



TOWARD A NATIONAL MODEL  
FOR IMPAIRED DRIVER  
TREATMENT AND MONITORING  
PROGRAMS

**THE INSTITUTE FOR BEHAVIOR AND HEALTH, INC.**

# Authors

- Robert B. Voas
- Robert L. DuPont
- Stephen K. Talpins
- Corinne I. Shea

# IBH Contributors

- Dr. Larry Gentilello
- Rear Admiral James E. McPherson
- Dr. Marilyn Huestis
- Dr. Jane Maxwell

# 1.4 Million Impaired Driving Arrests Each Year in the U.S.

## **DWI Offenders are high risk drivers:**

- 4.1 times more likely than the average driver to be the drinking driver in an alcohol-related fatal crash.
- 1,000 fatalities each year involve drivers who were convicted of impaired driving within the last three years.



# Opportunity Presented by a DWI Arrest

Protect public by preventing re-offense

Assist offender to modify behavior

# Current System for Managing DWI Offenders

- Not the result of rational design.
- Has grown over the last 40 years through trial and error:
  - case law process.
  - in 50 states.
- Treatment is not integrated with other sanctions.
- The result has been a heterogeneous set of poorly integrated programs within and between states.

# Expense of Jail has Stimulated New Developments

- Drug courts are pioneering new integrated system:
  - Intensive monitoring of drug/alcohol use.
  - Integrated treatment.
  - Regular assessments of progress.
  - Immediate imposition of moderate jail sanctions.

# Expense of Jail has Stimulated New Developments

- Intensive monitoring systems with moderate but sure jail penalties:
  - South Dakota 24/7 program
  - Hawaii Hope Program
- New Technologies :
  - SCRAM
  - Interlocks
  - IN-HOM

# Objectives of the Proposed Model Program

- Develop a national model program that states and courts can adopt.
- Reduce the risk presented by DWI offenders to other motorists.
- Reduce jail and other offender management costs to the government.



# Objectives of the Proposed Model Program

- Minimize the intrusion into the offender's life.
- Take advantage of emerging technologies.
- Integrates treatment into the overall control program.
- Standardize Sanctioning

# Five Features of the Proposed Model

1. Encompasses both alcohol- and drug-impaired drivers.
2. Creates a framework for managing all levels of DWIs.
3. Emphasizes close monitoring backed by modest jail penalties.
4. Replaces fixed with variable length, performance based sentences.
5. Treatment programs would focus on supporting offender performance.



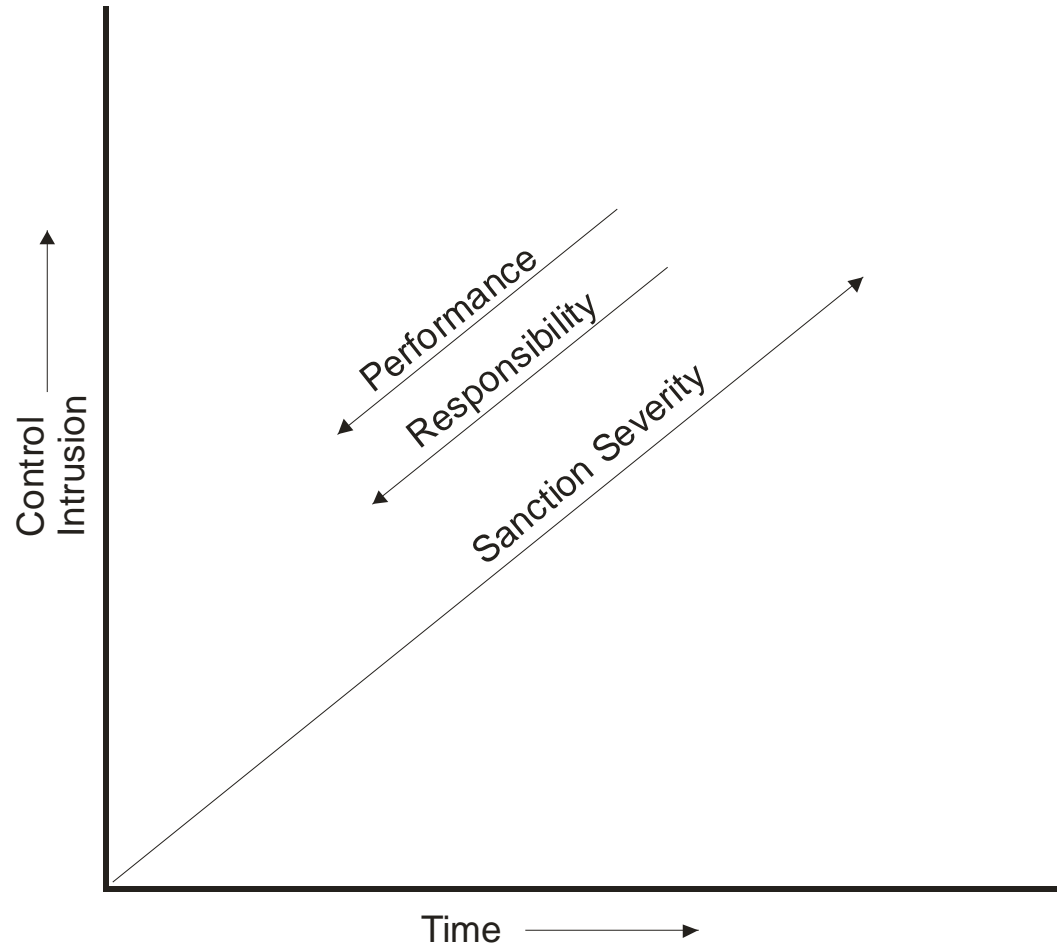
# Model would Encompass both Alcohol- and Drug-Impaired Drivers

- Prevalence of both drugs and alcohol in drivers is high.
- DWI Enforcement programs are currently integrated.
- DWI prosecution and sanctioning procedures are similar:
- Treatment programs must deal with both.

# Model would Create a Framework for Managing all Levels of DWIs

- States are currently applying monitoring methods to first offenders:
  - In the past, these were limited to multiple offenders.
- States are creating high BAC first DWI offender laws:
  - These apply second offender penalties to first offenders.

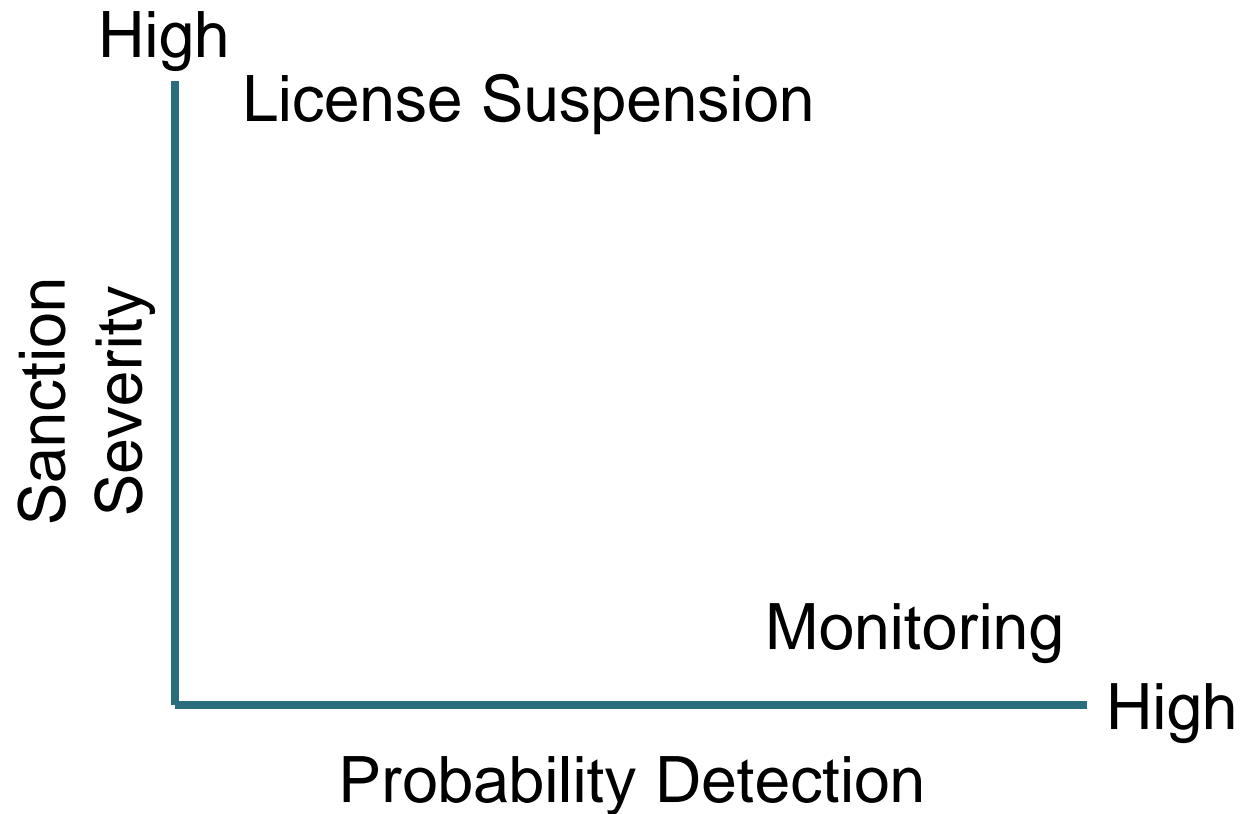
# Framework for Impaired Driver Model Program



# Emphasizes Monitoring with Modest, but Swift & Sure Penalties

- Traditional control systems are inadequate:
  - Officers in standard probation programs lack the time and information to monitor drinking, drug use, or driving.
- License suspension undermined by the 75% of offenders who continue to drive.
- When compliance is detected, punishment may be delayed or avoided.

# Comparison of Traditional License Suspension with Monitoring



# Replace Fixed with Variable, Performance Based Sentences

- Good time sentence reductions are traditionally part of the sanction application.
- Flexibility needed to help motivate compliance.
- Some state interlock laws provide for sentence extensions if lockouts persist.
- Behavioral triage system would shorten or extend time in the program.

# Treatment Programs would focus on Supporting Offender's Performance

- Currently treatment providers are poorly integrated into overall sanction program.
- Offenders currently tend to be in denial and not motivated to seek recovery.
- Complying with monitoring requirements should increase the offender's motivation to attend treatment.
- Those who fail to comply monitoring program should be mandated to counseling.

# What a Model Program Would Offer

- Assist legislators and judges in implementing effective DWI control laws.
- Assist in identifying weak links in the program.
- It should stimulate research on existing programs and the development of new technology.

# What a Model Program Would Offer

- It should increase public understanding of DWI sanctions and management program.
- A better understanding of sanctions should increase general deterrence.



# Thank you.....

- Questions???????