



# 2020 NH Highway Safety Series



## **IMPAIRED DRIVING**

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NH DECP State Coordinator*



# **Law Enforcement Training**

## ***Standardized Field Sobriety Testing***

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- The DWI Detection and Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST) training curriculum prepares police officers and other qualified persons to conduct the SFSTs for use in driving while impaired (DWI) investigations.

SFST in New Hampshire offered at the Basic Police Recruit Academy or via In-Service Class:

2020: 184 Officers Certified (3 Classes)

2019: 243 Officers Certified (6 Classes)

2018: 238 Officers Certified (8 Classes)

2017: 268 Officers Certified (8 Classes)



# **Law Enforcement Training**

## ***Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement***

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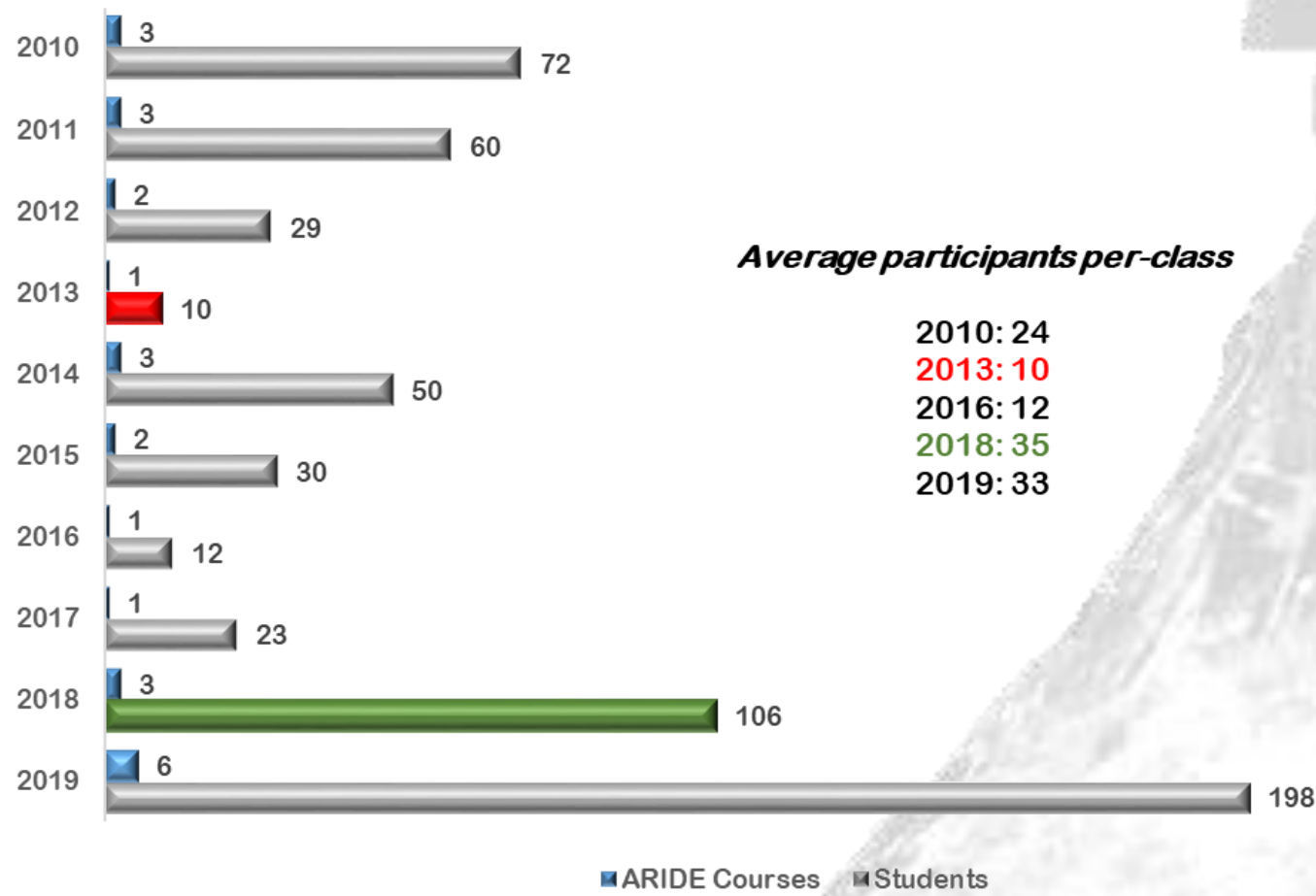
- **Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) program -16 Hour Class**
- **Developed by NHTSA**
  - Bridges gap between SFST training offered at the basic recruit academy and the Drug Recognition Expert program in New Hampshire
  - Provides officers with general knowledge related to drug impairment
  - Promotes use of DRE's in New Hampshire
- **Trains law enforcement officers to observe, identify, and articulate the signs of impairment in order to reduce the number of impaired drivers**



# Law Enforcement Training

## *Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement*

ARIDE: Annual Course Offerings & Student Totals  
2010 - 2019





# **Training: Law Enforcement *Drug Recognition Expert Program***

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- **The Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) program has received national acclaim for its success in identifying the drug-impaired individual**
- **Focus of the DRE curricula is on the identification of the drug-impaired driver**
  - DRE skills are applied to many different law enforcement activities
  - DREs are frequently called upon to differentiate between drug influence and medical and/or mental disorders
- **DRE Candidate School**
  - Utilization of NHTSA funding to increase the number of in-state DREs
  - The certification process was streamlined from an average of 12 months per student to a total of three weeks



# DRE 12 Step Process

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- The DRE protocol is a standardized and systematic method of examining a Driving Under the Influence of Drugs (DUID) suspect to determine the following: (1) whether or not the suspect is impaired; if so, (2) whether the impairment relates to drugs or a medical condition; and if drugs, (3) what category or combination of categories of drugs are the likely cause of the impairment. The process is *systematic* because it is based on a complete set of observable signs and symptoms that are known to be reliable indicators of drug impairment.

The DRE evaluation is *standardized* because it is conducted the same way, by every drug recognition expert, for every suspect whenever possible.

## The 12-Step DRE Protocol:

- 1. *Breath Alcohol Test*-The arresting officer reviews the subject's breath alcohol concentration (BrAC) test results and determines if the subject's apparent impairment is consistent with the subject's BrAC. If the impairment is *not* explained by the BrAC, the officer requests a DRE evaluation.
- 2. *Interview of the Arresting Officer*-The DRE begins the investigation by reviewing the BrAC test results and discussing the circumstances of the arrest with the arresting officer. The DRE asks about the subject's behavior, appearance, and driving.





# DRE 12 Step Process

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- *3. Preliminary Examination and First Pulse*-The DRE conducts a preliminary examination, in large part, to ascertain whether the subject may be suffering from an injury or other condition unrelated to drugs. Accordingly, the DRE asks the subject a series of standard questions relating to the subject's health and recent ingestion of food, alcohol, and drugs, including prescribed medications. The DRE observes the subject's attitude, coordination, speech, breath and face. The DRE also determines if the subject's pupils are of equal size and if the subject's eyes can follow a moving stimulus and track equally. The DRE also looks for horizontal gaze nystagmus (HGN) and takes the subject's pulse for the first of three times. If the DRE believes that the subject *may* be suffering from a significant medical condition, the DRE will seek medical assistance immediately. If the DRE believes that the subject's condition is drug-related, the evaluation continues.
- *4. Eye Examination*-The DRE examines the subject for HGN, vertical gaze Nystagmus (VGN), and a lack of convergence.
- *5. Divided Attention Psychophysical Tests*-The DRE administers four psychophysical tests: the Modified Romberg Balance, the Walk and Turn, the One Leg Stand, and the Finger to Nose test.



# DRE 12 Step Process

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- 6. *Vital Signs and Second Pulse*-The DRE takes the subject's blood pressure, temperature, and pulse.
- 7. *Dark Room Examinations*-The DRE estimates the subject's pupil sizes under three different lighting conditions with a measuring device called a pupilometer. The device will assist the DRE in determining whether the subject's pupils are dilated, constricted, or normal.
- 8. *Examination for Muscle Tone*-The DRE examines the subject's skeletal muscle tone. Certain categories of drugs may cause the muscles to become rigid. Other categories may cause the muscles to become very loose and flaccid.
- 9. *Check for Injection Sites and Third Pulse*-The DRE examines the subject for injection sites, which may indicate recent use of certain types of drugs. The DRE also takes the subject's pulse for the third and final time.





# DRE 12 Step Process

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- 10. *Subject's Statements and Other Observations*-The DRE typically reads *Miranda*, if not done so previously, and asks the subject a series of questions regarding the subject's drug use.
- 11. *Analysis and Opinions of the Evaluator*-Based on the totality of the evaluation, the DRE forms an opinion as to whether or not the subject is impaired. If the DRE determines that the subject is impaired, the DRE will indicate what category or categories of drugs may have contributed to the subject's impairment.
- 12. *Toxicological Examination*-The toxicological examination is a chemical test or tests that provide additional scientific, admissible evidence to support the DRE's opinion.

**Nothing in or about the DRE protocol is new or novel. The DRE protocol is a compilation of tests that physicians have used for decades to identify and assess alcohol- and/or drug-induced impairment.**



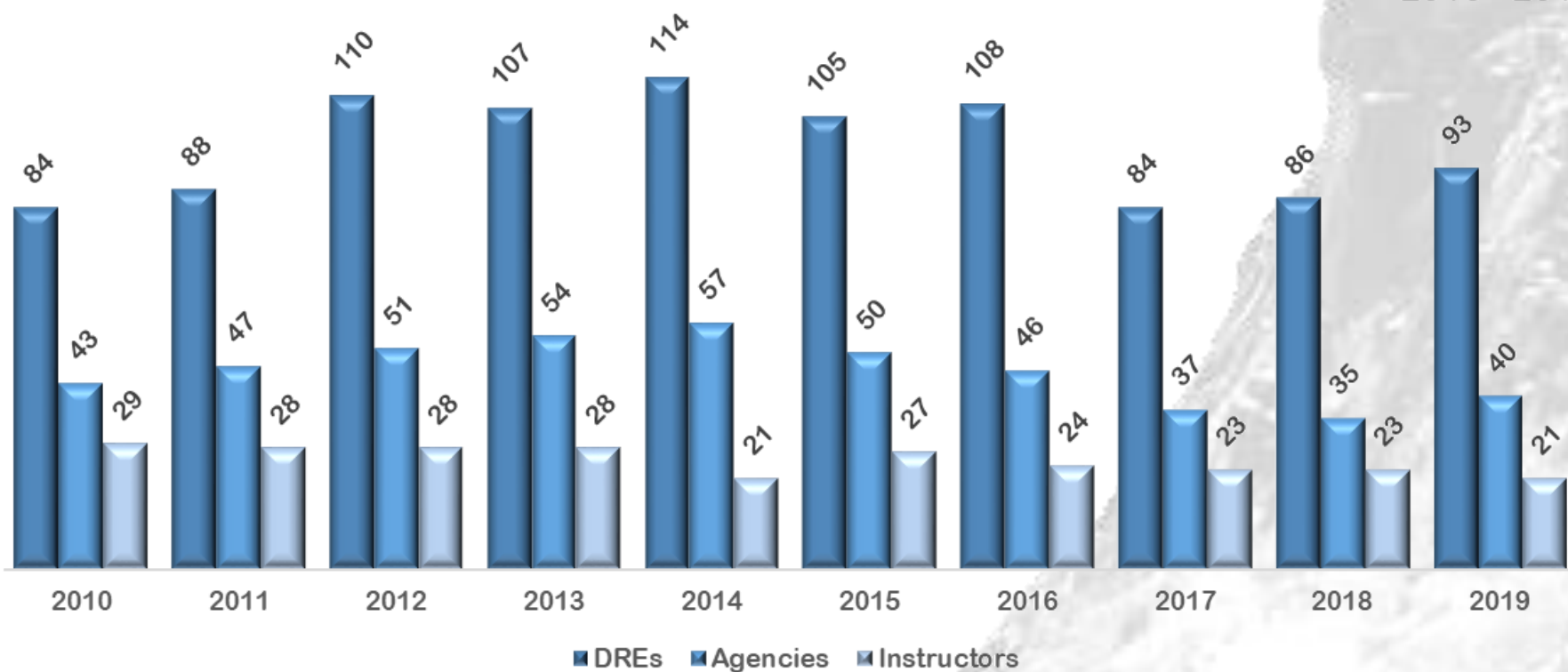
# **New Hampshire *Drug Recognition Experts***

- **Number of NH certified DRE's: 84**
  - NH State Police Officers: 29
  - Municipal-City Police Officers: 54
  - Sheriff Deputies: 1
- **Number of DRE instructors: 18**
- **Number of LE agencies with certified DRE's: 42**
- **In 2020:** New Hampshire ARIDE and DRE/DRE-SFST Instructor Classes were cancelled due to the Covid 19 pandemic.
- **In 2019:**
  - Number of DRE Schools completed: 2
  - Number of Students: 21
    - Include five (5) non-graded course auditors
  - Total Certifications Issued: 16



# **New Hampshire *Drug Recognition Experts***

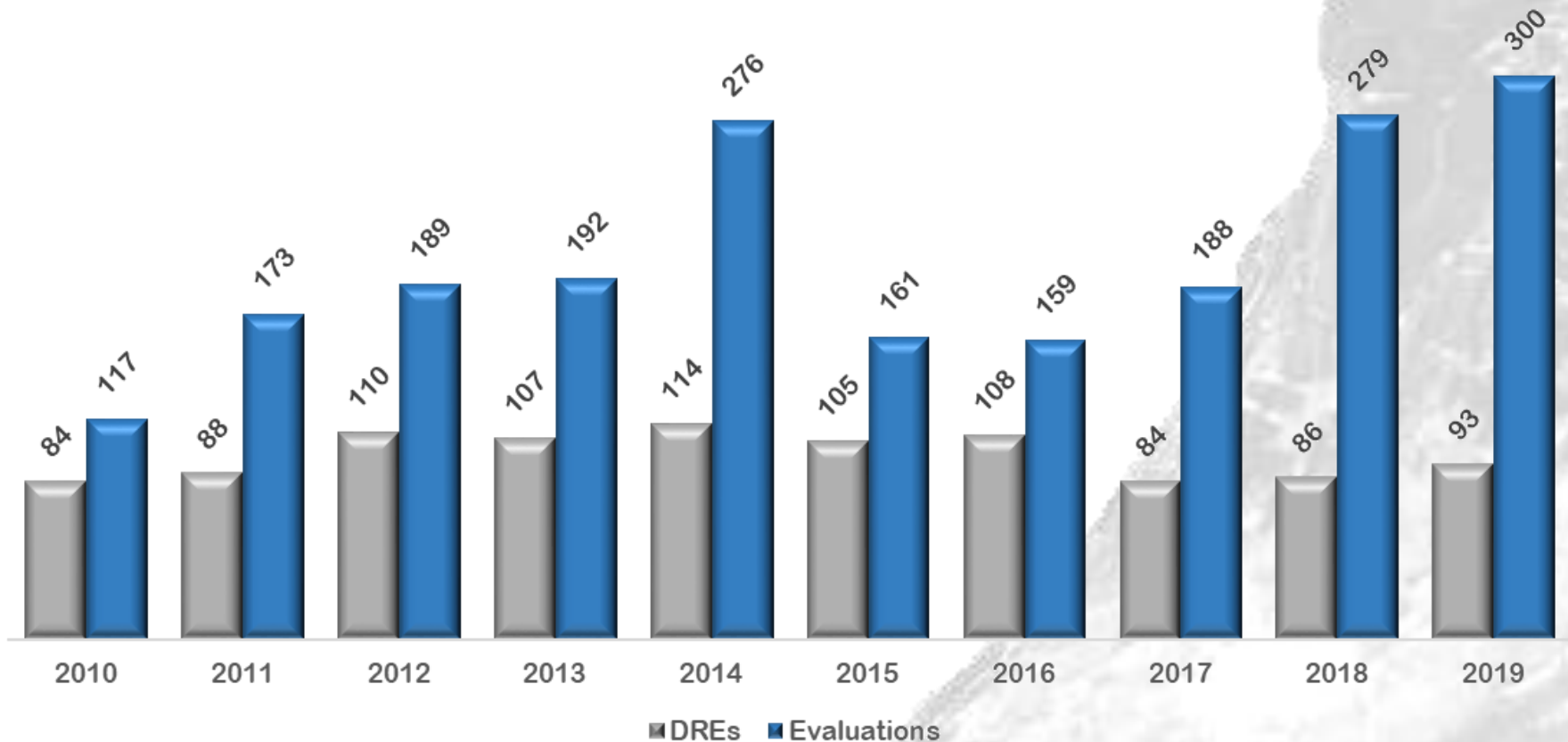
**Drug Recognition Experts:** Number of Certified DREs,  
Participating Agencies, and Instructors  
*2010 - 2019*





# **New Hampshire *Drug Recognition Experts***

**Drug Recognition Experts: Certified DREs vs Evaluation Totals**  
*2010 - 2019*





# 2020/2019 Evaluation Comparison

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## 2020 Drug Evaluations Total: 43

Evaluation Type	Count	Percentage
Training	8	18.6%
Enforcement	33	76.74%
Other	2	4.65%



# Drug Category Toxicological Breakdown

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- 2020 Drug Category Toxicological Breakdown:**

Drug Name	# of Opinions	Opinion %
Depressants	6	29%
Stimulants	3	14%
Hallucinogens	0	0%
Dissociative Anesthetics	0	0%
Narcotic Analgesics	8	38%
Inhalants	0	0%
Cannabis	2	10%
Alcohol	2	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	

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# 2020/2019 Evaluation Comparison

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## 2019 Drug Evaluations Total: 408

Evaluation Type	Count	Percentage
Training	278	68.14%
Enforcement	125	30.64%
Other	5	1.23%



# Drug Category Toxicological Breakdown

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## 2019 Drug Category Toxicological Breakdown:

Drug Name	# of Opinions	Opinion %
Depressants	20	7%
Stimulants	180	63%
Hallucinogens	0	0%
Dissociative Anesthetics	0	0%
Narcotic Analgesics	79	27%
Inhalants	1	0%
Cannabis	77	27%
Alcohol	10	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>367</b>	

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# Additional DECP Training Programs

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**Introduction to Drugged Driving:** 4 Hour class offers an overview of drugs other than alcohol that impair.

**(DITEP) Drug Impairment Training for Educational Professionals**

- Provide school staff, nurses, administrators and school resource officers with a systematic approach to recognizing and evaluating individuals in the academic environment who are abusing and/or impaired by drugs to provide early recognition and intervention
- In 2020 New Hampshire had hoped to host one regional DITEP training for school districts in our state. Due to Covid-19, this effort was put on hold with the hope of rolling out a regional DITEP training in 2021.



# 2021 Challenges/Goals for NH Drug Evaluation Classification Program

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- **Challenges:**



1. COVID-19 Restrictions
2. Mandatory reporting via national DRE Data Tracking
3. Legalization of Marijuana-Vermont, Maine, Massachusetts. (NH allows medicinal/decriminalized) Legislation to legalize, tax-revenue stream, per-se limits for impairment



- **GOALS:**

1. Improve Mandatory reporting via national DRE Data Tracking
2. Regional DITEP Training in New Hampshire
3. Coordination with NHSP Troop G-Motor Carrier Unit-ARIDE Training
4. Improved training for Police Prosecutors and Officers-TSRP Benjamin Maki
5. Continued growth of New Hampshire's Drug Recognition Expert Program
6. Continued growth and training opportunities with respect to ARIDE training



# 2020-2021 NH DECP Funding Recognition

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- **2019-2020 extended through September 2021-Driving Under the Influence of Drugs Law Enforcement Training Grant; \$ 19,726 from the Governors Highway Safety Association as part of a national initiative specifically earmarked at training more Police Officers in the detection and apprehension of alcohol and/or drug impaired motorists.**
- **Fortunate to have Continued funding and support of Drug Evaluation Classification Program from NH Office of Highway Safety & NHTSA. Grant funding allows for administration of DRE/ARIDE/SFST and DITEP training platforms throughout our state at no cost to local, county and state agencies. FFY 2021 Grant \$95,093.36**



# ***Contact Information***



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***Committed to a Safer State, In  
Partnership with Our Communities***

