

TITLE: Effectiveness of Novice Driver Education

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PROTECT OBTECTIVE:

To review and critique the results of the NHTSA-funded driver training experimental evaluation known as the "DeKalb" study.

SUMMARY:

This paper summarizes the original study findings and various reanalysis of the data conducted by other investigators. It is concluded that the introduction of behind-the-wheel training into the DeKalb County high school curriculum did not result in any safety benefits and, in fact, increased teenage accidents by promoting earlier licensure. The paper emphasizes the need to carefully define the appropriate "unit of analyses" in making policy decisions regarding the efficacy of driver training (accident rate per licensed drivers vs. per capita accident rate of eligible population). The paper discusses the considerations involved in choosing an appropriate policy evaluation metric.

IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Not applicable.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

This paper was presented at the annual meeting of the Transportation Research Board, January 1996, Washington DC.