

TITLE: Effectiveness of California Laws in Deterring Drinking and Driving

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PROTECT OBJECTIVE:

This paper, written for presentation at a DUI symposium sponsored by the Automobile Club of Southern California, provides a historical review and evaluation of the impact of California DUI legislation in deterring drinking and driving.

SUMMARY:

California DUI laws have evolved through a process of continual legislative / political competition among rival philosophies of DUI control, rooted in countervailing perceptions of the nature of Dill. Scientific evaluations conducted over the past 20 years have shown the short-term impact of legislative reforms and the longer-term effectiveness of license suspension and SB 38 alcohol treatment programs as DUI countermeasures. The impact of DUI legislation, however, has been totally dwarfed over the past decade by a much larger change in the social environment which has resulted in major reductions in the incidence and consequences of DUI.

IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Not applicable.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

This paper was presented to, and published in the proceedings of the *QUI Symposium* of the Automobile Club of Southern California, Ontario, CA, November 1617, 1992.