TRAFFIC TECH
Technology Transfer Series

NHTSA's Behavioral Safety Research: Updated, Annotated Bibliography, 1985–2013

Through many name changes, from the Office of Program Development and Evaluation, the Office of Research and Evaluation, to the current *Office of Behavioral Safety Research*, our focus has remained on improving the safety of drivers, occupants, pedestrians, and road users. Our studies include laboratory research, field studies, national surveys, and analyses of observational and archival data. Our work over the past decades has significantly enhanced law enforcement strategies, strengthened community traffic safety programs, informed policy decisions, examined emerging issues, and helped to decrease lives lost to motor vehicle crashes.

This compendium covers more than 25 years of research, and updates previous editions, now containing brief summaries of over 500 studies published by this office from 1985 to 2013.

A new feature is that most of the entries in the electronic version of the Compendium include hyperlinks directly to the listed reports.

The Compendium includes behavioral research on:

- Alcohol-Involved Driving;
- Drug-Involved Driving;
- Occupant Protection (e.g., seat belts and child safety seats);
- Speed and Other Unsafe Driving Behaviors;
- Motorcyclist Safety;
- Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety;
- Older Driver Safety;
- Novice and Young Driver Safety;
- Fatigue and Distraction; and
- Emergency Medical Services.

Example Entry

Drug-Impaired Driving: Understanding the Problem and Ways to Reduce It:

A Report to Congress

December 2009, DOT HS 811 268

This report summarizes a series of studies by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to acquire the information needed to address the general problem of drug-impaired driving. The report describes the research conducted on prevention, detection, and prosecution of driving under the influence of drugs; issues associated with determining what drugs impair driving; difficulties in relating blood levels of drugs and impairment; lack of information about what drugs are frequently used by drivers and what drugs elevate crash risk; problems in obtaining representative data about current enforcement, prosecution, and adjudication of drug-impaired driving; training for law enforcement officers in recognizing drug-impaired drivers; review of drug-impaired driving laws; and what is known about the role of drugs as causal factors in traffic crashes. It highlights the need for further research and concludes with recommendations to better address the problem of drug-impaired driving.

AUTHORS: Richard Compton, Maria Vegega, Dereece Smither

There Are Several Ways to Get the Reports Summarized in the Compendium:

The electronic version of this compendium provides Internet links to most of the reports, so simply click on the title connected to the full Web-based report. (In some cases the report itself will display; in other cases a description of the report will initially appear—in this case click on the URL link).

Many reports can also be accessed through our Behavioral Safety Research Library at http://ntlsearch.bts.gov/repository/ntlc/nhtsa/index.shtm. This is a searchable electronic library of our office's reports.

Newer studies can be found on NHTSA's Web site at www.nhtsa.gov/Driving+Safety/Research+&+Evaluation.

The National Technical Information Service (NTIS) maintains copies of most of our published reports. Contact NTIS at NTIS.gov or by calling 800-553-6847. There may be a fee to obtain a copy of a report.

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TRAFFIC TECH is a publication to disseminate information about traffic safety programs, including evaluations, innovative programs, and new publications. Feel free to copy it as you wish. If you would like to to be added to an e-mail list, contact TrafficTech@dot.gov.

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