

Interagency  
**TASK FORCE**  
ON Drunk Driving



**2011**

## **Annual Report**

*The long-term goal of the ITFDD is a Colorado in which there are no new victims from instances of drunk or impaired driving.*

Interagency

**TASK FORCE**

**ON Drunk Driving**

## Executive Summary

The Interagency Task Force on Drunk Driving (ITFDD) was reauthorized in 2011, and it has renewed its focus on preventing and minimizing the impact of impaired driving in Colorado. The task force has begun implementation of its new strategic plan and has created work groups in order to bring members with expertise in various areas together to identify best practices and strategize solutions for Colorado.

Prevention of impaired driving is the most important priority for the ITFDD. Members representing alcohol beverage manufacturers, distributors and retailers have worked together to identify best practices in the sale and delivery of beverages with the goal of reducing the prevalence of drunk driving. The Colorado Restaurant Association has now joined the task force, and a work group is developing strategies to support the expansion of seller and server education and awareness. Members have also worked with the Medical Marijuana Industry Group to place information and educational messages in medical marijuana dispensaries about the illegal and dangerous act of driving while impaired. The ITFDD is also working to promote programs that promote responsible options; including providing feedback to the Persistent Drunk Driving (PDD) Committee on its new NoDUIColorado website and promoting designated driver programs at sporting events.

Mitigation of impaired driving related crashes is another priority for the ITFDD. The task force has endorsed the re-codification of the ignition interlock law to clarify its provisions and make it easier to implement. The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and the law enforcement agencies on the ITFDD are actively supporting the expansion of Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) training, the Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) program and Standard Field Sobriety Testing (SFST) training in order to make enforcement of impaired driving laws and identification of drug-impaired drivers more effective.

Reduction of recidivism among persons convicted of impaired driving remains a priority for the ITFDD. Several task force members have been actively involved in promoting the expansion of effective DUI courts in Colorado. The ITFDD is also working with the Persistent Drunk Driver (PDD) Committee to support redefining the PDD designation to lower the PDD blood alcohol content (BAC) level from 0.17% to 0.15%.

The ITFDD is committed to finding multi-disciplined solutions which ensure a reduction in the number of fatalities and injuries in impaired driving related crashes. Task force members have made a significant investment of time and effort in forming a cohesive group which can leverage resources and promote change. Partnerships are established and functioning in a way that enables the members to broaden perspectives and develop a common view of the problem.

Finding the most effective ways to address the problem of impaired driving will always be a priority for the ITFDD.

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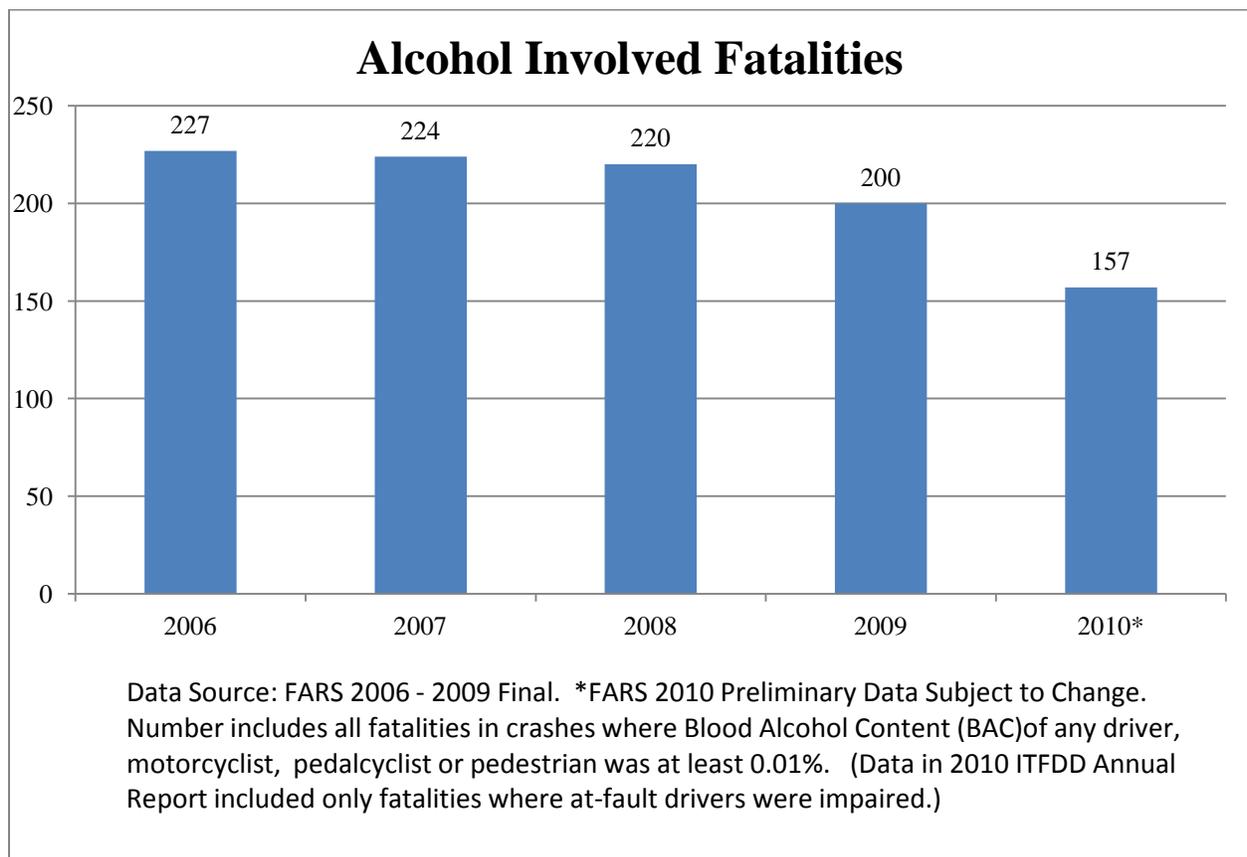


## Impaired Driving in Colorado

Drunk and impaired driving remains a significant public safety issue in Colorado. Although the situation has improved over the past five years, there is still much work to be done. ITFDD members have made a significant investment of time and effort in forming a cohesive group which can leverage resources and promote change. Partnerships are established and functioning in a way that enables the members to broaden perspectives and develop a common view of the problem.

### *4 Year DUI/DUID Situation in Colorado*

#### *Number of People Killed in Alcohol Related Impaired Driving Crashes*



The ITFDD brings people together, creating a forum for victims and advocates to access many experts and resources in one place. It provides a formal mechanism to leverage resources in order to create a multi-faceted approach to solving a problem which is often minimized and understated in our community. The ITFDD acts as a multi-disciplinary resource group for the legislature, enabling it to consider more cohesive, well-thought-out proposals.

## Mission

**The mission** of the Interagency Task Force on Drunk Driving is to support the prevention, awareness, enforcement and treatment of drunk and impaired driving in Colorado through strong partnerships with public, private and non-profit organizations.

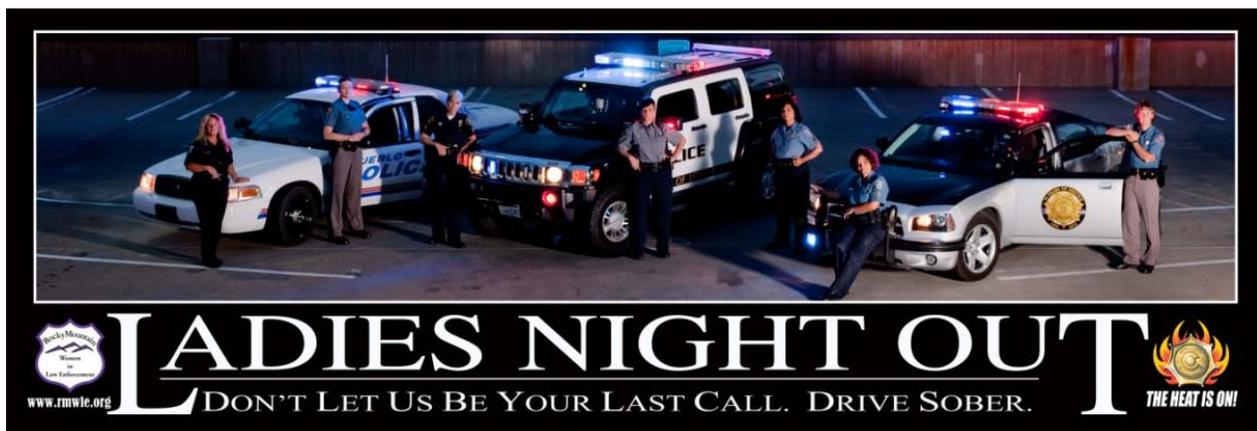
## Vision

**The vision** of the Interagency Task Force on Drunk Driving is a Colorado in which key stakeholders work in partnership to achieve a fully integrated solution to the problem of impaired driving.



## Membership and Representatives

- Colorado State Patrol – Chief James Wolfinbarger (Chair)
- Colorado Department of Transportation – Glenn Davis (Vice-Chair)
- Colorado Department of Revenue, Driver’s License Sanctioning – Stephen Hooper
- Colorado Department of Revenue, Liquor Enforcement – Patrick Maroney
- State Court Administrator’s Office – Judge Edward Casias
- State Public Defender’s Office – Samantha Bloodworth
- Colorado Department of Human Services, Division of Behavioral Health – Christine Flavia
- Division of Probation Services – Heather Garwood
- Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment – Cynthia Burbach
- Statewide Association of Chiefs of Police – Chief Robert Ticer, Avon Police Department
- Statewide Organization of County Sheriffs – Commander Paul Wood, Weld County Sheriff’s Office, Traffic Division (designee for Sheriff John Cooke)
- Family Member of a Victim of Drunk or Impaired Driving – Jennifer Gray
- Mothers Against Drunk Driving – Emily Tompkins
- Statewide Organization of District Attorneys – Steve Wrenn
- Colorado Criminal Defense Bar – Abe Hutt
- On-Premise Alcohol Beverage Retailers – Paul Aylmer, Colorado Restaurant Association
- Off-Premise Alcohol Beverage Retailers – Jeanne McEvoy, Colorado Licensed Beverage Association
- Alcoholic Beverage Distributors – Kris Johnson (designee for Steve Findley), Colorado Beer Distributors Association
- Alcoholic Beverage Manufacturers – Bill Young, MillerCoors
- A Person Under 24 who is Enrolled in a Secondary or Postsecondary School – Joseph Lawson
- Alcohol and Drug Addiction Counselors – Dr. Scott Demuro



## The ITFDD has focused on the following strategic goals in 2011:

### Support the enhancement of services, education, and intervention to prevent drunk and impaired driving.

- The ITFDD is assisting in the development of strategies to improve methods by which alcohol beverages are bought, sold, distributed and delivered to the consumer in order to prevent impaired driving by:
  - reviewing, prioritizing and communicating existing research on best practices in the service or sales of alcohol with the goal of reducing the prevalence of drunk driving; and
  - developing strategies to support expansion of seller and server education and awareness.
- The ITFDD is supporting the implementation of programs that will promote responsible options for drivers by:
  - identifying and promoting successful programs for communities that can be replicated across Colorado; and
  - recognizing organizations and businesses which provide alternative transportation programs to consumers.
- The ITFDD is promoting technological improvements that will help prevent impaired driving by enhancing the effectiveness and promoting the use of the ignition interlock program.

### Serve as a catalyst for a measureable reduction in the frequency and severity of impaired driving.

- The ITFDD is supporting efforts to reduce the number and severity of impaired driving crashes by:
  - supporting the expansion of Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) training, the Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) program and Standard Field Sobriety Testing (SFST) training; and
  - monitoring research and data in order to address the problem of drugged driving.

### Support efforts to reduce recidivism rates for drivers convicted of impaired driving.

- The ITFDD is promoting the expansion of effective DUI courts in Colorado.
- The ITFDD is working toward the redefinition of the persistent drunk driver (PDD) designation to lower the PDD blood alcohol content (BAC) level from 0.17% to 0.15%.

### Ensure the long-term effectiveness of the task force in addressing impaired driving in Colorado.

- The ITFDD was re-authorized in March of 2011.
- The ITFDD is acting as a resource for the exchange of information regarding impaired driving by supporting the creation of the *NoDUIColorado* website.

## Strategic Goal: Support the enhancement of services, education, and intervention to prevent drunk and impaired driving.

*Objective: Assist the responsible agencies and businesses in the development of strategies to improve methods by which alcohol beverages are bought, sold, distributed and delivered to the consumer in order to prevent incidents of impaired driving.*

A work team has been formed to identify services and programs implemented by Colorado's alcohol beverage retail businesses to prevent drunk driving, and working to determine what services and programs should be recommended to the entire task force and promoted as best practices for others to replicate. Examples of programs identified to date include:

- responsible alcohol server training programs;
- taxi ride programs; designated driver programs; and
- training to manage intoxicated fans at stadiums and arenas.

Prior to the work team's effort to accomplish this objective, the broader task force had agreed that the training of alcohol beverage servers is a practice it needs to support and promote heavily to all retail businesses. To accomplish that objective the work team is first acquiring a full understanding of how much server training is being conducted on an annual basis in Colorado.

The Colorado Restaurant Association (CLBA), many of Colorado's beer wholesalers, and MillerCoors provide the predominant amount of training to retail businesses. The foremost training programs utilized are TiPS (owned by Health Communications, Inc.) and ServSafe (owned by the National Restaurant Association). Through August of 2011, nearly 10,000



servers were trained in TiPS alone. The work team will continue to work toward getting a better understanding of the prevalence of server training in Colorado. Eventually it will make final recommendations to the task force about how to encourage more use of these training programs that ultimately help consumers reduce their levels of impairment and not drive drunk.

The Colorado Liquor Enforcement Division already encourages liquor license holders to provide their employees with responsible server training through its "Responsible Vendor" program.

“Responsible Vendors” that train their employees in one of the training programs endorsed by the Division are due a degree of leniency if they are cited for violations of the state’s liquor code. In addition to this practice, the ITFDD will pursue other ways in 2012 to encourage businesses to provide server training to their employees.

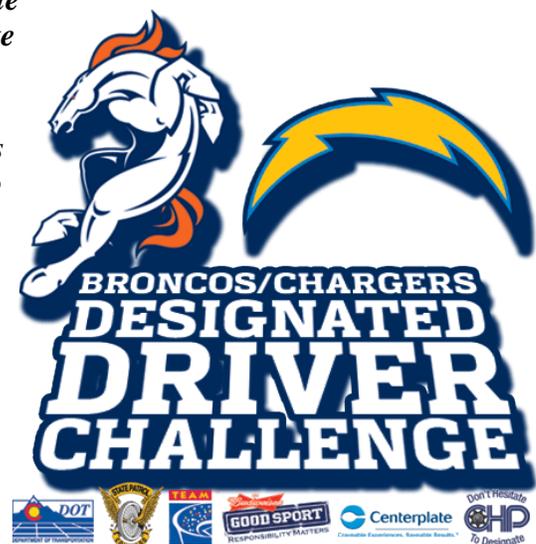
The work team is not only interested in the proliferation of server training, it is also exploring how businesses can make server training more effective. The Oregon Liquor Control Commission recently announced a study it is doing with the Responsible Retailing Forum and several Portland area bars and restaurants. The collaborative study will observe how trained alcohol beverage servers actually serve customers and whether they practice the skills they were taught. The Colorado ITFDD is interested in the findings of this study and will keenly be aware of its ramifications for servers of alcohol beverages in Colorado.

One other notable effort the work team is monitoring is happening in Summit County. Retail businesses, local law enforcement and other government agencies, and the Summit Prevention Alliance are drafting and will eventually implement “Responsibility Planning Guidelines” for all Special Permit holders. The work team believes these guidelines have potential to be a model for other communities and local liquor licensing authorities to consider in order to ensure safe and responsible special events.

Finally, the work team focusing on this task was asked to explore if anything within Colorado’s current liquor liability statute needs to be revised, and if there are examples in other states where liability was reduced for retail businesses if they made significant efforts to prevent drunk driving. The work team unanimously agreed the Colorado liquor liability statute is sufficient and does not need any revisions. The exploration into other state’s attempts to reduce liability damages for retail businesses was unsuccessful but the notion is still one that the work team will continue to research.

***Objective: Research, develop, and support the implementation of programs that will promote responsible options for drivers.***

- *Through partnerships with key organizations and communities, improve access to educational opportunities, social incentives, and alternatives to impaired driving.*
- *Identify and promote successful programs for communities that can be replicated across Colorado.*
- *Investigate and support efforts that result in a cultural shift in which impaired driving is viewed as socially unacceptable.*



The vision of the Interagency Task Force on Drunk Driving (ITFDD) is to work in partnership with key stakeholders to achieve a fully integrated solution to the impaired driving problem in Colorado. As a result, a key partnership was established with the Persistent Drunk Driver (PDD) Committee of Colorado, which was formed following the passage of the Persistent Drunk Driver Act of 1998. The PDD Committee is charged with developing and implementing programs that are intended to deter persistent drunk driving, as well as educate the public, which is in-line with the ITFDD's mission and vision.

In addition, ITFDD's goal to support the enhancement of services, education and intervention to prevent drunk and impaired driving was met by supporting the PDD Committee's social norms campaign that launched in 2009 at Western State College. The campaign aims to change the misperceptions about drinking behaviors by serving up the truth about drinking on campus through a three-year campaign implementation period, including one year of research and two years of campus outreach.

74% of Western State College off-campus students say they call **SAFE RIDE** to avoid drinking and driving.

Safe Ride: 209-RIDE

**The Truth Fairy**

Serving up the FACTS  
about drinking at Western State College

www.TruthFairyColorado.com

The social norms campaign, called the [Truth Fairy Campaign](#), officially launched on-campus and in the community in 2010, and was created to speak directly to students about drinking behaviors in a humorous, compelling and non-lecturing way. Campaign successes were achieved by using a variety of messaging tactics that included deploying a research-based ad campaign, developing an interactive website, supporting alcohol-free programming, using on-campus QR code messaging, social media and working with the community to maximize campaign awareness through [Safe Ride](#), a “no questions asked ride” option to help deter drunk driving in Gunnison.

Now in its third and final year on campus, the *Truth Fairy Campaign* is widely recognized by students, staff, faculty and even members of the community. Major campaign achievements have been benchmarked by closing the gap between perceived drinking trends and actual drinking trends on campus through a baseline report that is distributed twice a year. In addition, a 2011 year end summary report provided by Western State College stated the on-campus recidivism rate, which averaged about 30% over the past four years, was reduced to 6% for the 2010-2011 school year for on-campus violations, a major win for the campaign and the college.

With a successful social norms campaign structure developed at Western State College, the PDD Committee is taking the campaign on the road to a new school, Colorado State University-Pueblo, where campaign work is already in progress. The campaign is currently in its first year of research to identify impairment-related issues, messaging and campus culture trends. It is set to launch in the fall of 2012.

***Objective: Promote technological improvements that will help prevent impaired driving.***

Colorado's current Ignition Interlock Law was enacted pursuant to legislation passed in the 2000 legislative session. Since then, Colorado has added, then lengthened requirements for Persistent Drunk Drivers, has recodified the Administrative License Revocation Law, enacted interlock incentives for first offenders, and encouraged interlock as a condition for bond and for probation. As a result, the statutory language has become increasingly difficult to find and to administer, and has developed some inconsistencies with existing legislation. The Task Force recognizes that clarity and convenience in the law itself will assist with educational efforts and with interlock compliance. Consequently, the Task Force endorses an effort to redraft the current interlock law to remove inconsistencies with existing law, and to enhance clarity and convenience in its use.



**Strategic Goal: Serve as a catalyst for a measureable reduction in the frequency and severity of impaired driving.**

***Objective: Provide support for efforts to reduce the number and severity of impaired driving crashes in Colorado by addressing the issue of drug usage (legally or illegally obtained) and driving.***

The ITFDD has identified drugged driving as a growing problem in Colorado. The problem is complex and requires a multi-faceted approach that includes public education, data collection and continued research.

The Colorado Department of Transportation has launched a drugged driving education campaign that emphasizes the dangers of prescription and marijuana impaired driving.

The ITFDD has worked with the Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice (CCJJ) Drug Policy Task Force (DPTF) to address the problem of drugged driving. A DPTF work group met through the summer to research the problem of marijuana impaired driving. The workgroup discussed existing research and heard testimony from several experts.

While the work group had many areas of agreement, there was no consensus regarding recommending a *per se* limit for marijuana at this time. The workgroup agreed that:

- public safety requires that drivers not be impaired from alcohol, cannabis, or any other medication or drug, while operating a motor vehicle;
- efforts should be expanded to collect and share data related to drugged driving, and further analysis of fatal crashes;
- increase the number of Drug Recognition Experts to ensure sufficient coverage in rural and frontier areas of the state; and
- a strong public education campaign that focuses on disseminating information to medical marijuana dispensary owners, customers and the public is a priority to enhance public safety on the roadways.

### ***Rachel Kelly's Survival Story***

*Rachel Kelly was a high school sophomore in 2004 when she was struck in a crosswalk by a driver who was under the influence of marijuana. Rachel miraculously survived, but suffered a debilitating head injury that has left her confined to a wheelchair and requiring the assistance of a computer to communicate. In 2006 a jury found the driver guilty of Vehicular Assault and he was sentenced to probation. He subsequently violated probation by continuing to smoke marijuana and was recently resentenced to prison for a term of six years. Rachel's case serves as a tragic example of the dangers associated with combining marijuana and driving. The ITFDD's efforts to address drugged driving are inspired by victims like Rachel and their continued recoveries.*



Though there was agreement that consumption of marijuana impairs driving, there was not agreement on an identified level of active Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) in blood levels at which this impairment occurs. Additional research is currently underway that will progress our understanding of such levels. The ITFDD, in coordination with the DPTF, will continue to monitor research and data in this area.

2009 Drug Test Results in Fatal Crashes	
<b>Narcotics</b>	16
<b>Depressants</b>	9
<b>Stimulants</b>	24
<b>Cannabinoids</b>	35
<b>Other Drugs</b>	13
<b>Refused</b>	87
<b>Results Unknown</b>	21
Data Source: FARS Encyclopedia 12/12/2011	

***Objective: Provide support for efforts to reduce the number and severity of impaired driving crashes in Colorado by supporting the expansion of law enforcement programs which detect drug impairment in all Colorado counties.***

#### Standard Field Sobriety Testing (SFST)

DUI Detection and Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST) is a 24 hour training curriculum that sets forth the fundamental tasks in impaired driving enforcement, identifying the knowledge, skills and attitudes a Peace Officer must have to be able to effectively investigate impaired driving events. In 2011, the DUI Detection section for Colorado Peace Officer Standard Training (POST) academies was expanded to 24 hours to include training of the SFSTs.



CDOT sponsored the below SFST trainings events in 2011:

- One Instructor school was held at the Boulder Police Department.
- Twenty-one new SFST Instructors were certified in this school.
- One Practitioner school was held at the Boulder Police Department.
- Fourteen new SFST Practitioners were trained.
- One in-service SFST training in Glenwood Springs.

### Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE)

The ARIDE program was developed by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) with input from the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Technical Advisory Panel (TAP). ARIDE addresses the gap in training between the Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST) and the Drug Evaluation and Classification (DEC) Program by providing Peace Officers with general knowledge related to drug impairment and by promoting the use of Drug Recognition Experts.

CDOT trained forty-eight law enforcement officers in six ARIDE training events held in:

- Boulder, (University of Colorado),
- Colorado Springs
- Lamar
- Glenwood Springs
- Wheat Ridge

CDOT sponsored ARIDE trainings and have trained a total of 203 law enforcement officers.



### Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) Program

Drug Recognition Experts are officers who have been trained to identify drivers impaired by drugs. A trained DRE performs an evaluation of a suspected drug-impaired driver to determine his or her impairment status and the category of drug(s) that the suspected driver has ingested. The ITFDD supports the work of this program in its efforts to prevent drug-impaired driving.

Colorado has one-hundred and sixty-nine DREs in fifty-two agencies. In 2011, the Office of Transportation Safety (OTS) presented a DRE in-service training for Colorado DREs in Glenwood Springs, CO, and the Auraria Police Department hosted the 1st annual Colorado

Impaired Driving Conference. Two-hundred and fifty Colorado law enforcement officers attended the training to satisfy their SFST instructor/DRE in-service training.

In June 2011, nineteen DRE candidates attended a 9-day DRE School in Loveland. The following law enforcement agencies trained officers at the school:

- Colorado State Patrol (4)
- Clear Creek County Sheriff's Office (1)
- Colorado Springs Police Department (1)
- Commerce City Police Department (2)
- Fairplay Police Department (1)
- Grand Junction Police Department (1)
- Lakewood Police Department (1)
- Loveland Police Department (2)
- Pitkin County Sheriff's Office (1)
- Northglenn Police Department (1)
- Rifle Police Department (1)
- Thornton Police Department (1)
- Westminster Police Department (1)



## Strategic Goal: Support efforts to reduce recidivism rates for drivers convicted of impaired driving.

### *Objective: Promote the expansion of effective DUI courts in Colorado.*

Both locally and nationally, problem-solving courts (including DUI Courts) are an effective strategy to intervene into a substance abusing offender's life to improve outcomes and reduce recidivism.

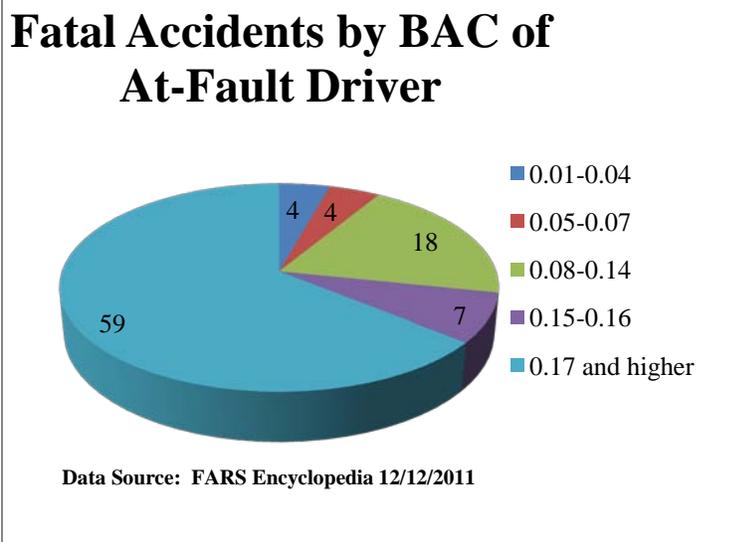
The ITFDD supports the efforts of the Colorado Department of Transportation and the Judicial Department in establishing DUI Courts in Colorado counties.

Currently there are nine operational DUI courts throughout the state with two additional courts starting by the end of 2012. The Judicial Department, working with the Colorado Department of Transportation and partnering with the National Center for DWI Courts, conducted a two-day enhanced training for all Colorado DUI Courts. This training was the first time that almost every team throughout the State came together to learn, network and collaborate. Supporting DUI courts is one of the main goals of the ITFDD strategic plan. The Task Force will work with Judicial's Problem-Solving Court Advisory Committee to:

- sustain the current DUI courts,
- evaluate the DUI courts,
- train current and future DUI court teams, and
- expand to more clients in existing courts and add DUI courts in more counties.

### *Objective: Redefine the persistent drunk driver designation.*

The ITFDD formed a subcommittee specifically to address the area of persistent drunk driving (PDD). Persistent drunk driving in Colorado, by today's definition, includes those individuals who have had one or more prior drinking driving offenses or someone with a first offense with a very high blood alcohol content (BAC) at or above .17%. Research was conducted to determine



what relationship there is between BAC and recidivism in impaired driving offenders, and to gather data to support a reduction in the statutorily defined BAC level for PDD offenders from .17 to .15%. This analysis used Colorado-specific data and analyzed over 43,000 individual records. Recidivism was captured up to five years from the date of the original DUI arrest. The research concluded that with a BAC of .15% or greater, offenders are more likely to produce recidivism.

**Strategic Goal: Ensure the long-term effectiveness of the task force in addressing impaired driving in Colorado.**

**Objective: Re-authorize the ITFDD, including additional membership that ensures appropriate representation from all groups able to impact the problem.**

The Interagency Task Force on Drunk Driving was re-authorized by Senate Bill 11-093 on March 21, 2011.

**Objective: Act as a resource for the exchange of information regarding impaired driving.**

In 2011, the Persistent Drunk Driver (PDD) Committee launched the No DUI Colorado website ([www.NoDUIColorado.org](http://www.NoDUIColorado.org)) as a state resource for impaired driving and substance abuse behaviors. The website takes a three-step approach to addressing DUIs, discussing what can happen before a DUI, what happens after receiving a DUI, and what resources are available to individuals statewide and nationally.

The website is intended for those dealing with alcohol and drug prevention, policymakers, individuals at-risk, family members and friends, and it aims to provide a wealth of resources to all of these target audiences.



The first section of the website, called “Preventing a DUI” provides a variety of materials ranging from dealing with peer pressure and screening for substance abuse to a step-by-step personal prevention habits plan, and it features an education section.

The section, called “I Got a DUI. Now what?” deals with persons who have received a DUI and helps them navigate through the complexities of the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and court process.

The third section of the website, called “Resources,” is a compilation of statewide and national resources, ranging from community resources to Colorado specific research to information for policymakers.

Interactive features were also integrated into the website as a way to encourage repeat users. These features include a Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) calculator, statewide DUI-related news, a rotating survey, and a statewide interactive county map with DUI and DWAI results from 2010. Map data reflects a combination of information from ADDSCODS and judicial district statistics, reflecting filings and the county of residence of the offender. In addition, many other useful and downloadable resources are also available on the website.

The PDD Committee decided to develop the website in 2010 after a smaller PDD campaign website received a high level of traffic. The committee is charged with developing and implementing programs that are intended to deter persistent drunk and drug-impaired driving, as well as provide public education. The PDD Committee was formed as part of the Persistent Drunk Driver Act of 1998. Several state agencies make up the Committee, including the Colorado Department of Human Services, State Judicial Branch, Department of Transportation and the Department of Revenue.





**For more information, visit:**

[www.coloradodot.info/about/committees/DUI-taskforce](http://www.coloradodot.info/about/committees/DUI-taskforce)

**Or contact:**

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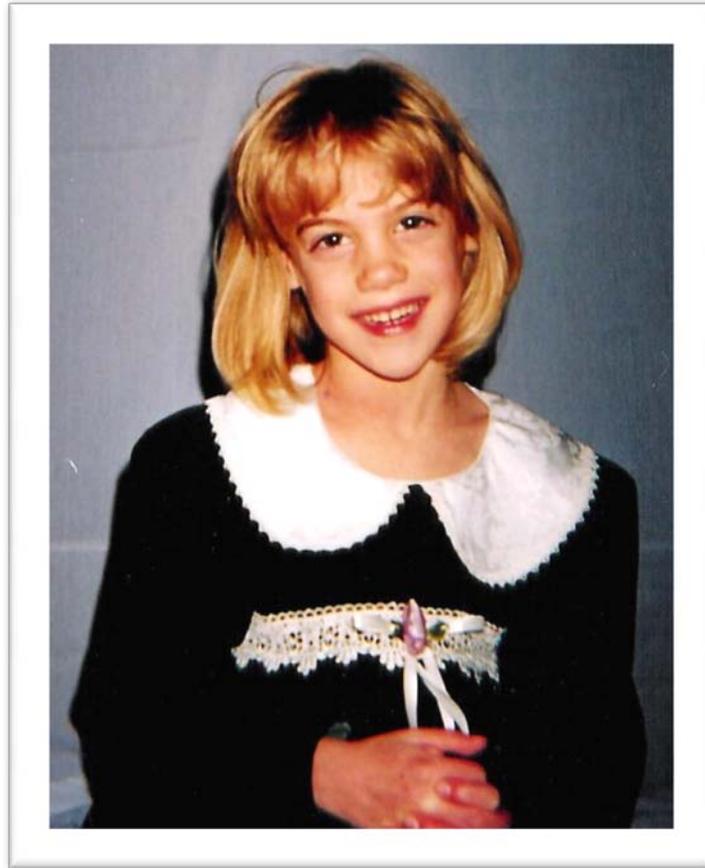
# TASK FORCE

ON Drunk Driving



Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment





***Brittany Burnett***

***Aug. 22, 1994 – Aug. 11, 2004***

*This annual report is dedicated to Brittany Burnett. She is a reminder that behind every statistic on impaired driving fatalities is a person who was loved and is terribly missed.*

*Brittany was killed shortly before her 10<sup>th</sup> birthday by a drunk driver who ran a stop sign and slammed into her family's car. She and her father were killed instantly. Brittany's two sisters were seriously injured, including her twin who now lives with partial paralysis of her face and hearing loss. Brittany's mother, Jennifer Gray, is now a member of the Interagency Task Force on Drunk Driving and works every day to eliminate drunk driving so that families do not have to go through the horrifying events that she and her family continue to struggle with daily. The impact of Brittany's needless death, and countless others like her, motivates the Task Force to persevere in its work to find solutions to the problem of impaired driving in Colorado.*