Impaired Driving Enforcement Strategies

Expanding Engagement in the Law Enforcement Community-Post MADD Summit
Impaired Driving and the New York State Police

**Mission Statement**: The New York State Police works to ensure the safety of the state’s roadways, prevent and investigate crime, prepare for and respond to emergencies and disasters and provide support to other law enforcement agencies.

**Mission Priorities**

**Improve Highway Safety**

- To make our roads safe for all users.
- To reduce injuries, property damage and the loss of life caused by motor vehicle accidents through vehicle and traffic enforcement and education.
NYS Drug Impaired Fatalities Trending Upward (ITSMR)

New York State Fact Sheet on Impaired Driving

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fatalities in Motor Vehicle Crashes</th>
<th>DRE Evaluations</th>
<th>Toxicology Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Fatalities</strong></td>
<td>1,116</td>
<td>1,029</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Fatalities in Impaired Driving Crashes</strong></td>
<td>468</td>
<td>413</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Total Fatalities</td>
<td>41.9%</td>
<td>40.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol</td>
<td>313</td>
<td>272</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Total Fatalities</td>
<td>28.0%</td>
<td>26.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drugs</td>
<td>264</td>
<td>267</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Total Fatalities</td>
<td>23.7%</td>
<td>25.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol &amp; Drugs</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Total Fatalities</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
<td>12.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Preliminary data based on 7/15/19 snapshot

- Total fatalities and fatalities in impaired driving-related crashes were on downward trends between 2015 and 2017. In 2018, total fatalities continued to decline, dropping 6% from 2017, while impaired driving-related fatalities increased 17%.
- The proportions of fatalities in alcohol and drug-related crashes increased in 2018 compared to the previous years of 2015 - 2017. In 2018:
  - 49% of the fatalities occurred in impaired driving crashes; up from 39% - 42%
  - 31% occurred in alcohol crashes; up from 25% - 28%
  - 12% occurred in drug crashes; up from 24% - 26%
  - 14% occurred in crashes involving both alcohol and drugs, up from 10% - 12%

- Cannabis is the most commonly reported drug found in the specimens submitted by DREs to the state’s toxicology labs; 46% of the subjects had cannabis reported in 2018, up from 40% in 2017.
Possible Factors in upward shift

• Growing public acceptance of marijuana use (62% of Americans favor legalization & 63% of New Yorkers)
• Decriminalization/Legalization regionally and nationwide
• Misconception of effects of marijuana – “It’s just weed.”
  • No longer the low THC percentages of the 60s and 70s that most associate with marijuana
Increases in trainings (ARIDE & DRE) have likely increased recognition of drug impairment both qualitatively and quantitatively.

Small sample size

However, data from other states such as Colorado and Washington correlate legalization with increases in crash/fatality data.
NYSP Fatal Investigations

- 2017-18 Fatality Data
  - 27 Alcohol related fatalities
  - 2 Drug involved fatalities

- 2018-19 Fatality Data*
  - 21 Alcohol related fatalities
  - 6 Drug involved fatalities

*Preliminary data
NYSP Crash Investigations

• 2017-18 Crash Data
  – DWI Arrests
    • 12,957
  – Crashes
    • 81,106
  – Alcohol Related
    • 2,077

• 2018-19 Crash Data*
  – DWI Arrests
    • 12,724 (1.8% decrease)
  – Crashes
    • 80,046 (1.3% decrease)
  – Alcohol Related
    • 2,082 (0.2% increase)

*Preliminary data
• DREs have increased from just over 40 in 2017 to 105 in 2019
• Over 1000 members will be ARIDE trained by Spring of 2020
• ARIDE added to Academy Training
• FTO ARIDE added to FTO school
Combatting Cultural Change

• Deterrence by Enforcement
  – Increase the number of DREs for the agency
  – Increase the number of DREs on dedicated patrol for impaired driver
  – NYS Oral Fluids Workgroup (GTSC)
    • Proactively researching latest technologies to combat impaired driving
Combatting Cultural Change

• Deterrence by Education
  – Holiday Enforcement periods supported by GTSC, Stop DWI and MADD
    • NYSP and MADD have partnered to promote Victim Dedications for every holiday enforcement period (10 enforcement periods annually)
    • Public Information Officer (PIO) – pushing program on multiple media platforms/press events
Combatting Cultural Change

• Deterrence by Education continued…
  – Drug Awareness Trainings including DITEP
    • DITEP – Drug Impairment Training for Educational Professionals
    • Magistrates, Prosecutors, Prison Chaplains, School staff, Etc.
    • 3 LEL’s-NYSP, Sheriff and Local-GTSC
Engaging Law Enforcement

- Collaborate with other agencies
  - GTSC/GHSA make holiday enforcement pushes possible
  - Run multi-agency traffic details
  - Multi-agency media pushes surrounding enforcement periods
    - Public promotion of details
    - Follow-up of results
- Encourage participation at Victim Impact Panels