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Driver Safety – Values Are Important

You probably wouldn't think a person's values would be a significant factor in whether he or she would be a safe driver.

But research shows they are.

Behavioral Values Research Associates conducted a safety study in 1993 on railway maintenance workers, people whose job certainly requires safety practices and attention to detail. The study showed no significant differences between the injured and non-injured workers based on their level of safety training. There were significant differences in their behavioral styles and values.

Workers who ranked high in the Social (Humanitarian) values had better safety records than those low in this value. The high Social driver has a passion for serving others and being sensitive to their needs. So, they tend to look out for others and be hesitant to do anything that would endanger people.

The high Social driver will sometimes even neglect themselves and their needs to help others. They go the extra mile (pun intended) to help, protect, and serve. They do this naturally because they believe as Einstein did that, "Only a life in the service of others is worth living."

The company that provided the behavioral and values assessments for the BVRA study is Target Training International in Scottsdale, Arizona. As a TTI Certified Professional Behavioral and Values Analyst, I had a theory about values' relationship to safety which isn't mentioned in the research.

So, I called the president of TTI, Bill Bonnstetter, who many believe is the leading expert on behavior and values in America and perhaps the world, to get his opinion of my theory.

Bonnstetter agrees with me that when safety is concerned, it's also important that a driver rank low in the Individualistic (Power) value. Those who rank high in the Individualistic value are passionate about having power and control over situations and other people. They are the kind of driver who would take unnecessary risks on the highway. They see themselves as King (or Queen) of the Road and literally have a "my way or the highway" attitude. They want their way and they will get it.

Companies, our clients included, have cut their accident rates and costs drastically by adhering to the results of the BVRA safety study. They use the behavioral and values assessments to pre-screen driver applicants and hire only those who fit the profiles.

Many articles have been written that show a growing number of American businesses and industries have realized the importance of and are using pre-employment screening assessments to determine applicants' behavioral styles and values and match the right person to the job.

The applications of this knowledge of people has improved companies' hiring practices, team productivity, leadership development, management skills, employee retention and as a result, their bottom line. They save a lot of money by hiring and retaining the best people.

Transportation companies that hire fleet drivers have done the same. And most importantly, have saved lives.

Our benchmarking and pre-employment screening process can save your company hundreds of thousands of dollars in potential losses. Annette Estes is a Certified Professional Behavioral and Values Analyst, Coach, and Consultant, specializing in helping companies hire safe workers. She is a professional speaker, award-winning columnist, and author of the book, [Why Can't You See it My Way? Resolving Values Conflicts at Work and Home](#)

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