

MICHIGAN

BATmobile (OUIL Mobile Testing Van)

▶ AT-A-GLANCE

▶ **Project Characteristics**
Innovative

▶ **Program Areas**
Alcohol and Other Drugs
Traffic Records

▶ **Targeted Populations**
18-34 Year Old Men

▶ **Type of Jurisdiction**
State

▶ **Jurisdiction Size**
2 million

▶ **Funding**
OHSP 410: \$69,200
MI State Police: \$4,496

▶ **Contact**
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Problem Identification

Michigan law enforcement officers routinely arrest more than 60,000 people for drunk driving offenses annually. Nearly 40 percent of Michigan's traffic fatalities each year involve alcohol. One in every 25 Michigan drivers has one or more alcohol convictions on his or her driving record.

Operating Under the Influence of Liquor (OUIL) enforcement is a labor-intensive responsibility for Michigan patrol officers. The amount of time spent processing drunk driving offenders expends a large part of a patrol officer's shift. This reduces the manpower available to enforce safety.

Goals and Objectives

The BATmobile OUIL Mobile Testing Van project provides law enforcement agencies conducting driving enforcement with a tool that will decrease the time spent on processing and increase time spent identifying and apprehending drunk drivers.

The objectives of the BATmobile OUIL Mobile Testing Van project are to:

- Research and secure an appropriate mobile blood alcohol testing unit that will comply with all evidentiary requirements;
- Promote collaboration and cooperation of law enforcement agencies in drunk driving enforcement;
- Publicize the dangers of drunk driving;
- Assist other drunk driving programs.

Strategies and Activities

The BATmobile program utilized the following strategies and related activities to achieve its goals:

- Partnered with several law enforcement agencies to conduct coordinated saturation patrols.
- Collaborated with other traffic safety partners to publicize the drunk driving message.
- Marketed the drunken driving message at community events such as fairs, festivals, school events, etc.
- Used the unit to process paperwork and transport offenders to the nearest lockup facility.

- Located on-site for breath testing during drunk driving enforcement efforts of law enforcement agencies wishing to participate in the patrols.
- Educated the public about the dangers of drunk driving and heightened their perceived risk of the likelihood of arrest.
- Publicized and shared project with law enforcement agencies using a brochure and fact card produced by the Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP).
- Worked with outside agencies to respond to requests to use the unit.

Results

Michigan experienced the following positive results through use of the BATmobile project:

- Reduced officers' processing time for impaired driving arrests by as much as 45 minutes to one hour.
- Breath test results reflect the BAC (Blood Alcohol Count) of the driver closer to the time of the stop.
- Increased community support for law enforcement through the use of the BATmobile as an educational tool for the public.
- Processed nearly 100 persons suspected of impaired driving.
- Used BATmobile at approximately 75 enforcement or community events.
- Received outstanding media coverage for debut, enforcement, and community events.
- Prompted OHSP to fund the purchase of three additional BATmobiles to be located in Marquette, Lansing and Monroe County, providing comprehensive coverage of the state.
- Provided patrol officers with reduced amounts of administrative work in processing drunk driving offenders.
- Increased community support for enforcement.