



Enforce DWI Laws

Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) laws involves visible, coordinated police efforts such as patrols, checkpoints, and testing, to deter and detect alcohol and drug impaired driving.

Implementation Strategy

How and Where to Apply

- Enforcing DWI laws should be prioritized in areas with a high incidence of alcohol-related crashes, particularly during nights, weekends, and holiday periods when impaired driving is more prevalent.
- Effective implementation includes conducting sobriety checkpoints, saturation patrols, and using tools like portable breath tests and drug recognition experts to detect impaired drivers.
- HVE efforts especially when paired with public education campaigns are proven strategies for reducing impaired driving fatalities (**NHTSA**).

Use in a Safe System Approach

Supports the Safe System Approach by encouraging safer user behavior and deterring high-risk activity. Enforcement acts as a critical tool to reduce human error and protect other road users from preventable, high-severity crashes.

Key Stakeholders

Law enforcement agencies, SHSOs, judicial system, transportation agencies (DOTs), public health and behavioral health agencies

Proactive Implementation

Proactive DWI enforcement uses crash and arrest data to identify high-risk times and locations such as weekends, holidays, and nighttime, for targeted checkpoints and saturation patrols. Innovations include mobile breath testing, drug recognition experts, and coordination with behavioral health services. Public campaigns like *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over* enhance deterrence and shift social norms.

Countermeasure Overview

Objective: Enforce DWI laws

Strategy: Conduct regular well-publicized DWI checkpoints

Selected Related Countermeasures

- CM1** Alcohol Screening and Brief Intervention (SBI)
- CM2** Administrative License Revocation (ALR)
- CM3** Establish Stronger Penalties for BAC Test Refusal

Cost: Low

Service Life: N/A

Targeted Solution



CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

- Misjudgment
- Visibility
- Slower response



TARGET CRASH TYPE

- Speeding
- Aggressive



ROAD FACILITY TYPE

- N/A



AREA TYPE

- All

Safety Linkage



NCHRP 500 Series

Alcohol-Related Collisions

SAFE SYSTEM APPROACH

Safe Road Users



AASHTO'S TOWARD ZERO DEATHS

Improved Safety Management

SAFE SYSTEM ROADWAY DESIGN

TIER 1

TIER 2

TIER 3

TIER 4

N/A

Alcohol Testing. Source: [impaired-driving](https://www.impaired-driving.org/) | [TxDOT](https://www.txdot.org/)



Discourages impaired driving through active law enforcement.

Resources

- ¹NHTSA: [Countermeasures That Work: A Highway Safety Countermeasure Guide](#)
- [CDC | Impaired Driving](#)

