

# Drugged Driving Countermeasures and the Drug Evaluation and Classification (DEC) Program



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Chuck Hayes  
International Association of Chiefs of Police

# **Drug Evaluation and Classification (DEC) Program**

IACP/NHTSA impaired driving program that trains police officers to be Drug Recognition Experts (DREs) to determine whether a subject is under the influence of alcohol and /or drugs and, if so, what category of drugs, by combining basic medical knowledge about drug effects with validated psychomotor tests.

# DEC Program

- **Includes 45 states plus D.C.**
- **Non-DEC states: AL, CT, MI, OH, WV**
- **Strong Canadian program and expanding**
- **DREs in the United Kingdom and Germany**
- **Approximately 5,800 DREs nationally**
- **DRE State Coordinator in each state**

# IACP Involvement

- **Provides program oversight**
- **Credentialing agency**
- **Maintains national certification database**
- **Sets Standards for training, certification, recertification and decertification**
- **Works with individual states**
- **Coordinates and assists with program expansion**

# Program “Leaders”

<b>DEC State</b>	<b>Number of DREs</b>	<b>Enforce-ment Evals</b>	<b>DRE Data Entry</b>	<b>Confirmation Rate by Tox</b>
<b>PA</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>88%</b>
<b>WA</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>1,426</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>92%</b>
<b>AK</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>91%</b>
<b>OR</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>1,240</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>85%</b>
<b>AZ</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>2,578</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>92%</b>

2007 Evaluation Data

# **DRE National Totals**

## **(2007)**

- **Certified DREs – 5,453**
- **Certified DRE instructors – 982**
- **L.E. agencies with DREs – 1,662**
- **DUID enforcement evaluations – 14,488**
- **Other evaluations – 5,366**
- **Opinion confirmation rate – 88%**

# Effective DEC Program Components

**Key areas identified by IACP and NHTSA:**



- 1. Strong leadership**
- 2. Aggressive impaired driving enforcement**
- 3. Law enforcement participation**
- 4. Supportive impaired driving laws**
- 5. Proficient SFST training and use**
- 6. GHS Office involvement and support**
- 7. Data collection and reporting**
- 8. Strong partner support (Prosecutors/Lab)**

# **IACP DRE Technical Advisory Panel (TAP)**

## **Mission**

**To develop, promote, and provide guidance and support for the Drug Evaluation and Classification (DEC) and Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST) programs.**

# The Role of TAP

- **Provides the IACP Highway Safety Committee (HSC) with information and advise concerning DEC & SFST**
- **Reviews, on an as-needed basis, DRE & SFST and makes necessary modifications**
- **Evaluates state DRE training programs**
- **Establishes and updates International DEC program standards**
- **Makes policy recommendations for DEC**

# DEC Program State Coordinator

- **Appointed by Highway Safety Office**
- **Defined in the IACP DEC Program International Standards as ...**

***“An individual designated to act as the statewide coordinator for the DEC program. The duties of the position generally include, but are not limited to:***

- 1. Acting as an information clearinghouse and central communication point for the program within the state***
- 2. Assist in coordinating training and other support activities for all agencies participating in the program within the state, and***
- 3. Coordinating the assignment of instructors in response to requests for service from federal and other sources”***

# **Coordinator Responsibilities**

- **DRE training within state**
- **Recertification training**
- **Oversight of Regional/Agency Coordinators**
- **SFST training coordination**
- **DRE data collection and reporting**
- **Instructor training and development**
- **ARIDE training coordination**

# Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE)

- ✓ Intended to “bridge the gap” between Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST) and Drug Recognition Expert (DRE)
- ✓ Provides awareness to law enforcement personnel and other criminal justice professionals in the area drug impairment in the of traffic safety



# Training Goals

**Train other criminal justice professionals (prosecutors, toxicologists, parole and probation, etc.) to understand the signs of impairment related to drugs, alcohol, or a combination of both.**



# ARIDE Training

ARIDE *is not* a substitute for DRE and will not qualify or certify someone as a Drug Recognition Expert (DRE)



# **Success of the DEC Program**

- **Support from L.E. executives**
- **Strong SFST training program**
- **Involvement from local/state partners**
- **Highway Safety Office support**
- **Reporting effectiveness and successes**
- **Support for the DREs within the state**
- **Effective use of DREs**

# **DRE Enforcement Activities**

## **July 4<sup>th</sup> “Crackdown” Period**

**Reporting States: AK, CA, FL, KS, MN, OR, PA, SD & UT**

**Total DUI Arrests – 2,077**

**Drug Influence Evaluations - 260**

**Number of Sobriety Checkpoints - 31**

**Number of DUI Saturation Patrols - 57**

**Drug Arrests - 77**

# Summary

- **Drugged driving is a serious problem**
- **Officers need to be better trained to detect and apprehend drug-impaired drivers**
- **DEC program is the premier L.E. training tool for detecting drug-impaired drivers**
- **DRE has proven to be successful**
- **Needs to be expanded to all 50 states**



# Contact Information

Chuck Hayes

International Association of Chiefs of Police

DEC Program Regional Operations Coordinator

Work: 503-585-0055

E-mail: [chayesiACP@msn.org](mailto:chayesiACP@msn.org)