

TITLE: Development and Evaluation of a Risk Assessment Strategy for Medically Impaired Drivers-  
Detailed Analysis

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PROJECT OBJECTIVE:

To further evaluate a risk-assessment strategy for drivers with physical or mental (P&M) conditions.

SUMMARY:

This study evaluated in more detail the Risk Assessment Inventory used in a 1982 pilot study exploring how Driver Safety Referees (DSRs) assess risk and decide on licensing actions with regard to P&M drivers. The findings showed that: 1) DSRs rely primarily on subjective impression in assessing the risk of P&M drivers, and primarily on medical condition information in determining license action, 2) driver record information is generally better than these in predicting the true risk (subsequent driver record) of P&M drivers, and 3) small but significant improvements in predicting risk could be made by adding masterfile driver record information to the check list. The report outlines a recommended sequence of steps which the authors deemed needed to improve decision-making in P&M cases.

IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

The report was made available to the Department's Medical Advisory Board to assist in their work with the Department in developing improved medical assessment procedures.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

See Helander, Report #98, which was the initial study of the P&M Risk Assessment Inventory.

An administrative review and survey of departmental policy on drivers with medical conditions (P&M cases) was completed in 1989 (Lockhart, C. *P&M Policy Identification and Review* [unpublished report], 1989).