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TITLE: An Evaluation of the California Drive Test in Theme and Variation. Volume II: Final Report

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PROTECT OBTECTIVE:

To determine if a longer, more "comprehensive" drive test, or the standard drive test with parallel parking and a higher fail rate, would improve the subsequent driving records of previously unlicensed applicants.

SUMMARY:

Thirty-six thousand previously unlicensed applicants for a California driver's license were given one of three treatments.

The first group (control) was given the standard California drive test. The failure rate for the first drive test attempt was held equal to the current statewide average.

A second group was given the standard California drive test with scoring altered so that 50% of the subjects failed on their first drive test attempt. They were also given a test on parallel parking.

A third group was given a drive test which required approximately twice as long to complete as the standard test and included substantially more driving in high-density traffic. The first-attempt failure rate for this group was 50%.

One-year subsequent accident and conviction records were analyzed to determine treatment effect. No significant differences were found.

IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Because the results did not indicate that there were benefits to be expected from implementing either program, and because both programs would be more expensive to administer, implementation was not recommended.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

None.