

TITLE: A Review of C. D. Robinson's "The Operation of Drivers License Disqualification as a Sanction"

DATE: December 1979

AUTHOR(S): Raymond C. Peck

REPORT NUMBER: Unnumbered (NRN021)

NTIS NUMBER: None

FUNDING SOURCE: Departmental Budget

PROTECT OBTECTIVE:

To prepare for the journal of Accident Analysis and Prevention a critical analysis and. review of an Australian monograph on the effectiveness of license suspensions.

SUMMARY:

The reviewed monograph concluded that license suspensions are of very limited effectiveness in controlling the driving of deviant drivers. Although not necessarily disagreeing with the conclusion, the review points out a number of limitations in the study and the author's reasoning process. These limitations are summarized as follows:

- (1) The study was limited to self-report questionnaire information of unknown validity. Only 37.2% of the sample responded to the survey.
- (2) More valid results could probably have been achieved by surveying the drivers after their license privileges had been reinstated.
- (3) The study implicitly assumed that the incidence of driving while suspended is the most important indicator of effectiveness. The reviewer argued that accident frequency during suspension is the ultimate measure of effectiveness and that suspension could substantially decrease accidents even though the incidence of driving during suspension was substantial.
- (4) The study only addressed the effects of suspension on suspended drivers. It is possible that recognition of the existence of license suspension promotes lawful driving through a general deterrent effect on the entire driving population.

IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Not applicable.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The review was published in *Accident Analysis and Prevention*, 11(4), 313-315, December, 1979.