

**\*\*\*NEWS ADVISORY\*\*\***

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## **Rutgers Survey Seeks Hidden Consequences of License Suspension**

(TRENTON) - The New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) and the Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center (VTC) at Rutgers University have partnered to survey New Jersey drivers whose driving privileges have been suspended.

The purpose is to determine if New Jersey's driver license suspension system produces unintended consequences. Questionnaires have been mailed to 7,500 New Jersey motorists in the past week.

Rutgers experts will compile and study the responses, and will keep respondents' answers and identities anonymous. Results will be available later this year.

Along with an on-going VTC research study into driver license suspension data and other information that began in September 2003, this survey will supplement the work of MVC's Fairness and Affordability Task Force, whose members will begin meeting this winter.

Specific recommendations for change to the state's driver license suspension system could result.

"The goal of the Motor Vehicle Commission is fairness and equity," MVC Chief Administrator Sharon Harrington said. "The purpose of this survey - and the related research study and task force - is to make sure we are achieving that goal."

"The Voorhees Transportation Center is eager to lend its expertise to MVC," said Jon Carnegie, Assistant Director of VTC. "The state needs an accurate account of how motorists are being affected by suspensions in order to alleviate any inequities and avoid creating new ones," he added.

A fairness and affordability study is required under a 2003 state law, the Motor Vehicle Security and Customer Service Act. This law created MVC and abolished the old DMV. It also set in motion a series of on-going reforms to enhance security and improve customer service.

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