

The age-old debate of who is the better driver – men or women – is a topic often discussed in the media, at work, among friends. Different studies show there are some stark gender differences when it comes to driving behaviour and attitudes.



EXPERIENCE OF CRASHES

- Women tend to have fewer crashes and their car accident claims tend to cost less than men's (source: 2007 AAMI claims data)
- Men are more likely than women to be involved in serious accidents – that is, men experience more head-on collisions, roll-overs, loss-of-control crashes and collisions involving pedestrians, cyclists or animals whereas women are more likely than men to collide with stationary objects or reverse into other cars (source: 2007 AAMI claims data)
- Men are more likely than women to have experienced a crash – 82 per cent versus 77 per cent (source: 2007 AAMI Crash Index)
- Men are more likely than women to have hit an animal while driving – 60 per cent versus 41 per cent (source: 2007 AAMI Crash Index)
- As drivers, men are more likely than women to have had a close call with a pedestrian/cyclist – 46 per cent versus 35 per cent (source: 2007 AAMI Crash Index)

DRIVER MANNERS/ETIQUETTE

- Women are more likely than men to think drivers are becoming more aggressive – 94 per cent versus 88 per cent (source: 2007 AAMI Crash Index)
- One in five men (20 per cent) admits to being an impatient driver versus one in six women or 16 per cent (source: 2007 AAMI Crash Index)
- Men are more likely than women to rudely gesture at another driver – 59 per cent versus 55 per cent (source: 2007 AAMI Crash Index)
- Men are more likely than women to verbally abuse another driver – 60 per cent versus 57 per cent (source: 2007 AAMI Crash Index)
- Men are more likely than women to have been a passenger in a car being driven dangerously – 66 per cent versus 57 per cent (source: 2007 AAMI Crash Index)

DRIVER DISTRACTIONS

- As drivers, men are more likely than women to have lost concentration while changing their car stereo – 42 per cent versus 38 per cent (source: 2007 AAMI Crash Index)
- One in five men (21 per cent) admits they often use their mobile phone without hands-free accessories while driving versus one in six women or 16 per cent (source: 2007 AAMI Crash Index)

Men and Women Drivers

Continued

SPEEDING

- Nearly twice as many men as women admit to speeding most of the time – 10 per cent versus six per cent (source: *2007 AAMI Crash Index*)
- Men are more likely than women to agree they speed to get home or work sooner – 36 per cent versus 30 per cent (source: *2007 AAMI Crash Index*)
- One in eight men (13 per cent) admits they often ignore restricted speed limits versus six per cent of women (source: *2007 AAMI Crash Index*)

DRIVING WHILE IMPAIRED – DRINK, DRUGS AND FATIGUE

- Nearly half of all men (48 per cent) admit to having driven when over the legal limit versus one in four women or 26 per cent (source: *2007 AAMI Crash Index*)
- Men are more likely than women to take a different route home to avoid being breathalysed – 19 per cent versus 11 per cent (source: *2007 AAMI Crash Index*)
- More men than women are concerned about being over the legal limit when driving the day after a big night – 51 per cent versus 39 per cent (source: *2007 AAMI Crash Index*)
- Men are twice as likely as women to believe that it's ok for them to drink-drive as long as they feel capable – 12 per cent versus six per cent (source: *2007 AAMI Crash Index*)
- Men are twice as likely as women to seriously over-estimate the number of drinks they can have in a given period and remain under the legal limit for driving:
 - One in 10 Australian women (13 per cent) over-estimated the number of drinks they could have, answering three or more and a further one in five (16 per cent) didn't know
 - Almost one in seven Australian men (14 per cent) over-estimated the number of drinks they could have, answering four or more and a further one in six (11 per cent) didn't know (source: *2007 AAMI Crash Index*)
- Twice as many men as women admit to having driven after using recreational drugs – 14 per cent versus nine per cent (source: *2007 AAMI Crash Index*)
- Men are twice as likely as women to have momentarily fallen asleep at the wheel – 37 per cent versus 15 per cent (source: *2007 AAMI Crash Index*)