

LETTERS TO



3/26/20, from Josh Kahan

Re: Bad Driving Habits of Doctors

Somewhere along the line, the stats in your article got messed up (by somebody, but I am going to blame you:)).

-- Josh Kahan * Strafford *

Let me explain...and sorry for the long email but I really need you to pay attention...

According to the source material...

Drives Fastest...

Orthopedists drive the fastest (%wise) 16.8% above speed limit

Followed by psychiatrists -- 16.5%

And closely followed, in 3rd place, by Internal Medicine Subspecialists -- %16.4%

Most tickets..

12% -- Internal Medicine Subspecialists tied with (and get this) Family Physician (we'll ignore the Other category @ 13%)

10% -- General Surgeons

5%, 4% -- Psychiatrists and Orthopedists

20MPH + over limit

25% +/- of virtually all specialities / medical practices

Now for my brilliant, and quite frankly sage, observations...

In the absence of confidence-level stats (which might make comparatives less accurate)....

Drives Fastest...

Orthos are always in a rush to get to the hospital, perform their 10 minutes of work, rush out for a drink...then a relaxing round of golf. Psychiatrists are just crazy and drive fast (I know this for a fact because I play one in my dreams).

Most ticketed...

Internal Medicine Subspecialists tied with (and get this) Family Physician -- Why?

Likely because Internal subspecialists are so caught up in incredibly complex thoughts (even while pulled over and being interrogated) that they likely can't come up with a good excuse.

Family Physicians are simply too nice and don't know how to BS their way out of a ticket -- I don't think any cop is going to believe the excuse, "Officer, I was speeding because I was late for my appointment to look at Little Johnny's diaper rash"

Not surprised that psychiatrists (5%) don't get a lot of tickets - they are mind-altering experts (just like me in my dreams).

Orthopedists (4%) are so rich they likely just bribe the officers...

Emergency physicians (5%) can honestly play the "it's an emergency" card.

Most Extreme...

The close clustering of 20mph+ over drivers is simply a correlation between a pursuit / stop and one's speed. Cops are often busy at speed traps... They're not going to stop these important activities just to go chase down a car going 10mph+ over...

One final observation -- the whole study might be geographically skewed... it was done in Florida -- not really a random sample playground -- my dad (who was a statistician)

used to tell me that Florida was the worst place to do any general study -- since the population was heavily weighted with dead and almost-dead people.

Thanks for listening, learning, and growing.
Remember, I am here to help you help us procrastinate.

Sincerely,
-- Josh and friends (in my head).

Oh and here's the link to the underlying article...
<https://www.bmj.com/content/367/bmj.l6354>

In response to:

Orthopedists are the most-ticketed drivers. Followed by psychiatrists. No, no, this is serious. It's in *Scientific American*, which in turn is citing a study in the December BMJ (you used to know it as the *British Medical Journal*) of speeding tickets to 5400 doctors in Florida. "When it comes to getting caught driving more than 20 miles an hour over the limit," the article notes, psychiatrists took first place, followed by general surgeons. Oh, and most expensive cars ticketed? Cardiologists.