

SECTION VI

Section VI studies focus on special driver populations and the increased risk they may pose to the driving public. These studies address actions and policies that are designed to reduce this risk while continuing to license these drivers.

The overriding responsibility of the Department is to protect the driving public. Some groups of drivers pose a much greater driving hazard than the average risk for the driving public as a whole. The level of increased risk may justify special treatment of such drivers, such as license restrictions, driver improvement actions and, in some cases, license revocation. The Department must make every effort to be fair to all applicants and do its best to suggest or develop methods, training, or special equipment which will allow handicapped and other groups to compensate or improve their driving without taking highly obtrusive actions, such as revocation or refusal to license. Among the most common special risk groups are: young drivers, elderly drivers, impaired drivers, drivers with medical conditions, accident repeaters, traffic violators, and commercial drivers.

Seventy-two separate restrictions are identified for driver's license coding, and a set of limitations can sometimes be tailored to the exact needs and limitations of the driver. The most familiar of these restrictions is "must wear corrective lenses," but use of other physical devices such as artificial limbs may be specified. Special vehicular equipment may be required, such as hand controls or particular mirrors. In addition, drivers may be restricted as to the areas or hours in which they may drive. Such measures allow the Department to continue licensing, for example, elderly people who can handle the low-density traffic around their home, store, and doctor's office in daylight hours, but who would be unable to cope with nighttime or freeway driving.