Theme #9: Law Enforcement, Crime and Drugs

Human Trafficking

1. Human trafficking intervention guide for rural and tribal transportation agencies (RNS15).
2. Evaluate the extent to which public transit and intercity bus operators have received training on what to look for when it comes to human trafficking. Gather feedback on existing training programs and identify additional agency employee anti-trafficking training needs.
3. Identify the roles and responsibilities of state and local transportation agencies on human trafficking.
4. Conduct measurement and monitoring of the effectiveness of anti-trafficking efforts in rural areas.
5. Identify human trafficking interventions that are successful in reducing trafficking-related activities at rest areas and other transportation facilities.
6. Assess the locations, characteristics, and demographics of human trafficking (i.e., sex and labor trafficking) involving rural transportation facilities.
7. Assess the effectiveness of anti-trafficking public awareness campaigns involving transportation agencies.
8. Assess the effectiveness of electronic surveillance on rural sex trafficking sites.
9. Develop methods to mitigate the risk of revenge attacks on transportation agency employees and transportation researchers involved in anti-trafficking initiatives.
10. Develop methods for detecting the use of trafficked labor on rural road construction projects.
11. Identify the transportation patterns involved in human trafficking to establish a basis for appropriate interventions.
12. Identify inter-agency data sharing needs related to the identification of trafficking activities and the interdiction of traffickers.
13. Identify best practices for transporting trafficking victims to places of refuge, including transportation fare waivers/vouchers.

Illicit Drugs

1. Identify the transportation needs of rural residents seeking treatment for substance abuse disorders.
2. Identify the appropriate transportation agency roles/responsibilities in responding to illicit drug epidemics.
3. Identify strategies for detection and prevention of illicit drug sales on transportation agency premises.
4. Assess factors influencing effectiveness of employer on-the-job substance use prevention programs in the rural context.

5. Identify rural transportation agency roles in supporting effective treatment of substance abuse disorders.
6. Document rural transit agency procedures for transporting customers with opioid use disorder.
7. Identify strategies for detection and prevention of employee and contractor substance abuse.
8. Identify prevention and detection strategies for misappropriation of public resources related to employee substance abuse.
9. Identify methods and best practices for public transportation driver and system coordination with law enforcement for substance abuse interventions.
10. Evaluate how opioids affect safe driving in rural areas and how to get opioid treatment to rural areas.
11. Identify practical methods for assessing transportation agency employee fitness-for-duty that do not require chemical testing and are independent of the substances consumed.
12. Identify barriers to sharing of drug violation information involving drivers and vehicles operating on tribal lands.
13. Identify age-related differences in driving under the influence of opioids in rural communities with high rates of opioid abuse.

Marijuana Legalization

1. Identify urban/rural differences in driving while under the influence of marijuana.
2. Evaluate if there are differences between rural and urban driving environments that should be considered when establishing the legal definition of marijuana impairment.
3. Identify methods of assessing marijuana impairment that are suitable for use in remote areas.
4. Evaluate if driving ability is impacted by habitual marijuana use, even if the driver/employee is not acutely intoxicated.
5. Evaluate if current employee cannabis screening policies used by rural transit and highway agencies are sustainable in an era of increasing public support for marijuana.
6. Evaluate if rural transportation employees can perform their jobs safely while under the influence of cannabidiol (CBD).
7. Identify the risks that rural transportation agencies face if their policies for employee/contractor marijuana use are made more lenient.
8. Assess employee, front-line supervisor, and management attitudes toward marijuana and cannabidiol (CBD) use at rural agencies.
9. Evaluate the effectiveness of zero-tolerance drug/alcohol policies (RNS2).
10. Identify alternatives to zero-tolerance policies for rural areas.
11. Identify methods for detection of rural employee use of marijuana and cannabis derivatives.
12. Develop training materials to assist transportation agency managers in understanding the difference between tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and cannabidiol (CBD) and their effects on employee/passenger behavior when consumed alone and in combination with and other substances (such as alcohol).
13. Develop training materials for transit drivers to debunk myths about the effects of marijuana on driving performance.

14. Analyze differences between urban and rural marijuana use, and subsequent driving under the influence, including differences based on age/generation.
15. Compare urban and rural rates of driving after consuming cannabidiol (CBD) and possible urban/rural differences in CBD dosage for various age/generational groups.

Traffic Enforcement in Rural Areas

1. Identify methods for increasing proportion of rural officer time spent on-road.
2. Identify non-punitive strategies to increase compliance with rural traffic laws.
3. Document strategies for citizen involvement in rural traffic enforcement.
4. Identify engineering measures to support rural traffic law compliance.
5. Evaluate the feasibility and effectiveness of rural automated enforcement.
6. Identify institutional barriers to interagency cooperation in rural areas.
7. Force multiplier toolkit for rural traffic safety enforcement (RNS3).
8. Evaluate the impact that sharing a sheriff between counties makes in addressing driver behaviors contributing to crashes.
9. Evaluate the extent and characteristics of rural transportation theft and vandalism.
10. Assess rural transportation theft and vandalism risk factors.
11. Evaluate effectiveness of transportation theft and vandalism prevention strategies in rural areas.
12. Document innovative rural law enforcement practices.
13. Identify interventions relevant to rural road safety, that might reduce other types of injury or violence, making them more cost-effective.
14. Compile performance measures for rural traffic incident management and compare performance access jurisdictions.
15. Identify best practices for the enforcement of truck size and weight laws on tribal lands.
16. Identify best practices for the enforcement of school speed limits in rural areas and small towns.
17. Identify potential traffic hazards caused by aggressive driving of manually-controlled vehicles that is meant to exploit weaknesses of automated vehicles in rural environments.
18. Evaluate the benefits of peer exchange programs for rural law enforcement officers and supervisory personnel.