The Working Group
on DWI System Improvements
dwiwg.tirf.ca

Impaired Driving Countermeasures

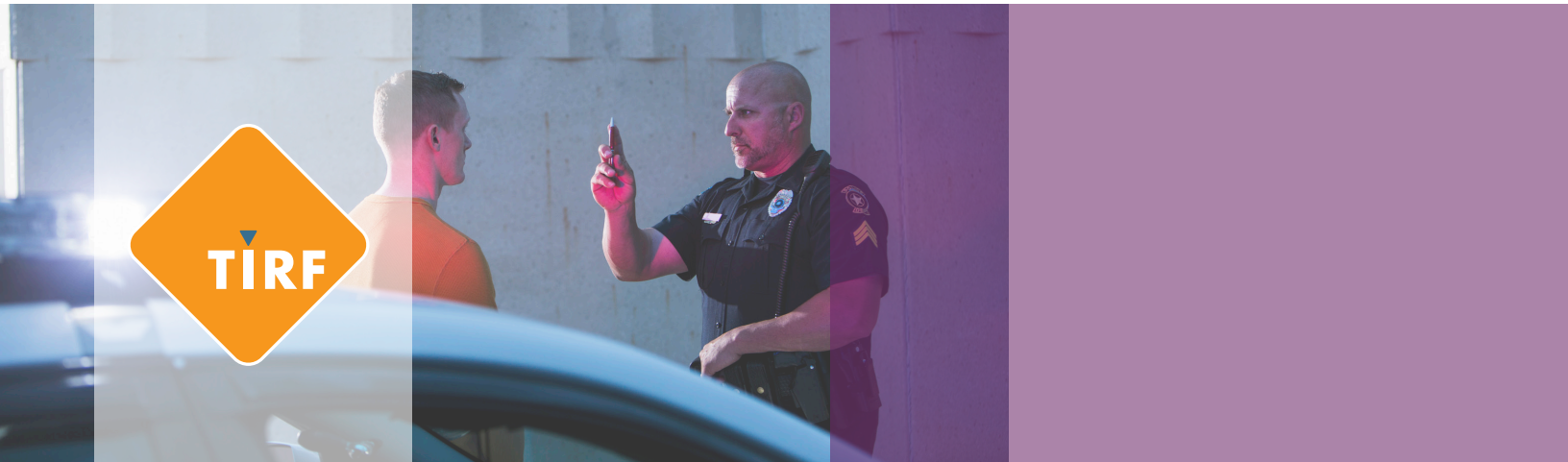
The education resources of the Working Group on DWI System Improvements are produced by the **Traffic Injury Research Foundation** with funding from **Anheuser-Busch**. The Working Group on DWI System Improvements is a prestigious coalition of senior leaders of organisations representing frontline professionals in all segments of the criminal DWI system (law enforcement, prosecution, judiciary, supervision, and treatment).

What types of countermeasures are most effective to reduce alcohol-impaired driving?

- Consistent and effective enforcement strategies (e.g., **sobriety checkpoints**).
- Reliance on Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutors (**TSRPs**) for expertise and training for law enforcement and prosecutors in their state.
- Alcohol monitoring technologies (e.g., **alcohol ignition interlocks**, continuous alcohol monitoring).
- **Screenings and assessments** to identify re-offense risk and actions that are appropriate to reduce recidivism for each offender.
- **DWI courts**.
- Community supervision that utilizes balanced responses appropriate to each offender to ensure strategic use of resources and encourage behavior change.
- Substance abuse and/or mental health **treatment**.

What types of alcohol-monitoring technologies are effective to supervise impaired-driving offenders and reduce recidivism?

- **Breath alcohol testing devices.** These devices accurately measure breath alcohol concentration (BrAC) when devices are properly calibrated, maintained, installed, and serviced.
- **Remote alcohol detection.** There are primarily two types of technologies to measure BAC remotely and collect, store and transfer data for a supervising agency. The first technology is a wearable



device (usually an ankle bracelet) worn by DWI offenders. It continuously measures BAC through perspiration up to every 30 minutes or as scheduled by probation officers. The device is connected to a modem allowing for daily download of data from the bracelet. The modem stores data including alcohol readings, tamper alerts and body temperature throughout a 24-hour period. The second technology is a stand-alone breath testing unit installed in the residence of DWI offenders (or other convenient location). They must perform tests during designated windows of time or when prompted to do so. These units may also be equipped with camera capabilities to capture images of the person performing the test.

- **Alcohol ignition interlock device (IID)**. These devices require drivers to provide a breath sample showing a BAC below .02 or .25 (depending on state regulations) before they can operate their vehicle. Most often the IID is connected to the starter of a vehicle, and the flow of power to the engine is interrupted until an acceptable breath alcohol sample is provided. These devices also require random running re-tests after a vehicle has been started to ensure drivers remain alcohol-free throughout their trip. Data from vehicle events are captured in a data recorder, and a growing number of manufacturers have integrated a camera feature to capture an image of the person providing the breath sample. Data are downloaded from the device at the completion of each service interval (usually 30, 60 or 90 days) and reported to various authorities as required. The calibration of devices is checked regularly at approved service centers.

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- **Other technological tools.** There are many different tracking and monitoring solutions that provide real-time location, home confinement capabilities, automated call services and kiosk check-in locations, some with remote alcohol sensing technologies. There are also a variety of tools that can be used to screen for drug usage. Finally, integrated information systems or, at least, access to data from other criminal justice and department of motor vehicle systems is an important feature of the use of monitoring technologies. This capability will allow for efficient monitoring of DWI probationers and other contacts they may have with police, such as alcohol-related arrests and driving infractions.

What educational materials does The Working Group on DWI System Improvements provide?

The efforts of the Working Group on DWI System Improvements have served to identify critical system needs, to make needed educational materials available, to articulate the complex issues associated with program and policy implementation embedded within broader systems, and to give voice to the concerns of practitioners in the DWI system and identify achievable solutions. The Working Group provides educational primers, policy documents, and guides for DWI system professionals to help strengthen the efficiency and effectiveness of the DWI system.

Key topics discussed on this site include:

- Impaired drivers;
- Impaired driving programs and policies;
- Strategies to improve the DWI System;
- DWI Dashboard; and,
- other special topics.

Each of these topics contains a series of fact sheets structured in a question and answer format which are available for free download and sharing (with attribution). These resources are designed to support the training efforts for agencies that work within the DWI system.

To view more fact sheets, or to get more information about alcohol, its effects on driving skills, and impaired driving, visit **dwiwg.tirf.ca**.

Acknowledgements

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Traffic Injury Research Foundation

The mission of the Traffic Injury Research Foundation (TIRF) is to reduce traffic-related deaths and injuries. TIRF is a national, independent, charitable road safety research institute. Since its inception in 1964, TIRF has become internationally recognized for its accomplishments in a wide range of subject areas related to identifying the causes of road crashes and developing programs and policies to address them effectively.

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