

VERMONT

Court Ordered Reporting Program

▶ AT-A-GLANCE

▶ **Project Characteristics**
Innovative

▶ **Program Areas**
Alcohol and Other Drugs
Law Enforcement and
Prosecution

▶ **Targeted Populations**
Alcohol Offenders Receiving
Preventive Alcohol Testing

▶ **Type of Jurisdiction**
County

▶ **Jurisdiction Size**
63,000

▶ **Funding**
State Act 117 DUI
Enforcement Funds

▶ **Contact**
Stephen Reckers
Alcohol Prog. Coordinator
Gov. Hwy Safety Prog.
5 Park Row
Waterbury, VT 05647
(802) 241-5505
sreckers@dps.state.vt.us

Problem Identification

In Vermont, judges often order daily breath testing for individuals whose frequent alcohol abuse is a problem. However, the judicial system has no resources to follow-up on those court orders. It was up to the individual to go to his or her local police department voluntarily for daily testing.

In a small community with only one or two police officers, it is necessary to call an officer in off of patrol to perform the test. Often that is not possible, and the individual is sent home untested. Further, if the individual chooses not to appear for the test, no one would necessarily know or be able to follow up. If individuals do not report for testing, there are no repercussions, and no one is aware of the failure to report.

Goals and Objectives

The goal of the Court Ordered Reporting Program is to ensure that individuals with a court order report for alcohol testing (predominantly for alcohol-related driving infractions) as ordered, or that action is taken when offenders fail to report for testing.

Strategies and Activities

The Rutland County Sheriff's Department worked with the State's Attorney and local Judges to develop the Court Ordered Reporting program which is designed to take the burden of performing court ordered breath testing off of local police departments. The Sheriff's Department is now responsible for:

- Receiving copies of court ordered tests;
- Maintaining regular testing hours, seven days a week;
- Scheduling all offenders' breath testing during testing hours;
- Conducting court ordered breath testing; and
- Following up and taking action against offenders who do not appear.

Results

In 2001, the Court Ordered Reporting Program achieved the following results:

- Monitored 200 individuals and administered 20,000 breath tests.
- Followed up on 41 violations: five for alcohol violations and the remainder for failing to appear.
- Arrested or requested warrants for violators.