



National Summit for Rural Traffic Safety Culture 2010

What are the cultural barriers to drivers accepting safety interventions (e.g., speed cameras) and enforcement programs (e.g., random roadside stops)?

Breakout Group B3

Challenges and Barriers

Public perceptions

- Will community accept technology?
- Infringes on privacy
- Big Brother
- Slippery slope
- Revenue generation rather than safety motivation
- Our right to speed
- Do citizens see a benefit for giving up their freedom?

Politics

- Legislative support
- Election cycle
- Term limits and turnover
- Interest groups
- Ideological resistance
- Live with what you've got for fear of losing everything if debate is opened up
- Erosion of trust in government



National Summit for Rural Traffic Safety Culture 2010

Challenges and Barriers

Implementation

- Concerns about fairness with citation in mail
- Discretion of police officer
- Fines tougher on poor
- Civil versus criminal offense (may affect jurisdiction)
- Lawyers concerned
- Automation may be seen as a “radical approach”

Communication

- Do we have the right media for the target audience?
- Can we create a value proposition for marketing?
- Surprises not well received
- Citizens and politicians respond to emotion rather than facts
- Turning frame to personal



Promising Approaches

- Canada – citation with a chance for withdrawal in exchange for education (might reduce belief in money motivation)
- NHTSA Best Practices – demonstrate need, stakeholder involvement, communication
- European example of safety corridors and star rating
- Term limits might offer new legislative opportunities
- Build outrage with victims' families to build a legislative advocacy movement



Success Stories

- Tobacco and Seat Belt campaigns - long term changes in accepted norms
- 9/11 changed view of privacy – airport searches and video everywhere with acceptance
- Idaho – “Safety top priority” - organizational commitment
- Iowa – “maniacs” ad campaign
- Howard County MD – demonstrated need, lots of communication, slow implementation with warnings
- Canadian provinces – collaboration of health, law enforcement and other agencies



Information Gaps/Needed Research

Research Needs

- Metrics for measuring safety culture
- Survey questions for measuring culture change
- Characterize US “speed culture” – is US more acceptant?
- Tracking medical costs of crashes
- Young teens crucial but need more info on them
- Limited data on adolescents – YRBS for high schools, but limited traffic safety Qs and mostly ages 15-18



National Summit for Rural Traffic Safety Culture 2010

Information Gaps/Needed Research

Research questions on rural safety culture

- Is rural culture different from urban/suburban?
- How to characterize state culture variation?
- How is US culture different from other countries?
- Will rural male pickup drivers respond to policy?
- Is it rural persons dying on rural roads or others? What impact of out-of-staters for rural safety data?



Information Gaps/Needed Research

Broad Research Questions

- What is impact of health campaigns and education?
- Do states respond to Federal pressure? Carrots or sticks?
- Some vehicle occupants don't wear seat belts but follow other laws - Why?
- Car as "private space" – implications of change in view? What is benefit of giving up privacy?



In closing...

- We have plenty to do to keep us “busy.”
- Thanks for inviting us to a great conference!

