

TITLE: The Relationship of Perceptual Style of Drivers to Accident/Violation Experience

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PROJECT OBJECTIVE:

To explore the ability of the Stimulus Accretion Impending Hazard (SAIH) test to measure drivers' propensity for accident or violation involvement.

SUMMARY:

SAIH test measures and biographical data were collected in order to develop a multiple regression equation for predicting the accident/violation frequency of negligent drivers.

It was concluded from these data that the SAIH test measures (patterned block removal, stimulus-search block removal, and pauses) and biographical information (socioeconomic status, percent of urban driving, percent of freeway driving and weekly mileage) were significantly related to the violation experience of male negligent-operator drivers. The drivers who used more structured and comprehensive perception techniques (patterned and stimulus search) had fewer traffic violations. This lends support to the hypothesis that the "safe" driver is more efficient in perceiving the totality of environmental cues and in subsequently making appropriate driving reactions. However, the SAIH failed to discriminate between negligent operators with accidents and negligent operators without accidents.

Within the limitations of this study, its conclusions lend support to the hypothesis that the driver's perceptual style of response to environmental cues is related to driving success as measured by traffic violations.

IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

The findings were not regarded to be sufficiently promising to warrant incorporation of the SAIH test into any of the department's programs.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Master's Thesis, California State University, Sacramento, 1970.