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

**Interview Questions**

**#6, recruited 9-2-2018, Park Slope, interviewed 9-4-2018**

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*Background Questions:*

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

**75**

1. What is your race or ethnicity?

**White Jewish**

1. What is your gender?

**Female**

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

**PhD**

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

**Well, I rode as a child, and then I missed some decades, but I’d say the last 20 years**.

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

**10 years – I came here in ’08**.

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

**I think I’m a little more careful.**

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

**No.**

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 think exercise and recreation merge in my case.**

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

**Usually 3 or 4 times a week, but it depends on the weather.**

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

**About an hour.**

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

**As little as possible. I mean, I live about a block and a half from Prospect Park. That’s what I do, is ride in the Park.**

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

**Hardly any.**

*Primary study questions:*

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

**Well, my main concern is being doored – because a number of my friends have been. And then I guess the other real hazard is pedestrians who just come out of nowhere.**

1. For a bicycle rider in Brooklyn, what are the most common dangers or hazards that confront a bicycle rider? Are there things you would add besides dooring and pedestrians? Are there particular things you do while riding to avoid them?

**Well. I mean, you know, I’m careful with a bus or a truck, yeah, because they’re so big. I go slow, and I always wear a helmet.**

[f/u Q: Is there anything else you would add?]

**No, I don’t think so.**

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

**Well, both of the things I mentioned, you know -- dooring and pedestrians coming out of nowhere. Or – a bike rider on the wrong -- you know, going up the wrong way. And car drivers who don’t “quote” see you. You know -- I nearly got -- had a crash in Manhattan. A guy ran a stop sign – I was wearing bright red – and he said, “I didn’t see you.” You know --**

Are there particular things you do while riding to avoid them?

**Well again, I go slowly on the street. I mean, it’s hard when I’m going downhill, you know, but – I just watch out.**

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

**Well, in the Park, the speedsters are dangerous. You know, they go in a pack, and -- I was there on Sunday, and – you know, you don’t have to stop for a red light if nobody’s crossing, but they would just keep on going if there were children crossing – scary. And, again, going the wrong way on a street.**

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?

**Again, I’d say, always wear a helmet. I go on bike trips, and they won’t even let you ride in the parking lot without a helmet on. And I think they’re right. And the other is, you know, not to go too fast. You can’t stop, because – You know, you can’t stop on a dime on a bike.**

[Anything else you want to add there?]

**I don’t think so.**

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.

**Well, I always use a bike lane if it exists. And I go on the right side of the street if it doesn’t – and again, a helmet – and not going too fast.**

[Anything else you want to add?]

**Well, if it is getting dark, I have lights. And I have a bell. But usually I scream.** [Sorry – usually it’s what?] **I scream – you know, “Watch it!” – or, you know, like that, yeah.**

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

**Well, you know – obey the -- obey the signs and the lights at intersections.**

* Traffic signs and signals

**You know, I was thinking about this. I act like a pedestrian if there are no cars coming at all. You know, so I’ll cross on the red if there’s nothing coming, but otherwise, I really obey.**

* Right-of-way

**(asked what I mean by that) I usually give way to a car – they’re so much bigger.**

* Pedestrians

**Well again – I watch out for them, you know, and it just depends -- if it’s a child or an old person, I usually give way. In fact, the closest I came to an accident in the Park was with a kid who just suddenly stopped. You know -- I was able to swerve around him, and I stopped and said something to his father, and the father agreed.**

* Speed

**I go slow on the streets. And I’m not that fast a rider anyway – not so fast in the Park, always in the slow lane. But the fast riders don’t respect the slow lanes. You know, they’ll pass me on the left, and they’ve got two lanes to my right to maneuver in. Anyway --**

* Respect

**Well, there’s a combination of respect and fear. As I say, if it’s an SUV, I’ll just hang behind – but yeah, I’m respectful of people.**

* Trucks, buses

**I watch out for them.**

* Parked cars

**Again – I’m careful of not being doored.**

* “Taking the lane”

**I have a friend, who’s a real biker, and he says, “Take the lane. Bike in the middle of the street” – and his wife and I never do that. I think it’s a guy thing. I mean, you know, you technically have the right, and it really makes people furious, so I don’t see the point.**

* Pet peeves

**Well, it’s people who, you know, put you in – you know – as I say, the pedestrian who suddenly comes out of the middle of the block and expects you to stop on a dime. I’d say that’s it. Yeah.**

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

**Well, as I say, I tend to avoid – I mean, I occasionally bike to a friend in Fort Greene, and I can be pretty much on back streets. I really don’t like to ride on Flatbush Avenue. You know – it’s just -- And I think I told you what this friend of mine said -- I love it. He drives, he bikes, and he walks, and he said, whichever one he’s doing, the other two are wrong.**

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