

73SB-608

April 9th, 1973

TO: Dr. M. Rosen
FROM: Dr. Max Fink
SUBJECT: 'Methadone, Alcohol and Driving' by
Bernard Newman and Arnold Dibrberg

This report attempts an interesting evaluation of the effects of the interaction of methadone and alcohol on a driving simulation task. The design calls for three groups: methadone maintenance patients, volunteer male students, and policemen.

This report is grossly incomplete on a number of important issues.

1. No statement is made regarding the comparability of the three groups, not only as to age, but, more importantly, the significant issues of driving experience. The authors do not indicate whether the subjects were first given an opportunity to practise in order to have maximum success before the test, or whether the tests were done with an unequal initial starting position, based on differences in experience.

2. The data is not analyzed as to whether the chain scores (errors per subject - Tables B, C, D and E) reflect significant differences using standard statistical methods. In the absence of the data regarding the range and variability of the scores, no judgement of the main differences can be made.

Conclusion: In the absence of statistical processing, this data can not be interpreted. (Perhaps the willingness of the authors to make conclusions based on incomplete analysis reflects their inexperience.) Perhaps the Commission could ask that the data be analyzed by a statistical consultant.

MF/ij
Enc.

Metz. Alc - Driving

Newman + Dierberg.

Subjects : matched for age ?

" driving experience : yrs + recent trials

A-1 } statistics
A-2 }

B.

C.

D

① Results are not analyzed, and therefore conclusions cannot be accepted (or rejected)

~~② A-2~~