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

**Interview Questions**

**#15, Crown Heights, recruited October 4, Interviewed October 5, 2018.**

**TO119E01.mp3**

*Background Questions:*

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

**36**

1. What is your race or ethnicity?

**Caucasian**

1. What is your gender?

**Male**

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

**Associate’s degree**

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

**I guess – I would say -- 28 years**

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

**12 years**

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

**I guess on average the same.**

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

**Yes.**

[f/u Q: Do you care to share any information about that?]

**Sure. One accident was, it was nighttime, I turned left off of a one-way street directly into a bike lane. I had a green light, and there was a pedestrian jogging in the bike lane going the opposite direction, the wrong way, so that – and that, you know – I couldn’t see the person jogging because of parked cars, and we had a collision. So that’s one that I remember. I mean – I’ve been hit by a car pretty bad, not in New York. It was somewhere else – I was going straight and somebody turned left into me.**

[F/u Q: So you were injured in that crash?]

**Yeah -- yeah.**

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?)

**I do it for transportation, just, like, commuting. Whether it’s -- Mostly it’s just social, and also just, like, practical -- running errands and things like that.**

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

**I’d say, four days a week at least.**

1. On average, how long (in minutes) did you ride each day that you go bicycling?

**On average, I’d say maybe an hour.**

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

**Very often. Almost every time.**

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

**I’d say maybe a fifth of the time.** [One-fifth?] **Yeah.**

*Primary study questions:*

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

**I feel like it’s relatively safe. I mean, I would say for me the biggest obstacle is the condition of the road -- the potholes, things like that. Those are -- That’s the worst for me. I don’t ride a mountain bike, I ride a road bike, so it’s a little -- you know, it’s -- that would be my biggest complaint.**

{f/u Q: Do you feel like there are any precautions you take because of your concern about the street conditions?]

**Yeah, I just try to be aware, look out, I guess. I don’t want to damage my bike or get into an accident or – yeah.**

1. For a bicycle rider in Brooklyn, what are the most common dangers or hazards that confront a bicycle rider? [not asked, because it was already answered above: Are there particular things you do while riding to avoid them?]

**I mean, I guess, from my personal experience, I’d say the condition of the road, the potholes and things like that.**

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

**You mean things like open car doors or something?**

[response: That could be an example. Is that something you would mention?]

**So is this, like, a different topic, or are we talking about the road conditions?**

[response: Well, more generally about bicycling and bike safety.]

**So the question is whether obstacles are -**

[response: Yeah -- are there dangers or hazards that are difficult or impossible for a bicycle rider to see and react to?

**I mean, somebody opening a car door, potentially.**

Are there particular things you do while you’re riding to avoid those things?

**Yeah, I mean, I feel like I just always try to pay attention to people in vehicles or, like, just doing a quick scan of parked cars, because, I mean – yeah, I guess that’s about it.**

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

**Going the wrong way on roads, and I feel like that, you know, if you’re going to do something like that, it needs to be done with extreme caution and yielding to people going the correct way, and people don’t do that at all, it’s just like a free-for-all, kind of like they deserve to. And that kind of irritates me. I mean, I would be lying if I said I’d never done it, but I take extreme caution, I go extremely slow, and I pull over for anyone and anything. But -- you know – yeah, that’s one thing.**

[f/u Q: Does anything else come to mind?]

**I mean, running red lights. You know, it’s one thing to – again, it’s like, I don’t think it’s the worst thing in the world. I’d be lying again if I said I’d never done it, but it should be done with extreme caution, and, you know, it shouldn’t just be like blindly flying to it and figure something out if somebody’s coming.**

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?

**I would say: take responsibility. Don’t expect pedestrians or cars to yield to you – you should take control and ride safely around them. I feel like a lot of cyclists expect cars and people to, like, watch out for them, and it’s like – it seems to be a cultural mentality among cyclists. I’m an avid cyclist, but I sometimes disagree with the culture or attitude of a lot of cyclists, especially in Brooklyn (*unintelligible word*). Entitled. I mean, I get it, you’re -- you deserve to be on the road, but I don’t know – like, everyone has to – it’s just not realistic to get angry and lash out at cars and people. It’s easy enough to just look out.**

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.

**That’s kind of hard – I mean, I’ve been cycling for so long, especially in cities, that I feel like, a lot of times it’s just -- it’s second nature, I mean -- I know I pay attention, I look at what cars are doing, I feel like I – I don’t know – I feel like, it’s just like, at this point, I don’t even think about it. I mean – I don’t’ know -- I’m not like – like, for instance, if I cycle with my wife, she is paying very close attention to everything because she’s a newer cyclist, and for me – I mean, I ride slowly, carefully, within the right speed and things like that, I’m paying attention to, you know, just vehicles and what they do -- I just feel like I can predict what they’re going to do -- I’ll always assume the worst. I just assume that that car might turn right when I’m going – if I’m going through an intersection and the car is next to me, I’m going to assume that they’re going to turn into me, so that I avoid that situation.**

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

**I mean, I would say -- Just like what I kind of said about assuming the worst in a situation, of a car turning into you – also, just being aware of pedestrians.**

* Traffic signs and signals

**Obey them. I don’t know – is this what I’m supposed to do?**

[response: If thoughts come to mind that have to do about riding safely, just throw them out.]

* Right-of-way

**I mean – yeah, I guess – it’s a good thing to know and understand, but realize that not everyone is going to follow the rules.**

* Pedestrians

**You know, pay attention to them, because they’re most likely not paying attention to cyclists. And cyclists, there’re some – I mean, I’ve even realized as a pedestrian just on my feet walking, that it’s sometimes hard to see a cyclist coming. They sometimes, I feel like, blend in in some ways that are harder to see in certain situations, and I think it’s really annoying when a cyclist will, you know, get mad or whiz by me. It’s like, I mean – you’re the one going, you know, possibly 15 miles an hour, like, look out for me. Use your voice, use your words, you know – “Excuse me, coming through on your right” – whatever.**

* Speed

**Know your limits, I guess.**

* Respect

**I mean, that’s a big one for me, I guess. Just, you know—respect everyone that’s out on the road, everyone has somewhere to go just like yourself and, you know, if you, I feel like as a cyclist, if you are gracious towards cars, that, you know, they’ll look out for you or other cyclists in the future, and, instead of, you know – I’ve seen cyclists, like, smack car doors and things like that, and that really irritates me, because it’s -- that’s not helping anyone, that’s just, you know, creating a culture of drivers that hate cyclists.**

* Trucks, buses

**They -- I usually don’t have problems with trucks or buses. I feel like they’re easy to ride around or with, because I feel like they -- a lot of them are professional drivers, they pay attention pretty well because a lot’s on the line, they’re working – I mean, that’s not always true, but they’re also -- you know, they’re not as -- they’re not always as quick to make sudden movements, so they’re easier to predict.**

* Parked cars

**Watch out for doors opening. Pay attention for people inside of cars, and always just try to be ready for it and keep a slight distance so you can make a last-second (*unintelligible word*) or movement if needed.**

* “Taking the lane” [clarified definition for him]

**I think it’s – I do that often, when there are situations that – especially a lot of roads in New York City and Brooklyn – you know, there’s only -- as a cyclist, you can go probably even faster than a car, because of traffic conditions, so if it’s not safe to be – I think it’s more unsafe to, like, try to, you know, stay on the side and let a car come close to you, than to just – when you’re not going to slow a car down, you may as well take the lane – I think it’s safer. And then as soon as its – you know, usually I do that if it’s, like, going around a double-parked car. I do it because it’s – you know, and cars usually, I find, always respect it. I’ve never -- I feel like I’ve never been beeped at or anything like that, I take the lane and as soon as the road is clear, I get back on the (*unintelligible word*) to where the bike lane is.**

* Pet peeves

**I would have to say – entitled cyclists that think they own the road and that everyone should yield to them, and when they, like, lash out and smack a car and something like that, is something that drives me nuts. I absolutely disdain that.**

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

**Let’s see – Yeah, I don’t know -- I can’t really think of much – you know, I guess I just think cycling should be fun and safe and that, you know, you need to respect everyone on the road and I – yeah, basically what we’ve all gone over. I can’t think of anything additional.**

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