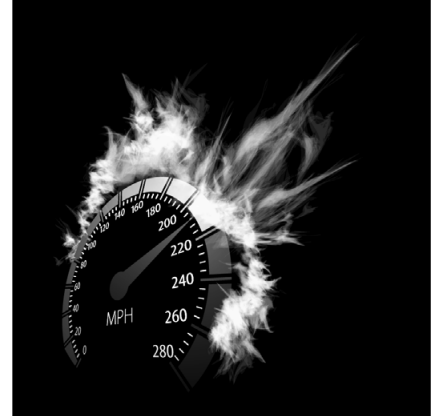


Do films make drivers Faster and Furious?

adapted from an article by James Ball

- 1 A paper by Dr Anupam Jena of Harvard Medical School has suggested films in the Fast and Furious franchise may be responsible for drivers hitting the accelerator too hard.
- 2 Jena unearthed details from 200,000 US speeding tickets that had been posted online, and studied those issued in the week following the release of films in the franchise. The research didn't find any increase in the number of tickets issued, but did find that the average speed on the tickets increased markedly.
- 3 The logic is fairly straightforward: people who have recently seen a film centred around wooden actors driving cars at high speed cannot help but imitate that behaviour.
- 4 But there are a few reasons to treat the research with caution.
- 5 The first is a trap that this research manages not to fall into: all too often it is tempting to look at people who have seen the film, and people who haven't, and see which group drives faster. When your research then shows that the moviegoers drive faster, you have got your result: films cause speeding. **43** it's people who like driving fast cars that go to see those kind of movies. This would put a different slant on things.
- 6 By looking at all speeding tickets, this study suggests the movie may have an impact in the real world. But today's millennial generation has grown up with more on-screen violence, drinking, drug use and sex than any other.
- 7 So are today's youth violent, sex-mad drug fiends? Far from it.



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