

TITLE: Strategies for Increasing the Traffic Safety Potential of the Negligent Operator Point System

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PROJECT OBJECTIVE:

To explore and evaluate several strategies for identifying high-risk drivers based upon different definitions of negligent-operator point count.

SUMMARY:

Tables are presented showing subsequent accident rates as a function of negligent operator point count, defined in various ways, and the percentages of California drivers within each point-count category under each definition. Results of these tabulations indicated that defining the negligent-operator point count as the totality of all countable and noncountable convictions plus accidents identified twice as many high-risk drivers as did the definition based only on countable conviction points. In addition, the report concludes that there is empirical evidence substantiating the validity of California Vehicle Code Section 12810 (determination of violator point count) and supporting the Department's policy of applying license control actions and accident countermeasures to drivers with elevated point counts.

IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Findings provided support for prior decisions to decrease the point level for initiating negligent operator actions and to increase the number of traffic violations that are assigned points.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

See Gebers and Peck, Report #114, and published as "Statistical Methods for Traffic Accident Research" by Kuan, Peck, & Janke in the *Proceedings of the 1:990 International Statistical Symposium*, Taipei, Republic of China.