TITLE: Psychometric and Biographical Correlates of Drunk Driving Recidivism & Treatment Program Compliance

DATE: 1994

AUTHOR(S): Raymond C. Peck, Gary Arstein-Kerslake, & Clifford J. Helander

REPORT NUMBER: Unnumbered (NRN84)

NTIS NUMBER: None

FUNDING SOURCE: Partially by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

PROTECT OBJECTIVE:
    To identify variables which differentiate DUI offenders who recidivate from those who do not and to also identify correlates of treatment program compliance.

SUMMARY:
    The primary objective of this study was to assess the extent to which drunk drinking (DUI) recidivism and DUI treatment program compliance could be predicted from psychometric, biographical, drinking history and prior-driving-record variables. These analyses were performed on data from 7,316 DUI offenders initially collected in Sacramento County, California, from September 1977 through January 1981. For most analyses, the recidivism measure was a composite of major convictions (DUI, reckless, hit-and-run), nighttime (6pm - 6am) and alcohol-related accidents during the 4-year interval following treatment assignment. The prediction of recidivism was highly significant for both the construct sample and the 25% cross-validation sample. The predictive accuracy was low, however, as evidenced by multiple Rs of <.30. The predicted rates of recidivism generated for each individual by the regression equation were cross tabulated by other criteria of interest, including total accidents and total injury and fatal accidents. Offenders at high risk of recidivating had substantially higher rates of accidents. The results indicate that reasonably accurate prediction of recidivism is only possible for discriminating between offenders at the extremes of the recidivism expectancy distribution. The above approach was also used to isolate factors predictive of program compliance (successfully completing treatment). In all cases, the prediction of compliance was highly statistically significant. In general, compliance was much more predictable than was subsequent DUI recidivism. Those offenders having a high probability of being noncompliant were much more likely to recidivate and have accidents than were those with favorable compliance expectancies.

IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:
    The findings provide general support for California's policy of triggering license control actions based on drunk driving convictions and the number of moving violation points on a drivers' record.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:
    This paper was published in *Journal of Studies of Alcohol,* 55, 667-678, 1994. Much of the paper is based on information contained in a 1985 NHTSA funded monograph entitled *A Typological Analysis of California DUI Offenders and DUI Recidivism Correlates* (see Arstein-Kerslake et al.-Report # 100).