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TITLE: Analysis of DUI Processing from Arrest Through Post-Conviction Countermeasures (Volume 1 of "An Evaluation of the California Drunk Driving Countermeasure System")

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PROTECT OBTECTIVE:

(1) To develop process flow charts for the whole DUI system, depicting all elements and decision points concerning drivers, abstracts, and license actions involved in the reporting system, both before and after new legislation (AB 541) became effective on January 1, 1982; (2) to describe the whole DUI system from the point of arrest to the driver record file, both before and after AB 541; (3) to identify areas or sources of system inefficiency or modes of circumvention of specified provisions, especially in the post-AB 541 system; and (4) to develop alternate solutions and associated recommendations.

SUMMARY:

This study focused on the countermeasure system for controlling the drinking driver problem in California. It was specifically concerned with describing and analyzing all aspects of the system for processing motorists involved in driving under the influence of alcohol (DUI), from the point of arrest through the charging, convicting, sentencing, and treating, to the disposition-recording and action at the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV).

An interorganizational task force was formed to accomplish the objectives. It represented all major constituencies in the DUI countermeasure system: law enforcement agencies; prosecutors; municipal, superior, and juvenile courts; program/ service providers; state and county alcohol program administrators; probation officers; and the DMV. Since major new DUI legislation (especially AB 541) became operative in January 1982 just as this task force became operational, it was decided to describe and analyze the older system as well as the new.

The report is primarily the product of the task force activities and contributions. It meets the first three objectives (above), both for the pre-1982 and post-1982 DUI systems. The fourth objective was addressed in a related study within the same project series (Peck, Report #112).

The report serves as an overview of the DUI countermeasure system as it was analyzed in 1982 and 1983. Changes in this system which occurred after the task force concluded its activities are also described briefly.

IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

See below.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The policy recommendations from all volumes of the study are synthesized in report #112 (Peck, 1987).