

Association of Transportation Safety Information Professionals

2003 Traffic Records Best Practice Application Form

PART 1 – PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Title:

Administrative Office of the Courts DWI Offender History

Internet location: <http://traffic.nmcourts.com/>

Application Organization

Lead Agency:

New Mexico Traffic Safety Bureau

Nominating Person:

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Identify to which national agenda goals the DWI Offender History applies:

- Goal I** To instill an appreciation of the value of highway safety information systems among state, national, and local leaders who have a responsibility for developing and managing highway transportation safety policy.

- Goal II** To establish a means by which collection, management, and use of highway safety information could be coordinated among all organizations at all jurisdictional levels with responsibility for highway transportation policy.

- Goal III** To integrate the planning of highway safety programs and highway safety information systems.

- Goal IV** To provide managers and users of highway safety information with the resources needed to select appropriate technology to support their information needs.

Goal VI To establish and promote technical standards for characteristics of highway safety information systems that are critical to the development and management of highway transportation safety programs and policies.

Was the DWI Offender History to be addressed according to the New Mexico Statewide Traffic Records Coordinating Committee's (STRCC) Strategic Plan? Yes. If yes, which item?

The DWI Offender History addresses the following STRCC Strategic Plan Goals:

Goal 1 Create a Statewide Traffic Records System Model (STRS Model) designed for electronic collection and transmission of data between traffic record entities, from the initiation of the traffic related citation through offender sentence completion.

Goal 2 Establish web access to traffic records, reports and traffic analysis through the Statewide Traffic Records System Model

Project Cost:

Planned Dollars: \$219,750.00

Actual Dollars: \$155,632.00

Project Benefits: (both tangible and intangible)

1. The New Mexico DWI Offender History (DWIOH) is a research tool for assisting interested parties in obtaining official court documents. The search program is available free-of-charge to anyone with Internet access.
2. Law enforcement agencies can use the DWIOH to review a driver's court history and determine the correct violation of a person charged with DWI.
3. Judges find the DWIOH useful for pre-sentencing. Pre-sentencing is the portion of a trial, after conviction and before sentencing, when a judge may conduct his own review of the offender's record.
4. Attorneys involved with DWI cases can use the DWIOH to quickly identify a defendant's prior cases and review case details. This greatly reduces the amount of time required to identify and obtain essential court documents.

5. State agencies and other organizations affiliated with the New Mexico Statewide Traffic Records Coordinating Committee (STRCC) will find the DWIOH useful for general DWI research that is part of the development of highway safety programs.
6. The DWIOH is the first step in measuring and maintaining interagency data consistency and quality. An essential feature of the DWIOH administration is a procedure for flagging and resolving discrepancies that appear between court DWI conviction data and the New Mexico Motor Vehicle Division's Driver History database.
7. DWIOH Warehouse provides new opportunities to analyze trends in DWI.
8. The DWIOH design and implementation documentation has been shared with the New Mexico Statewide Traffic Records Coordinating Committee.
9. The DWIOH demonstrates that the New Mexico Judiciary and New Mexico Traffic Safety Bureau are working together to reduce DWI in New Mexico.

PART 2 – PROJECT DETAIL

DWI Offender History (DWIOH) <http://traffic.nmcourts.com/>

Narrative

Please describe the scope of the project and how it relates to the 6 goals of the "National Agenda for the improvement of highway safety information systems."

Project Scope

The New Mexico DWI Offender History (DWIOH) is a research tool for assisting interested parties in obtaining official court DWI documents. Through an easy-to-use, web-based search engine, the user can search the DWIOH database for persons involved in DWI cases in New Mexico, as collected by the New Mexico Administrative Office of the Courts. The DWIOH is available free-of-charge to anyone with Internet access.

The DWIOH was designed with "best practices" methodologies as described by the computer programming and database industries. The DWIOH web search engine was built using open-source technologies including Sun Java and Apache HTTP Server. The DWIOH database was built with IBM Informix, which is currently licensed to the New Mexico courts, and includes measurements of data quality and completeness. The DWIOH has added a unique resource to the basic web services provided by the New Mexico Judiciary.

The New Mexico DWI Offender History (DWIOH) was implemented in April 2003 and is currently maintained by the New Mexico Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC). The New Mexico AOC is charged with establishing a complete electronic repository of DWI court records.

Funded by grant agreements with the New Mexico State Highway & Transportation Department, Traffic Safety Bureau, the AOC hired staff to review court DWI process, court information systems, available infrastructure, and provide accurate data regarding DWI within New Mexico courts. In addition to providing invaluable information about DWI court processes and data, the project team has made significant contributions to the information systems expertise within the judiciary.

Project relationship to the goals of the National Agenda

The DWIOH supports National Agenda Goal I:

“To instill an appreciation of the value of highway safety information systems among state, national, and local leaders who have a responsibility for developing and managing highway transportation safety policy.”

Through monthly STRCC meetings, new projects like the DWIOH have been identified as opportunities to educate stakeholder agencies on current and proposed systems that are part of the New Mexico Statewide Traffic Records System Model (STRS Model).

The initial review of DWI court processes and data quality analysis allowed the project team to visit courts and train their personnel. In addition, the project team provided quarterly reports to the Traffic Safety Bureau. The project team was able to educate both court staff and Traffic Safety Bureau program managers about many details of the existing court process and its impact on the STRS Model.

For example:

- The priorities for the collection of fees owed by a DWI offender, as described in state statute.
- The relationship between citation data elements entered into the court case management system, and its uses to agencies outside of the courts.
- Guidelines for identifying and correcting court DWI data errors.

Furthermore, The DWIOH program supports National Agenda Goal I through the simple and successful dissemination of court data relating to DWI. Prior to the release of the DWIOH, a pilot period was used to test the program. The pilot period also required the pilot participants such as court staff, law enforcement, attorneys, and other STRCC stakeholder agencies to complete an on-line survey regarding the usefulness of the program. As a result, a report was produced that clearly documents the value of the DWIOH as a resource to court staff, attorneys, law enforcement, and other STRCC stakeholder agencies.

Beyond the DWIOH search engine capabilities, the DWIOH database provides for more advanced analysis of DWI offenders in New Mexico. As a result, many STRCC agencies are discussing the following analysis with the project team:

- Multiple Offender Listings by Region
- Geographic Distribution of Offences by Offender
- Identification of often arrested/rarely convicted offenders

The DWIOH supports National Agenda Goal II:

“To establish a means by which collection, management, and use of highway safety information could be coordinated among all organizations at all jurisdiction levels with responsibility for highway transportation safety.”

Involvement with the STRCC has allowed the project team to share information regarding the quality of court data as it relates to other STRCC stakeholders and their respective datasets. Furthermore, the DWIOH facilitates the measurement and improvement of interagency data consistency by:

- Making court DWI data available to all STRCC agencies
- Documenting known inconsistencies between data sets
- Making recommendations to improve quality between data sets
- Implementing a process to address any new inconsistencies that may be found between datasets

The DWIOH supports National Agenda Goal III:

“To integrate the planning of highway safety programs and highway safety information systems.”

The NM Statewide Traffic Records Coordinating Committee (STRCC) is a working committee comprised of multiple agencies involved with traffic records initiation, storage, transmission, and dissemination. The work of the STRCC facilitates the Statewide Traffic Records Executive Oversight Committee (STREOC) in defining stakeholder agency’s policy that will allow for improvements in the traffic record systems.

Through participation with the NM Statewide Traffic Records Coordinating Committee (STRCC), the DWIOH project group assisted in the development of the Statewide Traffic Records System Strategic Plan.

In defining the scope of the DWIOH deliverables, the following documents were reviewed to guarantee that the DWIOH complied with and contributed to State and National initiatives:

1. New Mexico Statewide Traffic Records Coordinating Committee Strategic Plan
 - a. Goal I: Create a Statewide Traffic Records System Model (STRS Model) designed for electronic collection and transmission of data between traffic record entities, from the initiation of the traffic related citation through offender sentence completion.
 - b. Goal II: Establish web access to traffic records, reports and traffic analysis through the STRS Model.
2. NHTSA Model Impaired Driver Records Information System:
 - a. The value of tracking DWI Offenders
3. New Mexico Information Technology Guidelines
4. New Mexico Criminal Justice Information Management Taskforce Initiatives
5. New Mexico Supreme Court Information Technology Strategic Plan

After careful review of the various initiatives, the project team was able to design a very specific deliverable, small and robust, that contributes to the major goals of state and national initiatives. In addition, the design of the DWIOH is part of the STRCC resources for achieving the goals of the Statewide Traffic Records System Strategic Plan.

The design of the DWIOH contributes to the integration and improvement of STRCC initiatives in the following ways:

1. Use of the DWIOH is not restricted to the custodians of the information. In this case, the DWIOH information is available to all members of the STRCC, as well as the public.
2. Follows “best practices”: The DWIOH design was within scope and developed in small functional pieces. As a result, the project has quickly proved its functionality and met all scope requirements at delivery.
3. Integration with existing resources: The project team was able to deliver the entire DWIOH program to the court’s system staff, requiring no additional resources. The DWIOH program has been implemented within the court’s existing information system infrastructure. The DWIOH program has become a functional element of the Administrative Office of the Courts core business.
4. The project deliverable may be expanded to add new functionality: Depending on the priorities of the STRCC and the resources available to the AOC, the following functionality could be added to the DWIOH:
 - a. Offender Sentence Compliance History
 - b. Other offence conviction data related to a DWI Offender
 - c. Bench Warrant history
 - d. Access to DWIOH via mobile devices by STRS stakeholder agencies

The DWIOH supports National Agenda Goal IV:

“To provide managers and users of highway safety information with the resources needed to select appropriate technology to support their information needs.”

The DWIOH provides to the STRCC a first example of how to build an effective reporting system within an existing IT infrastructure and according to principles of best practices. Specifically contributing to STRCC Goal 2, the use of best practices is actually applicable to all STRCC IT initiatives. Through participation in the STRCC, the DWIOH project team will continue to contribute its expertise to the goals of the Statewide Traffic Record System. The essential technological benefits of the DWIOH include:

- Lightweight and configurable web application, including activity logging
- Regular measurement of data quality
- Techniques for aggregating and formatting source data
- Complete architectural documentation

The DWIOH supports National Agenda Goal VI:

“To establish and promote technical standards for characteristics of highway safety information systems that are critical to the development and management of highway transportation safety programs and policies.”

Through the development of the DWIOH, the project team expended great effort to develop a comprehensive understanding of the data that is available in the DWIOH. This understanding, which has been made available to the STRCC, includes:

- methods for measuring the completeness and accuracy of source data
- mechanisms for correcting and improving the quality of data
- methods for comparing interagency data sources

Beyond the analysis of the data residing in the DWIOH warehouse, the DWIOH application has been built according to industry “best practices”, which are also provided to the STRCC.

Describe the major process steps you went through to do this project

1. Comprehensive understanding of the court DWI process in New Mexico.
2. Comprehensive understanding of the court DWI data that is collected.
3. Three years of data quality monitoring and data improvement programs.
4. Established working relationships with STRCC affiliates.
5. Six months reviewing available IT resources and available technologies.
6. Review of current Strategic Plans, Federal initiatives, etc.
7. Design and implement DWIOH application according to best practices in application development and data warehousing.

8. Conducted comprehensive two-month pilot involving all STRCC stakeholder agencies groups.
9. Beyond basic functionality of the DWIOH search engine, the DWIOH database incorporates metadata collection routines that provide measures of “completeness” and “quality.”
10. Implemented legal and administrative procedures to handle inquiries, challenges, and exceptions.

**Did the Project Successfully Achieve the Benefits Identified Earlier? Yes
Describe how the Project actually met or did not meet the benefits:**

1. The DWIOH was placed online in April 2003 with no added burden to existing judiciary web services.
2. Law Enforcement Use: Conversations with STRCC Law Enforcement agencies indicate that the DWIOH is being used to facilitate the timely completion of citations and incident reports.
3. Judge Use: Pilot survey results indicate that the DWIOH will meet the expected benefits to judges. Usage reports indicate that judges around the state are using the DWIOH.
4. Attorney Use: Pilot survey results indicate that the DWIOH will meet the expected benefits to attorneys.
5. STRCC stakeholder Use: Pilot survey results indicate that the DWIOH will meet the expected benefits to TSB Affiliates, including the Department of Health and the Motor Vehicles Division.
6. Essential data elements needed for data consistency between STRCC agency datasets have been identified. The completeness of essential data in the DWIOH has been measured and reported.
7. New analysis of DWI offender data is being researched and made available. A multiple offender report is currently used by the New Mexico State Police. The New Mexico Department of Health is interested in offender profiles that include geographic distribution of offences. Furthermore, the system readily shows individuals that are often arrested, but rarely convicted of DWI.
8. The DWIOH design and implementation documentation is being shared with the New Mexico Statewide Traffic Records Coordinating Committee. This documentation includes industry’s “best practices” for software and database development.
9. A joint press conference is scheduled for May 2003 that demonstrates a working relationship between the New Mexico Judiciary, and the New Mexico State Highway & Transportation Department, Traffic Safety Bureau in combating DWI. Furthermore, as a direct result of the success of the DWIOH, new joint initiatives are being implemented, i.e. Ignition Interlock data collection and reporting.