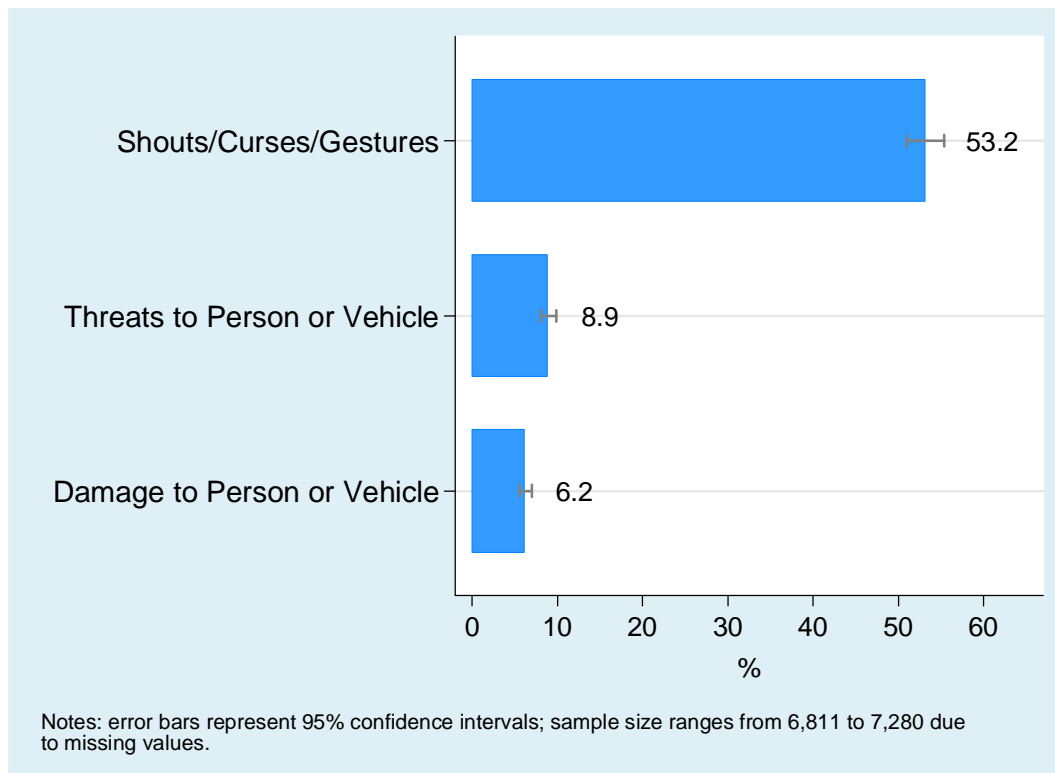


Half of Ontario Students Report Being a Road Rage Victim

Road rage has become a public health concern given its association with increased risk of collision, psychological distress, and substance use among adults. While much research to date has focussed on adults, little is known about adolescents' experiences with road rage. This *eBulletin* summarizes findings from a published journal article about road rage victimization among Ontario students.

The authors used data from the 2005 cycle of the Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey (OSDUHS), which is an anonymous, in-class survey of 7th- to 12th-graders conducted every two years in Ontario schools, to examine the prevalence of mild and severe forms of road rage victimization and associated demographic factors.

Figure 1.
Percentage of Ontario Students in Grades 7 to 12 Reporting Mild to Severe Forms of Road Rage Victimization at Least Once During the Past 12 Months, 2005 OSDUHS



As presented in Figure 1, the authors found that just over half (53%, 95% CI: 51%-55%) of all students, drivers and non- drivers, experienced victimization through other drivers' shouts, curses or rude gestures at least once during the 12 months before the survey. About 9% (95% CI: 8%-10%) of all students reported being threatened with personal injury or vehicle damage by other drivers at least once during the past 12 months, while about 6% (95% CI: 6%-7%) reported either attempted or actual personal injury by other drivers or either attempted or actual vehicle damage by other drivers.

Using multivariate analyses, the authors also found that the most severe form of road rage victimization of actual/attempted personal injury or vehicle damage did not significantly differ by sex or by grade. However, there was a significant relationship with region of the province, showing that Toronto students were most likely to report this type of victimization compared to students from Northern and Eastern Ontario. Further, students with a "G2" driver's licence and those with a full driver's licence were more likely than non-drivers to report being victimized in this manner.

This article provides a first glimpse into adolescents' experiences with road rage victimization. The authors conclude that further research is warranted given that "[a]dolescence is a time when driving behaviors are being formed, and exposure to victimization may act to predispose young people to aggressive driving behaviors themselves" (p. 281).

Survey Design:

The *Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey (OSDUHS)* – formally known as the Ontario Student Drug Use Survey – is an Ontario-wide survey of elementary (grade 7 and 8) and secondary (grade 9-12) school students conducted every two years since 1977. The survey uses a full-probability stratified (region, school type) two-stage (school, class) cluster design. The 2005 total sample size was 7,726 students in grades 7 to 12 from 42 school boards, 137 schools, and 445 classes. The student participation rate was 72%. The 2005 sample represented about 975,000 students in grades 7 to 12 in public and Catholic schools across the province. Self-administered questionnaires, which promote anonymity, were administered by staff from the Institute for Social Research, York University on a classroom basis between January and June 2005. All estimates presented were weighted, and variance and statistical tests were corrected for the sampling design.

Terminology:

- **Road Rage** questions were introduced with "The next questions are about things that might have happened when you were in a car, motorcycle or other motor vehicle." All students were asked three questions: "How many times in the last 12 months (1) has someone in another vehicle shouted, cursed, or made rude gestures at you or others with you? (2) has someone in another vehicle threatened to hurt you or others with you, or threatened to damage the vehicle you were in? (3) has someone in another vehicle damaged or attempted to damage the vehicle you were in, or hurt or attempted to hurt you or others with you?"
- **Region:** For the survey, Ontario was divided into four regions using the following boundaries: Toronto (schools within the City of Toronto); North (schools within the North Bay area and farther north); East (schools within York Region and farther east); West (schools within Peel Region and farther west).
- **95% Confidence Interval (CI)** can be crudely interpreted as being 95% likely to include the "true" value if every student in grades 7 to 12 in Ontario was surveyed.
- **Statistically Significant Difference** refers to a difference between two percentages that is not likely due to chance. For example, a difference found at the $p < .05$ level of statistical significance is one that is less than 5% likely to occur by chance alone.

Source:

Adapted from **Smart, R.G., Stoduto, G., Adlaf, E.M., Mann, R.E., & Sharpley, J.M. (2007). Road rage victimization among adolescents. *Journal of Adolescent Health, 41*(3), 277-282.** [doi:10.1016/j.jadohealth.2007.04.013]

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