



MADD
IMPAIRED
DRIVING
ENDS HERE.

Supporting Drug Evaluation and Classification Programs

Resources and Tools

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. Why should states expand their Drug Evaluation and Classification (DEC) programs?

Drug-impaired driving is rising fast and DEC programs train Drug Recognition Experts—DREs—to spot and document drug impairment in ways a breath test can't. More trained officers mean more accurate stops, stronger cases, and safer roads.

2. What makes Drug Recognition Experts so effective?

DREs are the gold standard for detecting drug impairment. Their training is science-based, nationally standardized, and backed by NHTSA and toxicologists. They know the difference between fatigue, a medical issue, and drug use—something technology alone can't yet do.

3. What are the biggest challenges to expanding these programs?

Capacity and coverage. Many states have too few DREs to meet the need, especially in rural areas. Additionally, law enforcement reports not having the funding to backfill patrol officers while officers are in training for Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) or DRE. Lawmakers can fix that by funding training, improving data systems, and supporting partnerships between police, labs, and prosecutors.

4. Some say DRE programs don't make a real dent in drugged driving. What's the response?

DREs are a critical piece of the puzzle—not the whole solution. DREs make sure drug-impaired drivers are identified and taken off the road today while helping build the data that fuels better prevention and technology tomorrow. Without them, enforcement is flying blind.

Additional Resources:

- 1) AAA
 - a. Barriers and Opportunities for State and Drug Evaluation and Classification (DEC) Programs (Available upon request)
- 2) International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)
 - a. [Utilization of DREs](#)
 - b. [DRE State Coordinator List](#)
 - c. [State DRE Websites](#)
 - d. [DRE Marketing & Recruiting Toolkit](#)
 - e. [Additional DRE Resources](#)