

CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR 2004 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s)

Katharine K. Gifford

Project Number

J1707

Project Title

Slow Down, You Move Too Fast: A Study of Speeding on Woodside Road

Abstract

Objectives/Goals

My objective was to learn what elements of nature and human activities have an affect on the speed people drive and in what ways.

Methods/Materials

I used a radar gun to measure the speeds of 650 cars which passed my house at 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 5:00 p.m., 6:30 p.m., and 8:00 p.m. Each time I collected 25 speeds and I did a total of 25 tests.

Results

I found that many thing do change the speeds people drive past my house and school. While school was getting in, only four percent of the passerbyers sped. Having kids around was bassicly the only thing that slowed people down. When it was dark and on the weekends, people sped a very noticable amount more.

Conclusions/Discussion

I was right about many of the things I thought would affect people's speeds. One thing I wish I could have found was wether rain had an impact. During the time when I did my tests, it hardly ever rained and when it did, I was either sleeping or in school. A few times the roads were wet however this didn't seem to have a big impact on drivers.

Summary Statement

My project was about the elements which affect the speed people drive.

Help Received

My dad gave me the spark that led to the ideaof my project as well as teaching me how to use Microsoft Excel to analyze my data; My mom helped me with the display of the board; My brother helped me record data in the first few tests