

# Impaired Driving Action Team (IDAT) Accomplishments

June 2018 – May 2019

## BACKGROUND

The alcohol-involved fatalities in Michigan decreased from 359 in 2017 to 315 in 2018. Drug-involved fatalities increased from 246 in 2017 to 247 in 2018. Impaired driving crashes were most prevalent among young male drivers, including underage males, as well as in crashes occurring during the weekend. Better reporting methods and data collection are giving a more accurate look at the problem of impaired driving.

Michigan has responded to these issues through a combination of prevention, education, enforcement and adjudication countermeasure programs. The Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan and the Michigan Judicial Institute have delivered numerous training sessions to law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, probation officers and court staff on emerging issues in impaired driving, as well as changes in the state's impaired driving laws. This is complemented by over 100 specialty courts established in Michigan to deal with hardcore impaired driving offenders.

Supporting initiatives for reducing underage drinking and driving have furthered efforts for improved coordination at the state and local levels. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) continues to complement the IDAT's mission by focusing on preventing underage drinking and prescription drug misuse and abuse. Funding to support high-visibility enforcement has historically been provided by the Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP).

## STRATEGIES

- Continue high-visibility enforcement.
- Promote efforts to increase sobriety courts and the use of ignition interlocks.
- Support public information and education campaigns.
- Explore innovative countermeasures for impaired driving.
- Provide enhanced training for all sectors of the criminal justice community.
- Provide recommendations related to impaired driving legislation.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Conducted impaired driving enforcement with local, state and county agencies across the state.
- Continued to support standalone and regional sobriety courts in Michigan to ensure eligible participants have access to treatment and intense supervision.
- Developed and distributed traffic safety materials to traffic safety partners, advocates, and stakeholders.
- Continued development of a smartphone application, available on Android and Apple platforms, for law enforcement officers to utilize during traffic stops that covers impaired driving resources.
- Increased administrative oversight of ignition interlock vendors to ensure compliance with NHTSA guidelines and to stay current with emerging technology.
- Trained up to 1,000 judges, magistrates, sobriety court staff, probation officers and other court personnel on various traffic safety issues, including specialty courts and ignition interlocks.
- Trained more than 1,500 professionals in Cops in Court, Visual Trial, Nuts and Bolts of OWI Prosecution, Advanced OWI, Lethal Weapon and basic prosecuting training by the two Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutors.
- The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services/Office of Recovery Oriented Systems of Care (MDHHS/OROSC) offers training opportunities for Michigan's substance use disorder prevention and treatment professionals. Trainings are available on the Community Mental Health Association of Michigan (CMHAM) website as well as the Improving MI Practices website. In addition, each September they host a Substance Use Disorder / Co-Occurring Disorder Conference that focuses on relevant information for prevention, treatment and recovery.