



IMPAIRED DRIVING

Task Force Newsletter



Save a Life™
Texas Department of Transportation

#EndtheStreakTX



November 7, 2000 was the last deathless day on Texas roadways. Help end the streak of daily deaths in Texas!

On November 7, 2019, the Texas Transportation Commission and Texas Department of Transportation officials held a press conference in Houston, launching the annual #endthestreaktx campaign. To date, there have been over 68,000 people that have lost their lives in motor vehicle crashes in Texas. Alcohol, distracted driving, and failure to use seat belts were the primary factors that contributed to these crashes and fatalities. Challenge yourself, your friends, and your family to do their part and help #endthestreaktx



These flags represent the 3,647 lives lost in motor vehicle crashes in Texas in 2018. Photo Source: Texas Department of Transportation.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT VIDEO | TxSDY

Texans for Safe and Drug-Free Youth (TxSDY) has been working to end underage alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use. Formerly known as Texans Standing Tall, TxSDY's priorities are to change attitudes and behaviors among youth and college students related to substance abuse, educate and mobilize from grassroots to state level, and energize and engage families and organizations to advocate for policy change.



Through TxDOT traffic safety funding, TxSDY is able to provide screening and brief intervention for risky alcohol use and driving under the influence among college students, an enhanced visibility enforcement campaign to reduce underage social access to alcohol, and provide leadership and community engagement through its Zero Alcohol for Youth Academies and Statewide Youth Leadership Council to Reduce Impaired Driving.

If you'd like to find out more information about TxSDY or are interested in joining a community coalition, check out [TxSDY's website](#).



Click the TxSDY logo above or click [here](#) to watch a brief video and learn more about their organization.



CRIS DATA: What Is It, and Where Texas Department of Public Safety

What IS CRIS Data?

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is responsible for collecting and maintaining the State's motor vehicle crash data. Crash data is housed in a database known as the Crash Records Information System (CRIS). CRIS data contains crash reports that Texas Peace Officers complete. A Texas Peace Officer's Crash Report is known as the CR-3.

TxDOT maintains all Texas peace officer crash reports (CR-3) that have been submitted by law enforcement agencies. Various analyses that TxDOT performs are based on TxDOT reportable crashes: occurred on a public roadway and resulted in either a fatality or injury, or caused at least \$1,000 in property damage. Blue forms (or CR-2 reports) are not maintained by TxDOT and are not housed in CRIS.

The data within CRIS is dynamic, and it is continually being updated. As an officer submits or updates a report, CRIS is likewise being updated. This allows CRIS data users access to the most timely analysis available.

How is CRIS Data Used?

TxDOT and other traffic safety agencies use CRIS data to make decisions in engineering, education, enforcement, and emergency response areas. Engineering efforts use CRIS data to determine roadway crash rates, fatalities and serious injuries. Law enforcement agencies use CRIS data to direct and then conduct high visibility enforcement campaigns. Marketing and education campaigns can be focused in communities with the highest number of crashes, fatalities, and injuries. Emergency response uses crash data to better understand crash injuries. Crash analysis enables the State to make data-driven decisions while working with limited resources. If there is a rise in impaired driving crashes, the State may be able to direct more funding toward traffic safety projects that address this issue.

But, crash analysis — and the decisions the State makes based upon that analysis — is only as accurate as the data that's inputted. And, all impaired driving safety stakeholders have a role to play in improving that process. For medical examiners and justices of the peace, it's ordering toxicology testing in motor vehicle crashes — especially single-vehicle, run-off-



the-road crashes. For law enforcement, it's submitting updates to original crash reports by providing supplemental crash reports once toxicology results are available. For TxDOT, it's ensuring that officers are trained on how to submit crash reports electronically, and ensuring that the data collected from the CR-3 fields are able to speak to the kinds of crashes that are occurring (i.e., Do data fields need to be added or removed from the CR-3?) For educators, it's understanding the limitations of crash data when conducting outreach and education with the public.

Where Can I Find CRIS Data?

Whether you're with a law enforcement agency, a community coalition, or a research institute, you can obtain crash data from TxDOT through a number of ways.

Microstrategy Training*

If you're with a law enforcement agency, you can complete Microstrategy training, which is a business analysis tool that allows you to look at the crash database online. You can look at crashes by day of the week, month, year, etc., and create various data dashboards. If you are interested in completing Microstrategy training, you can email TRF_CRASH@txdot.gov for more information.

Automated Crash Data Extract Files

In cases where users want large amounts of crash data, TxDOT offers an automated process for users to obtain crash data directly from CRIS in the form of a Crash Data Extract File. The process to obtain the file allows users to make requests at their convenience after an easy, one-time, self-registration process.

**Law Enforcement Agencies Only*

There are two files available. The Standard Extract contains all crash data from Jan. 1, 2010, to present, but because it includes personally identifiable information, is only available to certain governmental entities as per Texas law. The Public Extract contains all publicly available crash data from Jan. 1, 2010, to present.

Public Query Tool

TxDOT has developed a Public Crash Query Tool. You can build a query, so that you can find specific crash data that you're interested in. You can access the query tool [here](#). Please be aware there is no training available for using the public crash query tool.

Annual Summary Reports

TxDOT releases motor vehicle and impaired driving-alcohol crash data through a series of “canned reports” each year. These reports are typically released in April/May. Currently, reports can be found from 2003–2018. They can be accessed [here](#).



Obtaining Crash Data

In addition to the annual reports and the Query tool, specific, publicly available crash data may be requested by completing and submitting the [online request form](#).


Note: Requests for crash data are not accepted via phone or through the email link below. Requests are only accepted by submission of the online request form above or by mailing the completed request form to:

Texas Department of Transportation
c/o Crash Records
P.O. Box 12879
Austin, TX 78711

MHFA RTX presents Mental Health First Aid and Watch UR BAC



We train you to:

- 
- Talk about mental health concerns with your fellow citizens.
 - Recognize health resources and opioid/drug trends in your community.
 - Reduce the harm occurring because of opioid use/misuse.

Ask your agent about the Watch UR BAC Training Schedule in your County!

Contact: Imahadevan@aq.tamu.edu or (979) 845-4374.



WATCH UR BAC

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

Alcohol & Drug Awareness Program

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Save a Life



- [CADCA – Staying Engaged During COVID 19](#)
May 13, 2020 | Webinar
- [CADCA – Planning Comprehensive Strategies to Address Opioid Misuse Among Older Adult Populations](#)
May 27, 2020 | Webinar
- [Our Driving Concern Employer Transportation Safety Training](#)
May 28, 2020 | Webcast
- [2020 Traffic Safety Conference](#)
June 8–10, 2020 | Webinar
- [IACP Drugs, Alcohol, and Impaired Driving Conference](#)
August 6–8, 2020 | San Antonio
- [2020 IACP Conference](#)
October 17–20, 2020 | New Orleans, LA
- [Novel Psychoactive Substances Symposium](#)
November 17–19, 2020 | Washington DC

NEWSLETTER ADDITIONS

If you would like to add anything to the next edition of the newsletter, please send your information to p-ericson@tti.tamu.edu by June 1, 2020.

Submissions are due the 1st of each newsletter month, and will be distributed:

- June 15
- September 15

