

The purpose of this study was to examine the opinions and practices of driver education teachers in the state of Pennsylvania. Specifically, it addressed the following: to survey driver education teachers in the state of Pennsylvania who are certified by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, concerning their educational training, practices in their driver education programs, opinions toward college driver education instructor preparation courses, and opinions toward higher certification standards for driver education teacher training. The following research questions were analyzed: 1. What is the educational training of driver education teachers in the state of Pennsylvania? 2. What type of driver education practices are driver education teachers using in the state of Pennsylvania? 3. What are the driver education teachers' opinions toward college courses in driver and traffic safety? 4. What are the driver education teachers' opinions toward higher certification requirements in teaching driver education?

Questionnaires were mailed to 1,114 driver education teachers who were certified to teach driver education and registered in the Pennsylvania Department of Education database. A total of 306 questionnaires were returned which was a return rate of 29%. Data was collected from the questionnaires and analyzed using descriptive statistics, independent sample t-test, and one-way ANOVAs.

The results from this study indicate that in the next 10 years over half of the driver education teachers in the state will be of retirement age and 80% of driver education teachers are male. The following statistical differences were found: 1. The age of driver educators plays a significant role in their opinions toward their driver education practices and higher certification standards for driver education teacher training. 2. The type of license held by driver educators plays a significant role in their opinions toward college

driver education instructor preparation courses and higher certification standards for driver education teacher training. 3. The years as a teacher play a significant role in their opinions toward college driver education instructor preparation course and higher certification standards for driver education teacher training. 4. The years as a driver education teacher play a significant role in their opinions toward college driver education instructor preparation courses and higher certification standards for driver education teacher training. This study indicates that support from the Pennsylvania Department of Education and legislators is needed to mandate all public schools in Pennsylvania to offer driver education programs and for students to successfully complete driver education prior to graduating. This study also shows that there is a need for colleges and universities to implement driver education teacher preparation programs in the state of Pennsylvania.