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TITLE: The Effects of Administering Written Tests Stressing Knowledge of Safe Driving Principles to Renewal Driver's License Applicants

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PROTECT OBJECTIVE:

A new licensing test series stressing knowledge of safe driving principles and recent law changes was administered to a group of California driver's license renewal applicants. The primary purpose was to determine if the two series of test forms, testing knowledge of different types of information, differentially affected subjects' subsequent driving records when used in the California DMV knowledge testing program. A secondary objective was to determine the degree of relationship between test scores and driving performance.

SUMMARY:

The data for the six-month period following written knowledge testing revealed no statistically significant differences between experimental and control group (standard test) driving-record means, indicating that the administration of "safe driving" written tests did not result in a change in collisions or convictions. Correlations of test scores with driving record variables were similar in magnitude for both the DMV and safe driving test series. All correlations between numbers of items wrong and prior or subsequent driving record were positive and statistically significant, indicating a slight tendency for drivers who made fewer errors on either test series to have fewer collisions and convictions than drivers who made more errors.

IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Because no identifiable benefits appeared likely from adopting the new forms for renewal applicants, and because additional costs would be incurred with their adoption, the standard law tests were retained for renewal applicants.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

None.