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**THE 65 MPH SPEED LIMIT IN MICHIGAN:
EFFECTS ON INJURY AND DEATH**

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December 1989

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16. Abstract Effective December 1987 and January 1988, the maximum speed limit on rural limited-access highways in Michigan was raised from 55 mph to 65 mph. This study examined the effects of the raised limit on traffic crashes, injuries, and deaths. A multiple time-series design was used, comparing roads where the speed limit was raised with roads where the limit remained unchanged. Data were collected on the numbers and rates of crashes, injuries, and deaths from January 1978 through December 1988. Times series intervention analyses were conducted to estimate effects associated with the speed limit change while controlling for long-term trends, cycles, and other patterns. Statistical controls were also included for major factors known to influence crash and injury rates in the state. Results revealed significant increases in casualties on roads where the speed limit was raised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19.2% increase in fatalities • 39.8% increase in serious (A-level) injuries • 25.4% increase in moderate (B-level) injuries. In addition, property-damage-only crashes increased 38.4%. Fatalities increased 38.4% on 55 mph limited-access freeways, suggesting that the 65 mph limit may have spillover effects on segments of freeways where the limit was not changed. The increased convenience of reduced travel time with the higher speed limit is obtained at a significant cost in terms of crash injuries and death.					
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Contents

1. INTRODUCTION	1
1.1. Role of Speed in Crashes	1
1.2. Estimates of the Effect of the 65 mph Speed Limit in Other States	3
2. METHODS	7
2.1. Research Design	7
2.2. Data Collection	8
2.2.1. Crashes	8
2.2.2. Covariates	10
2.2.3. Travel Speeds	11
2.3. Statistical Analyses	11
3. RESULTS	15
4. DISCUSSION	31
5. REFERENCES	33
Appendix A. Chronology of Events Concerning Speed Limit Changes in the U.S. and the State of Michigan	37
Appendix B. Speed Limits by Road Segment	43
Appendix C. Time Series Charts	55

List of Figures

Figure 2.1:	Functional Form of Anticipatory Effect Variable	13
Figure 3.1:	Effects of Increase in Maximum Speed Limit by Injury Level	18
Figure 3.2:	Travel Speeds Measured on 55 Sites throughout Michigan: 1982-1988	21
Figure 3.3:	Effects of Increase in Maximum Speed Limit by Crash Configuration and Vehicle Damage Level	24
Figure 3.4:	Effects of Increase in Maximum Speed Limit by Age and Gender	27
Figure C.1:	Fatalities by Highway Type	57
Figure C.2:	A-level Injuries by Highway Type	58
Figure C.3:	B-level Injuries by Highway Type	59
Figure C.4:	C-level Injuries by Highway Type	60
Figure C.5:	Property Damage Only Crashes by Highway Type	61
Figure C.6:	Crashes on 65 MPH Highways by Vehicle Type	62
Figure C.7:	Crashes on 65 MPH Highways by Vehicle Damage Level	63
Figure C.8:	Rate of Crashes on 65 MPH Highways per Million Licensed Drivers, by Gender	64
Figure C.9:	Rate of Crashes on 65 MPH Highways per Million Licensed Drivers, by Age	65
Figure C.10:	Covariates Used in Time-Series Models	66

List of Tables

Table 3.1.	Effects of Increase in Maximum Speed Limit: Results from Time-Series Models with Anticipatory and Implementation Effects	19
Table 3.2.	Effects of Increase in Maximum Speed Limit: Results from Time-Series Models with Implementation Effect Only	22
Table 3.3.	Differential Effects of Increase in Maximum Speed Limit to 65 by Crash Configuration, Vehicle Damage Level, Gender, and Age	25
Table 3.4.	Effects of Increase in Maximum Speed Limit: Results from Time-Series Models with Anticipatory Effects, Implementation Effects, and Controls for Effects of Covariates	28
Table 4.1	Estimated Injuries Attributable to Increase in Speed Limit to 65 mph . . .	32

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1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this study is to determine the effects on morbidity and mortality due to motor vehicle crashes of raising the maximum speed limit from 55 mph to 65 mph on Michigan's rural interstates and other rural highways built to interstate standards. In April 1987, U.S. Senate Bill HR-2 was passed permitting states to raise the maximum speed limit to 65 mph on rural interstates. Michigan's governor signed Public Act 154 of 1987 on October 29, 1987, increasing speed limits on segments of Michigan's rural interstate highways from 55 to 65 mph. New speed limit signs were in place and the speed limit was officially increased to 65 mph on Michigan's rural interstate system on November 27, 1987. Furthermore, as a part of the massive budget reconciliation package passed in late December 1987, the U.S. Congress authorized a four-year demonstration project in which 20 states would be permitted to increase maximum speed limits from 55 to 65 mph on **non**interstate highways built to interstate standards. Michigan chose to participate in the demonstration project, and 65 mph speed limit signs were in place and the new limit was in force on all affected sections of rural noninterstate highways by the end of January 1988.

1.1. Role of Speed in Crashes

There are two major dimensions of the effects of the speed limit on crash involvement, average speed and variance in speeds. Higher speeds produce greater impact forces in crashes, increasing the probability of serious injury or death. Assuming that a vehicle strikes a fixed, unmoving object (such as a bridge abutment), the kinetic energy of the occupants must be dissipated in a fraction of a second. If vehicle occupants are not wearing safety belts, this energy will be dissipated by the body against the windshield, dashboard, steering column, or against a seat-back. Since the kinetic energy increases with the square of the speed, increased speed levels disproportionately increase the probability that occupants are injured. According to estimates calculated by Giamotty and associates (1980), a crash with an impact speed of 40 mph is **twice** as likely to result in serious injury (overall AIS greater than 2) than a crash with an impact speed of 30 mph. In short, if raising the speed limit to 65 mph increases average speeds on the road,

the average speed at impact in traffic crashes would likely increase, with a consequent increase in probability of serious injury or death resulting from those crashes.

The second dimension of effects of the speed limit is speed variance. Speed variance refers to the distribution of speeds present on a given road in a given area. That is, how many cars are going faster or slower than the average speed? An increase in the proportion of vehicles on the road that are traveling significantly slower or faster than the average speed increases the probability of traffic crashes (Lave, 1985; Garber and Gadirau, 1988). Conversely, having all vehicles traveling at the same speed reduces the probability of traffic crashes. The role of changing the speed limit on speed variance is not fully understood. There is a general statistical phenomenon whereby the variance of a measure increases as the mean increases. Based on this common pattern, an increase in average speed resulting from raising the speed limit would also be expected to increase the variance in speeds. This is intuitively reasonable, since some drivers, who prefer driving at 55, will continue to do so after the limit is raised. Other drivers will take advantage of the raised limit to increase their speeds. The result is increased speed variance, which is likely to increase the number of crashes. In short, if the 65-mph limit increases speed variance, a possible result is an increased number of traffic crashes, causing an increase in the number of motorists killed or injured.

There is another factor that may influence how the speed limit change affects speed variance: design speed. Design speed is "the maximum safe speed that can be maintained over a specified section of highway when conditions are favorable such that the design features of the highway govern" (Garber and Gadirau, 1988). Garber and Gadirau found that speed variance increased as the difference between the posted speed limit and the design speed of the road segment increased. Perhaps this is because drivers tend to increase their driving speed as the geometric characteristics of the roadway improve, regardless of the posted speed limit. Speed variance was found to be at a minimum on road segments where the posted speed limit was 6 to 12 mph below the design speed. If this pattern held true for the State of Michigan, raising the speed limit would not increase speed variance as otherwise expected, and would not have as deleterious effects on highway safety as expected. However, it is also worth noting that design

speeds of interstates were for a greatly different vehicle fleet. Current passenger cars have, on the whole, lower driver eye heights, and less acceleration power. The same guard rail that redirected the 4000 lb. car may turn the 2000 lb. car over. To help isolate the effects of the raised speed limit, average speed, and speed variance, we examined both numbers of traffic crashes and levels of injury severity.

1.2. Estimates of the Effect of the 65 mph Speed Limit in Other States

Using Box-Tiao time-series intervention modeling, McCarthy (1988) found no effects of raising the speed limit on Indiana's rural interstates on the total number of crashes, number of fatal crashes, number of injury crashes, or the number of injuries or fatalities from crashes. McCarthy examined six months of data after the limit was raised (June 1, 1987 through December 31, 1987). A potential confounding factor was implementation of a mandatory safety belt use law in Indiana one month after the speed limit was raised.

Brackett and Pendleton (1988) examined effects of the speed limit change in Texas, using speed and crash data from January 1982 through June 1988, including 12 months of post-law data. Using analysis-of-variance methods, they found average speeds increased significantly. However, speed variance (estimated by subtracting the mean speed from the 85th percentile speed) decreased over the same period. Crash data suggested that crash frequency and severity increased on rural interstates with new 65-mph limit. The authors conclude that serious crashes (those resulting in fatal or serious injuries) increased approximately 20%.

Brown, Maghsoodloo, and McArdle (1989) examined the first 12 months with the 65-mph limit in Alabama. Using chi-squared tests, they found an 18% increase in total crashes on roads with the 65-mph limit. There was no change in the distribution of crashes by injury severity. They also found evidence of a spillover effect on roads where the speed limit was not increased.

Baum, Lund, and Wells (1988) found a 15% increase in fatalities on rural interstates in the 38 states which increased the speed limit in 1987. They observed no increases in states

which did not change the speed limit. The 15% estimate is based on comparisons between the ratio of deaths on rural interstates to deaths on other roads in the months following the speed limit increase and the average of those same months from the period 1982-1986.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration provided a report to the U.S. Congress summarizing the effects of the 65-mph speed limit during 1987 (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 1989). According to this report, average travel speeds increased from 60.3 mph to 62.2 mph in states with increased speed limits, while speeds changed from 57.2 to 57.6 mph in states that retained 55 mph. No data were available on speed variance on these roads. Of the 38 states which raised the speed limit on at least some of the eligible rural interstate highways, 27 states had increased fatality frequencies and 11 had either no increase or a decrease in fatalities in 1987 compared to 1986. Of the ten states with eligible roadways that retained the 55-mph limit, fatalities increased or remained unchanged in six states, and decreased in four states. Collectively, the 38 states that raised their speed limits experienced a 19% increase in rural interstate fatalities while the ten states that retained the 55-mph limit experienced a 7% increase in rural interstate fatalities. NHTSA took into account the amount of travel by examining fatality rates per mile traveled, and found a 14% increase in the 38 states that increased the speed limit. No change was found in the ten states where the speed limit remained unchanged. Using regression analyses to model long-term fatality trends, a 16% increase in fatalities occurred in 1987 from levels expected based on the historical relationship between fatalities and travel mileage. Finally, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration examined nonfatal crash data in seven states (Arizona, Louisiana, New Mexico, North Carolina, Indiana, Missouri, and Texas). Experiences in these states varied, but increases in the number of crashes and nonfatal injuries were approximately the same magnitude as increases in fatalities.

Garber and Graham (1989) examined the effects of the 65-mph speed limit in the 40 states which adopted the new limit before March 1988. Based on regression analyses, they found effects varied across states. Significant increases in rural interstate fatalities were found in ten of the states, significant decreases were found in two of the states, and the changes in the remaining 18 states were not statistically significant. A 15% increase in fatalities on rural

interstates was the estimated median effect across all states. A statistically significant spillover effect to noninterstate rural highways was detected in eight cases, and estimates indicating possible spillover effects (though not statistically significant) were detected in 18 additional states. A 5% increase in fatalities on rural noninterstate highways was the median spillover effect across all states.

Effects of the increased speed limit in states raising the speed limit between April and June 1987 on fatal and nonfatal injury crashes were investigated by McKnight, Klein, and Tippetts (1989). Time series intervention modeling of monthly crash data for January 1982 through July 1988 revealed a significant 27.1% increase in fatal crashes. No significant change was found in fatal crashes on 55 mph urban interstates and rural noninterstate roads. Interestingly, there was a significant 10.4% increase in fatal crashes on rural interstates in states which did not raise the limit, and a significant 12.7% increase in fatal crashes on other 55 mph highways in these states. Of the 16 time-series models for examining effects of the speed limit change on injury crashes that were examined, only one model (the ratio of the number of injury crashes on 65 mph rural interstates to those on 55 mph highways) showed a significant effect of the speed limit change (20% increase).

While several studies to date have found increased fatalities and injuries following implementation of a raised speed limit from 55 to 65 mph, other studies failed to find such an effect. One key to examining these different findings is the use of different strategies to analyze the data. Time-series analyses such as those used by McCarthy (1988), and McKnight and others (1989) are the preferred analysis strategy because they control seasonal and other trends present in most crash data. Other specialized regression techniques such as those used by NHTSA (1989) and Garber and Graham (1989) also control for some of the trends in the data, but do not do so as efficiently or completely as time-series analysis. Thus, estimates from regression models may be biased by autocorrelations which remain uncontrolled, potentially yielding inaccurate conclusions. Other analysis strategies such as ANOVA and Chi-squared tests suffer because of violations in the basic assumptions on which these tests are based. The present study uses time-

series analytic techniques to determine specific effects of the 65 mph speed limit in Michigan in the first year with the new law. Additional research is needed for a fuller understanding of the longer-term effects of this policy change.

2. METHODS

2.1. Research Design

Our goal was to answer the question: Did the increase in the maximum speed limit from 55 to 65 mph on rural interstates and rural highways built to interstate standards in Michigan **cause** a change in motor vehicle crash deaths, injuries, and property damage? It is not sufficient to find that changes in these outcomes are associated with implementation of the law. The research should be designed so that observed changes can be best explained by the increased speed limit. Other possible explanations for observed changes must be controlled as much as possible.

Alternate explanations for observed changes in deaths and injuries at the time of the speed limit change were controlled in three ways. First, a monthly time-series design was used to control for multi-year trends, cycles, and other regular patterns in the outcome variables. Measurement of a significant change beginning the exact month the speed limit was raised strengthens the argument that observed differences were due to changes in speed limit.

Second, the time-series statistical models included several covariates, such as vehicle miles traveled, unemployment rate, and alcohol consumption, to control for their effects on deaths, injuries, and property damage. Inclusion of covariates in the time-series models further increases confidence that observed differences are a result of changes in speed limit. In addition, the effects of other major policy changes known to influence injury rates, such as the compulsory safety belt law, were statistically controlled.

The use of multiple comparison time series is the third strategy used to increase confidence that the raised speed limit is responsible for observed changes in deaths, injuries, and property damage. Comparisons were made between specific road segments where the speed limit was raised and roads where the limit remained unchanged. Specifically, we compared changes in the outcome measures for road segments where the limit was raised to 65 mph with (1)

limited-access highway segments where the limit remained at 55 mph, and (2) all other roads, where existing speed limits remained unchanged. The primary effects of the new 65-mph limit were expected only on those segments with the higher limit. While there may be some spillover effects on other road segments where the speed limit remained unchanged, any such spillover effects were expected to be small compared to the main effects.

2.2. Data Collection

2.2.1. Crashes

Data on motor vehicle crashes from January 1978 through December 1988 were obtained from the Michigan State Police. Records were available on all traffic crashes occurring in Michigan reported to any state, county, or municipal police agency. Monthly time-series variables were constructed one year at a time by generating multiple bivariate tables stratified by a combination of variables of interest (e.g., fatal crashes on rural interstates where the speed limit was increased to 65 mph). Frequency counts in such tables were extracted to form individual 12-month time-series. These eleven 12-month time series were then combined to produce the 132-month time series used in these analyses. Specific variables and code values used to construct the time series are summarized here. Complete descriptions of each variable are available in codebooks prepared and distributed annually by the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute Data Center. Variable numbers and code values corresponding to the 1987 codebook are enclosed in parentheses for reference. For example, "V1:1-2" refers to variable number one, code values one and two as documented in the 1987 codebook.

Cases included in all time-series were filtered to exclude motor vehicle crashes involving pedestrians and/or pedalcycles (V41:1). This global filter limited data analyzed to crashes which involve motor vehicles, since the raised speed limit is unlikely to affect the behavior of pedestrians and pedalcyclists.

Each crash and injury record in the data set was stratified by whether the crash occurred on a section of limited-access highway currently posted at 65, a section of limited-access highway where the speed limit remained 55 mph, or another class of road. The Michigan Department of Transportation provided a list of speed limits by specific road segments for all of Michigan's limited-access highways (Appendix A). This list provided data on the speed limit of limited-access roads by "control section" and the mile location within each control section.

Exact crash location and the speed limit in effect at the location of each crash were identified by merging the speed limit by control section data with data available on each traffic crash. First, all crashes on roads without a highway number in the Michigan crash data (V20:9--highway class: county road, city street, or unknown) were classified as occurring on "other roads." Remaining roads were classified based on the list of speed limits for each control section. The highway control section was derived for each crash by combining the county code (V12) with the route code through the county (V14). The mile point in the control section is recorded by the police officer investigating each crash (V15). Using these variables, each crash was classified as occurring on: (1) a limited-access highway posted 65 mph, (2) a limited-access highway posted 55 mph, or (3) other road.

The following monthly (V2) time-series variables were constructed for each road segment type.

- A. Total number of vehicles involved in crashes per month by highway type.
- B. Total number of crashes per month by:
 - (1) single vehicle involved (V39:01)
 - (2) car-car crash (V39:02)
 - (3) car-truck crash (V39:03).
- C. Total number of vehicles involved in crashes per month by:
 - (1) vehicle damage low (V118:1-2)
 - (2) vehicle damage medium (V118:3-4)
 - (3) vehicle damage high (V118:5-8).

- D. Total number of vehicles involved in crashes per month by:
- (1) male driver (V150:1)
 - (2) female driver (V150:2).
- E. Total number of vehicles involved in crashes per month by:
- (1) driver age 15-24 years (V147:15-24)
 - (2) driver age 25-54 years (V147:25-54)
 - (3) driver age 55 years and older (V147:55-98).
- F. Total number of vehicles involved in crashes per month by:
- (1) vehicle sustained property damage only (V139:5)
 - (2) vehicle occupant sustained injury (no fatality) (V139:2-4)
 - (3) vehicle occupant was killed (V139:1).
- G. Total number of injured occupants per month by:
- (1) injury severity=fatal (V210:1), weighted by number of fatalities (V140)
 - (2) injury severity=serious (V210:2), weighted by number of serious injuries (V141)
 - (3) injury severity=moderate (V210:3), weighted by number of moderate injuries (V142)
 - (4) injury severity=minor (V210:4), weighted by number of minor injuries (V143).

2.2.2. Covariates

Covariates used include implementation of the adult safety belt law, number of vehicle miles traveled in the state, proportion of licensed drivers under age 25, aggregate beer consumption in the state, and percent of the labor force unemployed. Monthly figures for total vehicle miles traveled on all roads were obtained from the Federal Highway Administration. Data on the number of licensed drivers by age and gender were also obtained from the Federal Highway Administration. Monthly wholesale beer distribution in Michigan was obtained from the U.S. Beer Institute. Data on percent of the labor force unemployed were obtained from the Michigan Department of Management and Budget. These data are derived from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' monthly estimates of civilian labor force (CLF), employed, and unemployed based on the Current Population Survey.

2.2.3. *Travel Speeds*

Quarterly data on measured speeds of vehicles on the road were obtained from the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) for the 1982-88 period. MDOT measures speeds throughout the state for compliance with the compulsory federal 55-mph speed limit monitoring program and a separate state speed monitoring program. Data are collected with pneumatic tube speed measuring devices at some locations, and permanent magnetic speed loops imbedded in the pavement at other locations. Speeds are sampled at 44 sites annually.¹ Approximately one-third of these sites are sampled quarterly, with the remaining sampled annually. With the cooperation of MDOT, we identified the location of each sample site and the current posted speed limit at each site. Of interest was the long-term trend of vehicles exceeding 55 mph and 65 mph for roads currently posted at 55-mph and 65-mph speed limits.

2.3. **Statistical Analyses**

Each dependent variable was plotted for the full 1978 through 1988 period, including a centered moving average line, useful for discerning overall trends (Appendix B). The moving average line was created by summing the six data points preceding and the six data points following each point and dividing this sum by twelve. This procedure is repeated for each of the data points in the series with the exception of the first and last six points. Monthly crash frequencies and rates often have substantial "noise" or variance around a general trend that masks underlying patterns. Moving average trend lines eliminate much of this "noise," making visual identification of general trends more straightforward.

The goal of the time-series analyses is to estimate changes in motor vehicle crash involvement and severity associated with increasing speed limits from 55 to 65 mph on rural interstates and other limited-access highways built to interstate standards. Box-Jenkins and Box-Tiao (Box and Jenkins, 1976; Box and Taio, 1975) methods were employed to control for

¹Data on measured travel speeds is missing for the first quarter of 1986 and the first quarter of 1987 due to problems with the monitoring equipment.

long-term trends and seasonal cycles, and to estimate changes beginning the first month after the increased speed limit took effect. The Box-Jenkins approach is a versatile time-series modeling strategy that can model a wide variety of trend, seasonal, and other recurring patterns.

At a conceptual level, the analytic strategy involves explaining as much of the variance in each variable as possible on the basis of its past history, before attributing any of the variance to another variable, such as the increased speed limit. The intervention-analysis approach is particularly appropriate for this study, because the objective is to identify significant changes in deaths, injuries, and crashes associated with the increased speed limit, independent of observed regularities in the history of each variable. In short, controlling for baseline trends and cycles with time-series models produces more accurate estimates of the effects of the speed limit change.

After controlling for long-term trends, cycles, and other regularities with Auto-Regressive Integrated Moving Average (ARIMA) models, we added a transfer function to each model with a step function for the month the speed limit was raised to estimate the associated change in each outcome variable. In addition, we added a second transfer function to the time-series models to estimate the anticipatory effect of the policy change. Considerable debate and media coverage of the speed limit issue occurred throughout 1987, as bills were introduced, passed, and signed at the federal and state level. The resulting publicity may have resulted in a small portion of the law's effects occurring before the law actually took effect. To determine whether this was the case, we constructed a second intervention variable *a priori*, based on knowledge of publicity concerning the speed limit. The anticipatory effect variable had the value zero from January 1978 through December 1986 (Figure 2.1). The anticipatory effect variable incremented .01 per month from January through March 1987, because of publicity surrounding discussions of possible speed limit increase legislation. An additional increment of .31 was added in April to account for the sudden increase in publicity associated with the April congressional override of the president's veto of the bill raising the speed limit. The variable incremented an additional .02 per month for May through September, representing the Michigan discussion and debate of a proposed increase in speed limit. An increment of .52 was added in October 1987, the month

Governor Blanchard signed the bill raising the speed limit on Michigan rural interstate highways to 65 mph. Finally, an increment of .04 was added for November 1987, such that all monthly increments summed to 1.0.

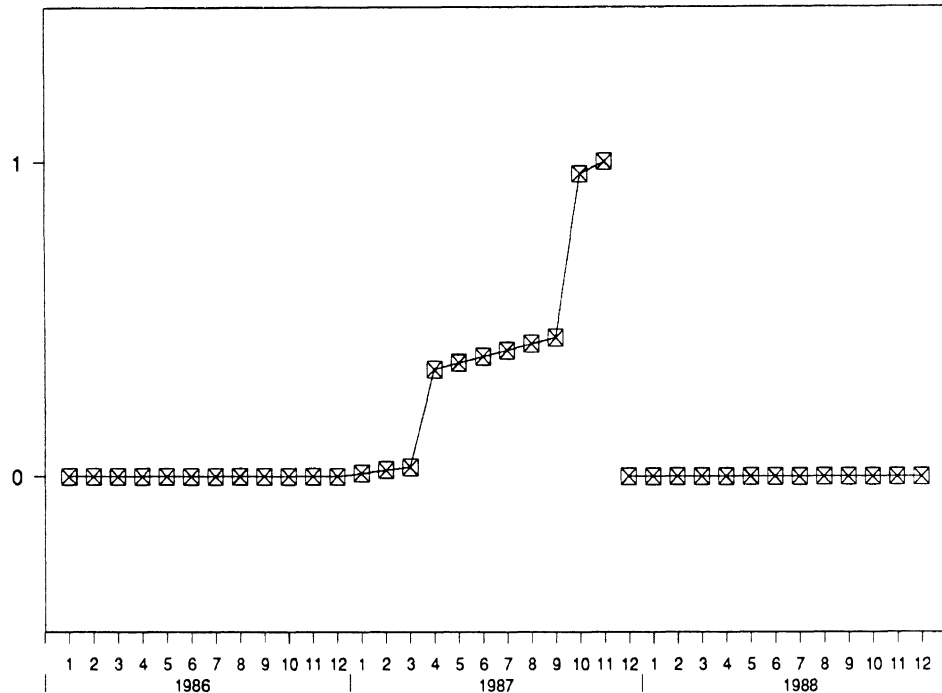


Figure 2.1: Functional Form of Anticipatory Effect Variable

A number of covariates were included in the time-series models to account for changes in casualties due to these other factors, and obtain a more accurate estimate of the effect attributable specifically to the speed limit change. Covariates included Michigan's compulsory safety belt use law, aggregate vehicle miles traveled, proportion of the licensed driver population under age 25, beer consumption, and unemployment. These variables are potential confounding factors because of established associations with traffic crash involvement. The safety belt law significantly reduced injury rates in Michigan (Streff, Wagenaar, and Schultz, in press). Aggregate vehicle miles traveled is a major index of exposure to risk of injury. The proportion of young drivers influences injury rates because of the overrepresentation of young drivers in

traffic crashes. A measure of alcohol consumption was included because of the substantial proportion of crashes that involve alcohol-impaired drivers. Wholesale beer distribution was selected as the measure of alcohol consumption in preference to total absolute alcohol from all beverages (beer, wine, and distilled spirits) because the majority of impaired drivers are impaired as a result of beer consumption (Berger and Snortum, 1985). Furthermore, previous research has documented the relationship between wholesale beer distribution and the number of traffic crashes (at lags of zero to two months; Wagenaar, 1984a). Finally, the unemployment rate was included (with lags of zero to four months) because previous research has shown its relationship with motor vehicle crash involvement (Wagenaar, 1984b; Evans and Graham, 1987; Wagenaar and Streff, 1989; Streff, Wagenaar and Schultz, 1989).

Finally, results from time-series models were compared across road segments experiencing the recent increase in speed limit and those with unchanged limits. Differential effects of the speed limit change were compared across men and women, number and type of vehicles involved in the crash, driver age groups, vehicle damage level, and injury severity.

3. RESULTS

Results of time-series analyses clearly revealed significant increases in crash-induced injuries on road segments where the maximum speed limit was increased from 55 mph to 65 mph (Table 3.1, Figure 3.1). Effects attributable to the increased speed limit include a 39.8% increase in serious (A-level) injuries and a 25.4% increase in moderate (B-level) injuries on road segments with the 65 limit. The number of minor (C-level) injuries did not change significantly. The number of vehicles involved in property-damage-only crashes increased 16.1% after the limit was increased. Finally, the number of deaths on freeways with the 65-mph limit increased 19.2% and fatalities on limited-access freeways posted at 55 mph increased 38.4%.²

We believe these results reflect increased morbidity, mortality, and property damage causally attributable to the policy raising the speed limit for two reasons. First, the increases began immediately after the signs for the higher speed limit were posted. Second, with the notable exception of fatalities on limited-access highways that remained at 55 mph, the increases were found only on those specific road segments where the posted speed limit was changed.

We examined available data on travel speeds measured at 55 sites throughout the State of Michigan, to assess the effect of the new law on actual travel speeds (Figure 3.1). The proportion of motorists traveling over the posted speed limit has been increasing throughout the 1980s. In addition to this gradual upward trend, there was a noticeable further increase in travel speeds in 1988. This increase is particularly apparent at those sites where the limit was raised to 65 (see the dotted line in Figure 3.2). Increasing travel speeds may reflect a decline in public support and police enforcement of the 55 limit in the 1980s (U.S. House of Representatives, 1985).

²Although the 95% confidence interval (-.05 to 42.7) for the estimated increase in fatalities on 65 mph freeway segments associated with the speed limit increase includes zero, the increase is statistically significant using a one-tailed test, consistent with our directional hypothesis of increased injuries and deaths following the increase in speed limit.

Although the actual posting of the new 65-mph speed limit signs occurred in late November 1987, considerable discussion and publicity regarding the pending increase in the limit occurred throughout 1987. As a result, we hypothesized that a small portion of the effect of the increased limit might have occurred before the new signs were actually posted, in anticipation of the formal change in late November and December of 1987. We tested this hypothesis by incorporating another variable into each time-series model to estimate this anticipatory effect. The anticipatory and implementation effects were then simultaneously estimated. Results revealed significant increases in serious and moderate injuries in anticipation of the speed limit change, but no significant anticipatory effects on fatalities, minor injuries, or property-damage-only crashes (Table 3.1). We re-estimated each time-series model excluding the anticipatory effect variable to determine the effect of inclusion of this variable on the estimates of the implementation effects. Results showed virtually no differences in estimated implementation effects (Table 3.2).

In addition to analyses of the speed limit effects by injury severity, we assessed differential effects of the law by crash configuration, extent of vehicle damage, gender, and age (Table 3.3, Figure 3.3 and Figure 3.4). There were no significant differences in the size of the increase in crashes associated with the 65 limit across any of these groups. The increased injuries, deaths, and property damage after the 65 limit took effect were experienced by both males and females.

The quasi-experimental research design, including experimental series of road segments where the speed limit was raised and comparison series of road segments where the limit remained unchanged, controlled for many threats to a causal interpretation of observed increases in casualties. To provide further confidence that other major factors influencing crash outcomes could not explain observed effects, we re-estimated each time-series model including a series of covariates that previous studies have demonstrated influence crash and injury rates (Wagenaar, 1984a; Wagenaar, 1984b; Wagenaar and Streff, 1989; Streff, Wagenaar, and Schultz, 1989). Results of models including covariates revealed larger estimated increases in fatalities, moderate injuries, and property-damage-only crashes associated with the 65 speed limit than models

without these covariates (Table 3.4). Observed increases in casualties associated with the 65 speed limit cannot be attributed to other factors such as the compulsory safety belt law, changes in vehicle miles traveled, economic conditions, alcohol consumption, or changing demographics of the driver population. If anything, estimated effects without statistical controls for these factors understate the deleterious effects of the 65 limit on casualty outcomes.

Finally, our findings do not support the argument that the 65-mph limit has little effect on safety since 65 mph is closer to the design speed of freeways than 55 mph. Recall from section 1.1 that Garber and Gadirau (1988) found speed variance to be related to the difference between the posted limit and the design speed. Increasing the limit on limited-access highways to 65 reduces the gap between the posted speed and design speed. If speed variance is reduced accordingly, the higher limit would not be expected to result in increased number of crashes. Available data did not permit conclusive analyses of the intervening role of speed variance in Michigan. Nevertheless, our findings of substantially increased injuries and noninjury crashes following the higher limit reduce the plausibility of arguing, on the basis of safety, in favor of closing the gap between design speed and the posted limit by increasing the posted limit.

(Text continues on page 31)

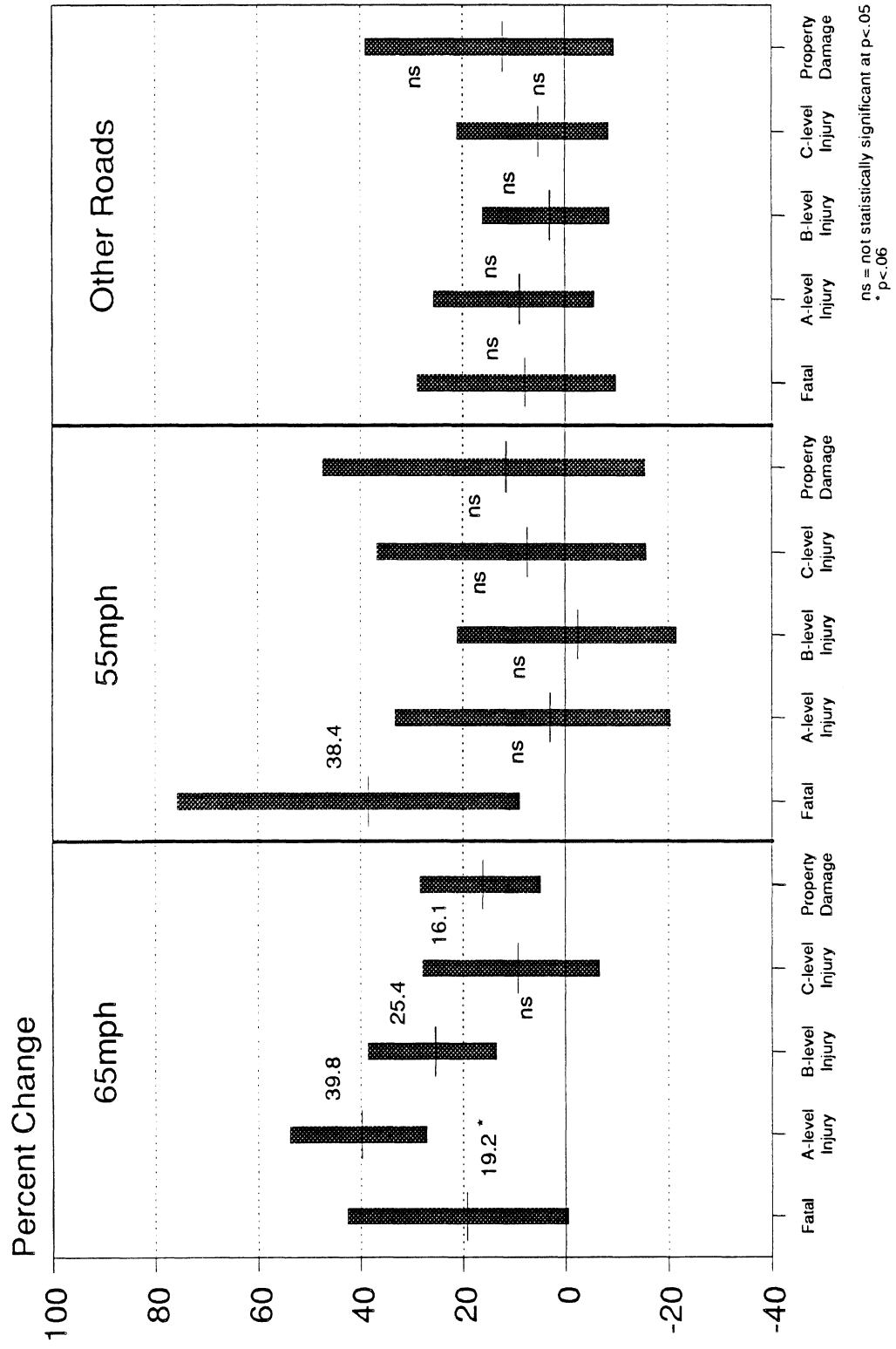


Figure 3.1: Effects of Increase in Maximum Speed Limit by Injury Level

Table 3.1. Effects of Increase in Maximum Speed Limit: Results from Time-Series Models with Anticipatory and Implementation Effects

	<u>Estimate</u>	<u>Standard Error</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>	<u>90% Confidence Interval</u>	
				<u>Low</u>	<u>High</u>
Fatalities					
65 MPH Highways					
ARIMA (0, 0, 5) (0, 1, 1) ₁₂					
R ² = 0.03					
Anticipatory Effect	0.2881	0.2998			
Implementation Effect	0.1754	0.1094	19.2	- 0.5	42.7
55 Limited-access Highways					
ARIMA (0, 0, 0) (0, 1, 1) ₁₂					
R ² = 0.17					
Anticipatory Effect	0.3021	0.3025			
Implementation Effect	0.3251*	0.1454	38.4	9.0	75.8
All Other Roads					
ARIMA (0, 1, 1) (0, 1, 1) ₁₂					
R ² = 0.72					
Anticipatory Effect	0.0719	0.1278			
Implementation Effect	0.0750	0.1085	7.8	- 9.8	28.9
Serious Injuries					
65 MPH Highways					
ARIMA (0, 0, 0) (0, 1, 1) ₁₂					
R ² = 0.46					
Anticipatory Effect	0.4937*	0.1424			
Implementation Effect	0.3353*	0.0581	39.8	27.1	53.9
55 Limited-access Highways					
ARIMA (0, 1, 8) (0, 1, 1) ₁₂					
R ² = 0.31					
Anticipatory Effect	0.2742	0.1719			
Implementation Effect	0.0292	0.1566	3.0	-20.4	33.2
All Other Roads					
ARIMA (0, 1, 1) (0, 1, 1) ₁₂					
R ² = 0.89					
Anticipatory Effect	0.0659	0.0861			
Implementation Effect	0.0851	0.0874	8.9	- 5.7	25.7
Moderate Injuries					
65 MPH Highways					
ARIMA (0, 0, 7) (0, 1, 1) ₁₂					
R ² = 0.50					
Anticipatory Effect	0.2191*	0.1232			
Implementation Effect	0.2266*	0.0609	25.4	13.5	38.6

Table 3.1. Continued

	<u>Estimate</u>	<u>Standard Error</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>	<u>90% Confidence Interval</u>	
				<u>Low</u>	<u>High</u>
55 Limited-access Highways					
ARIMA (0, 1, 1) (0, 1, 1) ₁₂					
R ² = 0.38					
Anticipatory Effect	0.0412	0.1477			
Implementation Effect	-0.0254	0.1319	- 2.5	-21.5	21.1
All Other Roads					
ARIMA (0, 1, 1) (0, 1, 1) ₁₂					
R ² = 0.88					
Anticipatory Effect	0.0526	0.0709			
Implementation Effect	0.0294	0.0731	3.0	- 8.7	16.1
Minor Injuries					
65 MPH Highways					
ARIMA (0, 0, 7) (0, 1, 1) ₁₂					
R ² = 0.66					
Anticipatory Effect	0.2197	0.1735			
Implementation Effect	0.0892	0.0955	9.3	- 6.6	27.9
55 Limited-access Highways					
ARIMA (0, 1, 1) (0, 1, 1) ₁₂					
R ² = 0.57					
Anticipatory Effect	0.1188	0.1608			
Implementation Effect	0.0715	0.1472	7.4	-15.7	36.8
All Other Roads					
ARIMA (0, 1, 1) (0, 1, 1) ₁₂					
R ² = 0.77					
Anticipatory Effect	0.0626	0.0857			
Implementation Effect	0.0510	0.0853	5.2	- 8.5	21.1
Property Damage Only Crashes					
65 MPH Highways					
ARIMA (0, 0, 1) (0, 1, 1) ₁₂					
R ² = 0.82					
Anticipatory Effect	0.1479	0.1235			
Implementation Effect	0.1491*	0.0618	16.1	4.9	28.5
55 Limited-access Highways					
ARIMA (0, 1, 1) (0, 1, 1) ₁₂					
R ² = 0.80					
Anticipatory Effect	0.1284	0.1686			
Implementation Effect	0.1090	0.1690	11.5	-15.5	47.3
All Other Roads					
ARIMA (0, 1, 1) (0, 1, 1) ₁₂					
R ² = 0.83					
Anticipatory Effect	0.1081	0.1233			
Implementation Effect	0.1147	0.1304	12.2	- 9.5	39.0

*Statistically significant at p < .05, one-tailed test.

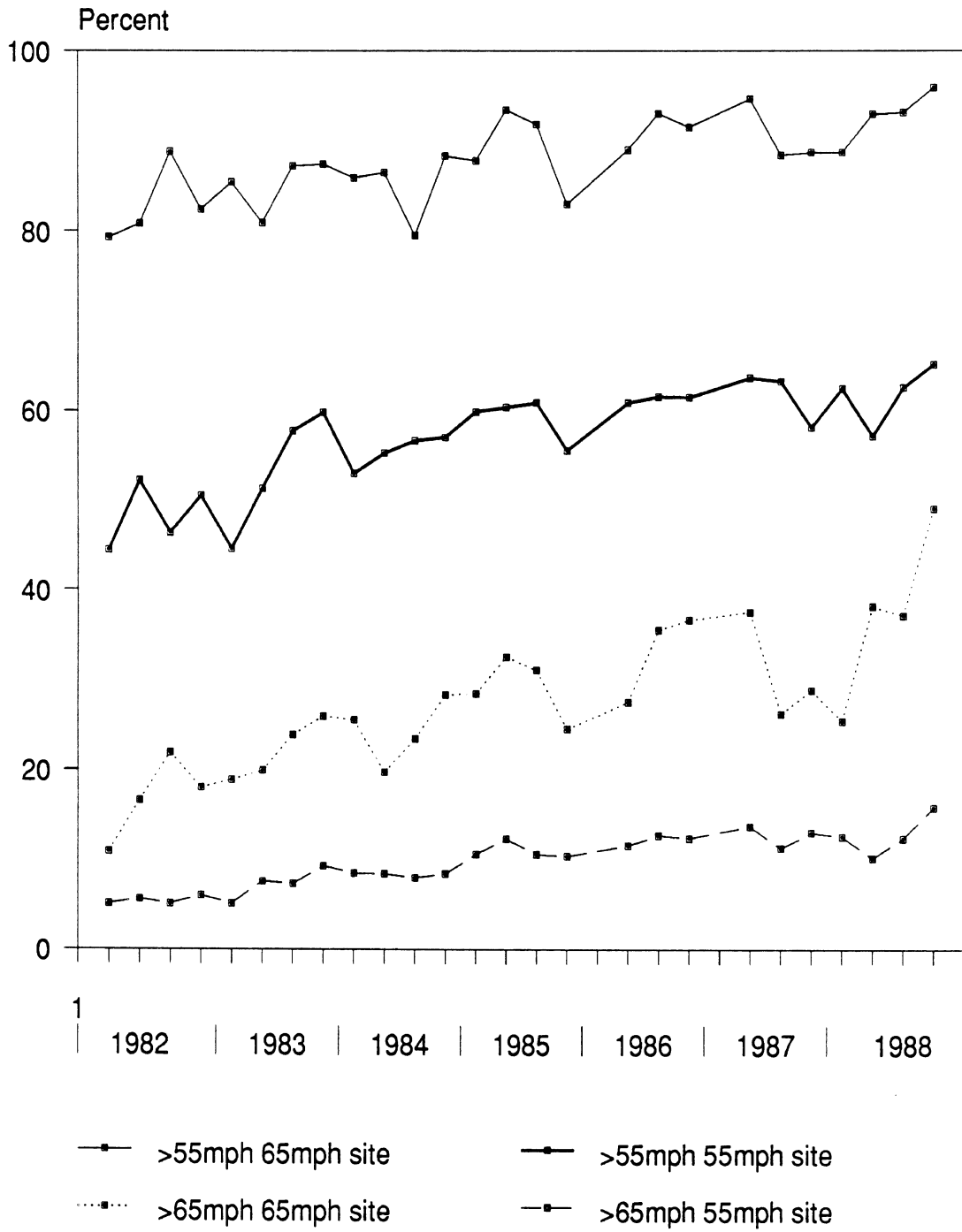


Figure 3.2: Travel Speeds Measured on 55 Sites throughout Michigan: 1982-1988

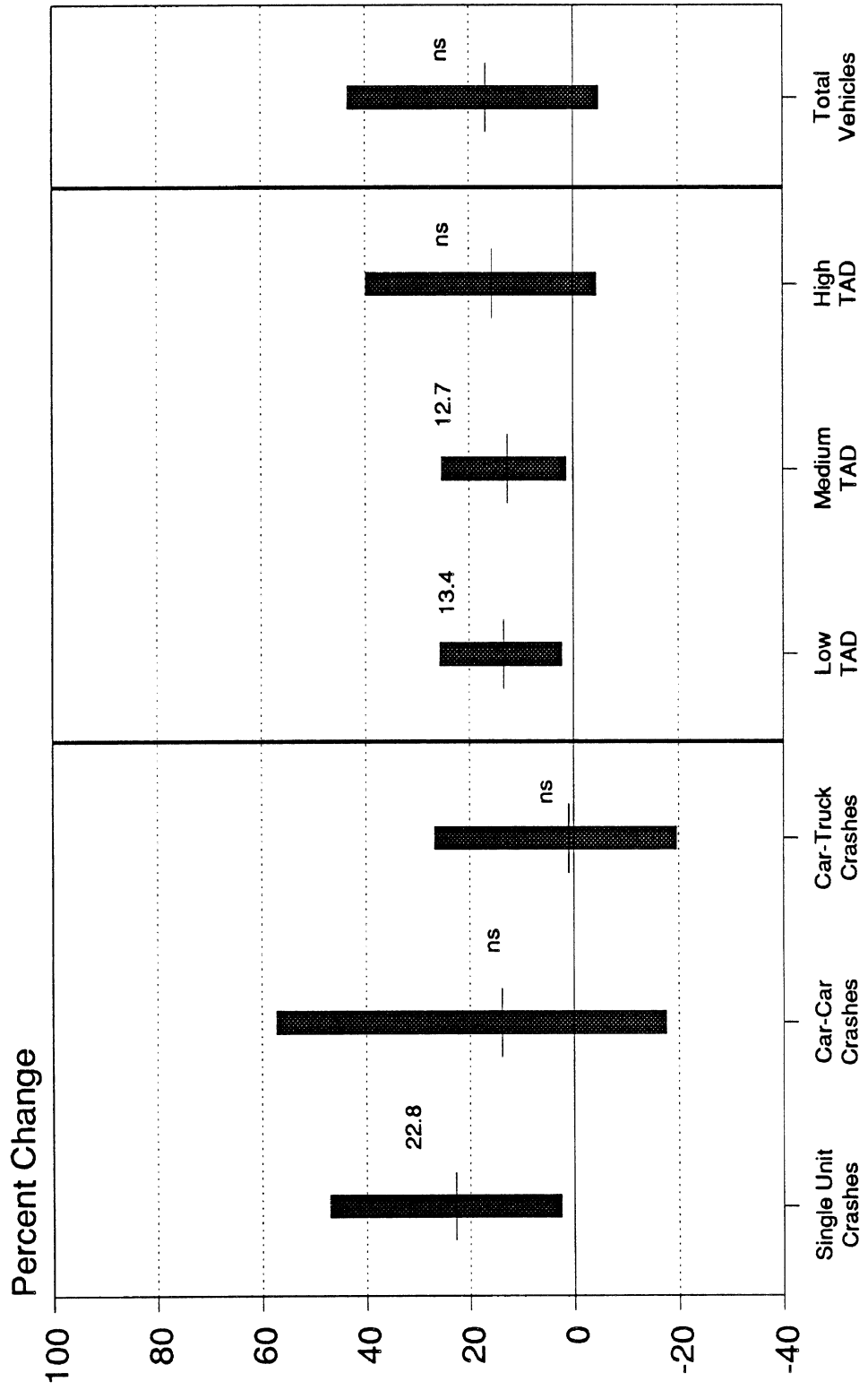
Table 3.2. Effects of Increase in Maximum Speed Limit: Results from Time-Series Models with Implementation Effect Only

	<u>Estimate</u>	<u>Standard Error</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>	<u>90% Confidence Interval</u>	
				<u>Low</u>	<u>High</u>
Fatalities					
65 MPH Highways					
ARIMA (0, 0, 5) (0, 1, 1) ₁₂					
R ² = 0.03					
Implementation Effect	0.1699	0.1089	18.5	- 0.9	41.8
55 Limited-access Highways					
ARIMA (0, 0, 0) (0, 1, 1) ₁₂					
R ² = 0.18					
Implementation Effect	0.2796*	0.1381	32.3	5.4	66.0
All Other Roads					
ARIMA (0, 1, 1) (0, 1, 1) ₁₂					
R ² = 0.72					
Implementation Effect	0.0353	0.0819	3.6	- 9.5	18.5
Serious Injuries					
65 MPH Highways					
ARIMA (0, 0, 0) (0, 1, 1) ₁₂					
R ² = 0.41					
Implementation Effect	0.3128*	0.0624	36.7	23.4	51.5
55 Limited-access Highways					
ARIMA (0, 1, 8) (0, 1, 1) ₁₂					
R ² = 0.30					
Implementation Effect	-0.1424	0.1094	-13.3	-27.6	3.8
All Other Roads					
ARIMA (0, 1, 1) (0, 1, 1) ₁₂					
R ² = 0.89					
Implementation Effect	0.0334	0.055	3.4	- 5.5	13.2
Moderate Injuries					
65 MPH Highways					
ARIMA (0, 0, 7) (0, 1, 1) ₁₂					
R ² = 0.49					
Implementation Effect	0.2028*	0.0606	22.5	10.9	35.3
55 Limited-access Highways					
ARIMA (0, 1, 1) (0, 1, 1) ₁₂					
R ² = 0.38					
Implementation Effect	-0.0505	0.0949	- 4.9	-18.7	11.1

Table 3.2. Continued

	<u>Estimate</u>	<u>Standard Error</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>	<u>90% Confidence Interval</u>	
				<u>Low</u>	<u>High</u>
All Other Roads					
ARIMA (0, 1, 1) (0, 1, 1) ₁₂					
R ² = 0.88					
Implementation Effect	-0.0120	0.0453	- 1.2	- 8.3	6.4
Minor Injuries					
65 MPH Highways					
ARIMA (0, 0, 7) (0, 1, 1) ₁₂					
R ² = 0.66					
Implementation Effect	0.0456	0.0896	4.7	- 9.7	21.3
55 Limited-access Highways					
ARIMA (0, 1, 1) (0, 1, 1) ₁₂					
R ² = 0.57					
Implementation Effect	-0.0052	0.1041	-0.5	-16.2	18.1
All Other Roads					
ARIMA (0, 1, 1) (0, 1, 1) ₁₂					
R ² = 0.77					
Implementation Effect	0.0054	0.055	0.5	- 8.2	10.1
Property Damage Only Crashes					
65 MPH Highways					
ARIMA (0, 0, 1) (0, 1, 1) ₁₂					
R ² = 0.82					
Implementation Effect	0.1254*	0.0589	13.4	2.9	24.9
55 Limited-access Highways					
ARIMA (0, 1, 1) (0, 1, 1) ₁₂					
R ² = 0.80					
Implementation Effect	0.0124	0.1093	1.2	-15.4	21.2
All Other Roads					
ARIMA (0, 1, 1) (0, 1, 1) ₁₂					
R ² = 0.83					
Implementation Effect	-0.0340	0.0795	- 3.3	-15.2	10.2

*Statistically significant at p < .05, one-tailed test.



ns = not statistically significant at p<.05

Figure 3.3: Effects of Increase in Maximum Speed Limit by Crash Configuration and Vehicle Damage Level

Table 3.3. Differential Effects of Increase in Maximum Speed Limit to 65 by Crash Configuration, Vehicle Damage Level, Gender, and Age

Crash Configuration	<u>Estimate</u>	<u>Standard Error</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>	<u>90% Confidence Interval</u>	
				<u>Low</u>	<u>High</u>
Single Vehicle					
ARIMA (0, 1, 1) (0, 1, 1) ₁₂					
R ² = 0.86					
Anticipatory Effect	0.1812	0.1347			
Implementation Effect	0.2051*	0.1096	22.8	2.5	47.0
Car-car					
ARIMA (0, 1, 1) (0, 1, 1) ₁₂					
R ² = 0.71					
Anticipatory Effect	0.1718	0.2195			
Implementation Effect	0.1296	0.1966	13.8	-17.6	57.3
Car-truck					
ARIMA (0, 1, 1) (0, 1, 1) ₁₂					
R ² = 0.76					
Anticipatory Effect	0.0195	0.1704			
Implementation Effect	0.0096	0.1383	1.0	-19.6	26.8
Vehicle Damage Level					
Low					
ARIMA (0, 0, 1) (0, 1, 1) ₁₂					
R ² = 0.81					
Anticipatory Effect	0.0930	0.1253			
Implementation Effect	0.1258*	0.0625	13.4	2.3	25.7
Medium					
ARIMA (0, 0, 1) (0, 1, 1) ₁₂					
R ² = 0.81					
Anticipatory Effect	0.1167	0.1300			
Implementation Effect	0.1198*	0.0643	12.7	1.4	25.3
High					
ARIMA (0, 1, 1) (0, 1, 1) ₁₂					
R ² = 0.69					
Anticipatory Effect	0.2015	0.1484			
Implementation Effect	0.1447	0.1156	15.6	- 4.4	39.8

Table 3.3. Continued

	<u>Estimate</u>	<u>Standard Error</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>	<u>90% Confidence Interval</u>	
				<u>Low</u>	<u>High</u>
Gender					
Male Driver Rate					
ARIMA (0, 0, 0) (0, 1, 1) ₁₂					
R ² = 0.77					
Anticipatory Effect	0.1284	0.1123			
Implementation Effect	0.1193*	0.0533	12.7	3.2	23.0
Female Driver Rate					
ARIMA (0, 0, 0) (0, 1, 1) ₁₂					
R ² = 0.83					
Anticipatory Effect	0.2359*	0.1211			
Implementation Effect	0.1481*	0.0599	16.0	5.1	28.0
Age					
Age 15-24 Rate					
ARIMA (0, 1, 1) (0, 1, 1) ₁₂					
R ² = 0.77					
Anticipatory Effect	0.0961	0.2075			
Implementation Effect	0.1847	0.2058	20.3	-14.3	68.7
Age 25-55 Rate					
ARIMA (0, 1, 1) (0, 1, 1) ₁₂					
R ² = 0.81					
Anticipatory Effect	0.2201	0.1420			
Implementation Effect	0.1728	0.1070	18.9	- 0.3	41.7
Age 56+ Rate					
ARIMA (0, 1, 1) (0, 1, 1) ₁₂					
R ² = 0.68					
Anticipatory Effect	0.2834*	0.1381			
Implementation Effect	0.1757*	0.0783	19.2	4.8	35.6
Total Vehicles Crashed					
ARIMA (0, 1, 1) (0, 1, 1) ₁₂					
R ² = 0.80					
Anticipatory Effect	0.1534	0.1496	16.6	- 8.9	49.1
Implementation Effect	0.1553	0.1241	16.8	- 4.8	43.3

*Statistically significant at $p < .05$, one-tailed test.

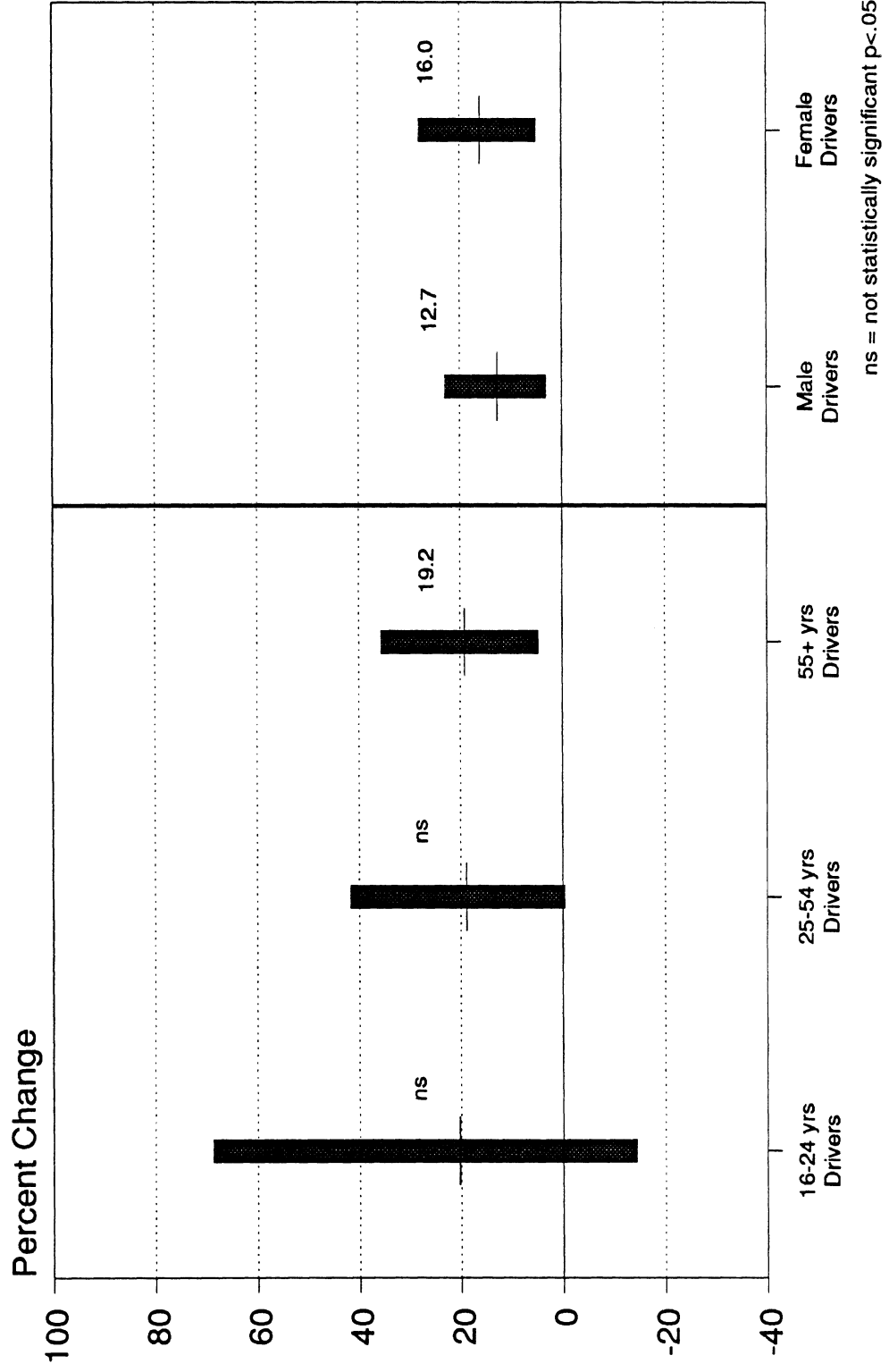


Figure 3.4: Effects of Increase in Maximum Speed Limit by Age and Gender

Table 3.4. Effects of Increase in Maximum Speed Limit: Results from Time-Series Models with Anticipatory Effects, Implementation Effects, and Controls for Effects of Covariates

	<u>Estimate</u>	<u>Standard Error</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>	<u>90% Confidence Interval</u>	
				<u>Low</u>	<u>High</u>
Fatalities					
65 MPH Highways					
ARIMA (0, 0, 5) (0, 1, 1) ₁₂					
R ² = 0.10					
Anticipatory Effect	0.8352	0.3741			
Implementation Effect	0.3945	0.1705	48.4	12.1	96.4
Adult Belt Law	-0.4901	0.1616			
Vehicle Miles Traveled	0.7413	0.9104			
Unemployment Rate Lag 0	0.2749	0.5107			
Lag 1	0.3071	0.6364			
Lag 2	-1.000	0.6620			
Lag 3	-0.2650	0.6421			
Lag 4	0.3383	0.5038			
Beer Consumption Lag 0	0.0966	0.8253			
Lag 1	-0.0029	0.8134			
Lag 2	1.434	0.8122			
Percent Young Drivers	-0.9469	0.5509			
Serious Injuries					
65 MPH Highways					
ARIMA (0, 0, 0) (0, 1, 1) ₁₂					
R ² = 0.49					
Anticipatory Effect	0.4322	0.1809			
Implementation Effect	0.2764	0.0887	31.8	13.9	52.5
Adult Belt Law	-0.0175	0.0799			
Vehicle Miles Traveled	0.2014	0.3846			
Unemployment Rate Lag 0	-0.3372	0.2376			
Lag 1	-0.0474	0.3075			
Lag 2	0.1673	0.3289			
Lag 3	0.1748	0.3191			
Lag 4	-0.1384	0.2453			
Beer Consumption Lag 0	0.8060	0.3765			
Lag 1	0.2168	0.3742			
Lag 2	-0.5671	0.3730			
Percent Young Drivers	-0.3883	0.2895			

Table 3.4. Continued

	<u>Estimate</u>	<u>Standard Error</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>	<u>90% Confidence Interval</u>	
				<u>Low</u>	<u>High</u>
Moderate Injuries					
65 MPH Highways					
ARIMA (0, 0, 0) (0, 1, 1) ₁₂					
R ² = 0.51					
Anticipatory Effect	0.2839	0.1525			
Implementation Effect	0.2647	0.0848	30.3	13.3	49.8
Adult Belt Law	0.0393	0.0712			
Vehicle Miles Traveled	-0.2752	0.3247			
Unemployment Rate Lag 0	0.1035	0.2045			
Lag 1	-0.0307	0.2655			
Lag 2	0.0272	0.2811			
Lag 3	0.0174	0.2819			
Lag 4	-0.2512	0.2163			
Beer Consumption Lag 0	0.2253	0.3205			
Lag 1	0.2186	0.3186			
Lag 2	0.1899	0.3099			
Percent Young Drivers	-0.5948	0.2622			
Minor Injuries					
65 MPH Highways					
ARIMA (0, 0, 0) (0, 1, 1) ₁₂					
R ² = 0.67					
Anticipatory Effect	0.3374	0.2404			
Implementation Effect	0.1802	0.1516	19.7	- 6.7	53.7
Adult Belt Law	0.0468	0.1185			
Vehicle Miles Traveled	-0.8417	0.4090			
Unemployment Rate Lag 0	0.0257	0.2251			
Lag 1	-0.0200	0.2626			
Lag 2	-0.2387	0.2795			
Lag 3	0.3863	0.2741			
Lag 4	-0.3669	0.2403			
Beer Consumption Lag 0	0.0547	0.3559			
Lag 1	0.7039	0.3515			
Lag 2	0.0163	0.3453			
Percent Young Drivers	-0.5313	0.4365			

Table 3.4. Continued

	<u>Estimate</u>	<u>Standard Error</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>	<u>90% Confidence Interval</u>	
				<u>Low</u>	<u>High</u>
Property Damage Only Crashes					
65 MPH Highways					
ARIMA (0, 0, 0) (0, 1, 1) ₁₂					
R ² = 0.84					
Anticipatory Effect	0.2342	0.1722			
Implementation Effect	0.2413	0.1036	27.3	7.3	50.9
Adult Belt Law	0.1631	0.0798			
Vehicle Miles Traveled	-0.8257	0.2957			
Unemployment Rate Lag 0	-0.0900	0.1680			
Lag 1	-0.0834	0.2053			
Lag 2	0.2430	0.2181			
Lag 3	-0.0356	0.2118			
Lag 4	-0.2136	0.1761			
Beer Consumption Lag 0	0.1406	0.2615			
Lag 1	0.1805	0.2609			
Lag 2	-0.2293	0.2588			
Percent Young Drivers	-0.4472	0.3037			

4. DISCUSSION

Raising the speed limit to 65 mph was followed by increased casualties due to motor vehicle crashes. On road segments where the limit was raised, the percentage increases in injury and death were large (16 to 40%). Fortunately, the limited-access highways where the limit was raised are relatively safe, compared to other roads in the state. Because limited-access highways have relatively low injury and death rates, the proportional increase in casualties on these roads represents a smaller increase in the actual number of people killed or injured than would occur if the limit were raised on other types of roads. Nevertheless, our results show that 27 additional people were killed, 222 experienced serious injuries, and 271 experienced moderate injuries in the first 13 months with the raised limit (Table 4.1). Estimated total costs in terms of the rational investment to prevent these additional injuries and fatalities is \$57 million. Similar costs to prevent property-damage-only crashes total over \$4.8 million.

Many observers argue that there are also substantial benefits of the raised limit, primarily cost savings due to reduced travel time. Miller (1989) argues that the costs of the raised limit in terms of years of life lost from premature death and injury are roughly equal to the years saved from reduced travel time. However, Miller also points out that the costs and benefits are not equally distributed--savings accrue to all drivers and passengers of motor vehicles, but costs are born disproportionately by the those who are killed or injured in crashes. Furthermore, the risk of death or injury is not equally distributed throughout the population of motorists (young males are at higher risk, for example). It is widely argued by public health ethicists that equal aggregate costs and benefits of a public policy should not be considered off-setting if the **distribution** of the costs and benefits is unequal (Beauchamp, 1976).

There are other issues that are part of the debate concerning the appropriate maximum speed limit. One might argue that there are other policies that can prevent as much or more damage than the 55-mph limit, perhaps at lower cost or at least with a different distribution of costs. The majority of the public supports the 65-mph limit (52%; Wagenaar, Streff, and Maybee, 1987), a fact used to argue for maintenance of the 65 limit, or to argue for better dissemination of information regarding increased casualties caused by higher speeds. Although

we found ambiguous evidence of spill-over effects in this short-term study, it is possible that higher speeds on selected (safer) road segments over the long-term may gradually spread to other (less safe) road segments, increasing the deleterious effects of the raised speed limit.

Table 4.1 Estimated Injuries Attributable to Increase in Speed Limit to 65 mph

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Expected¹</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Costs²</u>
Fatalities	1,558	1,531	27	\$44,142,408
Serious Injuries	22,250	22,028	222	9,436,666
Moderate Injuries	43,504	43,233	271	3,544,472
Total Casualties	67,312	66,792	520	\$57,123,546
Property Damage Only Crashes	623,016	620,808	2,208	4,813,440
Total	690,328	687,600	2,728	\$61,936,986

Notes:

¹Expected represents the estimated number of deaths or injuries that would have occurred in the 13-month post-law period analyzed had the speed limit not changed.

²Based on 1988 adjusted willingness-to-pay values of \$1,634,904 per fatality, \$42,508 per serious injury, \$13,079 per moderate injury, \$2,180 per property-damage-only crash. Original calculated in 1986 dollars, adjusted annually by consumer price index to 1988 dollars.

Ultimately, support or opposition to the 65 limit must be based on one's structure of values. Is the increased convenience of faster travel worth the increased deaths and injuries? Each individual may make their own decisions regarding these trade-offs. But a safe and efficient transportation system is inherently a collective good. Therefore, collective acknowledgement and public debate on the benefits and costs of alternative speed limit policies is necessary (Beauchamp, 1988). Moreover, decisions regarding appropriate speed limits must be based on the welfare of the community as a whole. Results of the current study showing increased deaths and injuries following the raised speed limit are a central dimension of the debate.

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Appendix A

Chronology of Events Concerning Speed Limit Changes in the U.S. and the State of Michigan

U.S. Congressional Action on Speed Limit Law

- 01/03/87 A proposal to amend HR 3129 (transportation funds) allowing states to increase speed on rural interstates lost by 20 votes in the House. The proposal was later adopted by the Senate 56-36.
- 01/17/87 Lobbying to amend HR 2 (transportation funds) with allowing states to increase speed limits.
- 01/21/87 HR 2 passed in House 401-20 at \$90B over 5 years. Uphold 331-88 using H Res 38, barring any amendments, thereby barring speed limit amendment vote.
- 02/03/87 Senate debates speed limit amendment and passes it 65-33.
- 02/04/87 Senate passes HR 2 96-2 with amendment allowing increased speed limits. Bill was \$65.4B over 4 years. With the disparity, a conference with House members is necessary.
- Administration officials may recommend presidential veto. There is a consensus that if the bill is not in place by May 1, many jobs will be in jeopardy.
- 02/19/87 Secretary of Transportation Elizabeth Dole voiced support for increase in speed limit on rural interstates where traffic volumes are 10K per day or less.
- 02/23/87 Conference starts on HR 2. Talks of tying in safety provisions, such as minimal safety belt use rates, with speed limit increases.
- 02/24/87 National Governors Association votes 24-7 to switch its position from 55 to Senate provision.
- 03/05/87 House conferees back away from their position on maintaining 55. Negotiators unable to agree on way to link higher limits with safety requirements. Exempting demonstration project funds from spending ceilings would be point of presidential veto.
- House: demonstration funds not deducted from states' allotments. No project would need matching (state or local) funds either.
- Senate: all demonstration funds are from states allotments and matching funds are required. No project is exempt from spending ceiling as well.

On March 4, a compromise on the demonstration projects is reached.

50% project costs, \$178M annually over 5 years, is exempt from ceilings. Funds split evenly between designated House and Senate projects.

30% not from regular apportionments but from funds to be allocated at the discretion of the transportation secretary.

20% from state or local sources.

- 03/10/87 House conferees get proposal to allow House to vote separately on 65, after the vote on the final measure covering all other aspects of reauthorization legislation. If 65 is not approved, Senate votes on highway package that would retain 55.
- 03/18/87 House votes to adopt HR 2 407-17.

House approves 65 (H Con Res 77) 217-206.
- 03/19/87 President Reagan letter called HR 2 "seriously flawed."¹ Immediately following receipt of this message, Senate votes to adopt the measure (conference report) on HR 2 79-17.
- 03/20/87 Senate adopts 65 60-21.
- 03/25/87 Reagan visits Capitol Hill to ask House GOP members for support.
- 03/27/87 Reagan vetoes HR 2, calls bill "filled with pork."²
- 03/31/87 House overrides veto 350-73.
- 04/01/87 Senate sustains veto 65-35.

Senate adopts motion to reconsider override vote 59-41.
- 04/02/87 Reagan visits Capitol Hill and meets with Republicans in old Senate Chamber, then with the 13 holdouts in Senator Dole's office.

Senate overrides veto 67-33.
- 12/22/87 Public Law 100-202 includes a plan by Don Nickles, R-OK, to allow states to raise the speed limit to 65 mph on rural highways, primarily state turnpikes, that meet the same design standards as Interstate highways. Some 6,000 miles of roads in 43 states would be eligible for a 65 mph posting under this plan.³

¹Congressional Quarterly dated 3/21/87, p.521.

²Congressional Quarterly dated 3/28/87, p. 566.

³Congressional Quarterly dated 10/31/87, p. 2659.

Michigan Legislation Action on Speed Limit Law⁴

- 03/17/87 Introduction of SB 135 by Sen. Cruce. Bill to increase the speed limit and provide for primary enforcement of seatbelts; assigned to committee on Local Government and Veterans.
- 03/19/87 Introduction of SB 163 by Sen. Fessler. Bill to increase the speed limit; assigned to Committee on State Affairs, Tourism and Transportation.
- 03/25/87 SB 163 reported out of committee.
SB 135 heard in committee, but not reported out.
- 04/01/87 SB 163 passes Senate and sent to House.
- 05/13/87 House passes SB 163.
- 05/20/87 Sen. Ehlers sponsors amendment to SB 163 to ban radar detectors; amendment passes 21 - 15; rejected in the House and SB 163 is sent to conference committee.
- 06/17/87 Conference report without radar detector ban sent to Governor Blanchard and vetoed by him.
- 10/01/87 SB 135 on Senate General Orders.
- 10/07/87 SB 135 passes Senate and sent to House.
- 10/29/87 SB 135 with House amendments on \$5 surcharge concurred in.
Approved by Governor Blanchard.

⁴Compiled by Anne Mervenne of Sen. Cruce's office

Appendix B
Speed Limits by Road Segment

17700
 17800
 17900
 18000
 18100
 18200
 18300
 18400
 18500
 18600
 18700
 18800
 18900
 19000
 19100
 19200
 19300
 19400
 19500
 19600
 19700
 19800
 19900
 20000
 20100
 20200
 20300
 20400
 20500
 20600
 20700
 20800
 20900
 21000
 21100
 21200
 21300
 21400
 21500
 21600
 21700
 21800
 21900

STATEWIDE TOTALS BY ROUTE

RTE NO.	URBAN 55MPH	RURAL 65MPH	RURAL 55MPH	TOTAL MILES
US-10	01.20	53.00	00.00	54.20
US-23	15.40	74.80	00.00	90.20
US-27	00.00	98.40	00.00	98.40
US-31	12.30	50.40	08.20	70.90
US-127	18.80	23.10	00.00	41.90
US-131	31.60	118.20	01.00	150.80
US-131BR	05.00	00.00	00.90	05.90
M-10	16.50	00.00	00.00	16.50
M-14	07.50	07.60	00.00	15.10
M-39	16.40	00.00	00.00	16.40
M-47	00.00	00.00	03.30	03.30
M-20/US-10BR	00.00	00.00	02.00	02.00
M-53	10.80	00.00	00.00	10.80
M-60	03.00	00.00	00.00	03.00
M-13 CONN	02.50	00.00	00.00	02.50
M-25/BS-75	03.50	00.00	00.00	03.50
M-59	22.10	00.00	00.00	22.10
M-102	04.10	00.00	00.00	04.10
STWD	170.70	425.50	15.40	611.60

RTE	LOCATION DESCRIPTION	C.S.	UR 55	RU 65	RU 55	BEG M.P.	END M.P.	TOTAL LNPTH	
100									
200	INTERSTATE SPEEDS - URBAN-55MPH/RURAL-65MPH/RURAL-55MPH								
300									
400									
500									
600	-----								
700	I-69 (STATE LINE TO PORT HURON)								
800									
900	STATE LINE TO BL-69	12033		XX		00.00	12.60	12.60	
1000	(CHARLOTTE)	12034		XX		00.00	09.47	09.47	
1100		13073		XX		00.00	16.13	16.13	
1200		13074		XX		00.00	09.04	09.04	
1300		23061		XX		00.00	09.53	09.53	
1400									
1500	BL-69 TO I-96 (S JCT)	NON-FWY							
1600									
1700	I-96 (S JCT) TO I-96	23152	XX			00.00	06.75	06.75	
1800	(N JCT)	19022	XX			07.71	10.16	02.45	
1900									
2000	GRAND RIVER AVENUE TO PEACOCK ROAD								
2100									
2200	GR RIVER TO DAGGETT RD	19043		XX		00.00	05.25	05.25	
2300	DAGGETT RD TO US-127	19043	XX			05.25	09.38	04.13	
2400	US-127 TO TEMP I-69	19042		XX		00.00	08.26	08.26	
2500	TEMP I-69 TO PEACOCK RD	NON-FWY							
2600									
2700	PEACOCK RD TO 1.2 MILE	NON-FWY							
2800	E OF M-52 (PERRY)								
2900									
3000	1.2 MILE E OF M-52 TO	76023		XX		01.20	17.62	16.42	
3100	2.0 MILES W OF MORRISH	25042		XX		00.00	02.97	02.97	
3200	RD (SWARTZ CREEK)								
3300									
3400	2.0 MILES W OF MORRISH	25042	XX			02.97	10.23	07.26	
3500	RD TO OAK RD (DAVISON)	25085	XX			00.00	02.95	02.95	
3600		25084	XX			00.00	09.70	09.70	
3700									
3800	OAK RD TO WADHAMS RD	25084		XX		09.70	11.71	02.01	
3900	(PORT HURON)	44043		XX		00.00	07.25	07.25	
4000		44044		XX		00.00	17.57	17.57	
4100		77024		XX		00.00	11.55	11.55	
4200		77023		XX		00.00	12.42	12.42	
4300									
4400	WADHAMS RD TO I-94	77023	XX			12.42	15.80	03.38	
4500	(FREEWAY ENDING)								
4600									
4700	I-75 (STATE LINE TO SAULT STE MARIE/PORT OF ENTRY/INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE)								
4800									
4900	STATE LINE (TOLEDO) TO	58151		XX		00.00	15.26	15.26	
5000	SO. ROCKWOOD SVL (600 FT	58152		XX		00.00	09.96	09.96	
5100	S OF READY RD)	58152	XX			09.96	11.55	01.59	
5200									
5300	SO. ROCKWOOD SVL TO 1.0	82191	XX			00.00	13.96	13.96	
5400	MILE W OF DIXIE HWY	82194	XX			00.00	08.51	08.51	
5500	(OAKLAND CO)	82195	XX			00.00	02.28	02.28	
5600		82251	XX			00.00	02.31	02.31	

RTE	LOCATION DESCRIPTION	C.S.	UR 55	RU 65	RU 55	BEG M.P.	END M.P.	TOTAL LNTH
5700								
5800								
5900								
6000	SO. ROCKWOOD SVL TO 1.0	82252	XX			00.00	05.83	05.83
6100	MILE W OF DIXIE HWY	63174	XX			00.00	18.49	18.49
6200	(continued)	63172	XX			00.00	13.50	13.50
6300		63173	XX			00.00	02.83	02.83
6400								
6500	1.0 MILE W OF DIXIE HWY	63173		XX		02.83	14.56	11.73
6600	TO BALDWIN RD (S OF	25131		XX		00.00	01.60	01.60
6700	GRAND BLANC)							
6800								
6900	BALDWIN RD TO 0.5 MILE	25131	XX			01.60	08.80	07.20
7000	N OF STANLEY RD	25031	XX			12.17	15.12	02.08
7100		25032	XX			00.00	08.81	08.81
7200								
7300	0.5 MILE N OF STANLEY RD	25032		XX		08.81	16.43	07.62
7400	TO DIXIE HWY	73171		XX		00.00	10.50	10.50
7500								
7600	DIXIE HWY TO WILDER RD	73111	XX			00.00	09.33	09.33
7700		73112	XX			00.00	01.70	01.70
7800		73112		XX		01.70	03.78	02.08
7900		09034		XX		00.00	02.62	02.62
8000		09034	XX			02.62	05.12	02.50
8100		09035	XX			00.00	02.07	02.07
8200								
8300	WILDER RD TO SAULT STE	09035		XX		02.07	23.16	21.09
8400	MARIE/PORT OF ENTRY	06111		XX		00.00	19.46	19.46
8500	(EXCEPT MACKINAC BRIDGE)	65041		XX		00.00	15.29	15.29
8600		72061		XX		00.00	23.65	23.65
8700		20052		XX		00.00	05.90	05.90
8800		20014		XX		00.00	04.98	04.98
8900		20015		XX		00.00	14.24	14.24
9000		69013		XX		00.00	12.61	12.61
9100		69014		XX		00.00	13.11	13.11
9200		16093		XX		00.00	15.09	15.09
9300		16091		XX		00.00	12.37	12.37
9400		24071		XX		00.00	01.69	01.69
9500	(MACKINAC BRIDGE)	86000						04.37
9600		49025		XX		00.00	25.00	25.00
9700		17033		XX		00.00	17.58	17.58
9800		17034		XX		00.00	09.24	09.24
9900								
10000	1-94 (STATE LINE TO PORT HURON/BLUE WATER BRIDGE)							
10100								
10200	STATE LINE TO STEVENS-	11014		XX		00.00	03.53	03.53
10300	VILLE SCL (1300 FT S OF	11015		XX		00.00	17.71	17.71
10400	JOHN BEERS RD)							
10500								
10600	STEVENSVILLE SCL TO	11015	XX			17.71	23.43	05.72
10700	TERRITORIAL RD	11016	XX			00.00	04.15	04.15
10800		11016			XX	04.15	05.35	01.20
10900		11016	XX			05.35	06.11	00.76
11000								
11100	TERRITORIAL RD TO 8TH ST	11016		XX		06.11	07.22	01.11
11200	(0.5 MILE W OF 9TH ST)	11017		XX		00.00	06.60	06.60
11300		11018		XX		00.00	02.04	02.04
11400		80023		XX		00.00	13.47	13.47
11500		80024		XX		00.00	10.55	10.55
11600		39024		XX		00.00	04.26	04.26

RTE	LOCATION DESCRIPTION	C.S.	UR 55	RU 65	RU 55	BEG M.P.	END M.P.	TOTAL LNTH
11700								
11800								
11900								
12000	8TH ST (0.5 MILE W OF	39024	XX			04.26	09.29	05.03
12100	9TH ST) TO 31ST ST (2.0	39022	XX			00.00	07.01	07.01
12200	MILES W OF 35TH ST)							
12300								
12400	31ST ST TO KALAMAZOO	39022		XX		07.01	11.50	04.49
12500	CO LINE	39025		XX		00.00	04.36	04.36
12600								
12700	KALAMAZOO CO LINE	13081	XX			00.00	06.30	06.30
12800	TO BEADLE LAKE RD	13082	XX			00.00	01.45	01.45
12900								
13000	BEADLE LAKE RD TO	13082		XX		01.45	11.60	10.15
13100	BLACKMAN RD	13083		XX		00.00	13.51	13.51
13200		38102		XX		00.00	05.04	05.04
13300		38101		XX		00.00	07.32	07.32
13400								
13500	BLACKMAN RD TO 0.25	38101	XX			07.32	15.76	08.44
13600	MILE E OF SARGENT RD	38103	XX			00.00	00.75	00.75
13700								
13800	0.25 MILE E OF SARGENT	38103		XX		00.75	09.87	09.12
13900	RD TO BAKER RD	81104		XX		00.00	13.18	13.18
14000								
14100	BAKER RD TO 24 MILE RD	81104	XX			13.18	18.29	05.11
14200	(MACOMB CO)	81062	XX			00.00	09.13	09.13
14300		81063	XX			00.00	03.50	03.50
14400		81041	XX			00.00	02.30	02.30
14500		82021	XX			00.00	06.13	06.13
14600		82022	XX			00.00	16.60	16.60
14700		82023	XX			00.00	04.94	04.94
14800		82024	XX			00.00	04.02	04.02
14900		82025	XX			00.00	06.69	06.69
15000		50111	XX			00.00	17.77	17.77
15100		50112	XX			00.00	01.50	01.50
15200								
15300	24 MILE RD TO 1.0 MILE	50112		XX		01.50	06.16	04.66
15400	S OF M-25 (GRATIOT BLVD)	77111		XX		00.00	15.70	15.70
15500								
15600	1.0 MILE S OF M-25	77111	XX			15.70	25.82	10.12
15700	(GRATIOT BLVD) TO BLUE							
15800	WATER BRIDGE							
15900								
16000	I-96 (MUSKEGON TO DETROIT)							
16100								
16200	US-31 TO ELLIS RD	61152	XX			00.00	01.00	01.00
16300								
16400	ELLIS RD TO M-11	61152		XX		01.00	05.45	04.45
16500	(REMEMBRANCE RD)	70064		XX		00.00	03.87	03.87
16600		70063		XX		00.00	14.25	14.25
16700								
16800	M-11 (REMEMBRANCE RD)	70063	XX			14.25	15.64	01.38
16900	TO WHITNEYVILLE RD	41026	XX			00.00	06.43	06.43
17000		41025	XX			00.00	11.54	11.54
17100		41024	XX			00.00	04.70	04.70
17200								
17300	WHITNEYVILLE RD TO BL-96	41024		XX		04.70	12.43	07.73
17400	(GRAND RIVER)	34043		XX		00.00	12.02	12.03
17500		34044		XX		00.00	13.54	13.54
17600		19022		XX		00.00	09.09	09.09

	RTE	LOCATION	C.S.	UR	RU	RU	BEG	END	TOTAL
				55	65	55	M.P.	M.P.	LNTH
23700									
23800									
23900									
24000	1-675	SAGINAW AREA	73101	XX			00.00	07.33	07.33
24100			73101			XX	07.33	07.80	00.47
24200									
24300	1-696	DETROIT AREA	63101	XX			00.00	08.33	08.33
24400			63102	XX			00.00	01.08	01.08
24500			63103	XX			00.00	01.95	01.95
24600			50062	XX			00.00	02.71	02.71

STATEWIDE TOTALS BY ROUTE

	RTE	URBAN	RURAL	RURAL	TOTAL
	NO.	55MPH	65MPH	55MPH	MILES
25000					
25100					
25200					
25300					
25400	1-69	36.62	139.47	00.00	177.09
25500					
25600	1-75	102.99	272.67	00.00	375.66
25700					
25800	1-94	127.42	146.80	01.20	275.42
25900					
26000	1-96	79.89	116.24	00.00	196.13
26100					
26200	1-194	03.37	00.00	00.00	03.37
26300					
26400	1-196	16.00	61.19	03.48	80.67
26500					
26600	1-275	16.14	13.88	00.00	30.02
26700					
26800	1-296	04.18	00.00	00.00	04.18
26900					
27000	1-375	00.55	00.00	00.00	00.55
27100					
27200	1-475	16.89	00.00	00.00	16.89
27300					
27400	1-496	11.79	00.00	00.00	11.79
27500					
27600	1-675	07.33	00.00	00.47	07.80
27700					
27800	1-696	20.44	00.00	00.00	20.44
27900		-----	-----	-----	-----
28000					
28100	STWD	443.61	751.25	05.15	1,200.01

Appendix C

Time Series Charts¹

¹The designation "65 mph" on these charts indicates road segments that changed from 55 to 65 mph speed limit in November 1987 and January 1988. These segments all had a 55 mph limit over the 1978 through 1986 period.

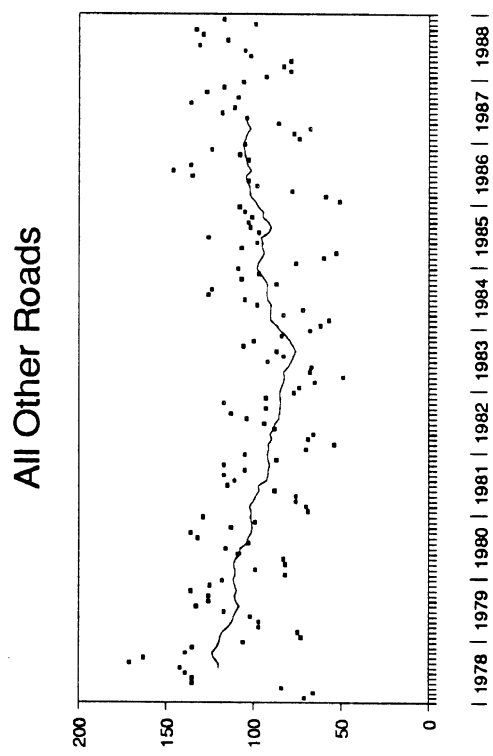
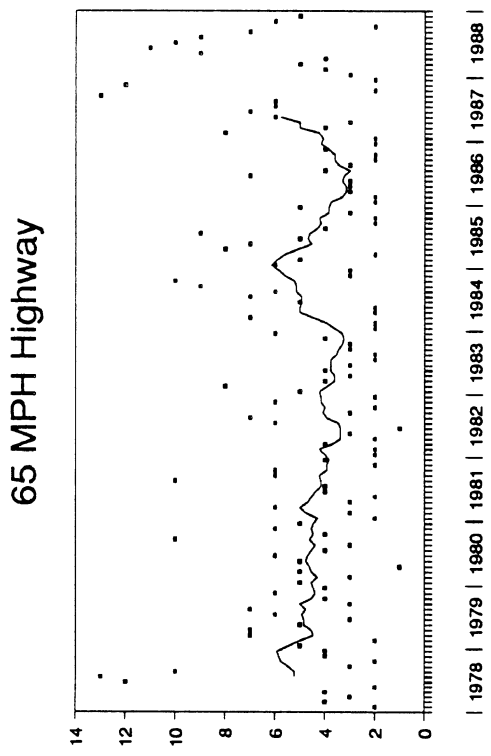
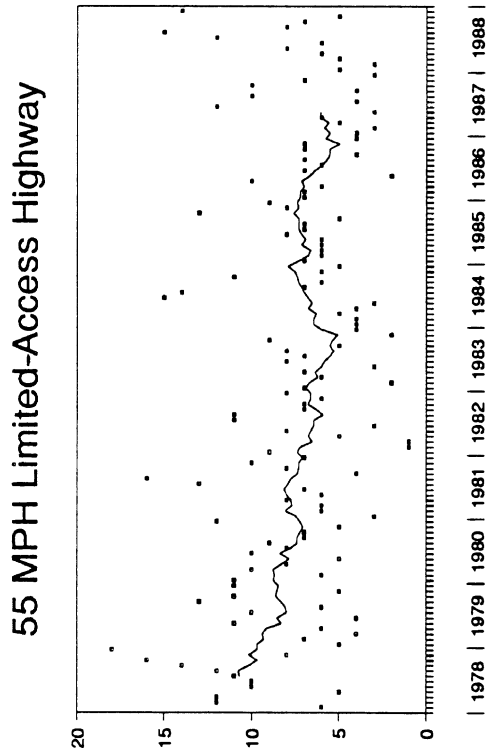


Figure C.1: Fatalities by Highway Type

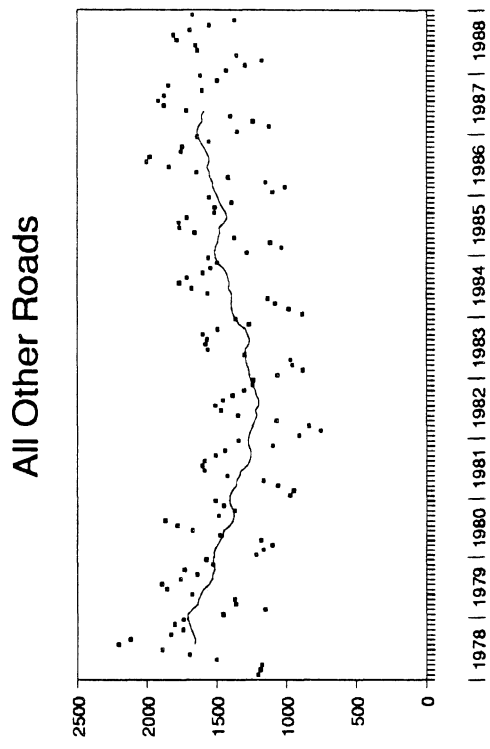
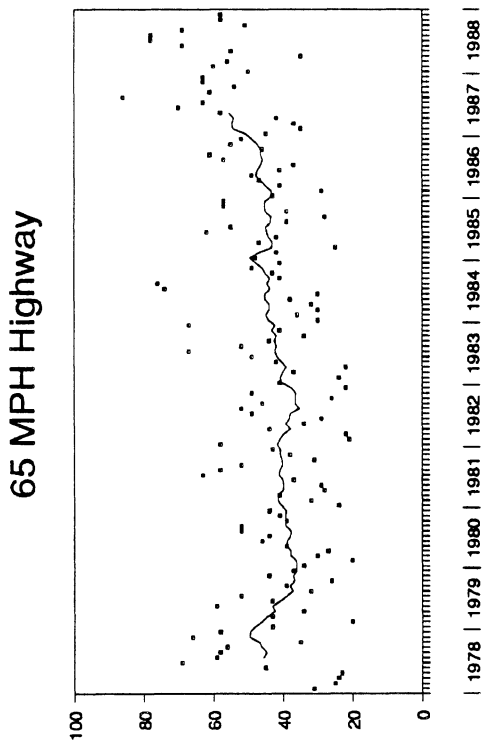
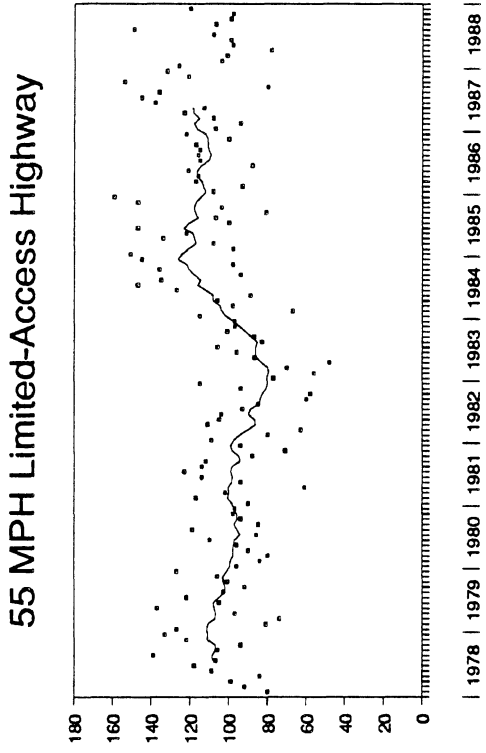


Figure C.2: A-level Injuries by Highway Type

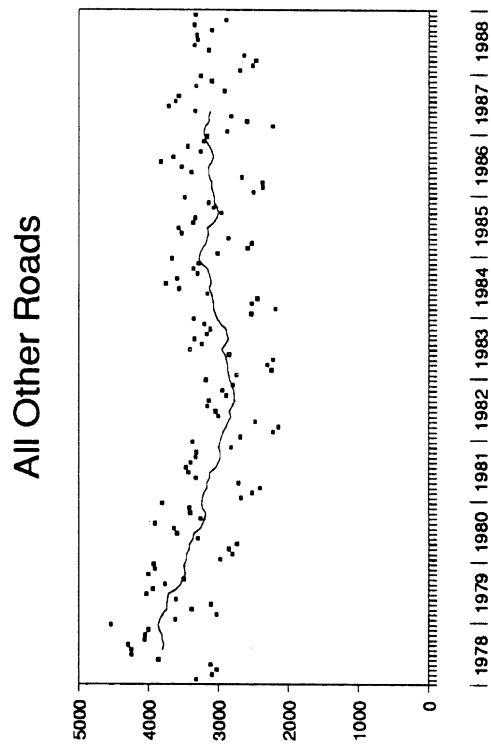
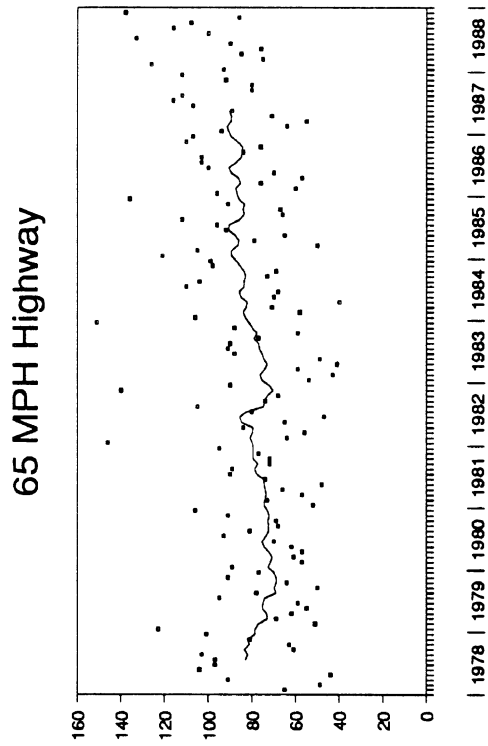
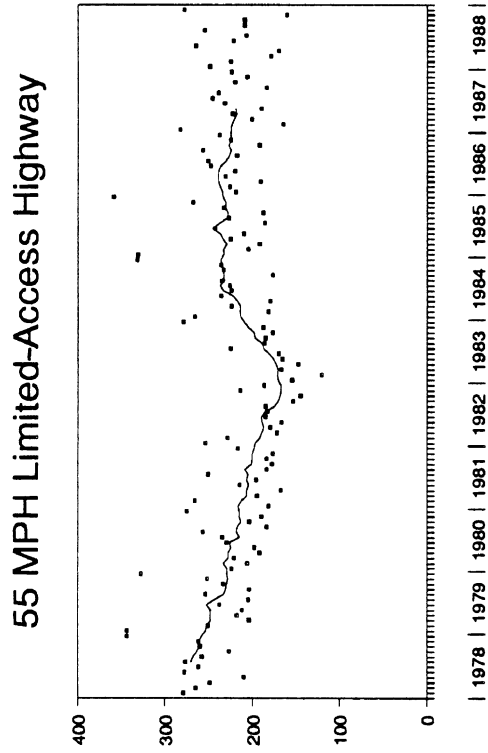


Figure C.3: B-level Injuries by Highway Type

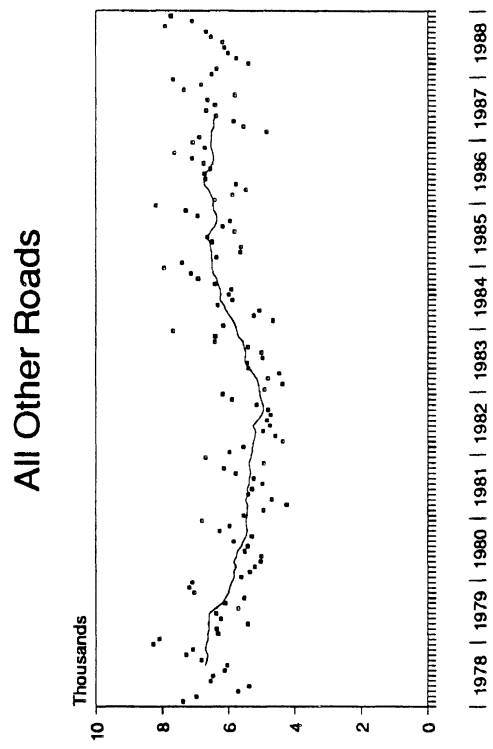
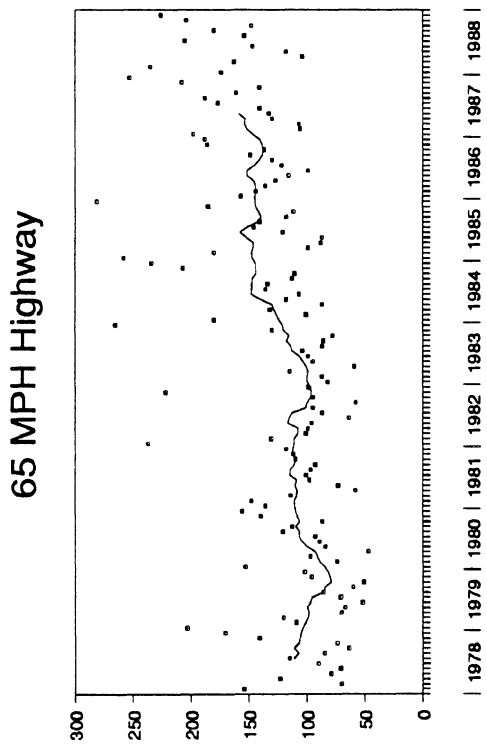
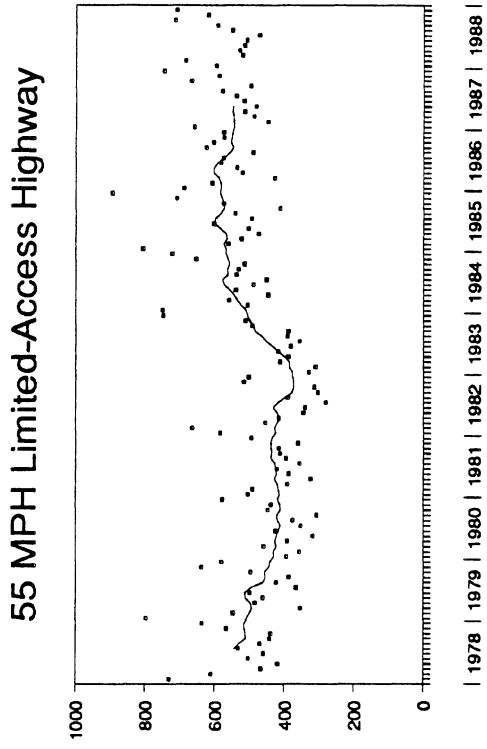


Figure C.4: C-level Injuries by Highway Type

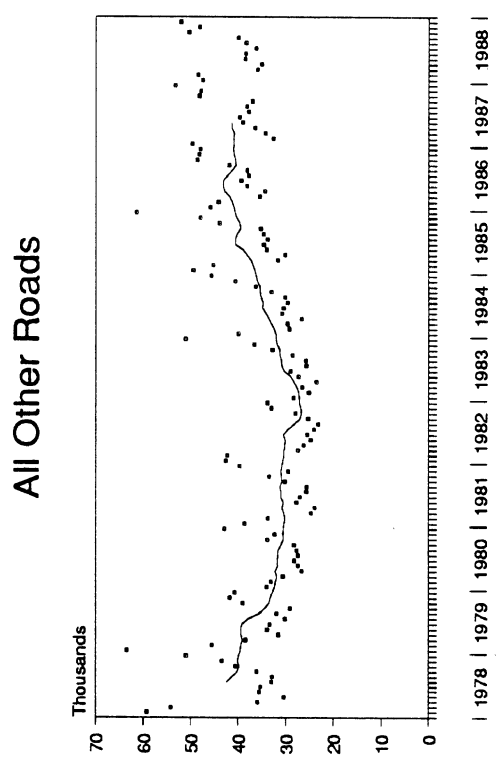
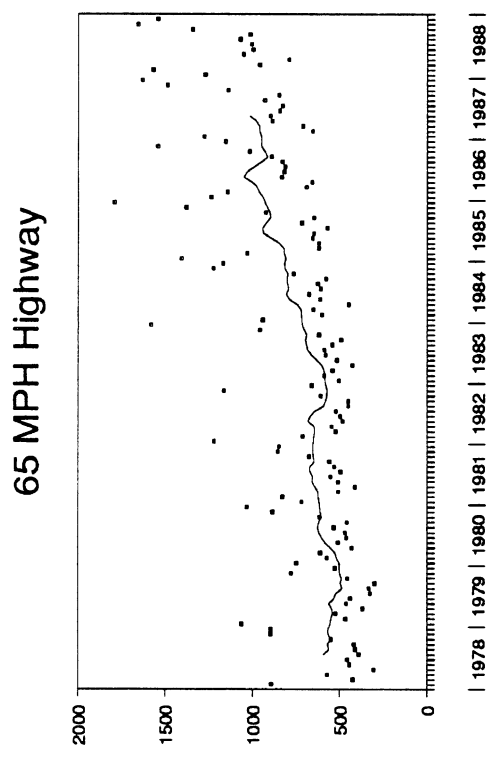
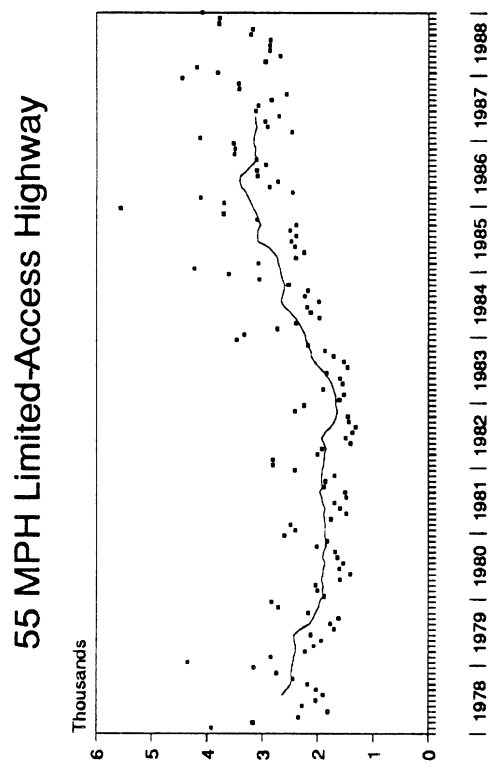


Figure C.5: Property Damage Only Crashes by Highway Type

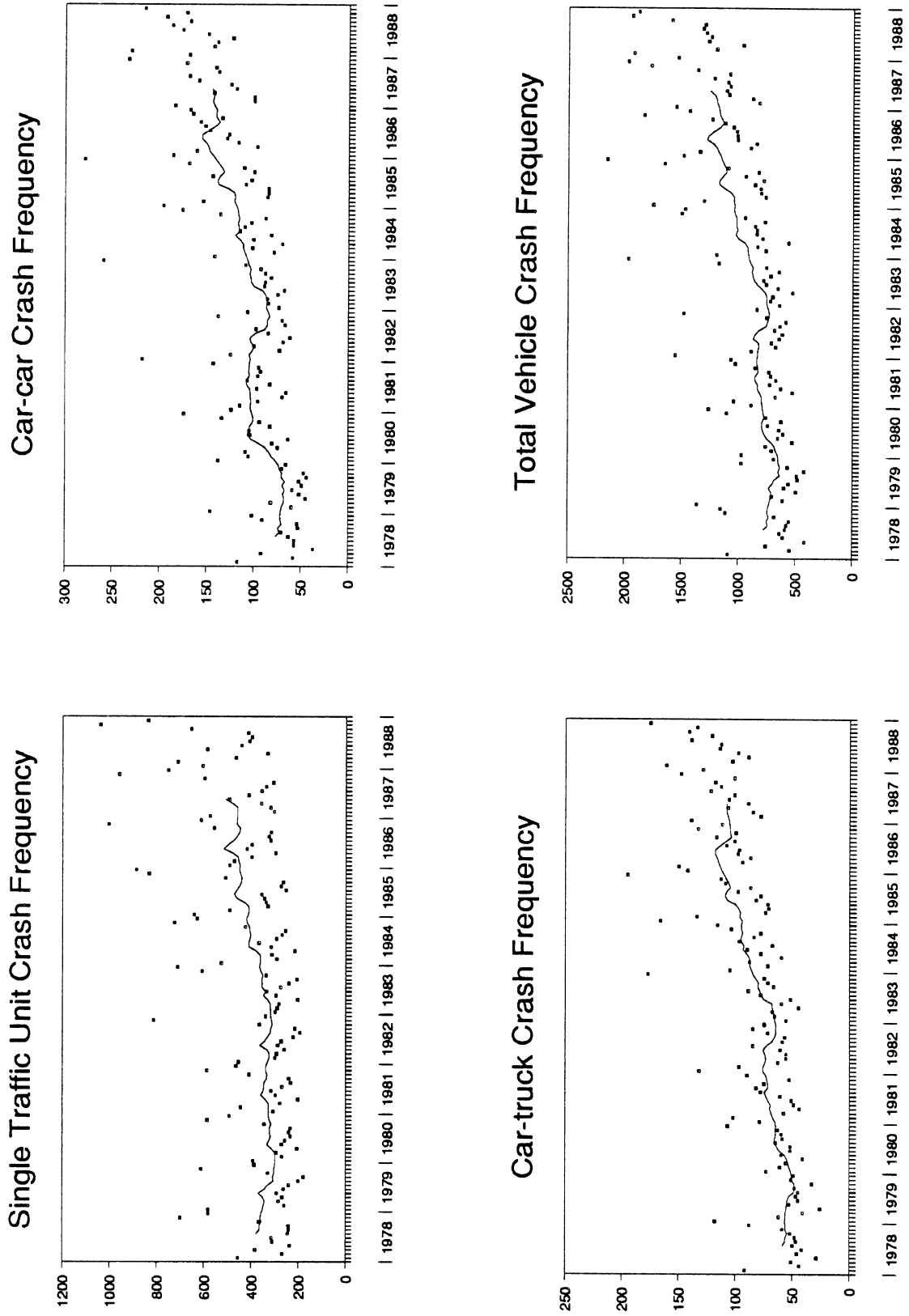


Figure C.6: Crashes on 65 MPH Highways by Vehicle Type

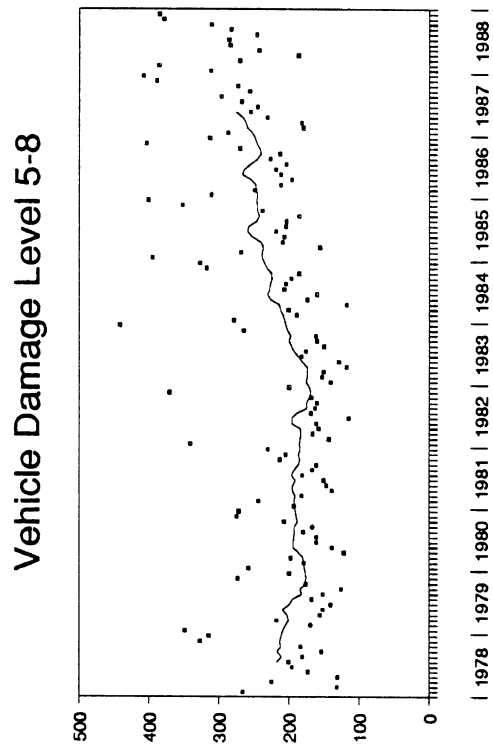
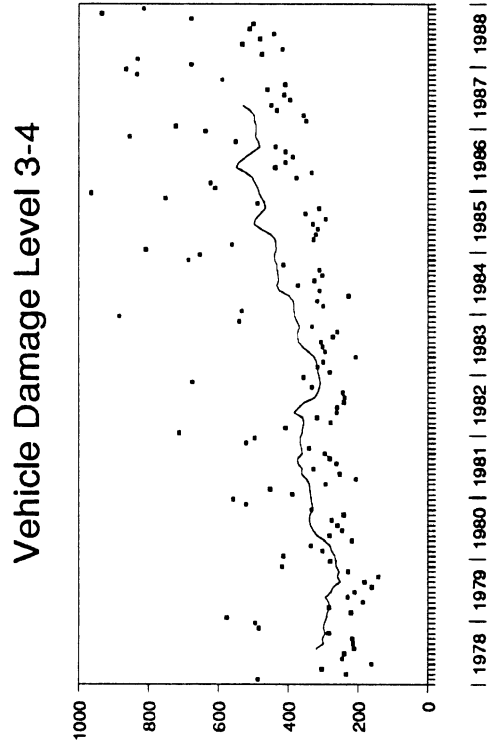
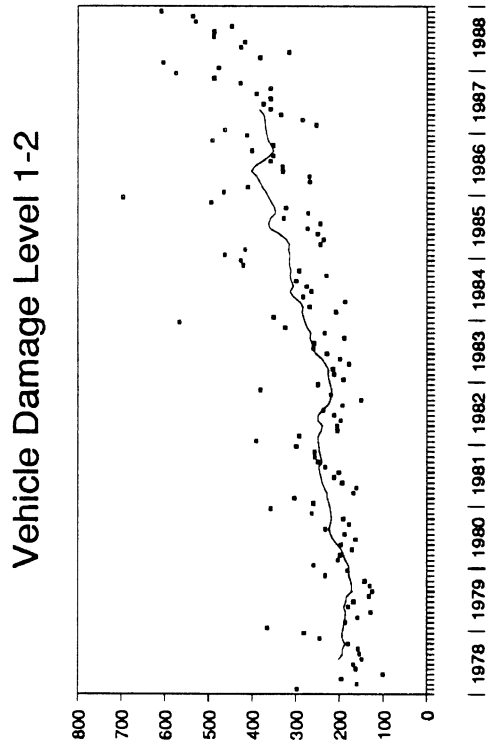


Figure C.7: Crashes on 65 MPH Highways by Vehicle Damage Level

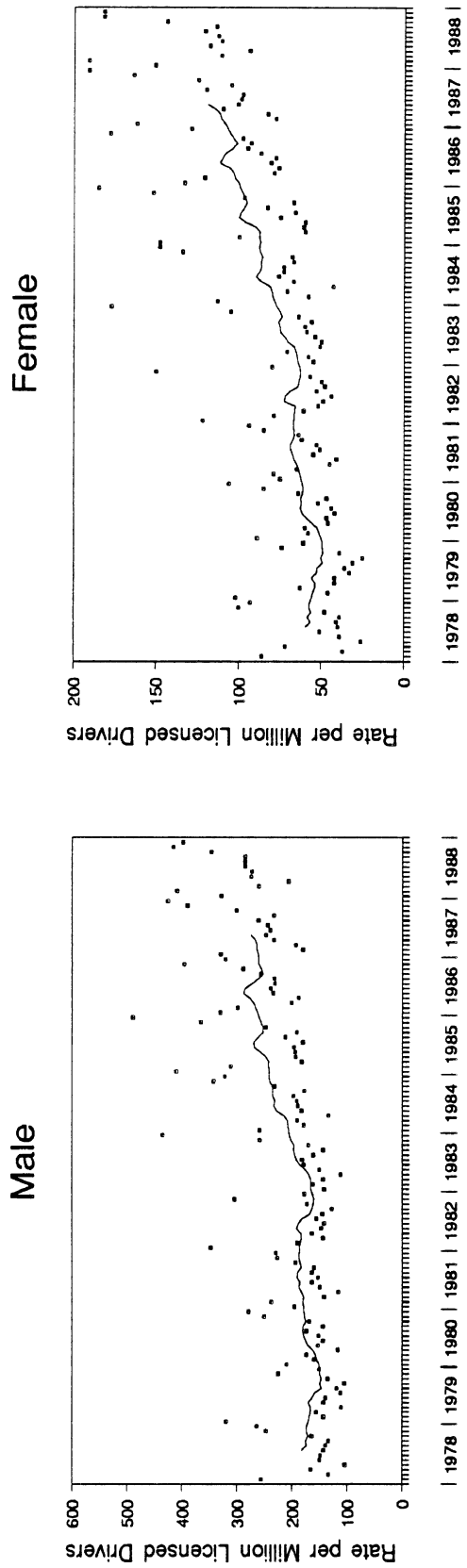


Figure C.8: Rate of Crashes on 65 mph Highways per Million Licensed Drivers, by Gender

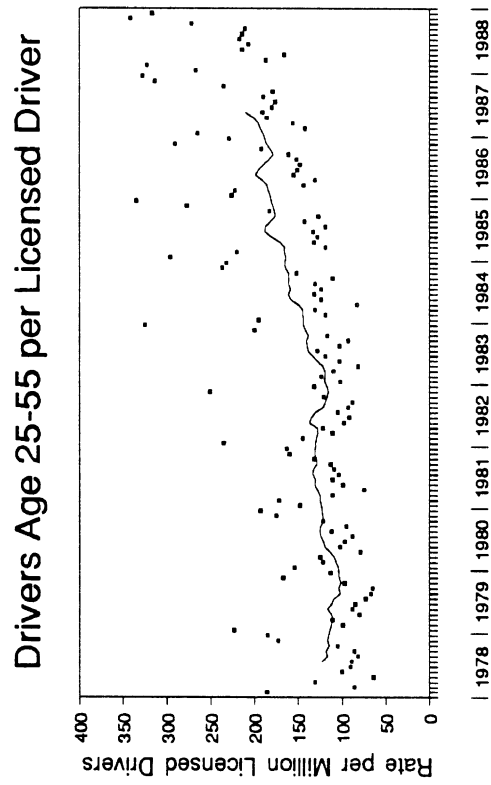
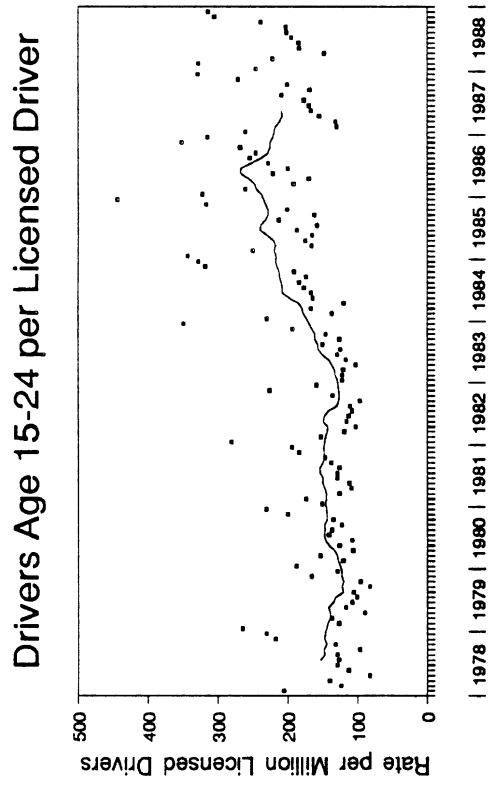
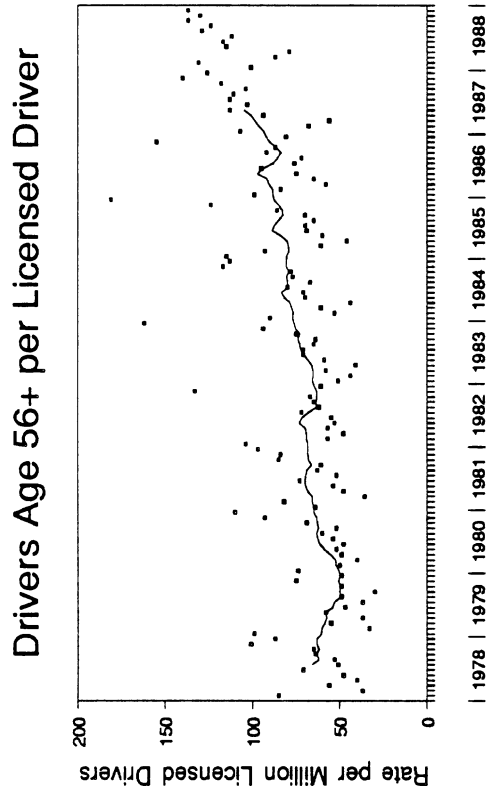


Figure C.9: Rate of Crashes on 65 mph Highways per Million Licensed Drivers, by Age

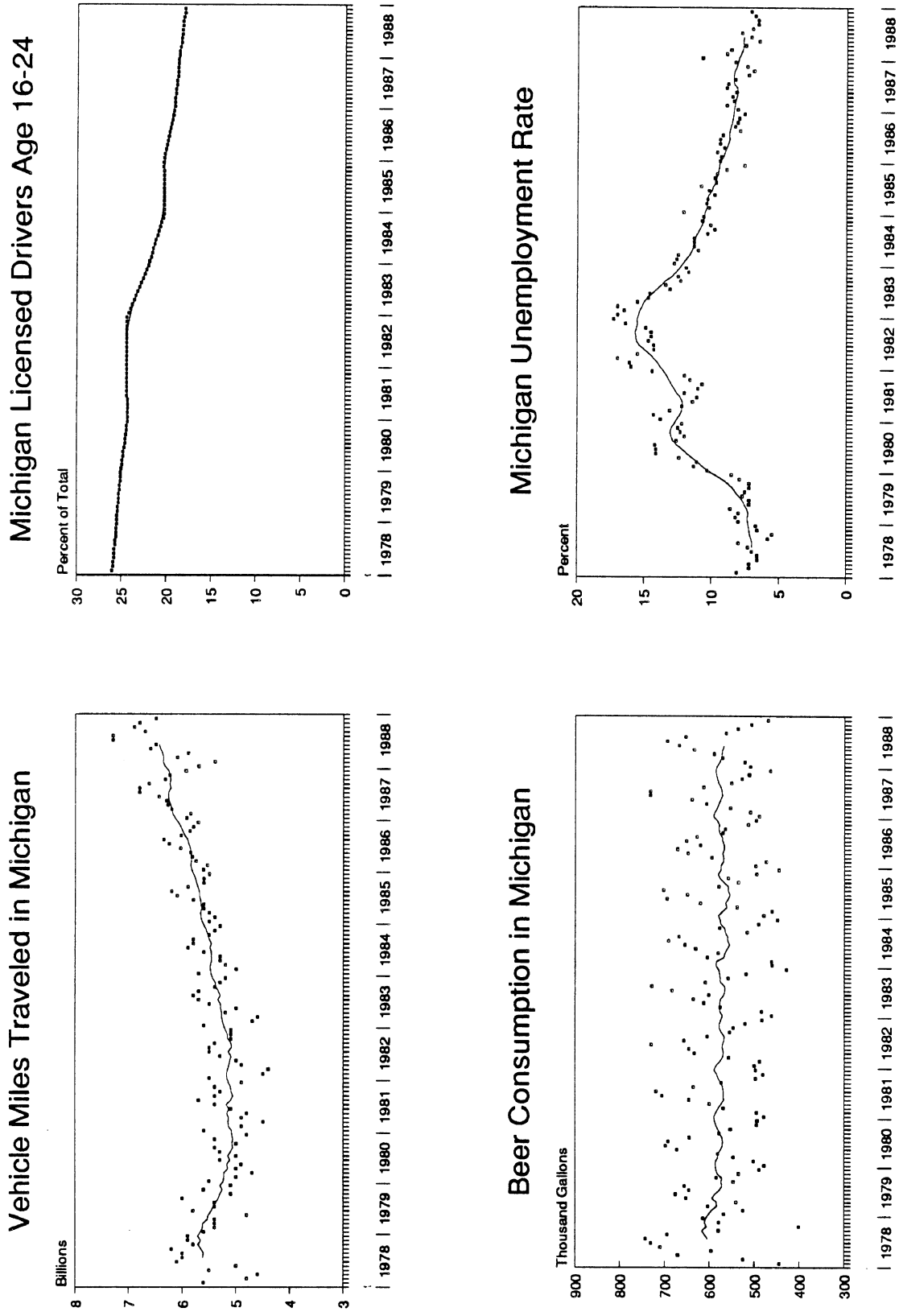


Figure C.10: Covariates Used in Time-series Models