

Bruce Simons-Morton, Ed.D., MPH

Senior Research Scientist, VTTI

Emeritus Senior Investigator, NICHD, NIH

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Education

B.A., University of California, Santa Barbara, CA	Political Science	July 1968
Ed.D., University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, CO	Health Education	July 1976
MPH, The Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene & Public Health, Baltimore, MD	Behavioral Science	July 1981
Postdoctoral Fellow, The Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene & Public Health, Baltimore, MD	Behavioral Science	July 1983

Professional Experience

2019 – Present	Senior Research Scientist and Program Director, Impaired Driving Research, Evaluation, and Analyses, Virginia Tech Transportation Institute, Blacksburg, VA
2019 – Present	Emeritus Scientist, Division of Intramural Research, NICHD, NIH
2014 – 2018	Adjunct Professor, University of New South Wales, Sydney
2013 – 2017	Associate Director for Prevention, NICHD
1992 – 2019	Senior Investigator, NICHD
1992 – 2015	Chief, Health Behavior Branch, DESPR, NICHD, NIH
1988 – 1992	Professor, University of Texas School of Public Health, Houston, TX
1983 – 1992	Associate Professor, University of Texas Health Science Center, Galveston, TX
1976 – 1980	Assistant Professor, Temple University, Department of Health Education

Key Qualifications

During the past three decades as an intramural researcher at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Dr. Simons-Morton developed research programs focused on adolescent and young adult substance use and driving, for which he was awarded the 2019 NIH Director's Award for Excellence. This research included the assessment of individual, social, and environmental influences on health behaviors, including substance use and driving. His work on teenage driving includes observational, survey, naturalistic, and experimental studies; his research on adolescent and young adult substance use, impaired driving, and related risk behaviors comprises survey and multi-level intervention trials. Dr. Simons-Morton's research has also focused on risk assessment and the development and evaluation of effective interventions.

For more than 20 years within the NICHD, Dr. Simons-Morton studied aspects of teen driving to examine the social and behavioral nature of driving for this vulnerable group and their families. As the

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senior investigator of the NEXT Generation Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, which followed a nationally representative cohort of 10th graders for seven years, he led a team that examined the over-time patterns and influences on adolescent and young adult behaviors—including substance use, diet, physical activity, and sleep—and driving, including aggressive and distracted driving, as well as driving or riding while impaired. He has conducted and published numerous literature reviews and state of the science papers and conducted analyses of FARS data that also required combining data from the National Household Transportation Survey (Ouimet, Simons-Morton, et al., 2010). This prior research, combined with a national urgency to mitigate these issues, have led to his current research focus on impaired driving.

Selected Publications (of 300+ scientific publications, 20 books and chapters)

- Ouimet MC, **Simons-Morton BG**, Zador PL, Lerner ND, Freedman M, Duncan GD, Wang J. Using the U.S. National Household Travel Survey to estimate the impact of passenger characteristics on young drivers' relative risk of fatal crash involvement. *Accident Analysis and Prevention*. 2010; 42(2):689-694.
- Li K, Ochoa E, Vaca FE, **Simons-Morton B**. Emerging Adults Riding With Marijuana-, Alcohol-, or Illicit Drug-Impaired Peer and Older Drivers. *J Stud Alcohol Drugs*. 2018;79(2):277-285. PMID: [29553357](#). PMCID: [PMC6019775](#).
- Gershon P, Sita KR, Zhu C, Ehsani JP, Klauer SG, Dingus TA, **Simons-Morton BG**. (2019). Distracted Driving, Visual Inattention, and Crash Risk Among Teenage Drivers. *Am J Prev Med*. S0749-3797(18)32450-4. doi: 10.1016/PMID: 30799162
- Simons-Morton B.G., Bingham, C.R., Li, K., Zhu, C., Buckley, L., Falk, E., Shope, JT. (2019). The effect of teenage passengers on simulated risky driving among teenagers: A randomized trial. *Front. Psychol.*, 30 (10); 923. April 2019 | PMID: 31133918 <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2019.00923>
- Fairman, B. Haynie D., Goldstein, R., **Simons-Morton, B.G.**, Gilman, S. (2019). Neighborhood Context and Binge Drinking from Adolescence into Early Adulthood in a US National Cohort. *Intl J Epidemiology*. PMID: 31263877
- Korn, L., Haynie, D., Luk, J., **Simons-Morton, B.G.** (in press). Attitudes, subjective norms, and perceived behavioral control associated with age of first use of cannabis in a national sample of U.S. adolescents. *J Schl Hlth*.
- Simons-Morton B**. Driving in Search of Analyses. *Statistics in Medicine*. 2017; 36(24):3763-3771. PMID: [28699210](#). PMCID: [PMC5624822](#)
- Ehsani JP, Klauer SG, Zhu C, Gershon P, Dingus TA, **Simons-Morton BG**. Naturalistic Assessment of the Learner License Period. *Accident Analysis and Prevention*. 2017; 106:275-284. PMID: [28654843](#). PMCID: [PMC5610634](#)
- Trevidi N, Haynie D, Bible J, Liu D, **Simons-Morton B**. Cell phone use while driving: prospective association with emerging adult use. *Accident Analysis and Prevention*. 2017; 106:450-455. PMID: [28735180](#). PMCID: [PMC5610622](#)
- Li Q, Guo F, **Simons-Morton BG**. Evaluation of risk change-point for novice teenage drivers. *Accident Analysis and Prevention*. 2017; 108:139-146. PMID: [28881279](#). PMCID: [PMC5644313](#)

- Ehsani JP, Haynie D, Ouimet MC, Zhu C, Guillaume C, Klauer SG, Dingus T, **Simons-Morton BG**. Teen drivers' awareness of vehicle instrumentation in naturalistic research. *Journal of Safety Research*. 2017; 63:127-134. PMID: [29203010](#). PMCID: [PMC5728669](#)
- Gershon P, Zhu C, Klauer SG, Dingus T, **Simons-Morton B**. Teens' distracted driving behavior: prevalence and predictors. *Journal of Safety Research*. 2017; 63:157-161. PMID: [29203014](#). PMCID: [PMC6198653](#).
- Li Q, Guo F, Kim I, Klauer SG, **Simons-Morton BG**. A Bayesian finite mixture change-point model for assessing the risk of novice teenage drivers. *Journal of Applied Statistics*. 2018; 45(4):604-625. PMID: [29375174](#). PMCID: [PMC5784858](#)
- O'Brien F, **Simons-Morton B**, Chaurasia A, Luk J, Haynie D, Liu D. Post-high school changes in tobacco and cannabis use in the United States. *Substance Use and Misuse*. 2018; 53(1):26-35. PMID: [28742412](#). PMCID: [PMC6300995](#).
- Simons-Morton B**, Haynie D, Bible J, Liu D. Prospective Associations of Actual and Perceived Descriptive Norms with Drinking Among Emerging Adults. *Substance Use and Misuse*. 2018; 1-11. PMID: [29400594](#). PMCID: [PMC6146965](#).
- Wasylyshyn N, Hemenway Falk B, Garcia JO, Cascio CN, O'Donnell MB, Bingham CR, **Simons-Morton B**, Vettel JM, Falk EB. Global brain dynamics during social exclusion predict subsequent behavioral conformity. *Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience*. 2018; 13(2):182-191. PMID: [29529310](#). PMCID: [PMC5827351](#)
- Gershon P, Ehsani J, Zhu C, O'Brien F, Klauer S, Dingus T, **Simons-Morton B**. Vehicle ownership and other predictors of teenagers risky driving behavior: Evidence from a naturalistic driving study. *Accident Analysis and Prevention*. 2018; 118:96-101. PMID: [29890369](#). PMCID: [PMC6198648](#).
- Korn L, Haynie DL, Luk JW, **Simons-Morton BG**. Prospective associations between cannabis use and negative and positive health and social measures among emerging adults. *International Journal on Drug Policy*. 2018; 58:55-63. PMID: [29807247](#)
- Kar IN, Guillaume C, Sita KR, Gershon P, **Simons-Morton BG**. U.S. Adolescent Street Racing and Other Risky Driving Behaviors. *Journal of Adolescent Health*. 2018; 62(5):626-629. PMID: [29709225](#). PMCID: [PMC6211164](#).
- Freidlin RZ, Dave AD, Espey BG, Stanley ST, Garmendia MA, Pursley R, Ehsani JP, **Simons-Morton BG**, Pohida TJ. Measuring Risky Driving Behavior Using an mHealth Smartphone App: Development and Evaluation of gForce. *JMIR Mhealth and Uhealth*. 2018; 6(4):e69. PMID: [29674309](#). PMCID: [PMC5934540](#)
- Kar IN, Haynie DL, Luk JW, **Simons-Morton BG**. Personal Income and Substance Use among Emerging Adults in the United States. *Substance Use and Misuse*. 2018;53(12):1984-1996. PMID: [29578821](#)
- Perlus, J., O'Brien, F., Haynie, D., **Simons-Morton, B.G.** Adolescent sleep insufficiency one year after high school. *J Adolesc*. 2018;68:165-170. PMID:[30098487](#). PMCID: [PMC6146046](#).
- Luk JW, Sita KR, Gilman SE, Goldstein RB, Haynie DL, **Simons-Morton BG**. Adolescent Sexual Orientation and Developmental Transition in Emerging Adulthood: Disparities in School, Work, Residence, and Transportation. *J Adolesc Health*. 2018;63(5):649-651. PMID: [30077549](#).
- Ehsani, J. P., Zhu, C., Klauer, S., Gershon, P., **Simons-Morton, B.G.** Parent and Teen Factors Associated with the Amount and Variety of Supervised Practice Driving. *Safety Science*. 2018.

Gershon, P., Ehsani, J.P., Zhu, C., Sita, K.R., Klauer, S., Dingus, T., **Simons-Morton, B.** Crash risk and risky driving behavior among adolescent during learner and independent driving periods. *Journal of Adolescent Health*. 2018;63(5):568-574.

Fairman, B. J., **Simons-Morton, B.**, Haynie, D. L., Liu, D., Goldstein, R. B., & Gilman, S. E. (2019). State Alcohol Policies, Taxes, and Availability as Predictors of Adolescent Binge Drinking Trajectories into Early Adulthood. *Addiction*. PMID: 30830991, DOI: 10.1111/add.14600

Complete list of published work: <http://www.nichd.nih.gov/about/org/diphr/hbb/Pages/default.aspx>

Other Recent Professional Service

2011 – 2018	Chair, TRB Operator Education and Regulation Committee
2019	Visiting Scholar, Royal Automobile Club Foundation, London, England