



# IMPAIRED DRIVING

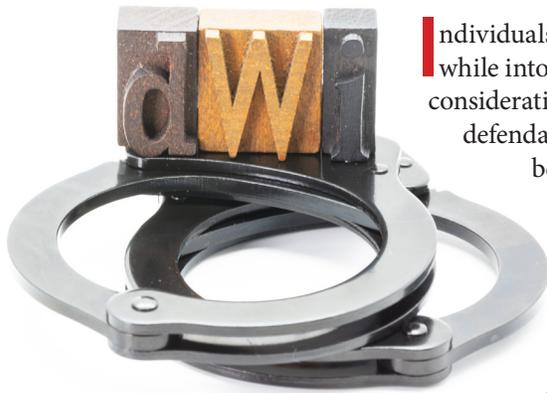
Task Force Newsletter



**Save a Life™**  
Texas Department of Transportation

## DWI RECIDIVISM: Validated Risk and Needs Screening and Assessment

*Adapted from Judge Weiser's Presentation at the Texas Impaired Driving Forum*



Individuals who commit the crime of driving while intoxicated (DWI) need special consideration by the courts. Since many defendants will reoffend before they appear before the judge in their first case, the pretrial phase is a critical period to start screening and assessments to determine whether supervision is necessary. There are several categories of offenders. “High Risk/High Needs” are people suffering from addiction and need intense supervision. “High Risk/Low Needs”

are people abusing substances who can stop using, but do not typically want to; this category needs immediate and serious sanctions. “Low Risk/Low Needs” are individuals who are not likely to reoffend and too many sanctions or supervision could make the situation worse.

Screening tools need to be specialized for DWI offenders. The Texas Risk Assessment System (TRAS) is required in the state of Texas. This Criminogenic Risk/Needs Assessment analyzes an offender’s criminal history and determines their criminogenic needs. The assessment asks questions about the offender’s education, family, job history, social support, substance abuse, and also assesses their criminal attitudes and behavioral patterns. However, this tool will often assess the DWI offender as low risk. This can be problematic, if inaccurate, because they are placed on

low-risk caseloads and monitored, but they do not receive a lot of supervision or other appropriate services. There is an Impaired Driving Assessment (IDA) provided by the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) that is free and provides a good analysis. The DUI Risk and Needs Assessment Tool (RANT) is also a good option, but it does have a fee associated, which could make it prohibitive for some programs.

Comprehensive assessments should be considered when attempting to identify trauma, mental health disorders, or

gender specific issues that have different risks and require different strategies to effectively meet those needs. The Adult Substance Use and Driving Survey – Revised (ASUDS-R) assesses the individual’s involvement with alcohol and other drugs and measures the degree of disruption that might result from use. The Research Institute on Addiction Self-Inventory (RIASI) is an excellent tool to determine if treatment is necessary. The Computerized Assessment and Referral System (CARS) is a free tool that evaluates mental health needs. There are additional effective assessment tools but often supervision departments are limited by the amount of time they take to complete, and the expense involved, which is why the IDA and CARS are so attractive. IDA and CARS used in conjunction will provide a good quality, comprehensive analysis.

**“All strategies should be focused on obtaining a comprehensive picture of the offender. It is not effective or efficient to use a “one size fits all” approach.”**

*Judge Laura Weiser,  
Judicial Resource Liaison  
for the Texas Center for the Judiciary*



There are several risk factors to consider when determining the level of screening and assessment, such as prior DWI convictions or arrests. Additionally, high BAC levels where the offender is still functioning is often a sign of tolerance, and a list of other traffic violations usually signifies a risk taker. Risk takers frequently have antisocial attitudes and personalities, and they often struggle with peer associations, school or employment, and substance abuse. This population will likely require a more in-depth look.

Once you have identified the challenges the individual is struggling with, you must decide which incentives and sanctions will work best to change behavior. Deferred Adjudication is available to first time offenders who meet a certain criterion. Deferred adjudication is not available to repeat offenders or offenders with a BAC of greater than 0.15. Ignition Interlock Devices are the only monitors that separate the acts of drinking and driving; they are highly effective tools when used in conjunction with assessment and treatment. Alcohol and drug testing must be used



often and randomly. It is important to test for all substances as people will switch what they are using based on what they are being tested for. Incentives and sanctions must be swift and individualized. Victim Impact Panels can be useful if they include engagement and aftercare.

Specialty Courts have shown incredible results in changing behavior and reducing recidivism. DWI Courts for “High Risk/High Needs” defendants take a collaborative approach involving the entire team: treatment provider, prosecutor, defense attorney, probation officer, law enforcement, and the judge. Meeting a minimum of once every two weeks holds the defendant accountable and helps them stay the course. Multi-Track Courts are a good

option for “High Risk/Low Needs” defendants who need monitoring but not treatment. This approach provides accountability with swift response to non-compliance. Additionally, there are other specialty courts that address specific needs such as Veterans Court, mental health courts and gender specific courts that all target individual populations. The more tailored the approach, the more likely it is to obtain a reduction in recidivism.

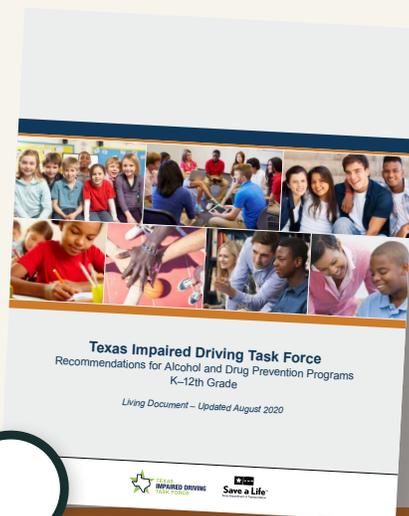
As Judge Laura Weiser, Judicial Resource Liaison for the Texas Center for the Judiciary explains, “All strategies should be focused on obtaining a comprehensive picture of the offender. It is not effective or efficient to use a “one size fits all” approach. In order to better protect the community and change the offender’s attitudes and behavior, we have to know the offender’s risk level and their needs. This requires an individualized approach which allows departments to focus their time, energy and resources where they will make the greatest impact on the offender and by reducing risk, protect the community from repeat impaired driving offenders.”

## Recommendations for Alcohol and Drug Prevention Programs

The updated TxIDTF Recommendations for Alcohol and Drug Prevention Programs, K-12 Grades is complete! The updated version of the reference book includes new evidence-based and TxDOT-funded programs, as well as content updates to existing programs.

The purpose of this reference book is to provide Texas K-12th grades with current, impaired driving information for inclusion in health and other curriculum. This reference book provides an overview of alcohol and drug prevention programs that vary in cost, time, and materials so that you can select the program that is best suited for the needs of your students, staff, and schools. Click [here](#) to access the reference book online or visit the TxIDTF website.

Additionally, a condensed version of the reference book is also available, which gives a concise overview of each program. Click [here](#) for access to the condensed version of the reference book or visit the TxIDTF website.



**Learn about school-based alcohol and drug prevention programs!**



**Please welcome our new members:**

**Jackie Ipina**  
Program Manager  
Mothers Against Drunk  
Driving

**Sherri Robelia**  
Behavioral Traffic Safety  
Program Manager  
Texas Department of  
Transportation

**Liz Wilde**  
Account Director  
Sherry Mathews Group



**NEWSLETTER  
ADDITIONS**

If you would you like to add anything to the next edition of the newsletter, please send your information to [c-adams@tti.tamu.edu](mailto:c-adams@tti.tamu.edu) or [e-shields@tti.tamu.edu](mailto:e-shields@tti.tamu.edu) by September 1, 2021.

Submissions are due the 1st of each newsletter month, and will be distributed next on September 15.



**2022 Texas Impaired Driving Safety Award Nominations**

Nominations for the 2022 Texas Impaired Driving Safety Awards are open! This is a competitive awarding process meant to honor, celebrate, and encourage those individuals/organizations who go “above and beyond” in support of the mission to eliminate impaired driving in Texas. The award recipients will be recognized at the 2022 Texas Impaired Driving Forum.

Please help us recognize outstanding organizations/individuals by [nominating them](#) today.

**Nomination deadline is September 1, 2021.**

Questions can be directed to [c-adams@tti.tamu.edu](mailto:c-adams@tti.tamu.edu) or [e-shields@tti.tamu.edu](mailto:e-shields@tti.tamu.edu).



**RECENT NEWS**

**Texas News**

- [Texas Launches Opioid Misuse Prevention Website to Fight Addiction, Overdoses](#)
- [AAA: Texas leads US in ‘wrong-way’ crash deaths](#)
- [Texas High students win contest with video about drunken, distracted driving](#)

**National News**

- [The Biden-Harris Administration’s Statement of Drug Policy Priorities for Year One](#)
- [U.S. Reps. Dingell, McKinley and Rice Introduce Bipartisan Legislation to Eliminate Drunk Driving](#)
- [Should states set pot policy by its potency? Some say yes](#)
- [This Drug Gets You High, and Is Legal \(Maybe\) Across the Country](#)



**With great appreciation,** the Texas Impaired Driving Task Force would like to recognize **Terry Pence for 40 years of dedicated service to TxDOT** and for a lifetime devotion to saving lives and preventing injuries on roadways across Texas and the nation.

**RECENTLY PUBLISHED RESOURCES**

[A Digital Health Tool to Understand and Prevent Cannabis-Impaired Driving Among Youth: A Cross-sectional Study of Responses to a Brief Intervention for Cannabis Use](#) National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCIB)

[Technologies to Enhance Observation, Documentation, and Training for Driving Under the Influence](#) National Institute of Justice (NIJ)



[Impaired Driving: Talk With Your Kids Brochure](#) by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA)



## RECENTLY PUBLISHED ABSTRACTS AND STUDIES

[Driver monitoring systems \(DMS\): The future of impaired driving management?](#)

[Driving Impairment Cases Involving Etizolam and Flubromazolam](#)

[Drowsy Driving vs. Drunk Driving: How Similar Are They?](#)

[Emergence of Delta-8 Tetrahydrocannabinol in DUID Investigation Casework: Method Development, Validation and Application](#)

[Youth Marijuana Addiction Rate Double Rate of Alcohol & Other Substance Use Disorders](#)



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### MAY

- [FRIDAY/ADAPT: Focus on Reducing Impaired Driving Among Youth \(FRIDAY\)](#)  
May 19 | College Station, Texas
- [TxSFST: 8-HR SFST Refresher Course](#)  
May 25 | Amarillo, Texas
- [ODC: Creating a Culture of Safe Driving: Distracted, Drowsy, Drunk, and Drugged Driving](#)  
May 26 | Virtual
- [TxSDY: Summit Series: Where You Live Matters](#)  
May 27 | Virtual

### JUNE

- [FRIDAY/ADAPT: Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Training \(ADAPT\)](#)  
June 1 | Santa Fe, Texas
- [TxSFST: 8-HR SFST Refresher Course](#)  
June 2 | Willow Park, Texas
- [FRIDAY/ADAPT: Focus on Reducing Impaired Driving Among Youth \(FRIDAY\)](#)  
June 3 | Willow Park, Texas
- [TxSFST: 8-HR SFST Refresher Course](#)  
June 8 | Hutto, Texas

- [TxSFST: 8-HR SFST Refresher Course](#)  
June 8 | Fort Worth, Texas
- [TxSDY: Summit Series: How the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas is Responding to Alcohol Use](#)  
June 10 | Virtual
- [TxSFST: 8-HR SFST Refresher Course](#)  
June 15 | San Marcos, Texas
- [TxSFST: 8-HR SFST Refresher Course](#)  
June 16 | Junction, Texas
- [MADD: Distracted Driving](#)  
June 17 | Virtual
- [ODC: Alcohol and Inhalants: A DITTE Deep Dive](#)  
June 17 | Virtual
- [ARIDE Training](#)  
June 21–22 | Victoria, Texas  
*Registration Deadline: June 7, 2021*
- [TxSFST: 24-HR SFST Practitioner Course](#)  
June 22–24 | Cleveland, Texas
- [National Sheriff's Association \(NSA\): Annual Education & Technology Expo](#)  
June 22–25 | Phoenix, Arizona
- [ARIDE Training](#)  
June 29–30 | Granbury, Texas  
*Registration Deadline: June 15, 2021*



## UPCOMING EVENTS (CONTINUED)

### JULY

- [TxSFST: 8-HR SFST Refresher Course](#)  
July 6 | Amarillo, Texas
- [TDCAA: Prosecutor Trial Skills Course](#)  
July 11–16 | Austin, Texas
- [TxSFST: 8-HR SFST Refresher Course](#)  
July 13 | Fort Worth, Texas
- [Texas A&M AgriLife: RED Classes](#)  
July 13 | Virtual  
*Brazos County to Register:* Contact [maryjo.prince@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:maryjo.prince@ag.tamu.edu) or [Pamela.Todaro@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Pamela.Todaro@ag.tamu.edu)  
*Travis County to Register:* Contact [abigail.ryan@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:abigail.ryan@ag.tamu.edu) or [maryjo.prince@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:maryjo.prince@ag.tamu.edu)
- [ARIDE Training](#)  
July 19-20 | Willow Park, Texas  
*Registration Deadline: July 5, 2021*
- [TxSFST: 8-HR SFST Refresher Course](#)  
July 20 | Lufkin, Texas
- [TxSFST: 8-HR SFST Refresher Course](#)  
July 21 | Lufkin, Texas
- [ODC: Cannabis, HR, and Poly Drugs: A DITTE Deep Dive](#)  
July 28 | Virtual
- [ARIDE Training](#)  
July 28–29 | Fort Worth, Texas  
*Registration Deadline: July 14, 2021*
- [MADD: Drowsy/Drugged Driving](#)  
July 29 | Virtual
- [TMCEC: Impaired Driving Symposium](#)  
August 2–3 | Corpus Christi, Texas
- [ARIDE Training](#)  
August 4–5 | Coppell, Texas  
*Registration Deadline: July 21*
- [Texas A&M AgriLife: RED Classes](#)  
August 10 | Virtual  
*Brazos County to Register:* Contact [maryjo.prince@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:maryjo.prince@ag.tamu.edu) or [Pamela.Todaro@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Pamela.Todaro@ag.tamu.edu)  
*Travis County to Register:* Contact [abigail.ryan@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:abigail.ryan@ag.tamu.edu) or [maryjo.prince@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:maryjo.prince@ag.tamu.edu)



- [TxSFST: 8-HR SFST Refresher Course](#)  
August 10 | Fort Worth, Texas
- [ARIDE Training](#)  
August 10–11 | Round Rock, Texas  
*Registration Deadline: July 26, 2021*

### AUGUST

- [IACP: Annual Training Conference on Drugs, Alcohol, & Impaired Driving](#)  
August 14–16 | Orlando, Florida
- [TxSFST: 8-HR SFST Refresher Course](#)  
August 20 | Lubbock, Texas
- [TxSFST: 8-HR SFST Refresher Course](#)  
August 25 | Willow Park, Texas
- [ODC: Opioids and CNS Depressants/Stimulants: A DITTE Deep Dive](#)  
August 25 | Virtual
- [FRIDAY/ADAPT: Focus on Reducing Impaired Driving Among Youth \(FRIDAY\)](#)  
August 26 | Willow Park, Texas
- [GHSA: Moving Mountains: Forging a New Traffic Safety Landscape \(2021 Annual Meeting\)](#)  
September 11–15 | Denver, Colorado
- [DRE Recertification](#)  
September 14 | Huntsville, Texas  
*Registration Deadline: August 31, 2021*
- [TxSFST: 8-HR SFST Refresher Course](#)  
September 14 | Fort Worth, Texas
- [TDCAA: Crime Lab Marijuana Testing Policy & Procedure | Virtual](#)  
Online course available Mar 16, 2021 – Dec 31, 2021
- [TDCAA: Mental Health Training: The sequential Intercept Model | Virtual](#)  
Online course available Aug 20, 2021 – Dec 31, 2021