

MailOnline

Home | News | U.S. | Sport | TV&Showbiz | Australia | Femail | Health | Science | Money | Video | Travel | Fashion Finder

Wires Home

Login

Study: Immigrant driver's licenses may ease hit-run crashes

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

PUBLISHED: 20:10, 3 April 2017 | UPDATED: 20:40, 3 April 2017

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - A California law granting driver's licenses to hundreds of thousands of people in the country illegally might have reduced the likelihood of hit-and-run collisions, according to a new study released Monday.

Researchers at Stanford University's Immigration Policy Lab estimated that granting driver-only licenses appears to have reduced hit-and-run crashes and saved insured drivers about \$17 million that they would have absorbed from at-fault drivers fleeing collisions to avoid possible arrest.

Jens Hainmueller, faculty director of the policy lab, said the study was conducted because of a lack of data when California debated its law that went into effect on 2015.



FILE - In this Jan. 2, 2015 file photo, immigrants line up after spending the night outside a California Department of Motor Vehicles office to register for drivers licenses in Stanton, Calif. Granting driving licenses to 600,000 people living in California illegally reduced the likelihood of hit-and-run accidents, according to a new study released Monday, April 3, 2017, by the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. (AP Photo/Nick Ut, File)

"We thought we should provide some evidence," Hainmueller said.

However, Andrew Gelman, director of the Applied Statistics Center at Columbia University, said he would want more evidence to determine that the law decreased hit-and-run collisions.

"It would seem to me that lots of things can be driving the rate of collisions and the rate of hit and runs," said Gelman, who reviewed the study at the request of The Associated Press. "There are too many alternative explanations."

He agreed that the data does make it clear that granting the licenses did not decrease safety.

Supporters of the law have said people in the U.S. illegally would be less likely to leave the scene of an accident if they had a license and would not face the possibility of arrest.

Site Web Enter your search

SHEIN

SHOW NOW >

Like Daily Mail

Follow @MailOnline

Follow Daily Mail

+1 Daily Mail

DON'T MISS

▶ Paris Jackson 'fears' for younger brother Blanket, 15, as he 'lives alone on family estate without legal guardians Katherine and TJ' Protective sibling



▶ PICTURE EXCLUSIVE: Heavily pregnant Jennifer Metcalfe shows off her bump in floral swimsuit as she enjoys baby moon in Tenerife with beau Greg Lake



▶ Trouble and stripe! Michelle Keegan wears skimpy vest top and cropped jeans as she heads out into the sunshine with husband Mark Wright



▶ 'Living in a love bubble': New mum Cheryl professes her joy in subtle note... as beau Liam Payne simply states he is 'happy' Broken the silence



Janet Jackson's estranged husband Wissam Al Mana returns to the home they once shared to deliver toys

The study of short-term effects found that issuing more than 600,000 driver-only licenses in 2015 had no discernable impact on the overall rate of traffic accidents.

Hainmueller said the report could aid other states considering similar policies.

"Our findings show that providing unauthorized immigrants with access to driver's licenses can create significant positive externalities for the communities in which they live," the report said in its conclusion.

Driver's licenses have long been a thorny topic in the U.S., where an estimated 11 million immigrants live without documentation, many in California. As of November, a dozen states offered such licenses, including Colorado, Delaware and New Mexico.

Proponents say legal driver's licenses boost public safety. Opponents say licenses grant a foothold to people who shouldn't be in the country.

Mark Krikorian, executive director of the Center for Immigration Studies, a Washington, D.C., think tank that supports tighter controls on immigration, dismissed the study as limited and premature.

"The point of giving driver's licenses to illegals is to document them, to give them partial amnesty," Krikorian said. "With these documents, they can more effectively embed themselves in society."

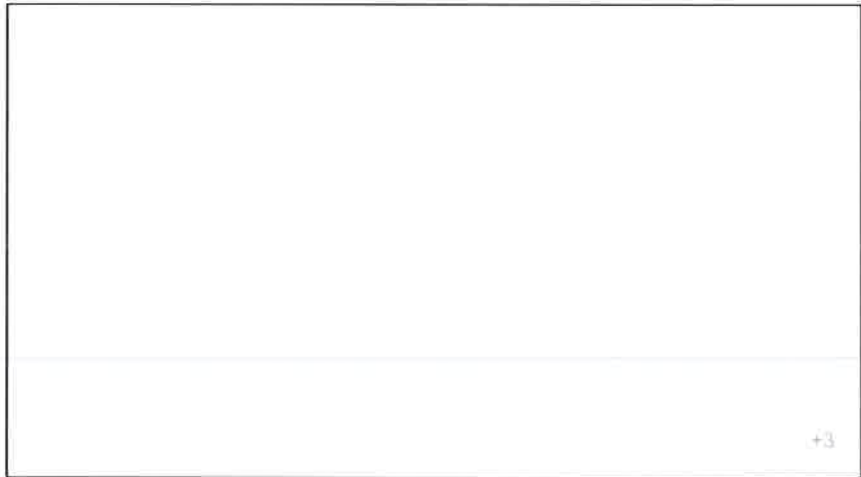
California has granted about 850,000 immigrant licenses under the law. The licenses are for driving only and the law prohibits safety officers from reporting drivers to federal immigration authorities.

There were more than 25.9 million licensed drivers in California in 2015.

The study found that the number of new driver's licenses issued in 2015 far outpaced the number of vehicles registered that year, suggesting that unlicensed immigrants had already been driving in registered vehicles.

The authors said follow-up studies are required to determine longer-term effects.

The study was published by the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.



FILE - In this Jan. 23, 2015, file photo, immigrants stand in a long line to enter into the California Department of Motor Vehicles office in the Granada Hills area of Los Angeles. Granting driving licenses to 600,000 people living in California illegally reduced the likelihood of hit-and-run accidents, according to a new study released Monday, April 3, 2017, by the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. (AP Photo/Edwin Tamara, File)

▶ for their son following shock split



▶ Experts reveal easy hacks to make your family's life healthier From cooking classes, to colourful and delicious family dinners. **SPONSORED**

▶ Pink to make 'em wink! Glamorous Pamela Anderson shows off her cleavage in a pastel pencil dress as she sips fizz from her balcony in Venice



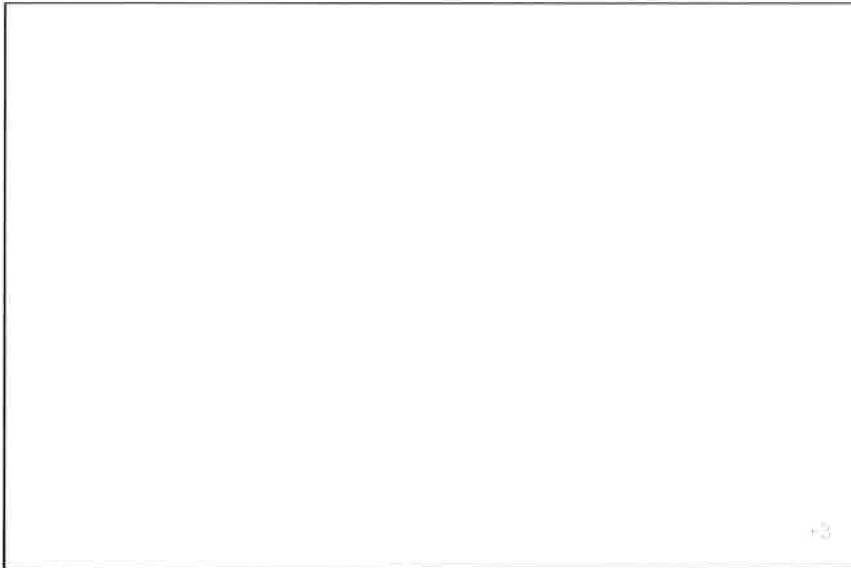
▶ 'My job is to protect my boys': Jeff Brazier reveals 'awkward' chat about the HPV virus with son Freddy... and admits the vaccine could have saved Jade Goody

▶ Helen Skelton and rugby player husband Richie Myler announce the arrival of a second son by posting sweet snap TV presenter gave birth

▶ Oi oi, saveloy! Danniella Westbrook chows down on a meaty treat after going for a jog in the sunshine... ahead of jetting off to Spain for rehab

▶ TOWIE's Amber Turner flaunts her toned figure in a skimpy black crop top and leggings as she hits the gym She's been at the centre of several dramas

'It looks like he has a skin condition!' Holly Hagan undergoes first round of laser surgery to remove traumatic tattoo of ex Kyle Christie's face



FILE - In this Jan. 2, 2015 file photo, Miguel Ayala holds his application with his Mexican passport while waiting in line with other immigrants at a California Department of Motor Vehicles office to register for drivers licenses in Stanton, Calif. Granting driving licenses to 600,000 people living in California illegally reduced the likelihood of hit-and-run accidents, according to a new study released Monday, April 3, 2017, by the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. (AP Photo/Nick Ut, File)

Share or comment on this article

Ads

New Balance Womens Accelerate Printed...

£9.99 Free P&P Over £75
MandM Direct

Utility Bill Discount

You Could Be Entitled To £379 Off Your Gas & Electricity Bills
utility.discount

Dog Walker (Hiring)

Earn £10-£20 per hour. No Experience Required. Get Jobs And Email Alerts.
dogwalkerjob.jobs.myjobhelper.co.uk

Sorry we are not currently accepting comments on this article.

▶ **'You looked like JLo':** Eamonn Holmes grovels to wife Ruth Langford after declaring Charlotte Hawkins 'the most beautiful bride he's ever seen'

▶ **A Laurel laughs!** Steve Coogan continues to transform into iconic comedy character whilst donning a navy beret for new biopic in Bristol

▶ **'It's not going to happen!'** Lisa Kudrow puts final nail in Friends movie coffin... as she talks about THAT creepy celebrity guest star

▶ **Ed Sheeran settles \$20M lawsuit** over hit song Photograph following claims he 'copied and exploited' X Factor winner Matt Cardle's track Amazing

▶ **'I haven't got any boobs':** Trinny Woodall embraces her pert bust after baring all in bizarre video... as fans are left 'shocked' by her appearance

▶ **Tom Cruise slips into character** as he films thrilling action sequences on motorcycle and in a helicopter on set of M:I6 - Mission Impossible

▶ **'Can't wait to marry you!':** Julianne Hough gushes about fiancé Brooks Laich as she shares Instagram snap of hockey hunk
Paid tribute to her fiancé

▶ **'Megan's annoyed I didn't call':** TOWE's Chloe Sims is adamant she owes co-star McKenna nothing over THOSE Pete Wicks rumours

▶ **Gemma Arterton is the picture of elegance** in white silk trousers and semi-sheer blouse as she arrives at a BULD Series interview in London

▶ **'Your vajjayjay won't look the same':** Kelly Rowland candidly details how pregnancy and birth affected her body, from 'bleeding' to 'UFO nipples'

▶ **Katie Price defends controversial pictures** of daughter Princess, nine, mimicking poses... as she appears with disabled son Harvey to promote anti-bullying

Anytime Anywhere, MailOnline on your iPad

