

TITLE: The General and Specific Deterrent Effects of DUI Sanctions: A Review of California's Experience

DATE: May 1990

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REPORT NUMBER: Unnumbered (NRN054)

NTIS NUMBER: None

FUNDING SOURCE: Partial support from UCLA Brain Information Service

PROJECT OBJECTIVE:

To provide an overview of the findings and policy implications of departmental studies on drunk driving.

SUMMARY:

This paper presents an overview of California Department of Motor Vehicles research studies on DUI recidivism correlates and the specific and general deterrent effects of various DUI countermeasures, particularly license control actions and alcohol rehabilitation programs. Several studies published between 1976 and 1989 are reviewed, along with an analysis of previously unpublished data collected and analyzed specifically for this paper. The paper concludes that license suspension is effective in reducing recidivism and accidents during the period of suspension, but that extensive alcohol rehabilitation programs may be slightly superior in reducing alcohol-specific offenses. It also states that there is strong evidence to show that California's 1982 Dill laws and the formation of MADD have been effective in reducing DUI-related accidents and in lowering the rate of recidivism among convicted DUI offenders.

IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

Not applicable.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Paper presented at International Symposium, Santa Monica, California, May 11-13, 1990. Proceedings published in *Alcohol, Drugs and Driving*, 7(1), 13-42, 1991.