

IOWA

Iowa Law Enforcement Cooperates for Traffic Safety

▶ AT-A-GLANCE

▶ **Project Characteristics**
Cooperative

▶ **Program Areas**
Law Enforcement and
Prosecution
Police Traffic Services

▶ **Targeted Populations**
Impaired, Unbelted,
Speeding Drivers and Youth

▶ **Type of Jurisdiction**
State

▶ **Jurisdiction Size**
2,926,324

▶ **Funding**
Section 402: \$ 230,000

▶ **Contact**
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Problem Identification

During 2001, Iowa recorded 446 traffic fatalities. The largest contributors to traffic-related fatalities and injuries in the state, in addition to impaired driving, is failure to yield or stop at stop signs and lights, which causes an average of 70 traffic deaths per year. Other contributors are excessive speed, and lack of safety belt use.

Goals and Objectives

The goal of the Iowa Law Enforcement Cooperates for Traffic Safety project is to reduce traffic fatalities and promote safe driving through education and enforcement. The main objectives are to:

- Promote cooperation, multi-agency law enforcement initiatives directed at identified high-risk problem areas;
- Increase enforcement contacts with traffic law violators;
- Reduce traffic fatalities by two percent to achieve a statewide traffic fatality rate of 1.6 fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled; and
- Promote safe driving and raise awareness of older driver issues.

Strategies and Activities

The Iowa Traffic Safety project implemented the following strategies and related activities to achieve its goals:

- Conducted selective overtime enforcement (for example, impaired driving and occupant restraint enforcement) in high risk, high crash areas or corridors with 18 law enforcement agencies in high risk areas.
- Concentrated on speeding, lack of safety belt use, and impaired driving.
- Conducted corridor enforcement events along an entire highway route or region.
- Initiated a highway safety education effort aimed at providing safe driving tips for rural youth.
- Conducted an older driver's conference to promote safer driving habits among older adults.

Results

The Iowa Law Enforcement Cooperates for Traffic Safety project achieved the following results:

- Generated 1,048 alcohol-related contacts through the efforts of 18 law enforcement agencies (an increase of 10 percent from the previous year).
- Reported a total of 4,488 occupant restraint contacts. (400 more than the previous year).
- Reported 9,622 speed contacts (500 more than the previous year).
- In 2002, achieved the lowest fatalities rate since World War II. The 404 reported fatalities far exceeded the project's two percent goal of 15 fatalities. Iowa's traffic fatalities actually declined by 42, or more than nine percent, from 2001 totals.
- Achieved a fatality rate of 1.33 per 100 million motor vehicles traveled.
- Generated 270 public information and education contacts.
- Held the first older driver conference with 200 attendees.