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TITLE: Extending Driver Licenses by Mail: A 36-month Follow-Up of Driver Records

DATE: October 1983

AUTHORS: Shara Lynn Kelsey

REPORT NUMBER: 88

NTIS NUMBER: None

FUNDING SOURCE: Office of Traffic Safety and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

PROTECT OBTECTIVE:

To evaluate the traffic safety impact of extending driver licenses by mail for drivers with clean prior four-year records.

SUMMARY:

This report is an update of Report #80 to the California Legislature in December of 1981 (Janke & Kelsey) on the traffic safety impact of license extension after 18 months of driving. It covers data on the three-year subsequent driving records of those California drivers who were randomly assigned either to a group which was offered license extension by mail or to a group which was required to complete the regular in-person renewal process. Conclusions were:

1. There was no significant difference in either subsequent accidents or convictions between those who renewed in a field office and those who renewed by mail.

2. There was no evidence that younger (under 30) drivers responded more poorly to the extension than did other age groups.

3. There was no longer a significantly better accident record among extended drivers aged 70 and over; thus, there was no evidence that older persons respond more (or less) favorably to the extensions. However, older drivers were only offered 2-year extensions, so about 12 months of the 36-month period covered here followed a standard field-office renewal.

IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

The program was continued as recommended.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

New legislation to relax the selection criteria for extensions went into effect for drivers whose licenses expired in January 1983 or later.

This report was published as Kelsey, S. L. Extending driver licenses by mail: A 36-month follow-up. *Journal of Traffic Safety Evaluation Research Review,* 3(1),7-20, 1984.

Also see Kelsey et al., Report #93, and Janke, Reports #101 and #118.