**Safety-oriented On-road Practices of Adult Bicycle Riders in Brooklyn, New York USA**

**Interview Questions**

**#14, Midwood/Marine Park, recruited September 29, interviewed October 1, 2018. TO115E02.mp3**

*Background Questions:*

1. What is your age? (Were you born prior to this month and day in the year 2000?)

**64**

1. What is your race or ethnicity?

**I came from Poland.**

1. What is your gender?

**Male**

1. What is the highest level of education that you completed?

**I completed college.**

1. How long (in months or years) have you been riding bicycles?

**Since ’86, or 32 years.**

1. How long (in months or years) have you been riding bicycles in Brooklyn?

**Almost all the time I lived in Brooklyn.**

1. Compared to most other bicycle riders you have observed, are you more careful, less careful, or about the same?

**I guess, about the same.**

1. Have you been in any bicycle crashes that involved other vehicles or pedestrians?

**I guess I have -- Once I hit a pedestrian, when I started. It was on the crossing and I had the green light, but some woman couldn’t decide if she wanted to cross, or she wanted to stop, she wanted to back up, and I was yet a beginner. I hit her. But it happened. She fell, I fell. And that’s it. She called police, she wanted to get some money, but the police came, and only they asked me if I am a messenger. I told them, no, I’m just a commuter going to work. That’s it -- that’s how it ended, you know?**

**Another crash, it was, like, three years ago, somebody made a right turn on me – it was my fault, you know, because I shouldn’t be there, I shouldn’t be there, and that – my fault was that this woman didn’t signal that she was making a right, and it was at the intersection and I hoped I would pass her on the right, but she was turning right, you know, so she hit me, but nothing happened again.**

[f/u Q: About when was that second one?]

**The second one was, like, two years ago. And I had another one in – I guess it was in this New Utrecht Avenue, where you have the subway on the top, and I was going to work. At that time I was working in Green-- I lived in Greenpoint and I was going to work to Bensonhurst -- it was ten miles one-way trip -- and I was going straight and it was, like, a little rain and somebody was trying to make, again, at the intersection, somebody was trying to make a left turn this time on me, and I had to brake very suddenly and I fell, you know, in the rain – in the rain. So I fell on my knee – again, nothing happened, but I injured my knee a little bit, but nobody was involved, you know. The woman, I told her, okay – she was happy that I told her okay, but my knee was swollen, but nothing happened. So that was three times so far. In 32 years, it’s not bad, right?**

During the past 12 months…..

1. What have been the main reasons or purposes for going bicycle riding? (Commute? Errands? Transportation to other locations? Exercise? Recreation? Part of your job? Other?)

**It’s not only the last twelve months, it’s the whole time I’m riding a bike. You are independent on this public transit, you save money, and it’s good for your health. Same reasons.**

1. On average, how frequently have you ridden your bicycle?

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**I’m riding every day.** [Every day?] **Yeah, to work, from work, and on my way back to home, I’m going shopping, so a little bit more.**

1. On average, how many minutes did you ride each day you go bicycling?

**When I lived in Greenpoint, it took me, like, one hour, but it still was much quicker than subway. (*Unintelligible comment*). I beat the subway, because by subway, I had to take, like, four subways – sometimes it took me in the evening, one and a half hours. Basically, I bought a bicycle, I think that I will be quicker. So when I was living in Greenpoint, it was, like, since ’94 to’99, for six years, I was going, like, 20 miles daily. And then I moved to Bay Ridge, so from Bay Ridge to Bensonhurst, it was, like, 20 minutes each way, much shorter.**

1. How much of your bicycle riding took place when there was a lot of motor vehicle traffic?

**Mostly in the rush hours – morning and after work – 6 o’clock.**

[f/u Q: So you do most of your riding during rush hour, when there’s a lot of traffic?]

**Yeah, I guess in the morning it’s rush hour, and in the evening, also.**

1. How much of your bicycle riding has taken place in darkness or low light conditions such as dusk?

**Oh, so it depends on weather. Now it’s getting dark, so up until, I guess, February, it will be --- evening commute will be in the darkness.**

*Primary study questions:*

1. From the perspective of safety, what is it like to go bicycle riding in the streets of Brooklyn?

**You have to watch, you have to watch – that’s the main point – you have to have your eyes around your head. And you have to anticipate what’s going to happen, otherwise you might be in trouble. Like I told you, those two crashes that I had, it was 50-50, you know? Part of my mistake, and part of somebody else’s.**

1. For a bicycle rider in Brooklyn, what are the most common dangers or hazards that confront a bicycle rider?

**Well, I didn’t tell you about the opening door, right? I mean, like -- Twice, opened door on me, but not serious. I tried to -- I managed to avoid this. Now I’m watching the mirrors, you know? If I see the mirror folded, I know there’s nobody there, if I see it unfolded, I watch, you know? Suddenly, somebody can open the door – although I go, like, two feet at least, but sometimes you have to get closer, because the drivers are honking. A couple of times they told me, you know, nasty things: go on the sidewalk, start walking, something like that, you know, so -- But most of them are good people, but some are not very good.**

I think you may have already answered this follow-up question -- Are there particular things you do while riding to avoid these dangers? I think you mentioned that you look in the mirrors --

**Yes – open doors -- Cars cr--- I mean, cars are turning on your left, on your right, and of course pedestrians, and you cannot go too fast, which is not that hard on the bicycle, right? -- only on -- down the hill can you go very fast – but terrible also if you have no brakes or something like that.**

1. Are there dangers or hazards that are difficult or impossible for a bicycle rider to see and react to?

**I think that most is this open doors, the opening doors. You know, really, you cannot figure this out, so the best is to stay away, like, at least two-and-a-half feet, you know – if you can, but sometimes you can’t , if you are in the traffic, you have to get closer. So in that case you have to slow down. (*Unintelligible couple words*.)**

[Omitted because response already answered it: Are there particular things you do while riding to avoid them?]

1. Please describe things you have seen other bicycle riders do that you consider to be dangerous.

**Oh, I see a lot – I told you about this – electrical – those guys are going fast and I don’t know – I don’t have any statistics, but looks to me like there’s a lot of accidents, (*unintelligible word*) -- because they are zooming very fast and they don’t have time to watch, you know? They’re not going to slow down, because it takes battery life, or whatever. And most of them are, I guess, delivery guys -- they have these yellow jackets, but still they are dangerous, you know.**

[f/u Q: And besides the guys on the electric bikes going very fast, are there other things you have seen bicyclists do that you consider to be dangerous?]

**Yes. Some of them don’t think, you know? They go on the -- on the intersections without looking, you know? I saw one guy get killed, you know. At Fort Hamilton and, like, 60th Street. And I saw him lying, I saw police, I asked what happened, and they told me that probably he will not survive. And he was going straight and somebody make a right turn on him. And this guy that made the right turn was going quickly also, because he hit him, and it was, like, some Mexican guy. And I see these white bicycles, you see these -- so I see a lot of them, but now looks like nobody is doing this anymore, but a couple of years ago I saw a lot of these white bikes. I don’t know what happened now, but I don’t see any – any new ones. Maybe there are no more fatalities like that.**

1. If it were your job to teach other adult bicyclists how to stay safe while riding in the streets of Brooklyn, what particular instructions would you give them?

**Like I told you: watch, anticipate, and be careful. And you will be -- you will be safe.**

1. Imagine for a moment that, right now, you are riding on a Brooklyn street along with other traffic. Tell me all the different things you are doing to keep yourself safe and avoid a crash or collision as you ride.

**Like I told you: I’m trying to go -- if it’s one-way street and there are parked cars, I’m keeping, like, two feet at least, because I’m afraid of door opening at me, right? And what else? I don’t have light, but I have this reflector, right? So I hope they see me. I don’t have this jacket, reflective jacket, because I’m really on the edge of the road, and they have reflectors – the cars, they have lights, right? So they see me. And what else? And I’m not trying to make some -- unanticipated movement, right? Going toward the way of -- because I know if I make a left turn or right turn without making sure that I’m safe, I’m not doing this. So that’s my – my – my strategy.**

1. Now I would like to throw out a few words or phrases and ask you if they trigger any additional thoughts about how to ride safely:

* Intersections

**Watch. Watch. And one more time – watch, you know?**

* Traffic signs and signals

**Oh, like I told you: if I’m sure I can do it, I’m going through red light. I’m going against the traffic, but I have to make sure that I will be safe.**

* Right-of-way

**Right-of-way depends on in what situation, but basically, I know that I will be always the one that will be harmed, so if I’m in the questionable situation, I let them go, you know?**

* Pedestrians

**Pedestrians -- Usually I expect them on the crossing, but sometimes I know they are jaywalking, you know? So – I watch them also, I keep my eye on the – on the sidewalk to see somebody trying to cross beyond the – beyond the pedestrian crossing.**

* Speed

**Usually I am going whatever I can manage -- as fast as I can, you know?**

[f/u Q: Do you have thoughts on how speed relates to riding safely?]

**Yeah, yeah, I know, I know – the quicker you go, the more susceptible you are for accident.**

* Respect

**Oh, respect -- If they respect me, I respect them, you know? If somebody telling me, get off the street, sometimes I can catch the guy at the – at the lights, you know, and then I look at him and how he behaves– some of them are shamed, and some try to not see you, you know?**

* Trucks, buses

**Oh, for those, you have to watch, you have to watch, because – especially buses, sometimes it happened to me, some idiot bus driver, you know, he tried to squeeze me to the – to the curb, you know? He was threatening me that he would call police because I didn’t want – I don’t know what happened with this guy, I think he worked, like, too many hours, you know? He was – he was frustrated because I took him over a couple of times and he had to wait at the – at the bus stop for me to go, and then the next one, he tried to pin me, you know, to the curb. And he opened the door, I stopped and I started talking to him, what, are you crazy? And he threatened me to call the police on me. So there are crazy people everywhere, you know?**

* Parked cars

**Oh, parked cars -- So, you have to watch for driver getting off, or passenger getting off.**

* “Taking the lane” [provided definition.]

**No, No, No – I never do this – unless it’s a traffic situation, and then I’m going on the yellow line, or against the traffic, or on the sidewalk. But if traffic is normal I never do it.**

* Pet peeves [provided definition]

**No, never never happened.**

1. Please feel free to offer any other thoughts about the topics we have discussed today.

**(Told a story about tickets, warrants, and an overnight stay in jail.)**

Thank you very much for participating in this research study and especially for taking the time and effort to complete this interview with me.