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TITLE: The Effectiveness of Short Individual Driver Improvement Sessions

DATE: October 1965

AUTHOR(S): Ronald S. Coppin, Raymond C. Peck, Alan Lew, & William C. Marsh

REPORT NUMBER: 22

NTIS NUMBER: PB-169866

FUNDING SOURCE: Federal Highway Administration

PROTECT OBTECTIVE:

To evaluate the effect of individual hearings on the subsequent driver records of negligent operators.

SUMMARY:

Negligent drivers required to attend hearings were compared with a retrospectively matched group of negligent drivers not receiving hearings (control group). The hearing group had significantly fewer citations in the first subsequent year than the control group, but there were no significant differences with respect to subsequent accident frequency. The various age groups did not appear to have been differentially affected by the hearing process. It could not be concluded that it was the face-to-face contact with the hearing analyst which effected the subsequent reduction in citations for the hearing group because the subsequent citation and accident frequencies of those who attended their scheduled hearing were not significantly different from the frequencies of those who received the notice but did not attend. Much of the effect might therefore be attributable to receipt of the notice. The subsequent accident and citation frequencies of all hearing subjects, were still approximately twice as high as those of a similarly stratified sample from the overall California driving population. The authors concluded that biases stemming from the retrospective nature of the study prevented making definitive conclusions regarding the effectiveness of individual hearings on accidents. It was recommended that the department conduct an experimentally controlled prospective evaluation of the program.

IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

A large scale, truly randomized experiment was implemented and completed (see Marsh, Report #36).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A shortened version of the report was published in *Highway Research Record*, 195, 1-14, 1967.