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TITLE: The Fatal Accident Reexamination Program in California

DATE: January 1966

AUTHOR(S): Ronald S. Coppin & G. van Oldenbeek

REPORT NUMBER: 23

NTIS NUMBER: PB-173867

FUNDING SOURCE: Federal Highway Administration

PROJECT OBJECTIVE:

To establish a descriptive profile of the re-examined fatal accident driver and to evaluate three-year prior and subsequent driving records of such drivers.

SUMMARY:

When compared to the average California male driver, male drivers involved in fatal accidents were younger, less experienced drivers, less often married, less often insured, and had similar accident rates but significantly worse conviction rates both before and after the accident involving a fatality. "At fault" male drivers, as opposed to those not cited at the time of the fatal accident, showed the same trends within the fatal driver group; in addition, they were more often employed in farm or semiskilled work. Females were proportionally less involved in fatal accidents as drivers and were more often divorced and less often experienced drivers than were males. They showed no significant differences in accident and conviction rates from average drivers. Both sexes reported higher annual mileage than average. There was no difference in corrective lens requirements when compared to the average driving population. Only 0.4% of the group failed the reexamination drive tests, indicating that driving skill was not a major factor in this group.

IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

None; descriptive data only.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A subsequent study (Helander, Report #85) led to a elimination of the use of drive tests in reexamining most accident-involved drivers.