Riverside Police Department

SFST Overview
September 25, 2024

RPDonline.org

Greetings CPRC

Detective Trevor Williamson
- Total Law Enforcement Experience, 13 years
- Riverside Police Department, 10 years
- Crash Investigator, 6 years
- Motor Officer, 5 years
- Major Accident Investigation Team (MAIT), 6 years
- Drug Recognition Expert, 9 years
- Standardized Field Sobriety Test and Drug Recognition Expert Instructor, 5 years
- POST DUI training includes SFST, ARIDE, DRE, DRE & SFST Instructor
- Thousands of DUI investigations
- Over 350 DUI arrests, with hundreds more assists

Presentation Objectives

- The DUI Problem, why we enforce DUI law
- The Lab and Field Studies that determined the best method of enforcement
- Scientific Validation of SFSTs through Field Studies
- The Standardized Field Sobriety Tests
  – Statistics in this presentation come from NHTSA

The DUI Problem

- Prior to 1994, nearly **50%** of total traffic crashes were alcohol-related

- **10,598** alcohol-related fatalities represented **30%** of all traffic fatalities (2020)

Average DWI Violator

- Drives intoxicated 80 times before arrest
- Once every four or five nights
- Some every day

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Alcohol-Related Crash Fatalities

- 26% on weekends were alcohol-impaired

- 3 times higher at night

- 1.02 million DWI arrests in 2019

- Average one fatality every 52 minutes

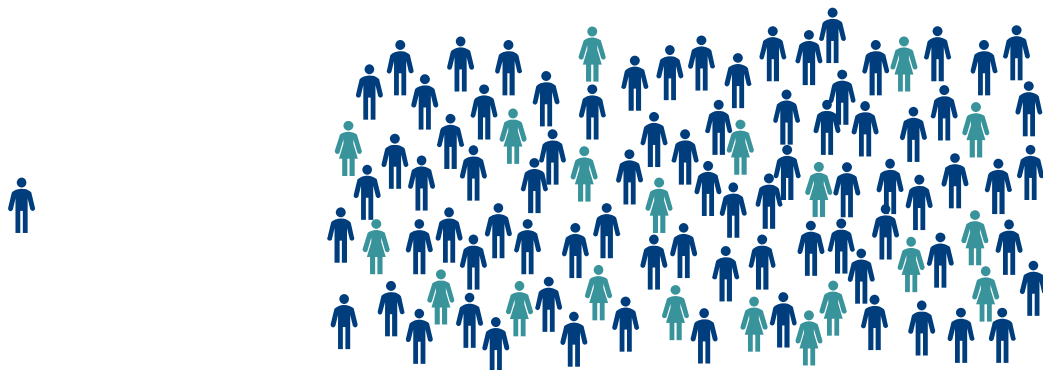- Cost society approximately $44 billion

Two Approaches

Prevention

Deterrence

How Much Deterrence is Enough?

For every DWI violator arrested, there are approximately 100 undetected DWI violations.

DUI

CVC 23152(a) It is unlawful for a person who is under the influence of any alcoholic beverage to drive a vehicle.

CVC 23152(b) It is unlawful for a person who has 0.08 percent or more, by weight, of alcohol in his or her blood to drive a vehicle.

LAB Studies

- NHTSA research began in 1975 in California

- Three final reports published
  - California: 1977 (lab study only)
  - California: 1981 (lab/field study)
  - Maryland, Washington, DC, Virginia, North Carolina: 1983 (field study only)

Volunteers subjected to 6 tests

- One Leg Stand
- Finger-to-Nose
- Finger Count
- Walk and Turn
- Tracing
- Nystagmus

Standardized Tests

- Laboratory research indicated three of these tests, when administered in a standardized manner, were highly accurate and reliable tests for distinguishing blood alcohol concentrations (BACs) at or above 0.10; **HGN**, **WAT**, and **OLS**.

- The research showed these three tests were the most accurate and the remaining tests were merely reassessing the same skills.

Field Validation Studies

- Colorado(95), Florida(97), and San Diego(98)

- Trained Officers

- Standardized, practical, and effective procedures

- Determine feasibility of procedures in enforcement conditions

- Determine if tests discriminate in field as well as in laboratory

Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus

- 6 Clues total
  - Lack of Smooth Pursuit
  - Sustained nystagmus at maximum deviation
  - Onset prior to 45 degrees

- **4 out of 6 clues=**

  88% Accurate

Walk and Turn

- 8 clues total
  - Balance Phase
    - Starts too soon
    - Fail to maintain balance
  - Walking phase
    - Uses arms
    - Stopping
    - Improper Turn
    - Steps offline
    - Miss heel to toe
    - Wrong number of steps

- **2 Clues out of 8 =**

  79% Accurate

One Leg Stand

- 4 Clues total
  - Uses Arms
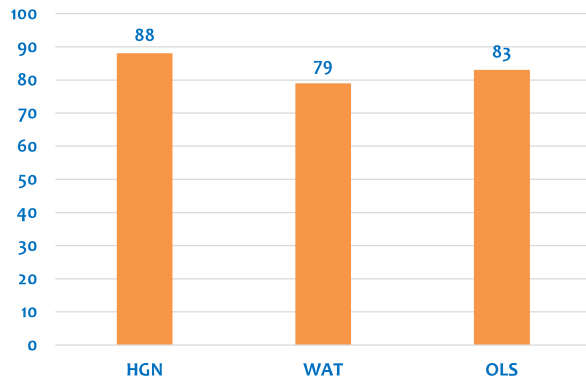 - Puts foot down
  - Swaying
  - Hopping

- **2 out of 4 clues=**

  83% Accurate

San Diego Validation Study

- 91% correct-arrest decision for 0.08 BAC and above using three SFSTs

- HGN is still most reliable of three SFSTs and supports arrest decisions at 0.08 BAC

Standardized Field Sobriety Test Training

- 24 hour classroom course

- Alcohol Workshop

- Officers are taught to recognize specific scientifically validated clues of impairment.
  - Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus
  - Walk and Turn
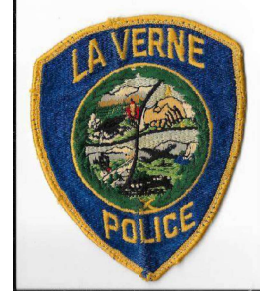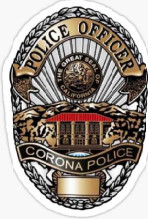 - One Leg Stand

City of Riverside DUI Arrests

20	21	22	23
463	524	765	569

Enforcement

- Officers are trained with hands on experience through an alcohol workshop
- Officers from several California agencies
- Increased DUI arrests in recent years
- Reduced fatal crash volume

Thank you

Questions?

For more information, visit us on the web at:
RPDOnline.org