

Analysis of Characteristics of Repeated Traffic Offenders

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Although the number of traffic offences has shown a downward trend in recent years, a substantial number of offences continue to occur in Japan. Even minor offences, such as failure to stop at a stop sign or the use of mobile phones while driving, increase the potential risk leading to serious traffic accidents. Therefore, minor offences should not be ignored.

This study investigates the repeated traffic offenders based on the data collected from the offender education program conducted in Aichi Prefecture. Specifically, we examined the relationship between their individual characteristics and the detail of their offences. Our analysis focused on individual differences within the offenders rather than considering them as a homogeneous group.

K6 scale for depressing and anxiety tendencies and a 7-item Traffic Offence Traits Scale were used to assess individual characteristics of the minor offenders. Only the histogram for the lack of prudence reveals a bimodal distribution, although the others exhibit unimodal distributions. Therefore, participants were divided into two groups based on the median score for lack of prudence (Fig.1). The result of the mean score for lack of prudence shows significant differences between the low and high lack-of-prudence groups were found for all eight items. Since the low group was likely to provide socially desirable responses across all items, they are defined as the Socially Desirable Response (SDR) group.

We analyzed the offence types between the SDR and Non-SDR groups (Fig.2). The result shows that the SDR group more frequently committed unintentional offences such as failure to stop or no-entry offence. Meanwhile, the Non-SDR group more frequently committed intentional offences such as speeding and failure to wear seatbelt.

For future work, we will investigate the relationship between the characteristics and driving behavior obtained from the education program to elucidate the psychological processes underlying repeated traffic offenders.

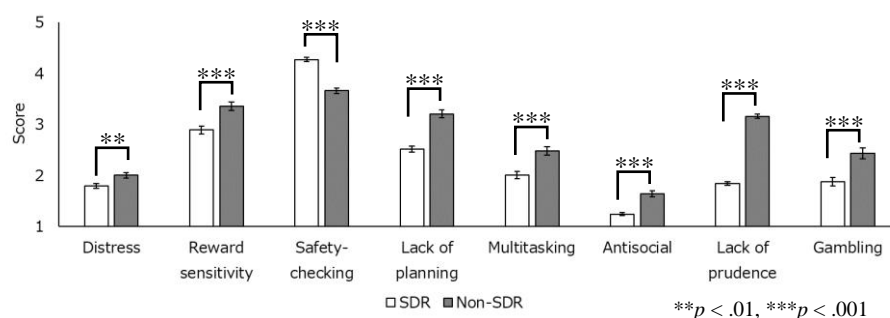


Fig.1 Means of the scores for characteristics. SDR and Non-SDR groups.

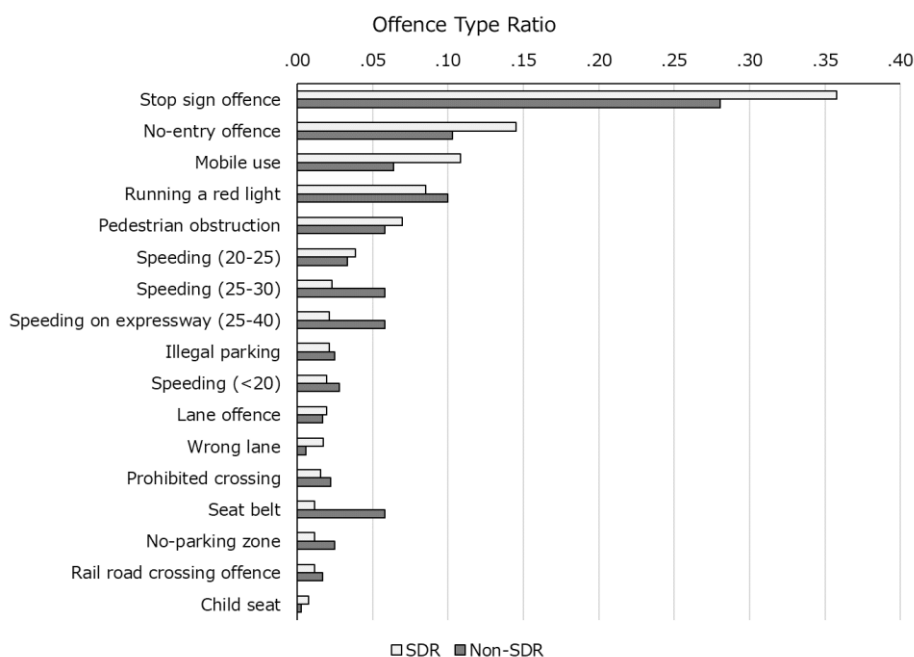


Fig.2 Ratios of offence types for SDR and Non-SDR groups.