

Car Sharing cuts crash risk – study (Transport Times 27 January 2006)

Motorists carrying passengers are half as likely to be involved in an accident than those driving solo, new research reveals.

One in ten drivers say they have been involved in an accident when driving alone, compared to just one in twenty who were driving with a passenger.

Some 39% of solo drivers have lost concentration while on the road, but that comes down to 22% when driving with a passenger.

And 20% of solo drivers have been pulled over by the police due to the poor quality of their driving, compared to just 9% of those carrying passengers.

The research was carried out by YouGov on behalf of Privilege Insurance. YouGov interviewed a sample of 2144 individuals in the UK online.

The survey also found that 6% of British motorists have a car pool arrangement in place for their drive to work. By the end of 2006, more than 4m drivers expect to be sharing car journeys on a regular basis (12%), and by 2010 this will increase to nearer 6m (17%).

However, 21% of drivers believe they would be more likely to car pool if special lanes were introduced. Some 48% of all drivers surveyed support the introduction of car pool lanes on key commuter routes. And among those who support such plans, 76% would like to see car pool lanes combined with existing or new bus lanes.

Ian Parker, managing director of Privilege Insurance, said: "If car pooling or sharing journeys encourages safe driving, then that should be sufficient justification to prompt drivers into rethinking their car use habits."