TITLE: Mature Driver Core Curriculum Project Literature Review

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PROTECT OBJECTIVE:
   To review the technical literature on the driving performance of elderly people, as an aid to setting up the curriculum for California's Mature Driver Improvement Program.

SUMMARY:
   In addition to presenting accident and traffic conviction rates for the elderly (as a group), this review discusses their sensory changes due to aging, changes in central processing and motor response, medical conditions and medications, driving faults, and accident characteristics. The paper also presents an examination of evidence on retraining older drivers. Making recommendations was not an objective of the review and none were made, but the paper stresses the conclusion that no studies appear to support the widely held belief that post·-licensure driver training courses reduce accidents. Lack of power and self-selection biases in many studies were found to be complicating factors.

IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:
   Mature Driver Improvement courses for those aged 55 and older were implemented in 1987. At the time of writing, the DMV is required to provide tabulations on a yearly basis to the Legislature, comparing the accident and conviction records of course graduates with those of their age peers who did not take the course. The first report was published in 1989.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:
   See *Annual Tabulations of Mature Driver Program Driving Record Comparisons* (1989-1993), Reports #119, #125, #130, #136, and #140.