

Pilot Testing a Post Ride Evaluation of Alcohol Use by Drivers



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Background



- Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere (RIDE) or Checkstops
- CCC procedures on impaired driving
- Mandatory Breath Tests (MBT)
 - Used in other countries
 - Evaluations have demonstrated effectiveness
- A standardized method for roadside surveys exists
 - Used recently in BC and Ontario
 - Collects alcohol and drug information

Research Question



- Given the challenges an officer in a stop faces, can we measure their overall effectiveness in finding impaired drivers
- Not an assessment of individual officers or police services' ability to enforce the law
- No drugs

Methodology



- **Police Service in a Medium Sized City**
 - Approvals to participate post RIDE/CHECKSTOP
 - Senior officer support
- **Sponsor**
 - Canadian Automobile Association (CAA)
- **Survey sites**
 - Multi-lane, high volume locations
 - Regular police sites – not random
- **Equipment**
 - Intoxolizer 400D
 - Breath tubes



Police Stop



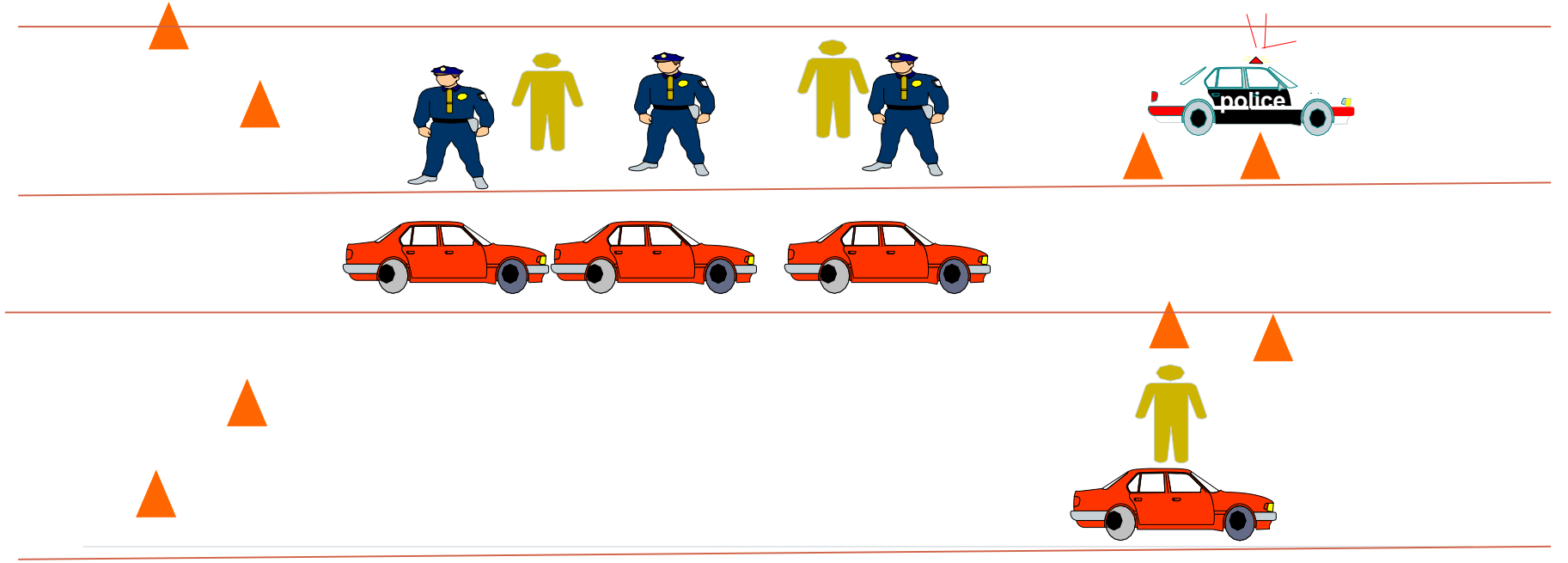
- Roadway is narrowed down to one lane
- Officers stood in a row a car length apart
- Front officer stops the lead vehicle
- All vehicles behind stopped
- Officer approaches the vehicle and speaks to the driver as usual
- Officer decides to release the vehicle or pull the driver out of the traffic stream for additional testing
- Repeat

Intervention



- Officer completes assessment process
 - Decision to stop or release
- If stopped, driver is out of the survey
- If released, driver is asked to participate in 2-3 minute survey
- If no, driver is released
- If yes, driver asked to pull forward into special lane for survey
- Driver asked for agreement to participate
 - Observables
 - Questions
 - Provide breath test

Survey Site



Information Card



DRINKING-DRIVING SURVEY

*Please help in our effort to improve road safety.
A few minutes tonight will help save lives tomorrow!*

We are asking for your help in a voluntary survey that deals with drinking and driving. Your vehicle was selected completely at random for this survey -- you are not suspected of any traffic violation.

This survey takes 2-3 minutes to complete. If you choose to participate, a researcher will ask you a few questions and will also ask you to provide a breath sample. The alcohol reading will not be available immediately but will be stored by the instrument and downloaded later. No identifying information will be collected.

Any questions you have about this survey can be directed to the Project Director, Mr. Paul Boase (paul.boase@tc.gc.ca) (613-993-4463).



Survey



Interview: _____ Time: _____

Driver Sex: M F Unk

Vehicle type

Car Van Minivan
Pickup SUV Motorcycle

Occupant Configuration

Driver only Family (with kids)
1 Pass (diff sex) 1 Pass (same sex)
Group (diff sex) Group (same sex)

In what year were you born? _____

Question #1

In your opinion, should the police do more alcohol checkpoints, fewer checkpoints, about the same number, or none at all?

Question #2

Do you think the police should be able to breath test any driver at any time without suspicion or cause? YES NO

Police Results



- Two sites from 11:30 to 3:00
- 425 vehicles passed the site
- 14 drivers were retained for further investigation
 - 8 blew 0 mg%
 - 5 blew between 11 to 25
 - 1 Alert (yellow)
- 1 three day licence suspension
- 1 twenty-four hour G2 suspension
- 2 Provincial Offences Notice
- 2 Criminal charges for fail to provide sample
- 1 Immigration warrant

Survey Results



- 70 breath tests were administered
- 74% were male
- 17 to 69 years old
- 1 error reading
- 64 blew 0 mg%
- 1 – 16 mg%
- 1 – 19 mg%
- 1 – 20 mg%
- 1 – 41 mg%
- 1 – 134 mg%

Discussion



- It is possible to integrate breath tests with a standard police stop
- Officers were willing to participate
- Drivers are willing to participate
- Readings should be recorded for later analysis
- More interviews need to be conducted
 - Impaired driving is down

Questions



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