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TITLE: The Effects of a Traffic Safety Film or a Drive Test with Counseling Session for Renewal Drivers Licensing Applicants with Poor Prior Records

DATE: November 1978

AUTHOR(S): Michael Ratz

REPORT NUMBER: 64

NTIS NUMBER: PB89-185292/ AS

FUNDING SOURCE: Special state appropriation

PROTECT OBTECTIVE:

To determine if an expanded "safe driving" written knowledge test and a drive test with counseling or traffic safety film would improve the records of renewal applicants with poor three-year prior records.

SUMMARY:

Individuals seeking to renew a California driver's license whose prior 3-year driving record reflected two or more accidents, four or more convictions, or one accident and three or more convictions, were randomly assigned to one of three groups of 5,000 subjects each.

The first group (control) was required to pass the standard California written knowledge test.

A second group was required to pass a written test composed of 45 "safe driving" items. After passing the test each subject was required to view a 20-minute film which focused on defensive driving practices.

A third group was required to pass a 45-item safe-driving written test and a drive test. After subjects passed the drive test the examiner counseled them on their driving records, reinforcing the discussion with reference to unsafe behaviors observed on the drive test.

There was an increase in fatal and injury accidents and a decrease in convictions, both of which reached the .10 level of significance, for subjects taking the drive test. No significant differences were found for subjects who viewed the traffic safety film.

IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Because of the extra cost associated with implementing the program and the evidence that an accident increase would result, implementation was not recommended.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

None.