IMPAIRED DRIVING

Task Force Newsletter

Save a Life ™
Texas Department of Transportation

At the November 14, 2022, meeting of the Texas Impaired Driving Task Force, members discussed the following topics:

Damon Allen, DPS Trooper

Randy Sarosdy, General Counsel, Texas Justice Court Training Center

During the Second Special Session in the 2021 Legislative Session, the Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 6 (known as the Damon Allen Act, after a trooper killed in the line of duty in 2017), which was then signed into law by Gov. Abbott on September 13, 2021.

SB 6 amends Chapter 17 of the Code of Criminal Procedure to provide more complete and accurate information to a magistrate in setting bail and bond conditions, including a defendant's criminal history record information, and requiring a magistrate, after individualized consideration of all the factors listed in Art. 17.15, to order the defendant to be: (1) granted a personal bond with or without conditions; (2) granted a bail bond with or without conditions; or (3) denied bail under the Texas Constitution and other laws. In setting bail the magistrate must impose the least restrictive condition, if any, and the personal bond or bail bond necessary to ensure the defendant's appearance in court and the safety of the community, law enforcement and the victim.

More details about the provisions included in this bill can be found in the 87th Legislature Bill Summaries report on the TxIDTF website.

Texas Impaired Driving Assessment

In August 2022, NHTSA assessed the Texas Impaired Driving Program. The final report is posted on the Texas Impaired Driving Task Force website. Several recommendations were made to improve our efforts in reducing impaired driving on Texas roadways. The following are some of the priority recommendations that were listed in the report:

Prevention: Enact a ten-cent per drink tax.

Criminal Justice: Enact a statute that establishes a driving while intoxicated (DWI) tracking system by giving strong incentives to all keepers of impaired driving offenses data to make sure

Dr. Charles Mathias, University of Texas Health, San Antonio

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) released a new evidence-based resource guide called *Implementing Community-Level Policies to Prevent Alcohol Misuse,* which is available for download from the guide website.
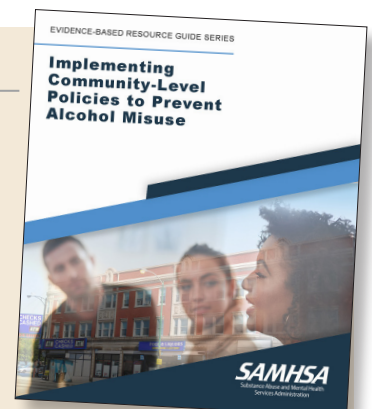
The guide uses an all-cause approach to alcohol harms, which includes alcohol-impaired driving. Their perspective is that population-based approaches will be more impactful in reducing alcohol harms trends in:

"Prevention efforts that focus on all people in a population (known as "universal interventions" or "universal prevention") have shown greater impact on substance misuse and related harms, compared to interventions that focus solely on individual-level changes in alcohol misuse. Universal prevention has also been shown to be cost-effective while reducing the costs associated with alcohol misuse and related harms

within communities. Universal interventions work to improve the lives of all individuals within a community, including those experiencing greater health inequities."

Key take-aways from this document include: expert synthesize of the quality of data supporting different alcohol interventions; strategies for implementing evidence-based interventions, and a compendium of additional resources from addressing alcohol-harms.

As you contemplate implementation of alcohol-mitigation processes, consider reviewing this new resource.

EVIDENCE-BASED RESOURCE GUIDE SERIES

Implementing Community-Level Policies to Prevent Alcohol Misuse

SAMHSA
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Continued: Texas Impaired Driving Assessment

that the records systems communicate data to each other to track every DWI offense.

Enforcement:

- Recruit additional Drug Recognition Experts (DREs) and provide agency priority in counties or jurisdictions with no DREs.

- Create and fund driving while intoxicated officer positions to focus on impaired driving enforcement.

- Support the expansion of Law Enforcement Advanced Data Reporting System (LEADRS).

- Increase forensic laboratory capacity to screen and confirm toxicological specimens submitted by law enforcement AND timely produce toxicology reports.

Prosecution: Write a white paper setting out the requirements and rationale for a complete driving while intoxicated tracking system.

Adjudication: Work with Law Enforcement Advanced Data Reporting System (LEADRS) and other justice information systems to design a path forward to have a driving while intoxicated tracking system.

Screening and Assessment: Identify, train, and support qualified assessment and evaluation professionals in underserved areas.

Treatment and Rehabilitation: Conduct an impact evaluation of driving while intoxicated courts.

Program Evaluation and Data:

- Evaluate the Ignition Interlock Device program to determine if its current processes are effective and consider whether a more centralized approach would provide for broader participation and compliance.

- Centralize the monitoring of compliance and establish a single source of records to evaluate the effectiveness of the Ignition Interlock Device program as an impaired driver recidivism reduction program.

2023 Texas Impaired Driving Forum

REGISTER NOW!

SCAN ME

The 2023 Texas Impaired Driving Forum will be held on February 22, 2023, at the Norris Conference Center, 2525 W. Anderson Lane #365, Austin, TX 78757.

The Forum is a 1-day event that is FREE and open to all audiences. The Forum provides the opportunity to foster partnerships with other organizations and stakeholders interested in combatting impaired driving in Texas.

Please contact Christine or Emmy if you have any questions.

MORE FORUM INFORMATION HERE!

WELCOME!

Please welcome our new members:

Allie Aguilar
Program Supervisor, Enforcement and Compliance Service, DPS Driver's License Division

Bertha Escamilla
Program Supervisor, License and Record Service, DPS Driver's License Division

Ron Swenson
Deputy Chief of Law Enforcement Division, Texas Alcohol Beverage Commission

Emma Dugas
State Program Manager, Mothers Against Drunk Driving

Impaired Driving Enforcement Training and Detection

Law enforcement trainings are strategically being offered in high need areas. Heat maps are being utilized by these training agencies to depict where KA crash are occurring compared to where trainings are being offered. See the SFST Training Heat Map to the right. The coloration indicates the incidents of KA crashes. The darker the color, the more alcohol-impaired KA crashes have occurred in a county. The numbers that are overlayed on the counties indicate the number of officers that have been trained through the programs.

A list of upcoming law enforcement trainings can be found below in the event section.
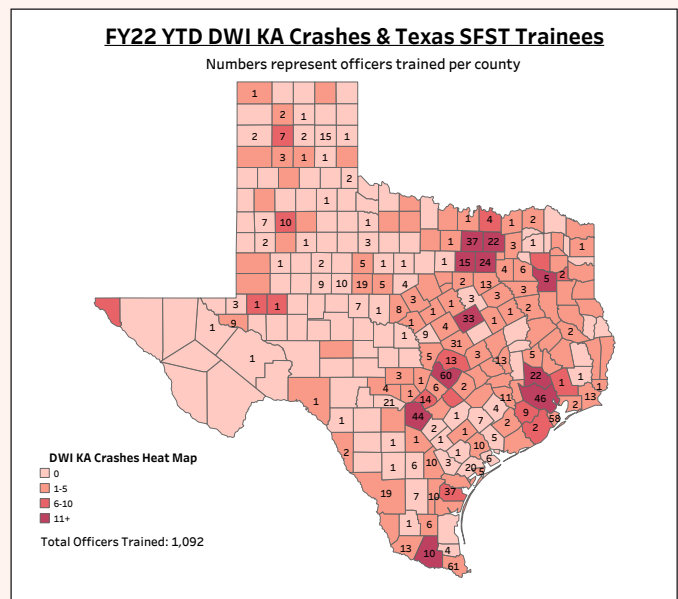
Impaired Driving Database

The Law Enforcement Advanced Data Reporting System (LEADRS) is an online data reporting system that streamlines the DWI report writing process for officers in the field by reducing the amount of redundant data. LEADRS tracks DWI citations from start to finish (arrest through adjudication). The Texas Impaired Driving Assessment recommendations calls for LEADRS to be expanded in an effort to develop a Statewide DWI Tracking System.

Forensic Testing

The Department of Public Safety Crime Laboratory Division set the goal of analyzing 95% of blood samples within a 30-day period. Samples are distributed to 8 DPS labs across the state to balance the workload. Trevis Beckworth, Assistant Scientific Director, is pleased to announce that DPS is meeting this goal!

Retail Enforcement and Education

The Texas Alcohol Beverage Commission (TABC) manages a program called Target Responsibility for Alcohol-Connected Emergencies (TRACE). TRACE is a law enforcement

SFST Training Heat Map.

operation that investigates the source of alcohol service when crimes involve serious injury or death. These crimes can include motor vehicle crashes, homicides, sexual assaults, or other crimes where alcohol was a contributing factor.

Local law enforcement needs to call TRACE (833-TABC-LAW) to get them involved in a case. There is a hotline monitored 24/7, manned by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). The dispatcher will contact TABC, investigators who are notified by supervisors and are deployed to scene.

Legislative

The 88th Legislature's regular session runs from January 10 to May 29, 2023. The Texas Impaired Driving Task Force's Legislative Subcommittee will be monitoring impaired-driving legislation. Impaired-driving bill summaries will be posted to the Texas Impaired Driving Task Force's website here.

PUBLISHED TXIDTF RESOURCES

Impaired Driving

- Top Texas Cities with Alcohol-Impaired KA Crashes - 2021

- 2022 Texas Impaired Driving Plan

Drug-Impaired Driving

- Lessons Learned: Evolution of Cannabis Campaigns in the US

- Evolution of Cannabis Education Campaigns in the US

- Marijuana Laws by State – Updated August 2022

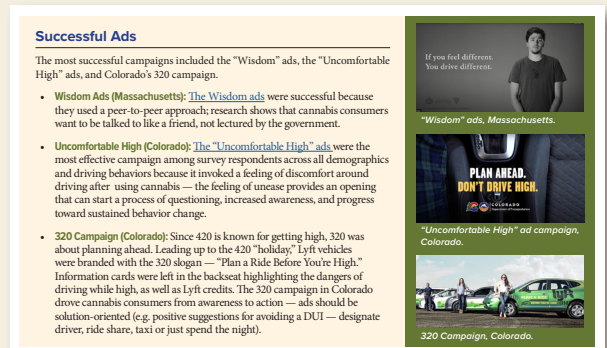- Cannabis Public Information and Outreach Materials in the US – 2022
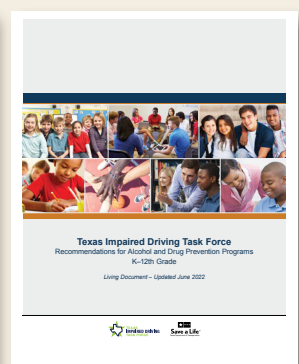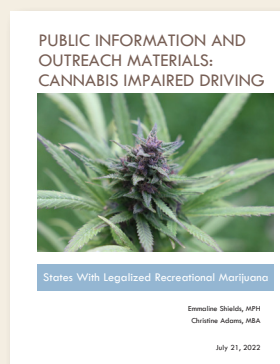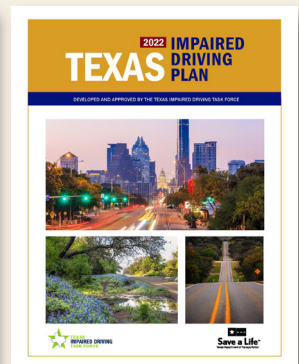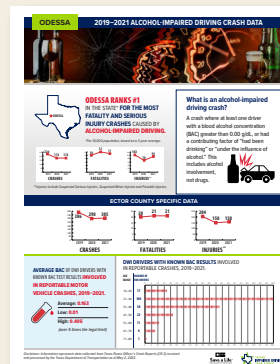
Legislative

- 87th Legislative Bill Summaries Report

Education

- Recommendations for Alcohol and Drug Prevention Programs K-12th Grade – Updated June 2022

Research

- Impact of the Legalization and Decriminalization of Marijuana on the DWI System

- Strengths and Limitations of Two Cannabis-Impaired Driving Detection Methods: A Review of the Literature

- Revisited: Therapeutic and Toxic Blood Concentrations of More Than 1100 Drugs and Other Xenobiotics

- Using Design-Based Research to Develop a Virtual Human Interface for Police Nystagmus Training

- Oral Fluid and Drug Impairment: Pairing Toxicology with Drug Recognition Expert Observations

JANUARY

- **TxSFST: Beaumont 24-HR SFST Practitioner Course**
  January 3–5 | Beaumont, TX

- **Texas DRE: New Braunfels ARIDE**
  January 5–6 | New Braunfels, TX

- **TxSFST: Galveston 8-HR SFST Refresher Course**
  January 9 | Galveston, TX

- **TxSFST: Refugio 24-HR SFST Practitioner Course**
  January 10-12 | Refugio, TX

- **TxSFST: Tarrant County 8-HR SFST Refresher Course**
  January 11 | Fort Worth, TX

- **TxSFST: Stephenville 8-HR SFST Refresher Course**
  January 12 | Stephenville, TX

- **ODC: DOT Controlled Substance and Alcohol Testing Webinar**
  January 12 | Virtual

- **Texas DRE: Beeville ARIDE**
  January 12–13 | Beeville, TX

- **Texas DRE: Hewitt ARIDE**
  January 16–17 | Hewitt, TX

- **Texas DRE: New Braunfels ARIDE**
  January 18–19 | New Braunfels, TX

- BVIPC: RED Class
  January 21 | College Station, TX

To register, please email Maryjo.prince@ag.tamu.edu or pamela.todaro@ag.tamu.edu

- **Texas DRE: Georgetown Drug Recognition Expert Basic Certification**
  January 23 – February 2 | Georgetown, TX

- **TxSFST: Waller County 8-HR SFST Refresher Course**
  January 24 | Waller, TX

- **TxSFST: Waller County 8-HR SFST Refresher Course**
  January 26 | Waller, TX

- **TxSFST: Bridge City County 8-HR SFST Refresher Course**
  January 30 | Bridge City, TX

- **Texas DRE: Humble/Harris County Drug Recognition Expert Basic Certification**
  January 30 – February 9 | Humble, TX

FEBRUARY

- **TxSFST: Stephenville 8-HR SFST Refresher Course**
  February 2 | Stephenville, TX

- **TxSFST: Baytown 8-HR SFST Refresher Course**
  February 7 | Baytown, TX

- BVIPC: RED Class
  February 7 | Virtual

To register, please email Maryjo.prince@ag.tamu.edu or pamela.todaro@ag.tamu.edu

- **TxSFST: Tarrant County 8-HR SFST Refresher Course**
  February 15 | Fort Worth, TX

- **TxSFST: Lamesa 8-HR SFST Refresher Course**
  February 16 | Lamesa, TX

- **TxSFST: Lamesa 8-HR Advanced DWI Course**
  February 17 | Lamesa, TX

- **TxSFST: Hondo 24-HR SFST Practitioner Course**
  February 21–23 | Hondo, TX

- **Texas DRE: Alton ARIDE**
  February 22–23 | Alton, TX

NEWSLETTER ADDITIONS

If you would you like to add anything to the next edition of the newsletter, please send your information to c-adams@tti.tamu.edu or e-shields@tti.tamu.edu.

February 2023, Texas Impaired Driving Task Force Meeting

The next meeting of the Texas Impaired Driving Task Force will be held on Thursday, February 23, 2023, at the Norris Conference Center.