

1 **Title:** Predictive power of selected factors on driver stress at work

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4 **Reduced title:** Predictors of Driver Stress

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7 **Abstract:**

8 Professional drivers are considered prone to health risks. For this reason we have
9 conducted a predictive study to analyze variables that may be predictors of stress in
10 driving. Participating in this study were 372 drivers (93.4% men, 6.6% women)
11 recruited through non-probabilistic sampling. The aim of the study is to develop a
12 prediction model for Job Stress in professional drivers using the following indicators:
13 Personality, Impulsiveness, Hardy personality, Job, Age, Seat comfort, Seat suspension,
14 Lumbar support, and Driving Hours. We found that the variables with predictive power
15 over driving stress were: Commitment over Relaxed driving ($\Delta R^2 = .101$; $\beta = .135$),
16 Danger prevention ($\Delta R^2 = .139$; $\beta = .342$) and Fatigue & anxiety ($\Delta R^2 = .063$; $\beta = -$
17 $.227$); Control over Alertness & Vigilance ($\Delta R^2 = .069$; $\beta = .278$); and Agreeableness
18 over Sensation-seeking ($\Delta R^2 = .047$; $\beta = -.268$). In conclusion, driver stress can be
19 predicted by certain variables. This study contributes to a better understanding of driver
20 stress and promotes safety at the wheel, thus helping to prevent traffic accidents.

21
22 **Keywords:** Stress in driving; driver stress; predictive factors; prevent traffic accidents;
23 vehicle characteristics.

24

25

26 **1. Introduction**

27 Freight and passenger transport is a dynamic sector in the European Union.
28 Indeed, passenger coach transportation comes in second after car transport (1).
29 According to a report by the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (2010),
30 professional drivers are exposed to a higher risk of mortality on the road. Moreover, the
31 prevalence of psychosocial risks and unsafe on-the-job behaviors is higher among this
32 group.

33 Professional drivers are seen as a group that is considered prone to health risks
34 due to physical agents (vibrations). Frequently, professional drivers are associated with
35 a high prevalence of pain due to various causes (3). In addition to this, research studies
36 have related job stress to substance use (4–6), driving (7), individual differences (8),
37 pain and musculoskeletal symptoms (9), fatigue (10), chronic fatigue (11), employee
38 emotional well-being and road rage (12), and exhaustion (13).

39 Fletcher and Dawson (14) related fatigue at work with number of hours worked.
40 Chen and Xie (15) considered that driving hours and breaks are closely related to truck
41 driver fatigue, and fatigue is a major contributor to truck accidents. Fatigue and the need
42 to rest have also been reported to mediate in the associations between work stress and
43 risky driving and between social support and risky driving, but not in the associations
44 between effort/reward imbalance (ERI) and risky driving (16).

45 Some research studies (7,17) conclude that working alone may lead to
46 psychosomatic disorders such as stress. Job stress affects more than one areas of a
47 person's life. Perhaps the most exposed area is our health and our perception of it since
48 stressful situations induce an increased physiological response by our body (18).

49 Other influences are the conditions in which professional drivers work. In this
50 context, Santos and Lu (2016)(19) show that bus drivers work an average of 16 hours a

51 day, performing risky behaviors such as fast passenger loading and rushing to avoid
52 being late. The most common health symptoms experienced by bus drivers are fatigue,
53 back pain, coughs and colds. Some authors show that drivers' mental health problems
54 are associated with increased work pressure, less support from co-workers, fewer
55 rewards, and greater signal conflict while driving (20). There are also significant
56 associations between measures of socio-labor variables and traffic accidents and
57 sanctions. Work stress has also been shown to be a predictor of accidents (21).

58 In recent years academics and researchers have pointed to the importance of
59 personal factors such as hardiness and vulnerability to *burnout*. *Hardiness* has been
60 linked to health since it was first used by Kobasa (22). People with a hardy personality
61 deal with stressing stimuli more actively and with greater commitment, and perceive
62 them as less threatening (23).

63 In this study we have also taken into account job models. These are defined as a
64 series of activities, functions or tasks that may be performed by individual workers.
65 Hence, job posts are aggregates of tasks. The latter constitute the unit of analysis
66 whereas job posts are the management unit. Various job analysis models exist, including
67 the Job Characteristics Model (24) the Demand/Control Model (25) and the
68 Effort/Reward Imbalance Model (26).

69 We have also taken into account personality. In this respect, several studies have
70 linked personality to traffic accidents (27), sensation seeking (28), aggressive driving
71 (29), speeding among young drivers (28), risk perception (30), driving attitudes (31) and
72 reckless driving behaviors in bus drivers (32).

73

74 *1.1. Objective and Hypothesis*

75 The general aim of this study is to develop a prediction model for Job
76 Stress in professional drivers using the following indicators: Personality, Impulsivity,
77 Hardy Personality, Job, Age, Seat comfort, Seat suspension, Adjusted seat lumbar
78 support and Driving Hours. Our study hypotheses are as follows:

79

80 ***Hypothesis 1.*** If Relaxed Driving is influenced by Personality, Hardy
81 Personality, the Job, Age, Seat comfort, Seat suspension, Driver Seat adjusted lumbar
82 support and Driving Hours, then we can make a good prediction of relaxed driving
83 based on a model that incorporates these predictors.

84 ***Hypothesis 2.*** If Danger Prevention is influenced by Personality, Hardy
85 Personality, the Job, Age, Seat comfort, Seat suspension, Driver seat adjusted lumbar
86 support and Driving Hours, then we can make a good prediction of danger prevention
87 based on a model that incorporates these predictors.

88 ***Hypothesis 3.*** If Alertness and Vigilance is influenced by Personality, Hardy
89 Personality, the Job, Age, Seat comfort, Seat suspension, Driver seat adjusted lumbar
90 support and Driving Hours, then we can make a good prediction of Alertness and
91 Vigilance based on a model that incorporates these predictors.

92 ***Hypothesis 4.*** If Sensation seeking is influenced by Personality, Hardy
93 Personality, the Job, Age, Seat comfort, Seat suspension, Driver seat adjusted lumbar
94 support and Driving Hours, then we can make a good prediction of Sensation Seeking
95 based on a model that incorporates these predictors.

96 ***Hypothesis 5.*** If Fatigue and Anxiety is influenced by Personality, Hardy
97 Personality, the Job, Age, Seat comfort, Seat suspension, Driver seat adjusted lumbar
98 support and Driving Hours, then we can make a good prediction of Fatigue and Anxiety
99 based on a model that incorporates these predictors.

100

101 **2. Method**

102 **2.1. Participants**

103 The sample consisted of 372 Spanish professional drivers (93.4 % men, 6.6 %
104 women), whose average age was 40.9 ($SD= 10.54$). Passenger transportation 33.3 %,
105 Freight transport 28.0 %, Ambulances drivers 2.4 % and Taxis drivers 36.3 %, the
106 average years of experience was 10.46 ($SD=13.05$). The average length of time they
107 have been driving professionally was 10.46 ($SD= 13.05$). Marital status: Married or in a
108 couple (70.8%), single (21.2%), divorced/ separated/ widowed (8.0%). As regards their
109 education level the distribution was as follows: not finished primary education (20.6 %),
110 Upper secondary school, Professional Training-I or Compulsory secondary education
111 diploma (55.2%), Lower secondary school, Professional Training-II or Prep School
112 (21%), University studies (3.2 %). The average number of hours worked per week is
113 44.22 ($SD = 16.9$) and the average number of minutes spent per day sitting in the
114 vehicle is 374.93 ($SD = 237.30$).

115

116 **2.2. Instruments**

117 In order to evaluate stress in driving we used the Trans Driver Stress (TDS-38)
118 (33), which is a version of the Bus Driver Stress (BDS-59) (34) adapted into Spanish.
119 The TDS-38 with a 6-point Likert scale, made up of five factors: “F1.- Relaxed
120 driving”. This refers to the driver’s state of relaxation or tension during, before and after
121 driving (7 items, $\alpha=.70$), “F2.- Danger Prevention”. This indicates the effort the driver
122 makes whilst driving and the possible dangers that the driver may come up against
123 during driving as well as the possible dangers they may encounter whilst driving on
124 roads (8 items, $\alpha=.77$), “F3.-Alertness and Vigilance” refers to the ease with which

125 *drivers can relax behind the wheel or after driving. (6 items, $\alpha = .70$), “F4.- Sensations*
 126 *Seeking” has to do with the way of driving (5 items and $\alpha = .80$) and “F5.- Fatigue and*
 127 *Anxiety” indicates the fatigue and state of nervousness that driving produces in the*
 128 *Chauffer (12 items and $\alpha = .76$).*

129 The Overall Personality Assessment Scale (OPERAS) (35) is an instrument
 130 based on the five big personality factors: “*Extraversion*” ($\alpha = .86$; e.g. “2. I am the life
 131 of the party”), “*Emotional Stability*” ($\alpha = .86$; e.g. “32. I often change moods”),
 132 “*Conscientiousness*” ($\alpha = .77$; e.g. “5. I always keep my word”), *Agreeableness* ($\alpha =$
 133 $.71$; e.g. “12. I respect others”) and “*Openness to Experience*” ($\alpha = .81$; e.g. “24. I like
 134 trying out new things”). *The scale has a total of 40 items and the responses are on a 5-*
 135 *point Likert scale ranging from 1= Totally disagree to 5= Totally agree.*

136 The Spanish version of Dickman’s Impulsivity Inventory Scale (36) in its
 137 Spanish version (37) comprises 23 items and 2 subscales and has a dichotomous
 138 response format (1 = *true* / 0 = *false*). “F1. Functional impulsivity” assesses
 139 impulsiveness that is beneficial and helps one to adapt to unexpected situations that
 140 require a quick response. This is made up of 11 items ($\alpha = .77$) (e.g. “5. Most of the
 141 time I can concentrate on my work very quickly”. “F2. Dysfunctional impulsivity”
 142 refers to impulsiveness that, far from helping us, may be counterproductive. It is made
 143 up of 12 items ($\alpha = .76$) (e.g. “2. I frequently say the first thing that comes into my head
 144 without giving it much thought”).

145 The Trans-18 Scale (38) detects safety behaviors (personal and in-vehicle) and
 146 psychophysiological disorders. It is made up of 18 items (3 subscales). “F1.
 147 Psychophysiological Disorders” of the driver ($\alpha = .81$) is related to things the driver
 148 may suffer from and refers to the appearance of anxiety, stress, digestive and
 149 musculoskeletal disorders, depression and hypertension (e.g. “11. I have had bouts of

150 depression caused by my job”). “F2. Personal safety behaviors” ($\alpha = .80$) refers to
 151 abstaining from driving after drinking alcohol or eating a big meal as well as to not
 152 eating or drinking while driving (e.g. “7. I avoid driving when I’m smoking and I do not
 153 hold a cigarette, cigar...in my hand”). “F3. Vehicle safety behaviors” ($\alpha = .70$) refers to
 154 putting on work gloves to perform job tasks, knowing how to use extinguishers, being
 155 alert while driving, and resting the mandatory number of hours (e.g. “3. I use work
 156 gloves when I handle and load freight, change a tire, etc.”).

157 The Hardiness scale (CPR) (39) comprises 21 items and three dimensions each
 158 containing 7 items. “F1. Control” is the sensation participants have regarding
 159 influencing events (e.g. “I do all I can to make sure I have control over my work
 160 results”; $\alpha = .74$). “F2. Commitment” is defined as the tendency to develop behaviors
 161 that entail personal involvement or the tendency to identify with what one does (e.g. “1.
 162 I get seriously involved in what I do because it is the best way to accomplish my own
 163 goals”; $\alpha = .79$). “F3. Challenge” indicates that potentially stressing stimuli are
 164 perceived as opportunities for growth (e.g. “5. In my work I am especially attracted to
 165 innovations and new developments in procedures”; $\alpha = .83$). The responses are on a 4-
 166 point Likert scale and range from 1 (*totally disagree*) to 4 (*totally agree*).

167 The Job Diagnostic Survey (JDS-21) (40–42) consists of 21 items grouped into
 168 seven factors, each of 3 items and with responses on a Likert scale ranging from 1 to 7.
 169 The seven factors are: “F1. Skill Variety” ($\alpha = .78$; e.g. “5. The job is quite easy and
 170 repetitive”); “F2. Task identity” ($\alpha = .78$; e.g. “11. The job offers me the opportunity to
 171 completely finish off the tasks that I take on”); “F3. Task Significance” ($\alpha = .71$; e.g.
 172 “8. Many people may be affected by the quality and level of my work”); “F4.
 173 Autonomy” ($\alpha = .73$; e.g. “13. In this job I have quite a lot of freedom to decide on how
 174 to do it”); “F5. Feedback from Job” ($\alpha = .70$; e.g. “4. The simple fact of doing my job

175 enables me to know how I am doing it”); “F6. Feedback from Agents” ($\alpha = .75$; e.g.
176 “10. My superiors frequently let me know what they think about my performance at
177 work); and “F7. Dealing with others” ($\alpha = .78$; e.g. “2. The job requires a lot of
178 cooperation with other people”).

179 Effort-Reward Imbalance (ERI) (43) evaluates psychosocial factors at work.
180 This scale consists of 23 items with responses on a 5-point Likert scale. The factors are:
181 “F1. Effort” ($\alpha = .63$; e.g. “2. In my job I put up with many interruptions and
182 inconveniences”); “F2. Reward” ($\alpha = .80$; e.g. “9. I receive the necessary support in
183 difficult situations”); and “F3. Imbalance” ($\alpha = .80$; e.g. “3. When I get home I find it
184 very easy to relax and switch off”).

185 We also gathered data on age, seat comfort, seat suspension, driver’s seat
186 adjustable lumbar support and driving hours.

187

188 **2.3. Procedure**

189 The sample was obtained by *non-probabilistic* sampling (44), which is also
190 called *accidental-random* sampling (45). To collect the data, we made telephone contact
191 with the directors of several transport companies and agreed on the best time to meet the
192 drivers.

193 We produced a booklet that included all the questionnaires to be used and
194 instructions on how to complete them. A psychologist was responsible for collecting all
195 the data at a particular company and for ensuring that no questionnaire was missing any
196 data. The response rate was 80%. All participating drivers had voluntarily agreed to
197 participate in the study. Several ethical guidelines were taken into account (Declaration
198 of Helsinki, the Belmont Report and the CIOMS Guidelines) and informed consent was
199 provided by all participants.

200

201 **2.4. Data Analysis**

202 We began our analysis by using Pearson's correlation coefficients to calculate
203 the correlations between the predictor variables and the criterion variables. We then
204 performed multiple regressions using the *stepwise* option, whereby the programme
205 enters each predictor variable in the model according to the extent to which it accounts
206 for variance. We used the SPSS version 23.0 programme.

207

208 **3. Results**

209

210 *3.1. Reliability analysis*

211 Table 1 shows the instruments used in this study. The indices for internal
212 consistency are appropriate since they range from .86 (Extraversion, Emotional Stability,
213 Challenge) to .70 (Relaxed driving).

214

215 *INSERT TABLE 1 HERE*

216

217 *3.2. Multiple regression*

218 The multiple linear regression models conducted were intended to test the effects
219 of twenty-seven predictor variables on five criterion variables with respect to driving
220 stress (Table 2).

221 The first model studied the predictive power of the criterion variable Relaxed
222 Driving (TDS-38). We observe in the summary of the model that the predictor
223 variables Commitment, Safe Personal Behaviors, Task Identity, Age, Challenge and
224 Dysfunctional Impulsivity account for 22.7% of the criterion variable's variance.

225 Commitment, with 10.1% variance, seems to be the best predictor. Among the most
226 important aspects are the standard coefficients. We can see from these coefficients that
227 the introduced predictor variables that were statistically significant were: Commitment
228 ($\beta = .135$), Safe Personal Behaviors ($\beta = .185$), Task Identity ($\beta = .198$), Age ($\beta = .155$),
229 Challenge) ($\beta = .196$) and Dysfunctional Impulsivity ($\beta = -.135$).

230 The second model studied the predictive power of the criterion variable Danger
231 Prevention (TDS-38). We observe in the summary of the model that the predictor
232 variables Commitment, Effort, Conscientiousness and Task Identity account for 20.5%
233 of the criterion variable's variance. Commitment, with 13.9% variance, is the best
234 predictor. The standard coefficients showed that the following predictor variables were
235 statistically significant: Commitment ($\beta = .342$), Effort ($\beta = .168$), Conscientiousness (β
236 $= .166$) and Task identity ($\beta = .148$).

237 The third model studied the predictive power of the criterion variable Alertness
238 and Vigilance (TDS-38). The summary of the model features the predictor variables
239 Control, Personal Safety Behaviors and Feedback from Agents, which account for
240 14.7% of the criterion variable's variance. Control, accounting for 6.9% of variance,
241 was found to be the best predictor. After the beta coefficients were applied, the
242 following predictor variables were found to be statistically significant: Control (β
243 $= .278$), Personal Safety Behaviors) ($\beta = .229$) and Feedback from Agents ($\beta = -.182$).

244 The fourth model studied the predictive power of variables for the criterion
245 variable Sensation Seeking (TDS-38). The summary of the model shows that it features
246 the predictor variables Age, Agreeableness, Personal safety behaviors, Over-
247 involvement, Dysfunctional Impulsivity and Driver seat adjustable lumbar support,
248 which altogether account for 25.2% of the criterion variable's variance. After the beta
249 coefficients were applied, the predictor variables found to be statistically significant

250 were: Age ($\beta = -.233$), Agreeableness ($\beta = -.268$), Personal safety behaviors ($\beta = -.161$),
251 Over-involvement ($\beta = .193$), Dysfunctional Impulsivity ($\beta = .187$) and Driver seat
252 adjustable lumbar support ($\beta = -.129$).

253 The final model studied the predictive power of the criterion variable Fatigue
254 and Anxiety (TDS-38). The summary of the model shows that it includes the predictor
255 variables Commitment, Feedback from Job, Reward and Age, which account for 13.7%
256 of the criterion variable's variance. Commitment, with 6.3% of variance, was found to
257 be the best predictor. The standard coefficients showed that the following variables
258 were statistically significant: Commitment ($\beta = -.227$), Feedback from Job ($\beta = -.187$),
259 Reward ($\beta = .166$) and Age ($\beta = .135$).

260

261 *INSERT TABLE 2 HERE*

262

263

264 **4. Discussion**

265

266 The results outlined above are in line with the fact that certain variables have
267 predictive power over the driving stress factors studied. The first hypothesis (Relaxed
268 driving) was partially fulfilled since we observed that the best prediction model is made
269 up of six variables: Commitment, Personal Safety Behaviors, Task identity, Age,
270 Challenge and Dysfunctional Impulsivity. The Personality variables that were included
271 in the model were dysfunctional impulsivity, commitment and challenge, which is in
272 line with the findings of other authors on individual variables such as risk perception,
273 attitude towards road safety and driver personality, which were found to be related to a
274 greater likelihood of unsafe driving (30,31). Other studies have also concluded that the
275 personality of young drivers generally displays riskier driving behavior, contributing to
276 a higher road accident rate (46,47). The personal safety behavior variable is included in

277 the prediction model. Hunter (2002) explored this relationship and concluded that
278 inadequate risk perception can lead drivers to ignore or misinterpret external signals,
279 which has an impact on the driver's decision making (48). On the other hand,
280 unwarranted optimism concerning one's safety behavior can be detrimental to safety
281 (49), age also appeared among the predictor variables. Svenson (1981) found that young
282 drivers perceived that they were less likely to be involved in a road accident and
283 considered themselves to be more skillful than other drivers(50). Matthews, Joyner and
284 Newman (1999) found that older drivers showed impairments in hazard detection and
285 vehicle control and that they compensated for this by driving at a lower speed (51). Task
286 identity is also a positive predictor of relaxed driving. According to González (1997)
287 this is because it brings about changes in the driver's psychological mood (40).

288 The second hypothesis (Danger Prevention) was partially fulfilled since we
289 observed that the best prediction model is one that consists of four variables:
290 Commitment, Effort, Conscientiousness and Task identity. The personality variables
291 included in the model that positively affect danger prevention are Conscientiousness,
292 Effort and Commitment. Along these lines, Deffenbacher (52) demonstrated that drivers
293 with a high anger level as a personality trait constitute a risk group, are more likely to
294 damage their vehicle and to get injured as a result of their aggressive behaviors, and
295 display riskier driving behaviors (16,53). The altruism, sensation seeking and the
296 absence of regulations directly predict bus drivers' attitudes towards road safety (32).
297 Moreover, some personality traits, such as emotional stability, directly predict risky
298 driving behaviors in bus drivers. Some authors (16) find that fatigue and the need to rest
299 do not mediate the association between the effort/reward imbalance (ERI) and risky
300 driving. According to González (40) task identity also has an influence on predicting
301 dangers since it brings about changes in the driver's psychological state. The same is

302 true of exhaustion (16). The third hypothesis (Alertness and Vigilance) was partially
303 fulfilled and provided a prediction model consisting of three variables: Control,
304 Personal safety behaviors and Feedback from Agents. Control and personal safety
305 behaviors were found to be direct predictors. In this respect, in reference to control,
306 point out that people who have more accidents are more individualistic, daring and
307 aggressive and find it harder to control their impulses (54). Useche et al. (21) showed
308 that work stress is a predictor of accidents. The safety behaviors variable is also a
309 positive predictor. In line with this, Abe and Richardson (55) pointed out that *Advanced*
310 *Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS)* have been introduced to reduce drivers' workloads
311 and promote safe driving. In this sense, Santos and Lu (19) showed that bus drivers
312 work excessive hours and engage in risky behaviors.

313 The fourth hypothesis (Sensation Seeking) was partially fulfilled since the best
314 predictor model contains six variables: Age, Agreeableness, Personal Safety Behaviors,
315 Over-involvement, Dysfunctional Impulsivity and Adjustable driver seat lumbar
316 support. Age was found to be the best predictor of sensation seeking. Along these lines,
317 Ledesma, Poó and Peltzer (56) established a positive relationship between sensation
318 seeking and risk behaviors in driving. Moreover, they found that men tend to obtain
319 higher scores on the scale and that these scores tend to decrease with age. On the other
320 hand, Bachoo, Bhagwanjee and Govender (57) corroborated that men have more risky
321 driving behavior events than women and that older drivers (over 25 years of age)
322 display safer driving attitudes and less sensation seeking.

323 With regard to impulsivity, Dahlen, Martin, Ragan and Kuhlman (58) also
324 identified positive relationships between impulsivity and risky driving behaviors.
325 Sensation seeking also emerges as the best predictor of traffic violations, as well as
326 anger, hostility and a combination of these three variables (sensation seeking, anger and

327 hostility) (28,57). Sensation seeking is reinforced by alcohol consumption (59).
328 Prosocial driving, as the antithesis of sensation seeking, is associated with drivers who
329 are less prone to boredom and with higher scores in Agreeableness, Conscientiousness,
330 Openness, Scrupulousness and Neuroticism, as well as lower scores in Competitiveness,
331 Sensation seeking, Hostility and Extraversion (60). Conscientiousness and safety
332 behaviors are negative predictors of sensation seeking. Yildirim-Yenier, Vingilis,
333 Wiesenthal, Mann and Seeley (61) recommended that anti-speeding campaigns in
334 Canada should address factors such as competitive attitudes towards driving and
335 changes in attitude. We also found a negative relationship with Adjustable driver seat
336 lumbar support. In 1985, Bellmunt (62) explains that it is important to provide support
337 for the back vertebra (12a – 4a) and that the rest must prevent lateral swaying from side
338 to side when the driver is subjected to forces from the side. It is also important to ensure
339 that the drivers are not stuck in the same position (over time this is uncomfortable) and
340 that they can slightly shift their position.

341 The fifth hypothesis (Fatigue and Anxiety) was partially fulfilled since the
342 prediction model contains four variables: Commitment, Feedback from Job, Reward and
343 Age. Age and reward were found to be positive predictors. Along these lines,
344 Fernandes, Hatfield and Soames Job (63), in a sample of young drivers, found a
345 relationship between personality and attitudinal factors (age, gender, sensation seeking,
346 driver anger, emergency time, perceived personal risk, perceived costs, perceived
347 benefits and peer influence) in predicting speeding, drink driving, driving in a state of
348 fatigue, and not wearing a seat belt. These results highlight the importance of designing
349 individual road safety initiatives to address individual driving behaviors.

350 As far as Feedback from the Job is concerned, Gwyther and Holland (64) also
351 pointed out that self-regulation in driving increased with driver experience. Greater

352 experience behind the wheel facilitates higher levels of control over one's state of
353 anxiety, which in turn leads to safer behavior on the road. Useche et al. (21) showed
354 significant associations between measures of socio-labor variables, traffic accidents and
355 sanctions. Chen and Xie (15) consider that driving hours and breaks are closely related
356 to truck driver fatigue, which is a major contributor to truck accidents.

357 In conclusion, the results of this study contribute to our knowledge of driving
358 stress in various aspects. The dimensions of stress in drivers are partially predicted by
359 several variables. The variables with the greatest predictive capacity are: Commitment
360 vs Relaxed driving ($\Delta R^2 = .101$; $\beta = .135$), Danger prevention ($\Delta R^2 = .139$; $\beta = .342$)
361 and Fatigue and anxiety ($\Delta R^2 = .063$; $\beta = -.227$); Control vs Alertness & Vigilance
362 ($\Delta R^2 = .069$; $\beta = .278$); and Agreeableness vs. Sensation seeking ($\Delta R^2 = .047$; $\beta = -$
363 $.268$). Safety behind the wheel can therefore be affected by driving stress and road
364 accidents can be prevented.

365

366 **5. Implications**

367 Our findings present important practical implications for driver stress that should
368 be taken into account by passenger transportation companies in their strategic
369 management of human resources. It is important that those responsible for Human
370 Resources and Occupational Health assess the stress levels of professional drivers
371 beyond what is required by current legislation in order to reduce both the accident rate
372 and absenteeism. It is also necessary to prioritize Strategic Human Resources
373 Management to help employees achieve better psycho-social well-being. Moreover,
374 certain personality variables should be taken into account during selection and/or
375 internal promotion processes so that a good match between job position and chosen
376 candidate can be made.

377

378 **6. Limitations of the study**

379 This study presents several limitations: First, the data were obtained via self-
 380 report measures, which, according to Razavi (65), can lead to bias ranging from social
 381 desirability to lack of sincerity. Also, factors such as positive or negative affectivity can
 382 influence the type of responses participants may present (34). Secondly, the
 383 methodology should be examined as in some variables it may lead to biased results
 384 since the drivers may not be aware of the symptoms or the effects of the variable we are
 385 measuring. Future research should consider the use of qualitative information collection
 386 strategies that would enable better understanding of the characteristics of the work and
 387 the impact this may have on stress (driving shifts, time pressure, rest periods,
 388 performance, etc.).

389

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Table 1. *Descriptive statistics and reliability values with Cronbach's alpha coefficient.*

Variable	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	SD	α
TDS15_RD Relaxed driving	-3	12	4.98	3.39	.70
TDS15_PH Danger prevention	3	18	15.92	2.51	.73
TDS15_AS Alertness & Vigilance	3	18	14.54	3.13	.71
TDS15_TS Sensation seeking	3	18	6.90	3.32	.75
TDS15_FA Fatigue & anxiety	3	18	7.36	3.46	.70
<i>OP.EX Extraversion</i>	25	67	46.70	9.39	.86
<i>OP.CO Conscientiousness</i>	31	70	50.36	9.05	.77
<i>OP.AG Agreeableness</i>	20	79	50.49	11.48	.71
<i>OP.ES Emotional Stability</i>	25	66	48.95	9.10	.86
<i>OP.OE Openness Experience</i>	33	68	50.42	8.71	.81
IMP.F Functional Impulsivity	0	11	5.65	2.44	.75
IMP.D Dysfunctional Impuls.	0	11	3.12	2.50	.74
T18_TP Psychophysiological Dis.	6	30	11.32	3.71	.74
T18_SP Personal safety behaviors	6	30	22.36	4.90	.75
T18_SV Vehicle safety behaviors	14	30	24.85	3.80	.73
CPR Control	7	28	22.08	3.00	.71
CPR Commitment	10	28	22.14	3.63	.82
CPR Challenge	7	28	20.69	3.90	.86
JDS Skill Variety	5	21	14.35	3.38	.77
JDS Task Identity	5	21	16.31	3.82	.75
JDS Task Significance	5	21	13.42	2.76	.72
JDS Autonomy	5	21	12.81	2.72	.73
JDS Feedback from job	7	21	13.74	2.18	.71
JDS Feedback from agents	3	21	11.61	2.76	.74
JDS Dealing with others	4	21	14.57	3.06	.77
ERI Effort	0	6	3.32	.87	.74
ERI Reward	0	9	4.16	1.58	.81
ERI Imbalance	1	6	3.61	.89	.81

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579 Table 2. Summary of the prediction models for the five TDS-38 criterion variables.

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PREDICTIVE VARIABLES	Factor 1 Relaxed driving		Factor 2 Danger prevention		Factor 3 Alertness & Vigilance		Factor 4 Sensation seeking		Factor 5 Fatigue & anxiety	
	ΔR^2 Corrected	β	ΔR^2 Corrected	β	ΔR^2 Corrected	β	ΔR^2 Corrected	B	ΔR^2 Corrected	β
	<i>OP.CO Conscientiousness</i>	---	---	.023	.166	---	---	---	---	---
<i>OP.AG Agreeableness</i>	---	---	---	---	---	---	.047	-.268	---	---
CPR Commitment	.101	.135	.139	.342	---	---	---	---	.063	-.227
CPR Challenge	.022	.196	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
CPR Control	---	---	---	---	.069	.278	---	---	---	---
IMP.D Dysfunctional Impuls.	.014	-.135	---	---	---	---	.023	.187	---	---
JDS Task Identity	.026	.198	.018	.148	---	---	---	---	---	---
JDS Feedback from job	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	.044	-.187
JDS Feedback from agents	---	---	---	---	.029	-.182	---	---	---	---
ERI Effort	---	---	.025	.168	---	---	---	---	---	---
ERI Reward	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	.016	.166
ERI Imbalance	---	---	---	---	---	---	.022	.193	---	---
T18_SP Personal safety behaviors	.043	.185	---	---	.049	.229	.054	-.161	---	---
Age	.021	.155	---	---	---	---	.094	-.233	.014	.135
Driver seat adjustable lumbar support	---	---	---	---	---	---	.012	-.129	---	---
Total explained variance (%)	22.7		20.5		14.7		25.2		13.5	

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