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TITLE: An Evaluation of the California Driver Knowledge Test and the University of Michigan Item Pool

DATE: April 1976

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FUNDING SOURCE: Federal Highway Administration

PROTECT OBTECTIVE:

To evaluate both the written DMV driver licensing test and a large sample of driver knowledge test items selected from the University of Michigan's Highway Safety Research Institute (HSRI) item pool.

SUMMARY:

Test forms were administered to 48,000 California driver's license applicants. The variables analyzed were subject's sex, age, education, annual mileage, and prior six-year driving record in relationship to test form and item scores. New test forms were created and were compared to DMV forms.

For each test form, the highest test score correlation obtained was with applicant's education, although education had no relationship to accidents or convictions. For all DMV test forms combined, correlations of total scores with driving record variables were all significant, indicating that renewal applicants with better prior driving records obtained higher test scores. Original drivers' license applicants scored lower than renewal applicants.

HSRI items and test forms were more related to applicant's biographical variables than were DMV items and test forms. Forms created with HSRI items from the initial HSRI item-pool screening were less related to driving record than were DMV forms. Final forms, created with items that were the most accident-related, were no more or less related to driving record than were DMV forms.

IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Some of the items and test statistics were used for constructing tests for the Department's selective testing project.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

None.