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Department of Motor Vehicles
Research and Development Branch
2570 24th Street, MS H-126
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TITLE: Teen Driver Facts

AUTHOR(S): Ray E. Huston

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PROJECT OBJECTIVE:

To provide a quick reference on the characteristics of teenage drivers.

SUMMARY:

This report presents findings on teenaged drivers from DMV driver record files and the research literature. The following represents information presented in the report.

The age group 16-19 accounted for 14.2% of all drivers killed or injured in crashes in 1983, but only 5.6% of all licensed drivers, an overinvolvement ratio of 2.5. Teenage drivers average approximately twice as many accidents as adult drivers, yet they drive fewer miles than do adults. Thus the teenage accident rate per mile is, for example, 120% higher than that of drivers aged 20 to 24, although the accident rate per driver is only 55% higher than the rate for 20- to 24-year-olds. Teenage drivers also average about twice as many convictions as older drivers do. Speeding is the most common teenage violation; it is the most common for all age groups, but rates for this type of violation are particularly inflated for drivers in their teens and, to a lesser extent, those in their twenties. Research on young driver risk-taking is discussed in the 2nd edition, as are results of a 1983 study of driver training effectiveness conducted in Dekalb County, Georgia. The results of the Dekalb study indicate, the report notes, that if driver training is to have a substantial effect, it may have to be supplemented with post-licensing procedures, as in a provisional licensing program (see Supplementary Information, below).

IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Not applicable.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Some of the information contained in this report was published in a paper by Peck entitled *The Role of Youth in Traffic Accidents: A Review of Past and Current California Data* (published in *Alcohol, Drugs, and Driving*, 1(1-2) 45-61, 1985. Also see the following reports:

Hagge, R. A, & Marsh W. C. (1988). The traffic safety impact of provisional licensing (Report #116). Sacramento, CA: California Department of Motor Vehicles.

Huston, R. E., & Janke, M. K. (1986). Senior driver facts (Report #82). Sacramento, CA: California Department of Motor Vehicles.

Romanowicz, P. A, & Gebers, M. A (1990). Teen and Senior Drivers (Report #126).

Sacramento, CA: California Department of Motor Vehicles.

Gebers, M. A, Romanowicz, P. A, & McKenzie, D. M. (1993). Teen and Senior Drivers (Report #141). Sacramento, CA: California Department of Motor Vehicles.