

The following is only an abstract of one of our earlier reports. An email request for a printed or PDF copy of the complete report can be generated by clicking on the **Report Number** of this report in the table of reports on the [Research Studies and Reports](#) page. The PDF copy of the complete report was created by scanning an original, printed copy, and thus is only *partially* searchable and *is not* accessible, but is fully printable.

A printed or PDF copy of our studies and reports may also be requested by mail or phone at:

Department of Motor Vehicles
Research and Development Branch
2570 24th Street, MS H-126
Sacramento, CA 95818-2606
(916) 657-5805

For a request by mail, please include the report number and your name, address, and phone number. Also, please state whether you are requesting a printed copy, a PDF copy, or both. For a PDF copy, please include your email address.

TITLE: The Drunk Driver - An Inventory of 200 Representative Cases

DATE: Feb 1960

AUTHOR(S): Research & Development

REPORT NUMBER: 3

NTIS NUMBER:

FUNDING SOURCE: Departmental Budget

PROTECT OBTECTIVE:

To conduct an inventory of the prior records of 200 representative cases selected at random from the group of all cases suspended or revoked during the six month period from July 1, 1959, through December 31, 1959.

SUMMARY:

The driving record of each of the 200 cases was reviewed to determine how many had been convicted of moving traffic violations during the 3 years immediately prior to conviction for drunk driving. A check was also made to determine how many had been involved in a reportable accident during the last 3 years. If a person had ever previously been convicted of drunk driving, this fact was also noted. In addition, the complete arrest files of the Bureau of Criminal Identification Investigation were searched to determine how many cases had a past history of drunk arrests other than arrest for drunk driving.

The survey of the driving habits of 200 persons convicted of drunk driving as compared to the "average driver" leads to the following conclusions: 1) on the basis of three years exposure about 1 out of 4 drunk drivers have not been convicted of a traffic violation or involved in an accident, 2) as a group the drunk drivers are convicted of more than an average share of traffic violations, 3) as a group the drunk drivers are involved in a larger than average share of accidents, 4) as a group the likelihood of having a driving record sufficient to warrant a warning letter from the department is three times greater than for the average driver, and 5) as a group the drunk drivers do not differ in age from the average driver.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

For the basis of the 200 persons selected for this study, see *Driver Record Study*, 1959, State of California, Department of Motor Vehicles, Division of Drivers Licenses, Fred P. Williams, Chief, Sacramento, California.