

RSA observational study 2015 – Cyclist compliance with traffic lights



Research Objective

To determine the incidence of red light breakages among cyclists on Irish roads across varying times of the day, junction types and locations throughout the country.

Methodology

- Total of 25,126 pedal cyclists were observed at 60 different sites and in nine cities/towns. Observations were carried out between the hours of 07:30 to 10:30, 12:00 to 15:00 and 17:00 to 20:00. Where public bikes are in operation (Dublin, Galway, Cork and Limerick) the type of bike (Private and Public bikes) were recorded. Study conducted by Amárach Research .

Key Findings

- 12 % of cyclists broke a red traffic light
- The highest incidences of red light breakage occurred in Limerick (44%) and lowest in Cork (5%)
- Of those who broke a red light 52% continued straight on. Cyclists were more likely to break a light and turn left (29%) than right (18%)
- 16% of all cyclists on public bikes broke a red light compared with 11% of all cyclists on private bikes.
- The incidence of breaking a red light was highest at complex junctions (19%), followed by crossroads (12%) and staggered cross junctions (18%)

Base: Cyclists/observations	Passing through a green light	Passing through an amber light	Passing through a red light
N=25126	N=20953	N=1165	N=3008
Total	83%	5%	12%
N=17482 Male	N=14278 82%	N=814 4%	N= 2390 14%
N=7644 Female	N=6675 87%	N=351 5%	N=618 8%
N=22691 Private Bike	N= 18989 84%	N=1093 5%	N=2609 11%
N=2435 Public Bike	N=1964 81%	N=72 3%	N=399 16%

Males (14%) were more likely to break traffic lights than females (8%).