

CHAPTER VII.

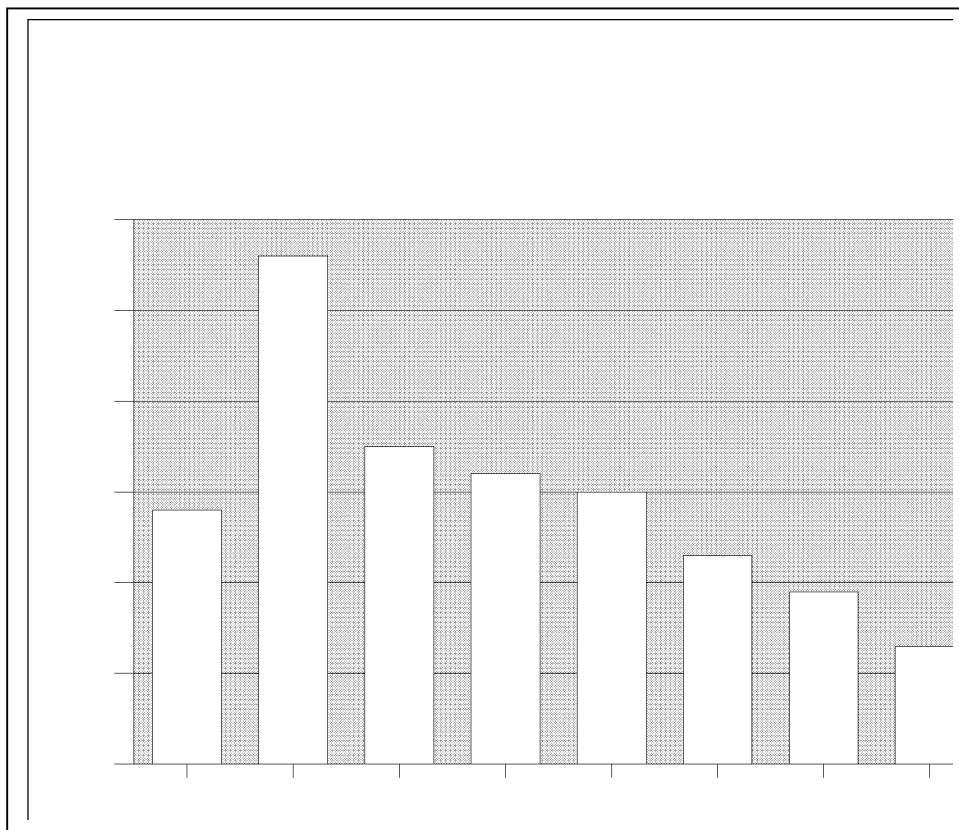
EXPERIENCE RIDING WITH UNSAFE AND AGGRESSIVE DRIVERS

EXPERIENCE WITH UNSAFE DRIVING BEHAVIOR

Other sections of this report have focused on the driving experience of the respondents. This section will focus on the experience as a passenger with someone else driving. The first part deals with unsafe driving in general.

Overall, almost three in 10 (28%) reported riding with an unsafe driver in the past year (see Figure 7-1). A higher proportion of men reported riding with an unsafe driver (32%) than did women (25%).

FIGURE 7-1



Qx: *In the past year, have you ever ridden with someone who you felt was driving in an unsafe manner?*

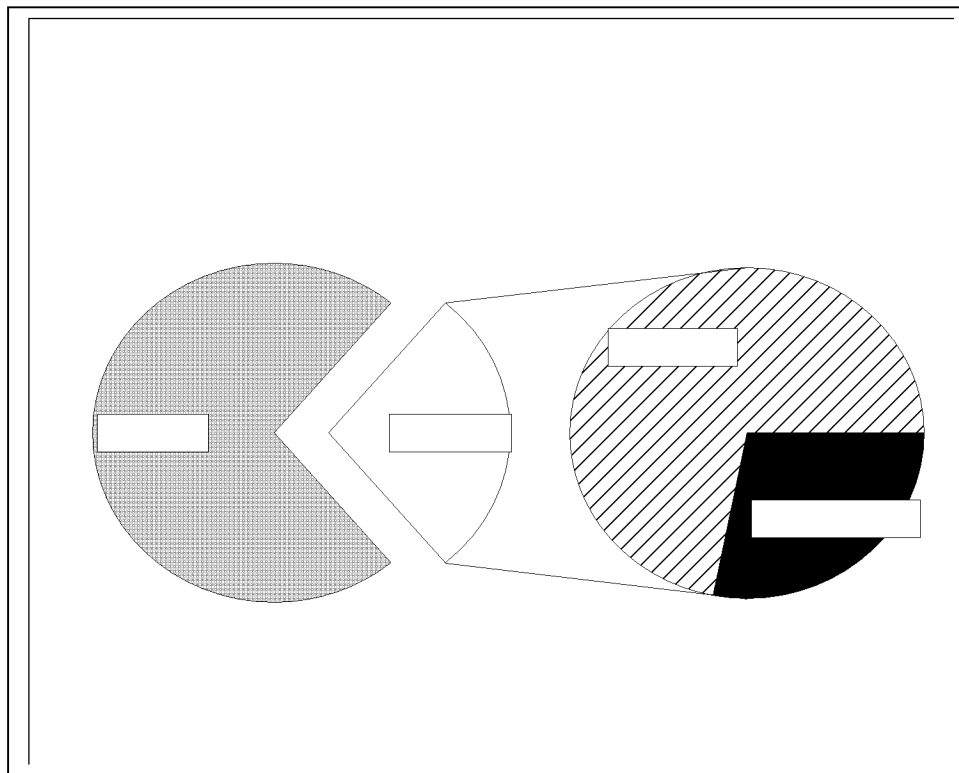
Base: *Total population of drivers*

Unweighted N=1,467

Riding with an unsafe driver decreased as age increased. Where 56% of those in the 16 to 20 age group reported riding with an unsafe driver, the same was true of only 35% of those in the 21 to 24 age group. The proportion continued to decrease slowly until the 34-44 group when the decrease became steeper until it reached a low of 13% for those 65 and over.

Seven in 10 (72%) of the unsafe drivers with whom respondents had ridden were men (see Figure 7-2). Residents of rural communities reported an even higher proportion of unsafe drivers as men (81%).

FIGURE 7-2



Qx: In the past year, have you ever ridden with someone who you felt was driving in an unsafe manner?

Qx: Thinking back on the most recent occasion, was the person who was driving in an unsafe manner a man or a woman?

Base: Total population of drivers; ridden with an unsafe driver.

Half (49%) of the drivers had ridden in an unsafe manner were friends (see Table 7-1) of the person reporting the unsafe driving. The second most often mentioned (15%) relationship of the driver was the spouse of the passenger. This, in turn, was followed by co-worker (8%), a relative other than spouse, sibling or parent (8%), and boy/girlfriend (8%). Other categories were mentioned by less than one person in 15.

TABLE 7-1

Relationship to Unsafe Driver by Gender of Unsafe Driver			
<i>Qx: Thinking about the most recent occasion, was the person who was driving in an unsafe manner a man or a woman?</i>			
<i>Qx: What was their relationship to you?</i>			
<i>Base: Rode with someone in the past year who was driving in an unsafe manner.</i>			
	Total	Man	Woman
<i>Unweighted N</i>	<i>395</i>	<i>284</i>	<i>111</i>
Friend	49%	48%	52%
Spouse	15%	15%	14%
Co-worker	8%	9%	6%
Other relative	8%	9%	5%
Boy/girlfriend	8%	7%	9%
Sibling	5%	4%	9%
Parent	1%	1%	2%
Boss/supervisor	1%	1%	-
Other	3%	3%	2%
Don't know/refuse	2%	2%	2%

- None.

The most frequently reported unsafe driving behavior by riders was speeding. Over half (54%) of all persons who have ridden with someone driving in an unsafe manner mention this behavior (see Table 7-2). Speeding was the most frequently mentioned unsafe behavior whether or not the driver was a man (55%) or a woman (51%). The second most frequently mentioned unsafe behavior (13%) was tailgating, attributed to 15% of men and 11% of women who have exhibited unsafe driving behavior.

Weaving in and out of traffic was the third most common unsafe driving behavior mentioned by 9% and attributed to 10% of men and 5% of women who have driven unsafely. The fourth most frequently mentioned (7%) unsafe behavior was driver inattentiveness. While this was attributed to 3% of men who have driven unsafely, it was attributed to 15% of women making it the second most frequent unsafe driving behavior for women. No other unsafe driving behavior was mentioned by more than 5% of those who rode with a driver who had driven unsafely.

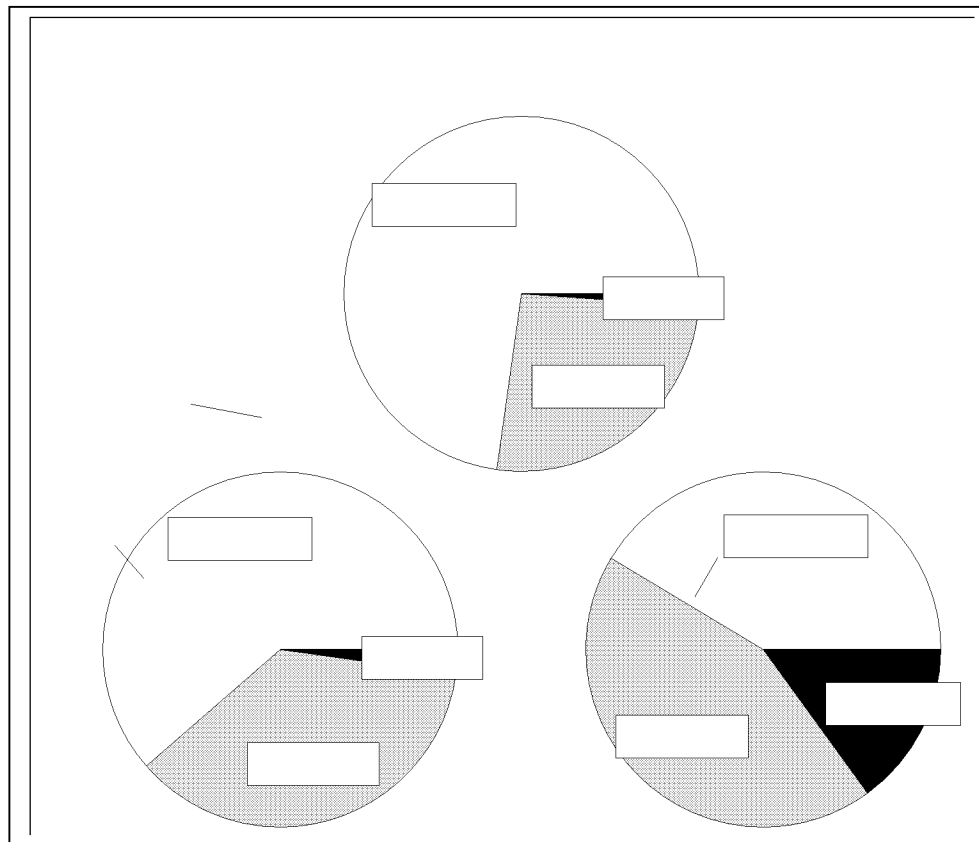
TABLE 7-2

Unsafe Driving Behavior by Gender of Unsafe Driver			
<i>Qx: What types of unsafe driving behaviors did [this person] do?</i>			
<i>Base: Rode with someone in past year who was driving in an unsafe manner.</i>			
	Total	Man	Woman
<i>Unweighted N</i>	395	284	111
Speeding	54%	55%	51%
Tailgating	13%	15%	11%
Weaving in and out of traffic	9%	10%	4%
Driver inattentiveness	7%	3%	16%
Failing to yield	2%	2%	4%
Running red lights	2%	2%	2%
Ignoring stop signs	2%	2%	1%
Drinking and driving	1%	1%	2%
Other	8%	7%	9%
Don't know/refuse	3%	3%	2%

Almost three persons in four (73%) who had ridden with a driver who had driven unsafely said they asked the driver to stop driving unsafely (see Figure 7-3). Females were more likely to make this request (84%) than were males (63%).

In three cases out of five (61%) where the driver was asked to change his/her behavior, the driver complied. In those cases where the driver was not asked to change their driving behavior, 42% of riders felt that had they asked the driver to stop the unsafe behavior, they would have.

FIGURE 7-3



Qx: *Did you ask or tell them to stop driving like that?*

Qx: *Did they do what you asked?*

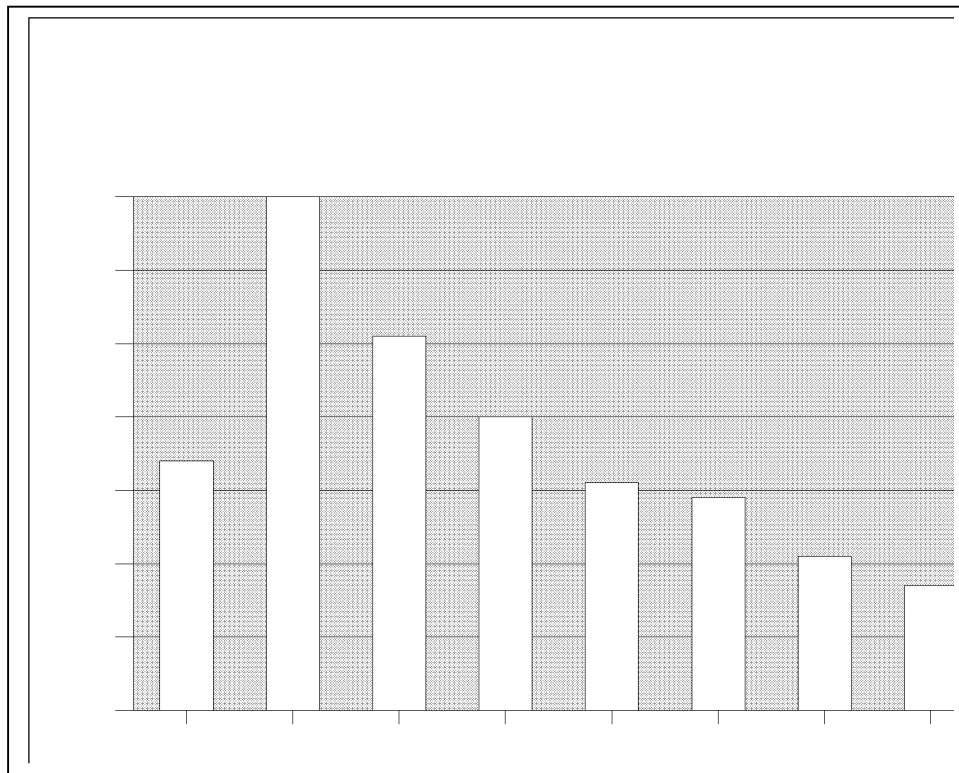
Qx: *If you had asked them to drive differently, do you think they would have done what you asked?*

Base: *Rode with someone in past year who was driving in an unsafe manner.*

EXPERIENCE WITH SPEEDING DRIVERS

Overall, one person in three (34%) has ridden with someone in the last year who they felt was driving at an unsafe speed (see Figure 7-4). There was no difference from this proportion by gender. There was, however, a relationship between riding with someone who was driving at an unsafe speed and age. Fully 70% — twice the overall proportion — of those in the 16 to 20 age group rode with someone who was speeding in the past year. The proportion dropped 20 percentage points to 51% for those in the 21 to 24 age group and continued to drop to 17% for those 65 and over.

FIGURE 7-4



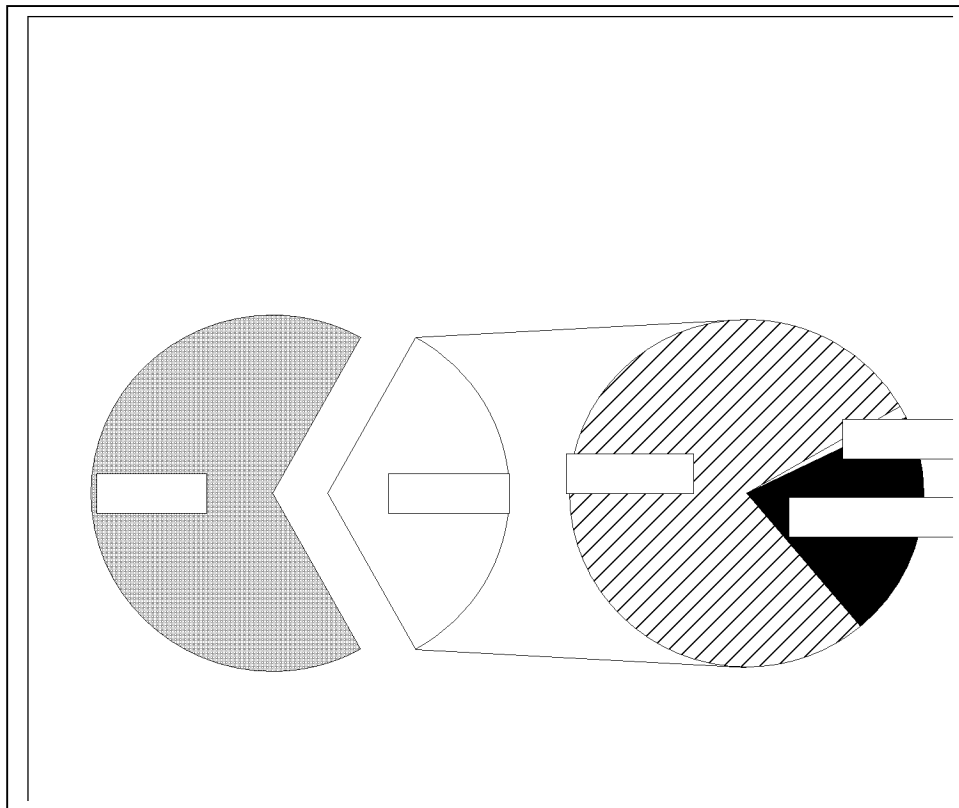
Qx: *In the past year, have you ever ridden with someone who you felt was driving at an unsafe speed?*

Base: *Total population of drivers.*

Unweighted N=1,489

Almost four speeding drivers in five (78%) were men (see figure 7-5). This proportion was slightly higher for male passengers (81%) than it was for females (75%). In comparing Figure 7-2 with Figure 7-5, it is interesting to note that women are less likely to drive at an unsafe speed (21%) than they are to drive in an unsafe manner (28%).

FIGURE 7-5



Qx: *In the past year, have you ever ridden with someone who you felt was driving at an unsafe speed?*

Qx: *Thinking back on the most recent occasion, was the person who was driving at an unsafe speed a man or a woman?*

Base: *Total population of drivers; ridden with someone who was driving at an unsafe speed.*

Almost half (45%) of those who were driving at an unsafe speed were a friend of the rider (see Table 7-3). While 15% of those driving were the spouse, husbands (17%) outnumbered wives (8%). Some other relative — not the parent, sibling, or spouse — accounted for 9% of the speeders, but 17% of the female speeders.

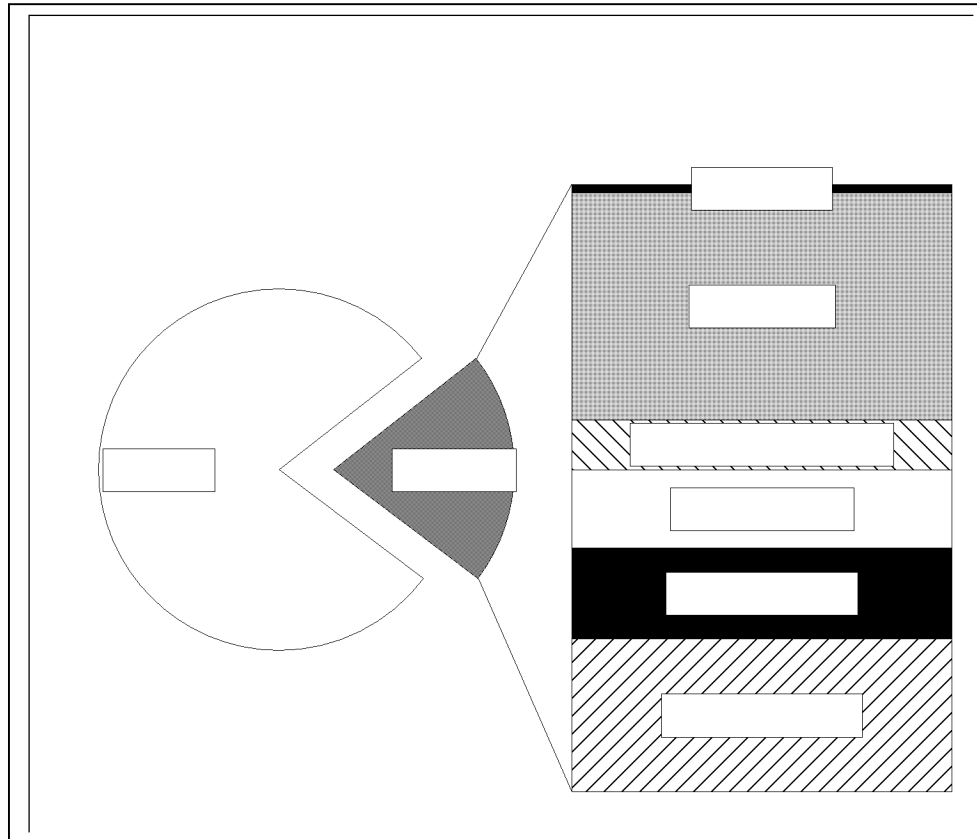
TABLE 7-3

Relationship to Speeding Driver by Gender of Speeding Driver			
<i>Qx: Thinking about the most recent occasion, was the person who was driving at an unsafe speed a man or a woman?</i>			
<i>Qx: What was their relationship to you?</i>			
<i>Base: Gave gender of person who was driving at an unsafe speed.</i>			
	Total	Man	Woman
<i>Unweighted N</i>	<i>485</i>	<i>381</i>	<i>104</i>
Friend	45%	46%	44%
Spouse	15%	17%	8%
Other relative	9%	7%	17%
Sibling	8%	7%	11%
Boy/girlfriend	7%	7%	8%
Co-worker	6%	6%	5%
Parent	3%	3%	2%
Boss/supervisor	2%	2%	-
Other	4%	3%	4%
Don't know/refuse	2%	2%	1%

- None.

In addition to driving at an unsafe speed, one driver in five (21%) engaged in another unsafe driving action (see Figure 7-6). The most common unsafe driving actions included tailgating (37%), speeding (22%), weaving in and out of traffic (19%), and unsafe passing (12%). Other specific actions included running red lights (9%), unsafe lane changes (8%), failing to yield (6%), drinking and driving (5%), and driver inattentiveness (3%).

FIGURE 7-6



Qx: *Besides the unsafe speed, did the driver engage in any other unsafe driving action on that occasion?*

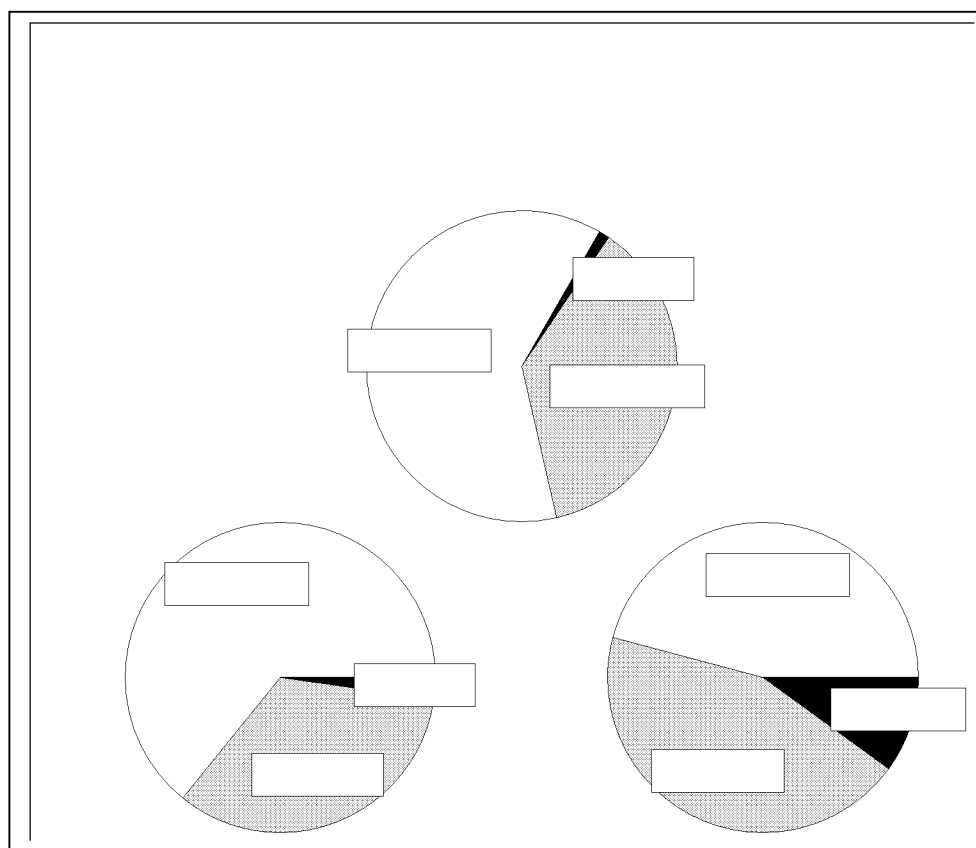
Qx: *What type of unsafe driving behaviors did [this person] do?*

Base: *Gave gender of person who was driving at an unsafe speed.*

About three persons in five (62%) who, in the past year, were riding with someone who was driving at an unsafe speed asked the driver to slow down (see Figure 7-7). Females were more likely to make this request (70%) than were males (54%).

In approximately two-thirds (65%) of the cases where the driver was asked to change their behavior, the request was granted. In those cases where the driver was not asked to slow down, almost half (46%) felt that had they asked, the driver would have slowed down.

FIGURE 7-7



Qx: Did you ask or tell them to stop driving like that?

Qx: Did they do what you asked?

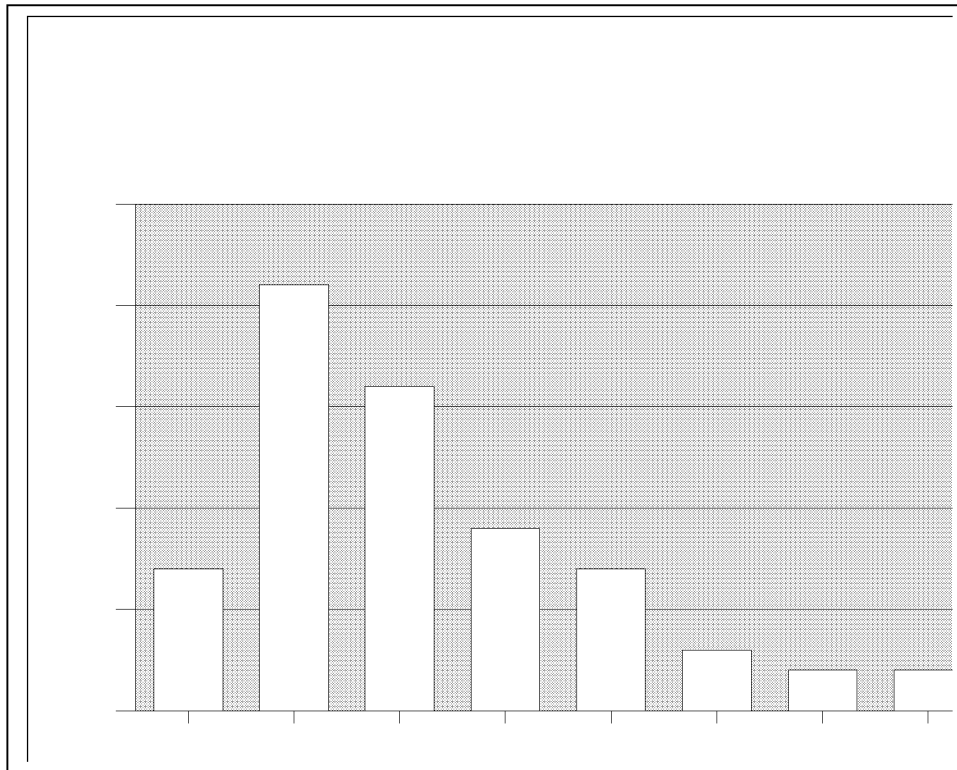
Qx: If you had asked them to drive differently, do you think they would have done what you asked?

Base: Rode with someone in past year who was driving at an unsafe speed.

EXPERIENCE WITH AN ALCOHOL-IMPAIRED DRIVER

By contrast to the 28% who had ridden with someone driving in an unsafe manner, and 34% who had ridden with some driver at an unsafe speed, less than one person in 10 (7%) has ridden with a driver in the last year who had too much to drink to drive safely (see Figure 7-8). Experience with a driver who had too much to drink is strikingly related to age. One person in five (21%) in the 16 to 20 age group and one in six (15%) in the 21 to 24 age group have been with a driver who had too much to drink. This proportion continued to drop from 9% for 25 to 34 year-olds and 2% for those 65 and older.

FIGURE 7-8



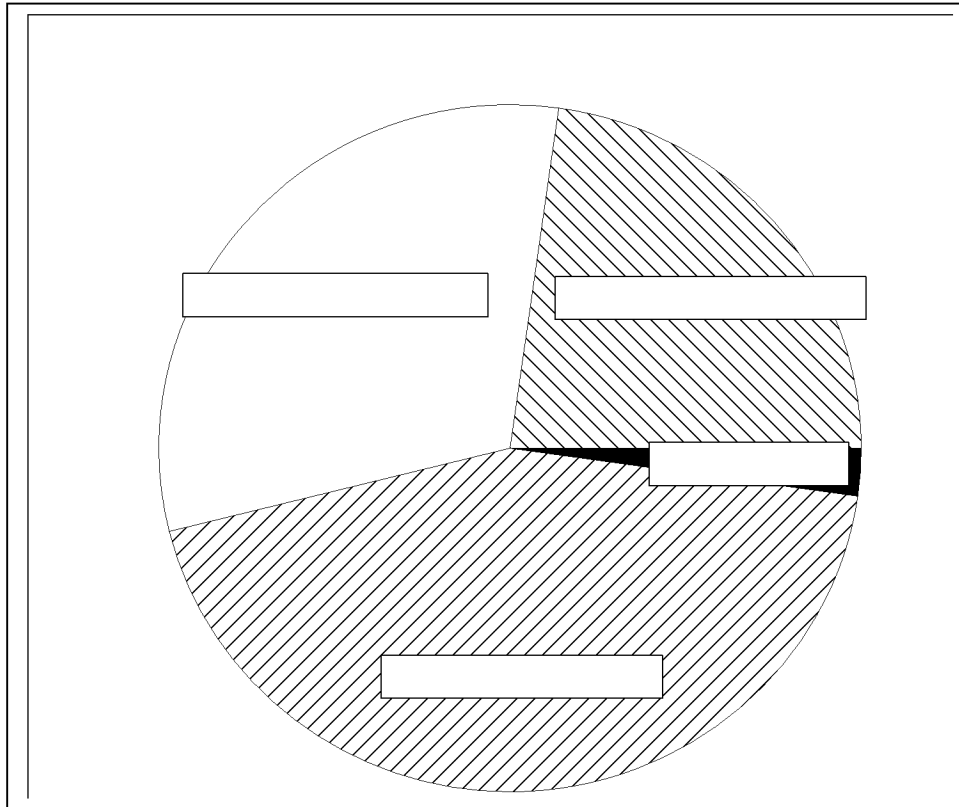
Qx: *In the last year, were you ever in a situation where you were riding with a friend who had too much to drink to drive safely?*

Base: *Total population of drivers.*

Unweighted N=2,956

Persons who had been in a car with someone who had too much to drink were asked if they were driving more aggressively, less aggressively or about the same as usual. More than two persons in five (44%) said the driver was driving about the same as usual (see Figure 7-9). Three in 10 (31%) felt the driver was driving less aggressively than normal and only one in four (23%) felt they were driving more aggressively than normal.

FIGURE 7-9



Qx: On those occasions, did the driver usually drive more aggressively, less aggressively, or about the same as they normally did?

Base: In a car in the past year with someone who had too much to drink.

Unweighted N=193

SUMMARY

Nearly one-third of all drivers have ridden with someone who was driving in an unsafe manner in the past year. Similarly, one-third of drivers have ridden with someone who was driving at an unsafe speed. The likelihood of riding with an unsafe driver declined with age. In both unsafe driving situations approximately three-fourths of the drivers were men and about one-half of the drivers were friends of the rider. A majority of those finding themselves in these situations asked the driver to stop the unsafe driving behavior. When asked, most said the driver did stop, although over one-third said the driver did not stop. By contrast, less than one driver in ten reported riding with an alcohol-impaired driver in the last year.