

The background of the slide is a dark, blue-tinted photograph of a Denton Police Department building and a patrol car. The building's facade is made of stone, and a circular seal is visible on the wall. The seal features a map of Texas and the text 'DENTON POLICE' and 'SINCE 1873'. The word 'POLICE' is written vertically in large letters on the building. A patrol car is parked in front of the building, with its emergency lights visible. The overall scene is dimly lit, suggesting an evening or night setting.

# **Establishing a Law Enforcement Phlebotomy Program**

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**Support Services Bureau**  
**Denton, TX PD**



**DENTON PD**

# Learning Objectives



Overview of Denton, TX, and Denton PD



Briefly examine the DWI problem in Texas and specifically in Denton



Discuss why blood specimens versus breath specimens



Operational issues of establishing a phlebotomy program: the “how to do it” section



Funding option with TXDOT Traffic Safety Grants



Our results



# About Denton, TX

- Denton encompasses approximately **98 square miles**, located at the tip of the economic “*Golden Triangle*” of Ft Worth, Dallas, & Denton
- 21 miles of interstate highway; I-35, I-35E, I-35W
- Over 70 miles of state highway; US 77, 377, 380, FM roads
- County seat of Denton County
- 2023 population estimate **150,000**
- Home to the University of North Texas and Texas Women’s University main campuses and a satellite campus of North Central Texas College with over **45,000 students** between those campuses
- Denton Enterprise Airport 5<sup>th</sup> busiest general aviation airport in TX
- Major employers: manufacturing, distribution, healthcare, government

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# About Denton PD

- **214 civil service sworn positions**
  - We do have a lateral program
- **Currently, 102 sworn officer positions in Operations**
  - 76 Patrol – 12 hr shifts
  - 8 Downtown Units – split between day & night shifts
  - 6 Mental Health Unit
  - 12 Traffic Units - Motors, CMV, DWI, Hit & Run
  - Also SRO, CIB, Recruiting, Training, CRO, Admin sections
  - Civilian Public Safety Officer unit
- **Operate our own jail w/ civilian jail staff**
  - Own Intoxilyzer instrument





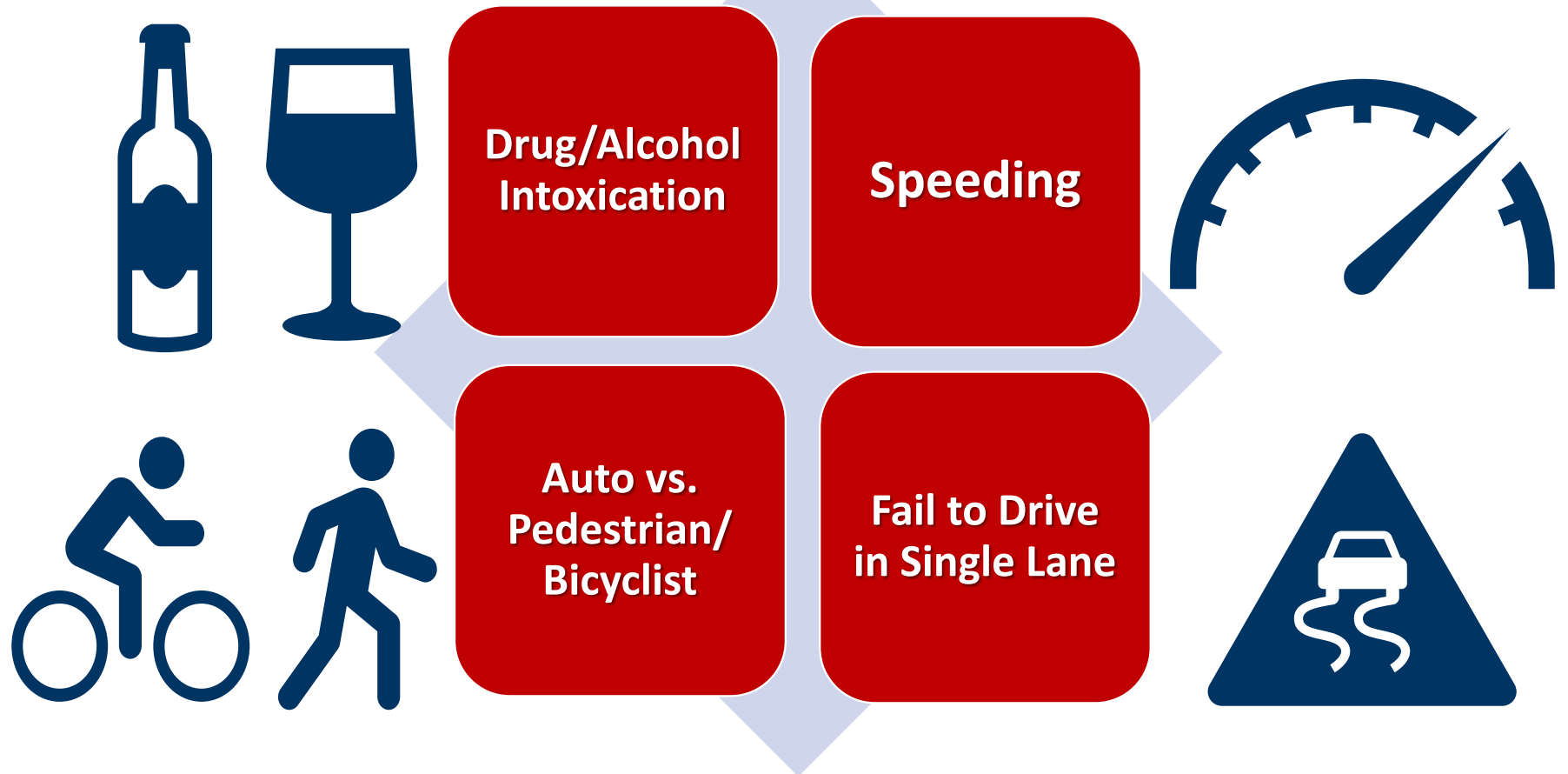
# The Problem

**November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2000**

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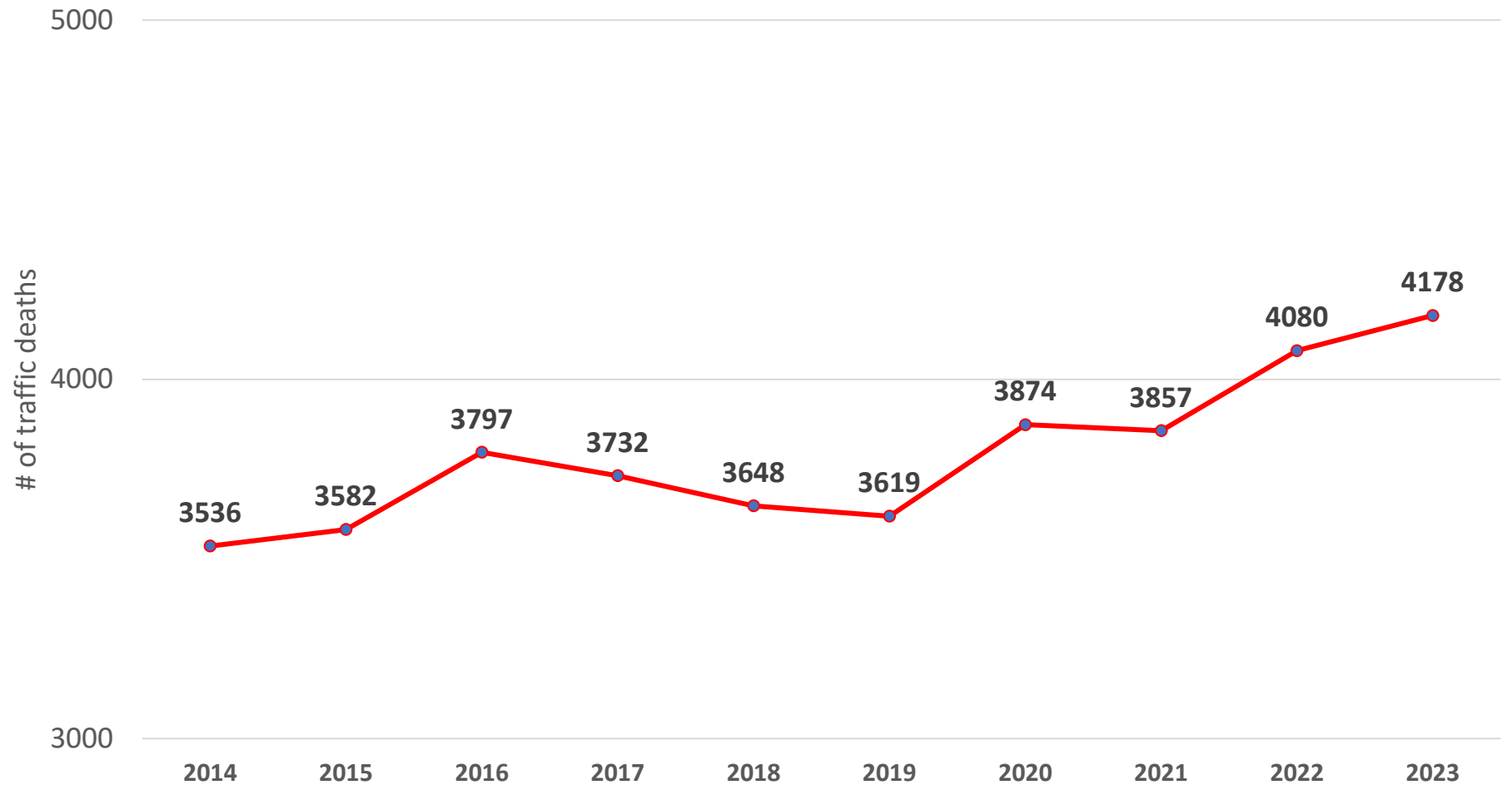
# Primary Factors in Fatal Crashes





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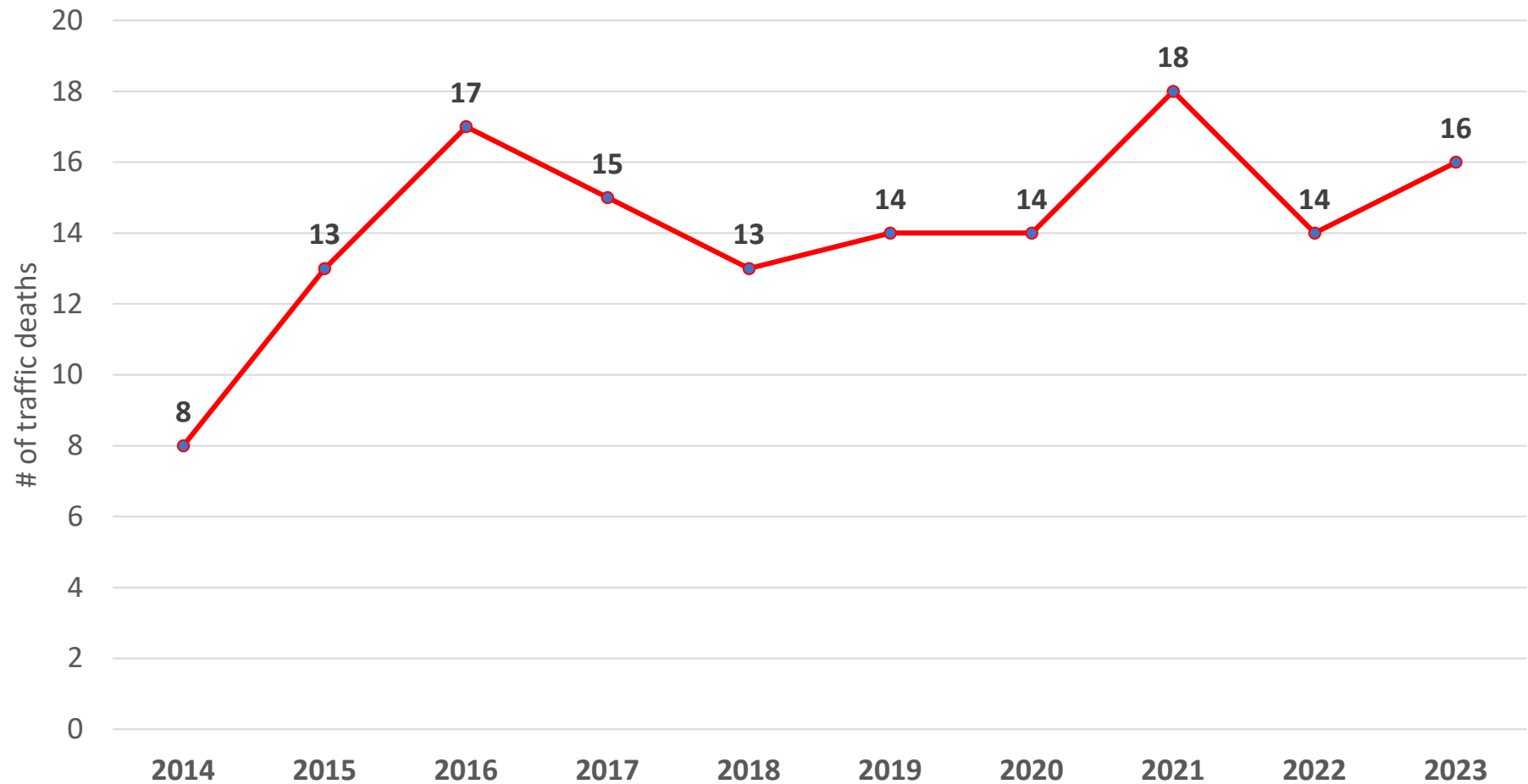
# Fatality Crashes in Texas





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# Fatality Crashes in Denton







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# Why DWI Enforcement?

- In 2019, in the US, **10,196** people were killed in motor vehicle alcohol-impaired crashes (BAC .08 or greater)
  - **1,338** in Texas – led the nation
- In 2020, the number was **11,718**
  - **1,533** in Texas – led the nation
- In 2021, the number was **13,384**
  - **1,906** in Texas – led the nation
- 2003-2018 total in-theater deaths related to Iraq & Afghanistan wars ~ **7,200**

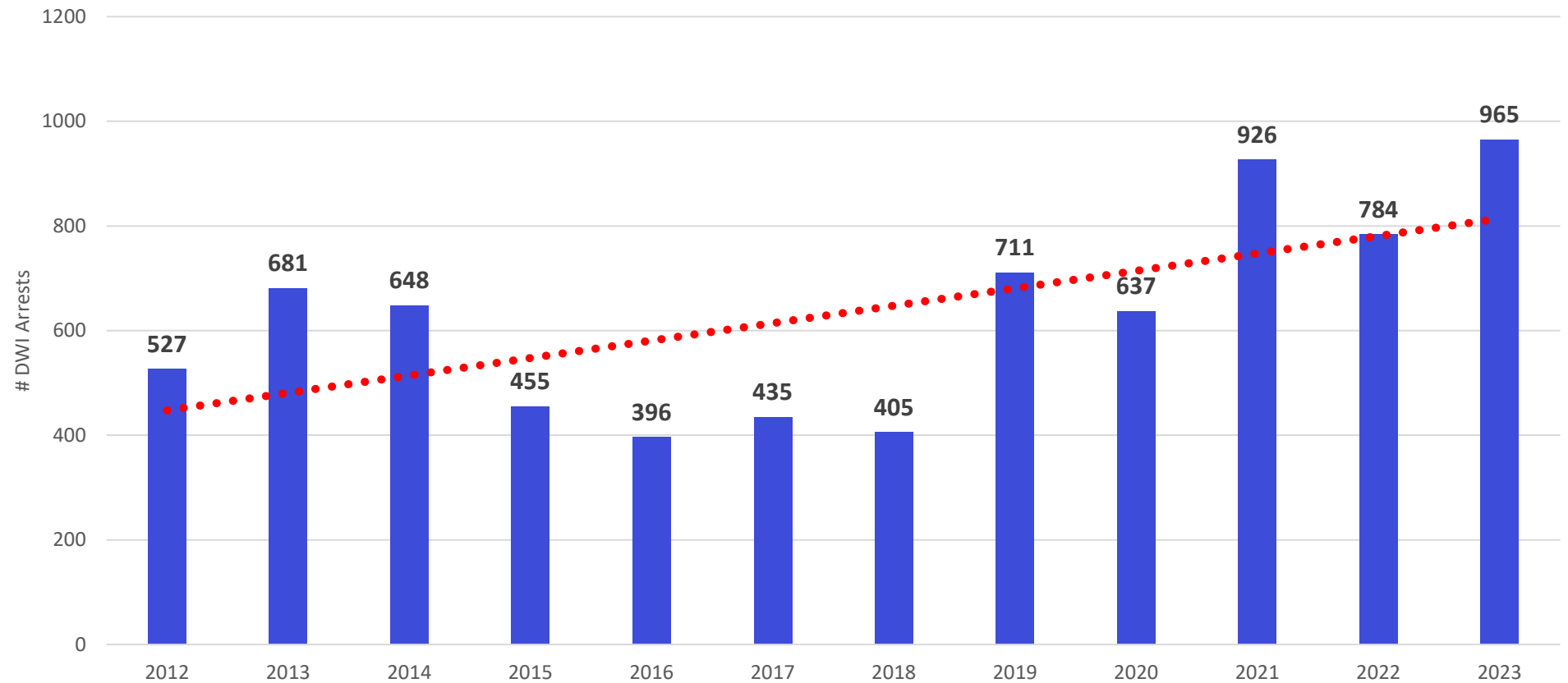
*Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
<https://www-fars.nhtsa.dot.gov/States/StatesAlcohol.aspx>*



# DWI Enforcement - Denton

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Denton PD DWI Arrests





# DWI Day of Week / Hour of Day

2022 DWI day of week hour of day

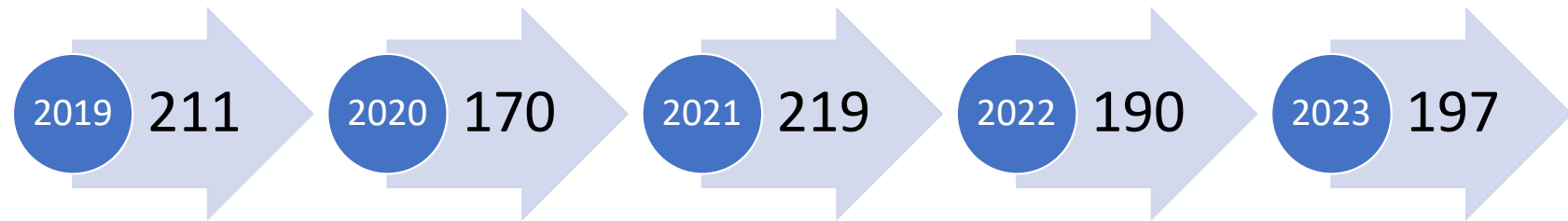
	Tues	Tues/Wed	Wed/Thurs	Thurs/Fri	Fri/Sat	Sat/Sun	Sun/Mon	Mon	Total by Hour	Per Hour
1800		2	3	3	3	8	5	3	27	0
1900		6	3	5	3	10	6	3	36	1-5
2000		2	4	5	8	4	7	4	34	6-10
2100		5	3	4	4	11	6	5	38	11-15
2200		6	4	3	9	10	7	1	40	16-20
2300		6	5	8	18	16	9	7	69	21+
0000	8	9	7	13	18	20	5		80	
0100	5	8	12	19	22	24	10		100	
0200	10	5	16	16	37	47	15		146	
0300	4	3	3	6	20	22	4		62	
0400		1	1	3	11	9	2		27	
0500		1		1	5	9			16	
0600	1				2	3	2		8	
0700			2		2	1	1		6	
0800	1	1	1		2	1	2		8	
0900		1		1	1	3			6	
1000		1			1	1			3	
1100	1	2	3	1	2		1		10	
1200		2	2	1		2	2		9	
1300		1	1		2		1		5	
1400	1		4	1	4				10	
1500	2			2	1	1	2		8	
1600	4	3	3	2	3	3	1		19	
1700	2		2	2	6	3	2		17	
<b>Total by Shift</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>784</b>	

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# Denton Impairment & Crashes

- CRIS Query of all crashes involving a driver under the influence of alcohol or a drug (BAC over 0.01 or positive for drugs, medications)



- Statewide in 2023, over 630,000 reported crashes; just under 28,000 of them were under the influence of alcohol or drug, roughly **4.3%** of all crashes had an impairment level
- Denton in 2023, over 3,100 reported crashes, just under 200 of them were under the influence of alcohol or drug, roughly **6.2%** of all crashes had an impairment level



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# Why blood?

Refusals

Jury problems with intoxilyzer

Combination impairment

Accuracy of BAC results



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# No Refusal

*If your agency is going to put in the work to stand up and administer an in-house phlebotomy program, you need to be a 24/7/365 no-refusal agency.*



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## Remember...

- Although obtaining a specimen is the ultimate goal, a good DWI investigation should not solely rest on the breath test report or lab report
- You can make your case long before that point with a solid investigation during the vehicle in motion and personal contact phases.
- The lab report should just be a bonus in most cases



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# Using local hospitals...



## Pros:

- No charge
- 24/7 availability

## Cons:

- No control over the process in terms of service (we were not a priority for them)
- Safety concerns
- Transport/waiting times; search warrant vs consent





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# Where do you start?

- **Does your jurisdiction have a big enough DWI problem?**
  - Problem isn't just defined by the number of arrests
- **Do you have a facility where blood draws can be completed?**
  - TRC Ch 724.017 defines blood draw statutory procedures
  - Minimum of a qualified technician & sanitary place
  - Get your District Attorney / Prosecuting Attorney on board with idea
- **How are you going to pay for it?**
  - City / County budget
  - Grant funding



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# Where do you start?

- **Who is going to perform the draws?**
  - Talk to your city/county Risk Management section first
  - FD, Officers, Jail staff, 3rd party (contracted technicians, hospital staff, etc.)
- **Blood draw options**
  - Hospital/clinic
  - County jail (medical staff)
  - Local jail
- **Write SOPs**
- **Get media coverage!**



# What do you need?

- **Secure and sanitary area**
- **Phlebotomy chair**
- **Phlebotomy cart or storage cabinet**
- **Cleaning supplies**
- **DPS blood vial kit**
- **Blood draw supplies**
  - Medical gloves
  - Tourniquet
  - BZK wipe or non-alcohol-based cleaning wipe
  - Vacutainer with tubing
  - Gauze
  - Bandage
  - Medical tape
- **Qualified technician**



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# TXDOT General Traffic Safety Grant Information

- Get to know your Traffic Safety Specialist for your TXDOT District before application window opens
  - <https://ftp.dot.state.tx.us/pub/txdot-info/trf/project-celebration-contact-list.pdf>
  - Get to know your Purchasing Department personnel ahead of time also
- Grant RFP – Request for Proposal published each November in The Texas Register - <https://www.sos.state.tx.us/texreg/>
- eGrants help - <https://www.txdot.gov/apps/eGrants/eGrantsHelp/rfp.html>
- Grant application window normally opens the first week of November and closes the first week of January of the new year, for budgets starting following budget year (following October)



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# General Traffic Safety Grant Highlights

- **General Traffic Safety Grants are reimbursement grants**
  - Monthly reporting
  - Monthly reimbursement
- **20% minimum matching funds by your agency**
- **Subcontracts are allowed however, any over \$25,000 require approval by TXDOT & NHTSA**
  - Normally takes a few weeks
  - Period of time when the grant will not be in effect, any expenses would be on your agency to absorb
- **Equipment/supply purchases for grant purposes are allowed**



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# Where we are

- **2023 – average time from in custody to specimen obtained in search warrant cases was 99 minutes**
  - Need more training for officers on search warrants, 2023 our HQ/Jail was under renovation, no workstations in the jail at the time
- **2023 – average time from in custody to specimen obtained in consent cases was 36 minutes**
- **However, the process is significantly safer for everyone involved and completely under our span of control**
- **Officers and Jail staff have been very happy with the process**



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**If only it was this easy...**

ARE YOU DRUNK?

YES

NO

X



# It is an Infinite Game

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# Questions?

Denton Police Department  
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