

Visible or Invisible Runners? Studying the Effect Reflective Vests Have on Driver Reactions

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Visibility is a key factor in Motor Vehicle Crashes (MVCs) involving pedestrians. In order to reduce MVCs, pedestrians are encouraged to wear reflective clothing. The effect of a runner and a vest on driver reactions was examined to determine if cars swerved out more when a vest was present as opposed to no vest. The amount of light present was also looked at in respect to vest status. A 2 mile path was run every other day from May 14th to June 10th. Runs were recorded using a GoPro Hero 8 and then uploaded to the GoPro App where videos were analyzed using JAMOVI Software. It was found that overall, the vest had a statistically significant impact on driver reactions with a p value of < 0.001. Supporting that driver reactions were dependent on whether or not a vest was present. In regards to light level, when running in daylight, a p value of 0.017 was produced displaying significance. In low light, a p value of 0.382 was produced, failing to show significance.

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