervising/conducting a SWOV PhD program on "the development of driving experience", "Hazard perception in novice drivers", and "understanding risky actions in adolescence". She chaired the OECD working group on young drivers and effective countermeasures, and co-authored the OECD report published in 2006: Young drivers: the road to safety. Aside of her extensive lecturing and training experience (including driver instructors, regional experts, university students, and policy makers), she is also an advisor to (inter) national and local Governments. Recently, she was a member of the advisory group to the Dutch Minister of Transport on the licensing requirements in Alzheimer's disease and Dementia, proposing changes in the current directive.

Education: Bsoc.sc. Psychology and Sociology, University of Keele United Kingdom; MA in Experimental Psychology / Human Factors, University of Groningen the Netherlands.

Co-authors

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Title of presentation

They (almost) made it home: overcoming the deadly mix of immaturity, fatigue, alcohol/drugs, and lack of driving experience.

Description of the contribution

Hanging out with friends and clubbing are the most important motives for acquiring a driving license. Studies on adolescent mobility show that in the first licensed years, the car is primarily used for hanging out with friends. It is quite common that adolescents drive long distances to go to a specific and highly popular club. The crash statistics show the downside of this trend. A high proportion of young driver crashes happen in the weekend nights, in particular in the early morning. These crashes are frequently fatal, not only resulting in the death of the driver but also of his/her passengers. In this presentation, the characteristics of these crashes are discussed, which is followed by an analysis of several contributing factors: such as physiological and psychological immaturity, driving experience, peer pressure, alcohol and drugs, and fatigue. Furthermore, an overview is presented of effective and ineffective countermeasures. A detailed overview is provided in the OECD report: "Young Drivers: The road to safety".

<http://internationaltransportforum.org/Pub/pdf/06YoungDrivers.pdf>