



Comprehensive Highway Safety Plan Impaired Driving Emphasis Area Meeting June 7, 2023

Attendees:

Alyssa Johnson, Trauma Systems Manager, Department of Health and Human Services (DPHHS)
 Anna Mhoon, Driver's Licensing, Motor Vehicle Division (MVD), Department of Justice (DOJ)
 Beth Morrison, Prevention Program, Cascade County
 Brooklyn Johns-Blassic, FARS Data Analyst, State Highway Traffic Safety Section (SHTSS), Montana Department of Transportation (MDT)
 Captain Doug Samuelson, Drug Recognition Expert (DRE)/ Training, Montana Highway Patrol (MHP)
 Elizabeth Smalley, Forensic Science Division, DOJ
 Daci English, ABCD Outreach & Education Coordinator
 Dwight Nelson, Traffic Education Director, Office of Public Instruction
 John Westerhold, NHTSA Region 10 Program Manager
 Judge Mary Jane Knisely, 13th Judicial District
 Kent Haab, Alcohol Beverage Control Division (ABCD) Education, Department of Revenue (DOR)
 Kevin Dusko, Impaired Driving Program Coordinator, SHTSS, MDT
 Pam Langve-Davis, Comprehensive Highway Safety Plan (CHP) Manager, MDT
 Sgt. Ryan Janes, Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) Trainer /Training Coordinator, MHP
 Steve Schmidt, Drive Safe Missoula, Missoula Ci-County Health Department
 Trooper Lucas Herl, Traffic Safety Resource Officer (TSRO) MHP

MEETING GOAL

The purpose of the meeting is to provide an overview of programs related to the Impaired Driving Emphasis Area strategies and report implementation efforts in reducing impaired driving related fatalities and serious injuries.

Welcome - Members including new member Trooper Lucas Herl, who has filled the Traffic Safety Resource Officer position within the Montana Highway Patrol (MHP)- welcome aboard!

Program Overview

Elizabeth Smalley provided an overview of the 2022 Crime Lab Report
 In 2022 there was 3,712 DUIs, a 10.5% increase from 2019. Additionally, 1,525 postmortem cases were submitted, reflecting an increase of 11.9% from 2019.

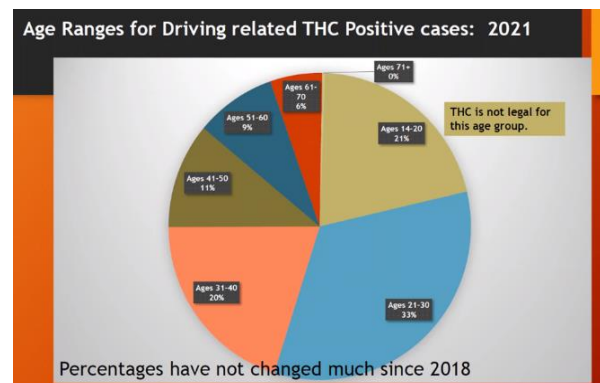
THC in DUIs is increasing, but the increase was occurring before 2022 legalization was passed.

The percentage of THC positive cases has not changed much in 2021 compared to 2018.

THC in DUI's: Increasing

Full Year	Total Positive THC (or metabolite) in DUI Cases	Percent Increase	Mean Concentration
2017	284		7.8 ng/mL
2018	454	59%	8.6 ng/mL
2019	464	2%	9.4 ng/mL
2020	530	14%	9.9 ng/mL
2021	621	17%	10 ng/mL
2022	726	17%	10 ng/mL
Percent increase from 2017-2022		155%	

• Legalization occurred January 1, 2022.





Gabapentin and Fentanyl are showing an increase in positive test results in DUI cases.



Success in 2022 include:

- Remodel of Toxicology space, ability to hire additional staff, and release of new Initializers 9000.

Challenges:

- While some courts still utilize video there has been an increase in testimony travel due to MT Supreme Court decision resulting time away from Crime lab work.
- Increase in polydrug cases.
- Increase in novel substances making detection difficult.
- Still have high se load per toxicologist compared to national average.

Work Plan Update

Executive Leadership Team (ELT) met May 24, and were provided an overview of the Comprehensive Highway Safety Plan (CHSP), their role in safety as leaders in state agencies, and the ELTs role as the Statewide Impaired Driving Task Force and the draft final Impaired Driving Strategic Plan.

Montana is classified as a High Range State for Alcohol-Impaired Driving Fatalities (.60 or higher for the average impaired driving fatality rate). Montana is at a .64 for 2018 -2020 Fatality Analysis Report System (FARS) data.

High range states have extra requirements with the Statewide Impaired Driving Plan that must include:

- Authority of Task Force and names.
- Must follow NHTSA's Highway Safety Program Guideline on Impaired Driving.
- NHTSA Impaired Driving Assessment.
- Response addressing Assessment Recommendations
- Projects implementing impaired driving activities/funding.
- Description of how spending supports program and targets.

The ELT minutes and presentation can be found at <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/visionzero/plans/chsp-materials.aspx>

The formal approval of the Impaired work plan is anticipated June 27



Program Updates

Strategy 1: Deterrence and Enforcement

Support Selective Traffic Enforcement Program STEP High Visibility Enforcement (HVE) efforts. - Working towards getting a high visibility enforcement LE Liaison. Working w/ Kalispell, Great Falls, Cascade Co, and Yellowstone Co. to get a STEP started. SETT was in the Flathead area during Memorial Day weekend.

Continue to support the Law Enforcement Liaison program- EJ Clark/ Clark Consulting continues to do outreach for LE program.

Traffic Safety Resource Officer (TSRO)- Montana Highway Patrol reported 2 Standard Field Sobriety Testing (SFST) -basic & equivalency trainings and a DRE training with Continued Education Credits(CEC) have been conducted. Working w/ TSRP Hirsch on advance trial testimony for law enforcement & attorneys. 3 ARIDE courses have been conducted and 6 more are scheduled. The next ARIDE is Polson in the middle of June.

Strategy 2: Prevention & Education

Department of Public Health & Human Services- The Montana Substance Abuse Prevention Academy training engages communities, agencies, and individuals to come together and focus on substance abuse prevention efforts. The bi-annual training provides an opportunity for everyone who is engaging in this work to come together, network, share ideas, and learn. Register at [August 1st - 2nd, 2023 \(umt.edu\)](https://www.umt.edu/2023/08/01/2023-substance-abuse-prevention-academy/)

Department of Revenue's Alcoholic Beverage Control Division (ABCD) will be hosting Town Halls around the state to provide updates about Montana's alcoholic beverage laws from the 68th legislative session. These in-person-only events are open to the public. All Town Halls are scheduled to start at noon. There will be an Online Zoom option TBD later. Register at [Alcoholic Beverage Control - Montana Department of Revenue \(mtrevenue.gov\)](https://www.mtrevenue.gov/alcoholic-beverage-control-montana/)

Strategy 3- Criminal Justice System

Sustain and support the Judicial Outreach Liaison (JOL) -May National Drug Court Month. Funding for 7 DUI court teams and a tribal court. Consisted of 2-day training / breakouts/ trainings. STEER court received recognition as a national academy court with a ceremony which was attended by Gov. Gianforte attending. An extended service coordinator has joined staff to coordinate schedules and outreach; and tribal representatives have joined the State Conference Committee and on Justice Committee.

Continue to sustain and expand DUI Courts and Treatment Court Training for DUI Offenders- STEER court received recognition as a national academy court with a ceremony which was attended by Gov. Gianforte attending. 1 of 6 training have been conducted. STEER Team to attend National Court Training. Tribal representatives have joined the State Conference Committee and the Justice Committee.

Support of and expansion of Tribal DUI Courts continues with the May DUI Traffic Court Training in Billings attended by Fort Peck DUI Court.



Strategy 4 - Communication Program

Participate and support of National Mobilization Media Campaigns aimed at preventing impaired driving- Email notices of Traffic Safety Marketing's Saint Patrick's Day buzzed driving prevention and 4th of July Impaired Driving Prevention Campaign materials available sent out to Emphasis Area Teams or distribution with networks and to community stakeholders.

Research underlying beliefs and behaviors of high-risk groups to better understand their traffic safety behaviors regarding impaired driving - Media contractor Duff Waterson hired beginning of FFY2023 is developing a summer safety campaign focused on high-risk groups to improve safety behaviors regarding impaired driving. The anticipated roll out is in July 2023.

Educate the public on the responsibilities of recreational and medical use of marijuana - DPHHS has received HEART funding and is working with WTI-MSU on study groups re: brain development. Kevin Dusko on working group with focus of connection to impaired driving.

Follow-up

Kevin Dusko will check on positions vacated by long-time member Curtis Weiler and Sarah Harmon within Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities Division (BHDD), DPHHS.

Announcements

- a. 2023 Substance Abuse Prevention Academy, August 1-2, Fairmont Hot Springs
- b. 2023 Annual Transportation Safety Meeting, October 4 & 5, Helena Delta Colonial.
- c. Next meeting - August 2nd

Adjournment