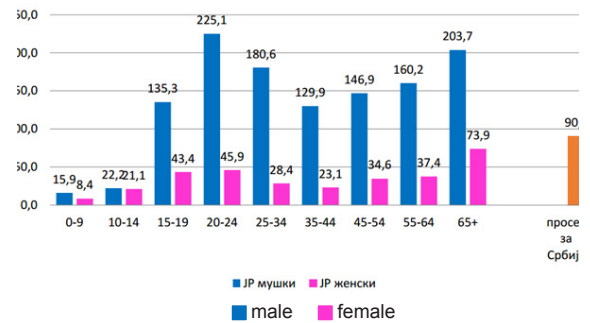
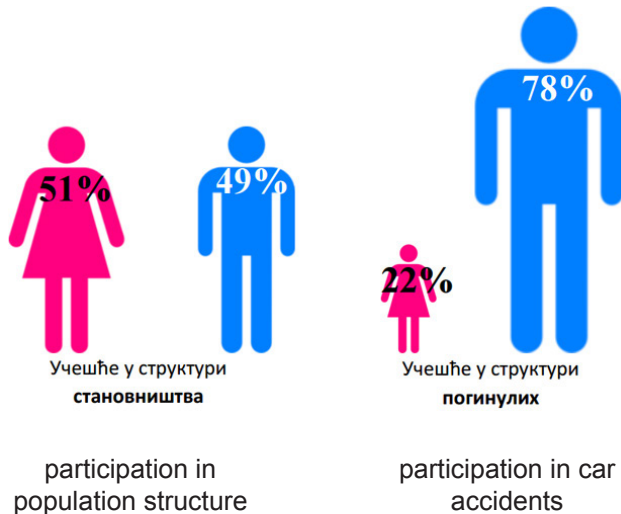


Female drivers, safe roads

The statistics of car accidents for the period of four years released by ABS Serbia has shown a small number of car accidents caused by women in comparison to men. As the findings show, 78 percent of all accidents in which pedestrians were seriously hurt or killed in this time period involved men drivers.



Especially critical group involves young men aged from 20 to 24 and the most common crash causes are speeding and non use of the protection systems (such as the seat belt). As concluded by the study, both violations are dominantly done by male drivers. Females are less likely to get a traffic ticket and are more obedient to safety measures as the Politika survey points out.

The statistics about male and female drivers match findings in some other countries as well. According to a research in Ireland (ETSC, 2013), seven out of ten women between the age of 18 and 24 that died in a car accident, died in a car driven by a man from the same age group. One of the campaigns that was organized in response to these gender specific findings was called "He drives, she dies". The primary intent of the campaign was to target young men as the most critical group and to raise awareness about their responsibility as drivers.

Despite numerous statistics, a common myth and old stereotype of inept women drivers is still dominant in Serbia. The myth is based on the particularity that men are more likely to take risks while driving which is seen as a sign of high control. However, the findings demonstrate that there is not enough vehicle control by male drivers and that female commitment to safety shows as more valuable. Moreover, experts from certain European countries show that the gap in the percentage of male and female drivers involved in car accidents holds even when we take into the account the fact that men drive more than women (ETCC, 2013). In addition to participating in a number of accidents, men tend to violate traffic rules earlier in their driving career and do it more often than females, especially when it comes to speeding.

All these studies show that female drivers cause significantly less car accidents than men and that we should probably take them as an example for teaching new generations of drivers.