Safety Culture Measurement Among Chinese Undergraduates at a Private University: Development and Validation

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Relatively low level of safety culture among undergraduates and the imperfection of safety management system for students in university result in numerous safety problems. Researches on the safety culture of undergraduates in public universities are much more than those in private universities. Aiming to find out the potential and specific factors that affect the safety culture in the former are different from those in the latter, an anonymous questionnaire survey was conducted among 4,531 students in a private university in Shaanxi province, China. Gender, education background, grade, hometown, one-child policy, major, community, and driver’s license on their safety beliefs and behaviors are treated as potential factors in the survey. According to the average score of each item, the investigated private university students are lack of safety knowledge, but perform well in traffic safety behavior. The results show that female students show better safety beliefs and safety behaviors than male students whilst the safety beliefs and safety behaviors of the student majoring in medicine is better than those of students in other majors. The students who live in more developed cities, who are from one-child family and who have driving license, show better safety beliefs and safety behaviors than others. The effective community system of mixed majors is conducive to the formation of good safety beliefs and safety behaviors of college students. The results highlighted that universities should formulate the corresponding intervention strategies to prevent safety problems of the college students according to the specific proportion of gender, major distribution and other actual situation.

Keywords: safety beliefs, safety behaviors, private universities, Chinese universities, questionnaire

INTRODUCTION

With an increasing number of students in universities and many complex factors leading to disasters, the cultivation of safety beliefs and safety behaviors has been getting increased attention in universities. However, at the present stage, relatively low level of safety culture among undergraduates and the imperfection of safety management system for students in university result in numerous safety problems. In recent years, many safety accidents in campus have been reported at home and abroad, such as dormitory fire (killing 41 undergraduates and injuring nearly 200
undergraduates in the dormitory building of Peoples’ Friendship University of Russia in 2003\(^1\)), terrorism (killing 33 undergraduates and teachers in Virginia Tech which is the most serious campus shooting in the United States so far in 2007\(^2\)), lab explosion (killing one undergraduate and injuring four in a laboratory explosion at China University of Mining and Technology in 2015\(^3\)). These catastrophic accidents remind universities the importance of safety belief and behavior among the undergraduates.

Safety belief is the most basic idea to personal judgement in safety. Dong et al. (1) had made a classification summary of the accidents that occurred in universities from 2010 to 2015. The results show that the main factors that lead to safety accidents are the lack of safety belief. Jing and Wu (2) pointed out that the university students have a strong belief in safety, but their crisis awareness is relatively weak. Feng et al. (3) put forward the component relational network model using social network analysis (SNA) to improve the security management mechanism of universities. Yang and Li (4) identified the causes of safety accidents in universities through Systems-Theoretic Accident Model and Process (STAMP) accident model and process method.

Safety behavior depends on safety belief, but it is hard to turn safety belief into safety behavior easily. Walters et al. (5) pointed out that although students have a belief of safety, there are deficiencies in identification and emergency response when hazards occur, which need more guidance from universities to improve safety behavior of students. Wu et al. (6) and Qin (7) proposed that safety accident experience and safety training have practical significance on safety behaviors, and suggested that universities should carry out regular safety training to improve students’ response ability. Li et al. (8) revealed various factors affecting safe behavior of college students. Thamrin et al. (9) concluded that many students working part-time off campus are prone to traffic safety accident. It should be mentioned that different from foreign universities studied by Thamrin et al. (9), most of the college students in Chinese universities live in campus. Reesi et al. (10) studied the risk driving behavior of students in Oman University, and concluded that it is necessary to integrate road safety into the field education.

At present, most of the researches on the safety culture of undergraduates are based on public universities. In the past decades, private universities in China have been developing rapidly, but still in their beginning stage. On the contrary, the number of the students in private universities of China is actually large. Relatively lower entrance threshold to private universities in China may lead to different safety culture level among the students, compared to those in the public universities. According to the statistical results of Wang and Wu (11), researches on the safety culture of undergraduates in public universities are much more than those in private universities. Moreover, the sample size of field survey on the safety culture of undergraduates is usually small.

Aiming to find out more potential and specific factors that affect the safety culture in Chinese private university and the difference between public university and private university with larger sample size, this study focuses on the safety culture (beliefs and behaviors) among Chinese undergraduates in a private university of Shaanxi province, which is the largest one in the northeast of China. The data is collected through anonymous online questionnaire survey. The correlation between the basic information and safety culture is by ANOVA and SPSS26 was used for data analysis. The reliability and validity evaluation are conducted through Cronbach’s α and factor analysis, respectively. After analyzing the significant factors influencing the safety culture of private college students, some suggestions are made to improve the safety culture of private college students.

**METHODOLOGY**

**Instrument**

Before the formal investigation, the professors whose specialties involved safety education at universities and who acquainted with the research in safety culture area were invited to participate in the development of the questionnaires items. After the trial and first-run exploratory factor analysis, some of the ambiguous and offensive items related to personal finances and religious belief were deleted. The items were guaranteed to not load at any factors or loading not exceed 0.4 in the factor analysis. Total 39 items related to the safety beliefs and safety behaviors of undergraduates were obtained as listed in Table 1, which include 8 items related to safety knowledge, 8 items related to interaction safety behavior, 8 items related to traffic safety behavior and 15 items related to campus safety behavior. A five-point Likert scale (1-Never, 2-Rarely, 3- Sometimes, 4-Most, 5-Always) was used to quantify the measurement of each item.

In addition, 8 personal basic information items of the undergraduates, including gender, educational background, grade, hometown, one-child policy, major, community, and driver’s license, were collected through questionnaire to investigate how much the correlation between the basic information and safety culture is by ANOVA. SPSS26 was used for data analysis.

It should be mentioned that the community system is a type of management mode in universities. In the private university of this research, six communities were involved, including Major-Mixed community 1 (MM-C1), Major-Mixed community 2 (MM-C2), community preparing for the postgraduate entrance test (PPE-C), Art community (A-C), Liberal arts specialty community (LAS-C) and Science specialty community (SS-C). The last two are for junior college education.

**Subjects**

The survey was carried out in the largest private university in the northwest of China. Formal survey was conducted

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\(^1\)ChinaCourt.org. The Death Toll from the Fire at the People’s Friendship University of Russia Rose to 41 (2003). Available online at: https://www.chinaCourt.org/article/detail/2003/12/id/95301.shtml (accessed December 10, 2003).

\(^2\)CCTV.com. The Alarm Rings Again: Issues Brought About by the "4.16" Shooting on American University Campuses (2007). Available online at: http://news.cctv.com/world/20070418/102677.shtml (accessed April 4, 2007).

\(^3\)Sohu.com. One Dead and Five Injured in Laboratory Explosion at China University of Mining and Technology (2015). Available online at: http://news.sohu.com/20150408/n410930329.shtml (accessed April 8, 2015).
| Category                          | Project                                      | Item  |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-------|
| Basic information of the respondents | 1. Gender                                   | Q1    |
|                                  | 2. Grade                                    | Q2    |
|                                  | 3. Hometown                                  | Q3    |
|                                  | 4. Education background                     | Q4    |
|                                  | 5. Major                                    | Q5    |
|                                  | 6. Community                                 | Q6    |
|                                  | 7. Only child                                | Q7    |
|                                  | 8. Driver’s license                          | Q8    |
| Safety knowledge (self-thinking and learning) | 9. Do you often imagine yourself encountering safety problems and think about some countermeasures? | QA1  |
|                                  | 10. Do you pay special attention to the news of terrorist attacks and learn some self-defense measures? | QA2  |
|                                  | 11. Do you pay special attention to the fire news and learn some fire escape knowledge? | QA3  |
|                                  | 12. Do you pay special attention to the earthquake disaster news and learn some escape methods? | QA4  |
|                                  | 13. Do you pay special attention to food safety issues and learn some food safety knowledge? | QA5  |
|                                  | 14. Do you actively participate in safety training courses or activities organized by the university? | QA6  |
|                                  | 15. Do you deliberately avoid construction sites? | QA7  |
|                                  | 16. When you come to a strange place, will you deliberately observe the location of fire equipment and safety exits? | QA8  |
| Interaction safety behavior      | 17. Do you alert others when they are engaging in dangerous behavior or using dangerous substances? | QD1  |
|                                  | 18. Do you double-check your belongings in crowded places? | QD2  |
|                                  | 19. Do you take the initiative to smooth over the conflict with your roommate or classmates? | QD3  |
|                                  | 20. When you suffer from mental stress or distress, do you talk to your teachers or classmates? | QD4  |
|                                  | 21. Are you particularly concerned about people who behave strangely around you in crowded places? | QD5  |
|                                  | 22. When you travel to strange places, do you look for some companions? | QD6  |
|                                  | 23. When you go out alone, do you deliberately tell your roommates or friends where you are going? | QD7  |
|                                  | 24. Before saying yes to a stranger’s request to borrow your change or use your cell phone, do you worry about the stranger’s true intentions? | QD8  |
| Traffic safety behavior         | 25. When walking down the street, do you always observe and pay attention to traffic or other safety conditions around you? | QJ1  |
|                                  | 26. Do you check traffic to the left and right when crossing the street? | QJ2  |
|                                  | 27. Do you wait for traffic lights when no vehicle is passing? | QJ3  |
|                                  | 28. When you’re alone walking or riding a bike, do you keep focused, instead of listening to audio or thinking? | QJ4  |
|                                  | 29. Do you wear helmet and other protective gear when riding a bike/e-bike/motorcycle? | QJ5  |
|                                  | 30. Do you deliberately avoid going the wrong side of road when riding a bike/e-bike/motorcycle? | QJ6  |
|                                  | 31. Do you prefer regular taxis and public transportation to carpooling and Uber? | QJ7  |
|                                  | 32. Do you always use seat belts while driving or riding in a vehicle? | QJ8  |
| Campus safety behavior          | 33. Do you always advise other students to avoid illegal campus loans? | QX1  |
|                                  | 34. Do you pay special attention to the news of campus safety incidents? | QX2  |
|                                  | 35. Do you pay as much attention to the safety on campus as you are off campus? | QX3  |
|                                  | 36. Do you avoid walking alone at night no matter on and off campus? | QX4  |
|                                  | 37. Do you strictly follow laboratory rules, even if it may cause inconvenience? | QX5  |
|                                  | 38. Do you deliberately avoid using high-power electrical equipment in your dormitory? | QX6  |
|                                  | 39. Do you keep your hands dry when you plug electrical equipment in or out? | QX7  |
|                                  | 40. Do you deliberately lock your closet in your dorm room? | QX8  |
|                                  | 41. Do you lock the door when you leave the dorm room for a short time? | QX9  |
|                                  | 42. Do you check the switch of electrical equipment when you leave the room? | QX10 |
|                                  | 43. Do you avoid running into or out of an elevator that is closing? | QX11 |
|                                  | 44. Do you walk on the right side of the stairs? | QX12 |
|                                  | 45. Do you pay special attention to fire equipment and evacuation exits in your daily study or living places? | QX13 |
|                                  | 46. Do you avoid stimulating or dangerous sports and activities? | QX14 |
|                                  | 47. Do you warm up before exercise (swimming, ball games, etc.)? | QX15 |
TABLE 2 | Summary of questionnaire processing.

| Number | % |
|--------|---|
| Effective quantity | 4,478 | 98.83 |
| Exclude | 53 | 1.17 |
| Total | 4,531 | 100.00 |

TABLE 3 | Evaluation principles for Cronbach’s α.

| Cronbach’s α | Used for a global scale analysis |
|--------------|----------------------------------|
| <0.50        | Awful, abandoned                 |
| 0.50 0.59    | Bad, should be modified          |
| 0.60 0.69    | Reluctantly acceptable, should be modified |
| 0.70 0.79    | Acceptable                       |
| 0.80 0.89    | Good                             |
| >0.90        | Excellent                        |

Reliability and Validity Evaluation

Reliability

Cronbach’s α ranging in 0–1 (12) is used to measure the internal consistency reliability coefficient of the questionnaire items of the five level Likert scale. Cronbach’s α could be described as Equation (1):

$$\alpha = \frac{k}{k-1} \left(1 - \frac{\sum s_i^2}{s_T^2} \right)$$  \hspace{1cm} (1)

where $k$ is the total number of items in the scale. $s_i^2$ is the intra-class variance of the score of the question $i$. $s_T^2$ is the variance of the total score of all items.

Table 3 shows the evaluation principles of internal consistency reliability coefficient based on the research of Nunally and Bernstein (13) and DeVellis (14).

Cronbach’s α of the questionnaire in this study is calculated through SPSS 26. It should be noted that 8 basic information items are not involved in the measurement of the scale and it is not necessary to conduct the reliability test and validity test of those items (15). As Table 4 lists, the Cronbach’s α for 39 items in the questionnaire is 0.961, which is “Excellent” grades listed in Table 3 which indicates that the questionnaire in this study can be used for follow-up analysis.

Validity

Factor analysis is the most commonly used statistical method for validity evaluation. Before conducting factor analysis, Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin’s Measure of sampling adequacy (KMO) and Bartlett’s Test of Sphericity should be conducted in SPSS. The evaluation principles of KMO are shown in Table 5 (16).

Table 6 presents that the KMO value for questionnaire is 0.967, which is “Marvelous” grade listed in Table 5. The chi-square test value in Bartlett’s test of sphericity is 111102.743 which is relatively large. The corresponding significance is 0.00 < 0.05 at which level, the original hypothesis can be rejected. It shows that the possibility of sharing common factors among items is low, which is suitable for factor analysis.

In the results of factor analysis, the main indicators used to evaluate the validity are commonality and cumulative variance contribution rate. If the commonality is > 0.4, it is acceptable. The cumulative variance contribution rate is more than 50%, which indicates that the effect of factor analysis is good.

According to Table A1 in Appendix A, the commonality of items in the corresponding factors is > 0.4, which shows that the extracted factors can well reflect most of the information of the original variables. According to Table A2 in Appendix A, the cumulative variance contribution rate of the questionnaire is 59.329% > 50%. It shows that the five parts of the questionnaire can extract most of the item information, which indicates that the validity of the research data is good.
RESULTS

Figure 1 shows the basic information of respondents. In particular, regarding community, 16, 35, 20, and 7% of the respondents are MM-C1M (Major-Mixed community 1), MM-C2 (Major-Mixed community 2), PPE-C (Community preparing for the postgraduate entrance test), and A-C (Art community), respectively, whilst 10 and 12% of the respondents are LAS-C (Liberal arts specialty community) and SS-C (Science specialty community) students, respectively. Basic information generally maintains a proportionate balance. As a result, the questionnaire which is effective and credible can be used for ANOVA.

Figure 2 shows that the score of the items related to safety knowledge in this study is low, indicating that the safety knowledge of the investigated students is not enough. Q15 (Do you wear helmet and other protective gear when riding a bike/e-bike/motorcycle?) gets lowest scores in this research. This may result from that young people tend to find it inconvenient or uncomfortable to wear helmets. In the research of Blair et al. (17), up to 71% of the respondents did not wear helmets, however wearing helmets can reduce the risk of serious head injury by 85%. It is not only necessary for the government to improve the policies to punish the behaviors violating the road safety rules, but also to strengthen the safety culture norms of students, so as to eliminate the practice of engaging...
in unsafe driving. QX8 (Do you deliberately lock your closet in your dorm room?) gets the second lowest scores in this research. This may result from the fact that the overall safety environment of the investigated private university which runs closed campus management, is quite good. The respondents tend to trust their roommates. In addition, the respondents may also feel that locking their own closet will show distrustful gesture to the roommates. The reason for the third lowest score of question QA2 (Do you pay special attention to the news of terrorist attacks and learn some self-defense measures?) may be that the gun control and anti-terrorism policies of Chinese government are quite restrict, resulting in excellent social stability and environmental security in China. The fourth lowest score of QD4 (When you suffer from mental stress or distress, do you tell your teachers or classmates?) may be due to the fact that college students are commonly sensitive and vulnerable. They are unwilling to share their troubles with others, worried about being discriminated by teachers and classmates, instead of being understood, namely “mental health stigma problem”. It may also be that Chinese people are introverted and prefer to talk to their relatives. It is suggested that universities should strengthen propaganda to reduce mental health stigma problem among college students, letting them accept psychological counseling and establish correct cognition of psychological help (18, 19).

On the contrary, the respondents did better in the following items. The scores of QJ2 (Do you check traffic to the left and right when crossing the street?) and QJ3 (Do you wait for traffic lights when no vehicle is passing?) are very high. The popularization of traffic safety education in primary and secondary schools has played a good role in the safety behavior of college students. Meanwhile, it may be that when college students cross the road, they would be affected by the people around them who obey the traffic rules (20). The score of QX6 (Do you deliberately avoid using high-power electrical equipment in your dormitory?) from Chinese private university students in this study is high, whilst in the investigation of Hasan and Younos (21), the awareness of foreign students on electricity safety is very poor. This high score of QX6 reflects the good effect of the apartment management work on banning the use of illegal electrical equipment in Chinese universities. Certainly it is also possible that the students who answered the questions were afraid of being found to have violated this rule, and intentionally
choose “always”. The high score of Q18 (Do you always use seat belts while driving or riding in a vehicle?) may be due to the relevant laws on seat belts issued by China's transportation department, which force the front-row passengers to use seat belts. If not, they will be fined and even affect the validity of their driver's license. It can be seen that the mandatory traffic laws could directly affect the traffic safety beliefs and behaviors of people.

**DISCUSSIONS**

SPSS26 is used for ANOVA and the results are shown in Table 7 (22). The results of ANOVA show that educational background and grade are without significant effect on the safety belief and behavior of college students (Sig. > 0.05), similar to the survey findings for the college students in United States from Blair et al. (17). In contrast, gender, hometown, one-child policy, major and driver’s license have significant influence on the safety beliefs and safety behaviors of college students (Sig. < 0.05).

Regarding gender, it is found that female students show better safety belief and behavior than male students, which is consistent with the survey results among college students in United States from Crowe (23) and in Bengal from Hasan and Younos (21). This fact may result from the difference in the characteristic between female and male students. Universities should provide safety education in the ways that can attract the interest of male students, such as the mobile-phone application or short video production competition of safety education.

From the comparison of average value, the hometown differences of college students lead to the different in their understanding of safety knowledge and the ways of dealing with safety problems. Generally, the students from developed cities could receive a better level of safety education, not only resulting from the fact that their family are normally in a good financial status, but also more safety problems would be encountered in developed cities. These results regarding hometown are also consistent with those from Hasan and Younos (21).

Regarding on the one-child policy, the respondents from only-child families show better safety culture than those having sibling(s). Since most of the one-child families are in the city, the effect of one-child policy is kind of in accordance to the effect of hometown in the questionnaire. In addition, parents of one-child families would pay more attention to the safety education of their child.

Regarding major, it is found that the students who major in science and have more safety knowledge shows better safety culture than the students majoring in liberal arts. Gong (24) also

| TABLE 7 | Analysis of variance of influencing factors. |
| --- | --- |
| Project | Number of cases | Average value | Std. Deviation | Std. Error | ANOVA | F | Sig. | Compare |
| Gender | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 2,388 | 155.45 | 22.991 | 0.470 | | 4.151 | 0.042 | Female>Male |
| Female | 2,090 | 156.92 | 25.378 | 0.555 | | | |
| Education background | | | | | | | | |
| Undergraduate | 3,312 | 156.34 | 23.762 | 0.413 | | | |
| Postgraduate | 170 | 156.61 | 23.140 | 1.791 | | | |
| Grade | | | | | | | | |
| Freshman | 1,322 | 155.68 | 24.298 | 0.668 | | 2.389 | 0.067 | P > 0.05 |
| Sophomore | 1,773 | 156.72 | 24.426 | 0.580 | | | |
| Junior | 1,103 | 156.58 | 23.750 | 0.715 | | | |
| Senior | 280 | 152.82 | 22.923 | 1.370 | | | |
| Hometown | | | | | | | | |
| Provincial capital | 835 | 159.45 | 23.495 | 0.813 | | 7.439 | 0.000 | Provincial capital>County/prefecture>Non-provincial capital city>countryside |
| Non provincial capital city | 755 | 155.43 | 24.237 | 0.882 | | | |
| County/prefecture level city | 1,563 | 156.06 | 24.681 | 0.624 | | | |
| Countryside | 1,325 | 154.54 | 23.669 | 0.850 | | | |
| Only child or not | | | | | | | | |
| Yes | 1,889 | 157.4 | 24.622 | 0.567 | | 8.934 | 0.003 | Yes>No |
| No | 2,589 | 155.21 | 23.750 | 0.467 | | | |
| Major | | | | | | | | |
| Science | 2,683 | 156.83 | 24.755 | 0.672 | | 5.199 | 0.039 | Science>Liberal arts |
| Liberal arts | 1,795 | 155.15 | 23.472 | 0.554 | | | |
| Community | | | | | | | | |
| MM-C2 | 1,586 | 157.76 | 23.886 | 0.599 | | 4.879 | 0.000 | MM-C2>MM-C1>SS-C>A-C>PPE-C>LAS-C |
| MM-C1 | 698 | 157.3 | 24.828 | 0.939 | | | |
| SS-C | 527 | 156.87 | 25.223 | 1.099 | | | |
| A-C | 321 | 154.13 | 24.002 | 1.34 | | | |
| PPE-C | 877 | 153.4 | 25.833 | 0.751 | | | |
| LAS-C | 469 | 153.4 | 25.833 | 1.192 | | | |
| Driver's license | | | | | | | | |
| Have | 1,587 | 158.43 | 24.235 | 0.608 | | 17.737 | 0.000 | Have>During the study>Don’t have |
| In the study | 1,217 | 156.78 | 23.872 | 0.684 | | | |
| Do not have | 1,674 | 153.49 | 24.010 | 0.587 | | | |
believes that medical students who have more safety knowledge from their daily learning would show better safety beliefs and safety behaviors than other major students. Therefore, it is suggested that the university should strengthen the development and diversity of safety culture courses, so as to increase the safety knowledge of each student and effectively avoid safety problems.

The advantage of community system is to break the boundary of major, and strengthen the communication among the students in different majors and cultural backgrounds. As shown in Table 7, the safety culture of the students from SS-C (Science specialty community of junior college) is much higher than that of the students from LAS-C (Liberal arts specialty community).
of the majority as shown in Figures 3, 4. MM-C1 (Major-Mixed community 1), M-C2 (Major-Mixed community 2), and PPE-C (Community preparing for the postgraduate entrance test) are all mixed major communities. The students from MM-C1 and MM-C2 show better safety belief and safety behavior than those from PPE-C. The reason may be that the education of PPE-C particularly focuses on the postgraduate entrance test, neglecting safety education. Obviously, the community management system has a significant impact on the safety culture of college students.

Regarding driver’s license, students who have obtained driver’s license get much higher score than others. Before the driving test, people usually have a weak understanding of the traffic laws and regulations. During the study for driver’s license, the safety belief and safety behavior of people would be greatly improved by learning the traffic laws and regulations. It indicates that the study of safety knowledge is very important to the cultivation of safety culture.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Based on the analysis of the results, it is recommended that safety culture measurement should be conducted before freshman enrollment and repeated every year since then to improve the safety administration and education procedure for university students. A dynamically updated database for the questionnaire items should be also developed. Specific methods for improving safety culture should be adopted for specific students. In the development of intervention strategies to prevent safety problems of the college students, more attention should be paid to the safety culture cultivation of male students. Considering that the safety culture level of medical students is generally high, it is suggested that the general safety course should be strengthened and diversified in daily teaching. The community management system also should be optimized to give full play to its advantages in the safety culture cultivation of college students.

Even though this measurement deals with pretty large sample size and considers more factors which have never been reported in previous studies, such as Community, One-child policy and Driver’s license, there are still some limitations of this study. The results of this measurement tool may show some deviation when it is used in more developed areas of China. After the abundance of One-child policy in China, this factor would show less and less influence on the safety culture of undergraduates.

**CONCLUSIONS**

In this study, 4,531 students from a private university in Shaanxi province, China responded to the questionnaire anonymously online. By means of ANOVA, the influence of eight factors including education background, grade, hometown, one-child policy, major, community and driver’s license, on their safety beliefs and safety behaviors was studied.

According to the average score of each item, the investigated private university students are lack of safety knowledge, but perform well in traffic safety behavior. Gender, hometown, one-child policy, major, community and driver’s license have significant influence on the safety beliefs and safety behaviors of the respondents, but education background and grade do not. Female student has better safety beliefs and safety behaviors than male student. Since medical students have received the training of safety culture in their daily learning, their safety beliefs and safety behaviors are better than that of other major students. The safety beliefs and safety behaviors of only child families and students who have obtained driver’s license are better than those of others. Under the community management system, each community has different major composition and cultural atmosphere, which is conducive to the formation of good safety beliefs and safety behaviors of students. The results highlighted that universities should formulate the corresponding intervention strategies to prevent safety problems of the college students according to the specific proportion of gender, major distribution and other actual situation.

To sum up, university safety administration and education is the key mean to improve risk avoidance ability of the college students and enhance their safety beliefs and safety behaviors. Universities should strengthen the regular safety knowledge popularization and various disaster emergency drills to improve the risk avoidance ability of college students.

**DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT**

The original contributions presented in the study are included in the article/Supplementary Material, further inquiries can be directed to the corresponding author/s.

**ETHICS STATEMENT**

Approval was obtained from the Ethical Review Board of Xijing University. The procedures used in this study adhere to the tenets of the Declaration of Xijing University.

**AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

SG: investigation, writing—reviewing and editing, and methodology. FY: investigation and writing—reviewing and editing. FR: conceptualization. CC: data curation and writing—original draft preparation. All authors contributed to the article and approved the submitted version.

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**SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL**

The Supplementary Material for this article can be found online at: https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpubh.2022.825106/full#supplementary-material
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