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TITLE: The Effects of Written Licensing Tests Stressing Knowledge of Safe Driving Principles for Intermediate Record Renewal Applicants

DATE: July 1978

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REPORT NUMBER: 63

NTIS NUMBER: PB-286561

FUNDING SOURCE: Special state appropriation

PROTECT OBTECTIVE:

To determine the comparative effects of a new, longer test, stressing knowledge of safe-driving principles, on subsequent driving record. The new tests were administered to renewal applicants who had moderate numbers of collisions and convictions on record, with a control group of comparable drivers receiving standard DMV law tests.

SUMMARY:

The data for the 12-month period following written knowledge testing revealed no statistically significant differences between experimental and control group driving-record means, indicating that the administration of safe-driving written tests did not result in a significant reduction 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, and indicated a slight tendency for drivers marking fewer wrong answers on either test series to have fewer collisions and convictions before and after testing than did drivers who made more errors.

IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Because no identifiable safety benefits appeared likely from adopting the expanded safe-driving test forms, but additional costs would be incurred, this component of the selective testing program was not recommended for implementation. Departmental management concurred with this recommendation.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

None.