

THE MAINE LIAISON



Edition: JP:06

Maine Bureau of Highway Safety

Spring 2025

FARS Data: *What every Police Officer should know.*

The Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) is a crucial tool used in all 50 States for collecting and analyzing data on fatal motor vehicle crashes. This data collection program was developed and maintained by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

Here in Maine, our FARS analyst is Nathan McLaughlin (Nathan.McLaughlin@maine.gov). His work is supported by Jaime Pelotte (Jaime.L.Pelotte@maine.gov) who is the FARS supervisor in our Highway Safety Office. Nate has completed weeks of formal National training along with annual training updates authorizing him to collect and analyze our Maine fatal crash data and then share that with NHTSA.

For Maine Law Enforcement, FARS begins with a submission of the 14-I (first report of fatal) teletype. This includes any fatality within a motor vehicle, around a motor vehicle, motorcycle, moped, on-road ATV or snowmobile crash, and on-road dirt bike crash. Some exceptions are intentional acts and natural death circumstance while in a motor vehicle.

The information contained within the 14-I teletype data fields are entered into the FARS system which starts a time clock of events that each FARS analyst must meet for proficiency standards set by NHTSA. For these reasons, the timely submission of the 14-I and accompanying MCRS report position Nate for success to meet his standards.

FARS data is publicly available, however the current

(Continued on page 2)

TRAFFIC FATALITIES

**Traffic Fatalities through:
March 31, 2025**

35

*comparable prior years through March 31 of respective year

***2024**

***2023**

28

14

***2022**

***2021**

33

23

In this Issue:

- FARS: What every Police Officer should know.
- Traffic Fatality stats
- Updates from AAA
- Chemist Corner
- TSRP Chat
- SADD updates
- Community Resources
- Highway Safety in the field
- RTV updates

(FARS Data continued from page 1)

year's statistics are considered preliminary. Most fatal crash investigations surrounding cause and manner of death are determined soon after the crash allowing timely submission of data. In some circumstances, such as death occurring within 720 hours after the crash, crashes requiring decedent medical records such as toxicology and/or DNA to determine positive identification, and Medical Examiner reports all delay data submission. Because of these factors and more, FARS data is always considered preliminary for that calendar year. Below is Maine's finalized FARS data for the last several years which can be found at <https://cdan.dot.gov>. 2023 data has been finalized but not posted at the time of this article.

Crash year	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
# Fatalities	182	153	164	157	136

These numbers directly reflect how federal highway safety funds are distributed to all States. Maine's fatality numbers continue a trend in the wrong direction. It's the Bureau of Highway Safety's goal to reduce our fatal crash number to zero annually! We value our partnerships with all the Law Enforcement Agencies who integrate traffic enforcement patrols to encourage voluntary compliance from the motoring public. BHS will be here to support enforcement efforts through various NHTSA funded grant programs. It will take our collective collaboration to help us meet our zero-fatality goal. V/r J&P.

Your LEL Contacts

James Willis
James.K.Willis@Maine.Gov 207-460-6040

Patrick Hood
Patrick.Hood@Maine.Gov 207-975-0423



Updates from our AAA Partners:

The AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety has published two recent articles directly related to ongoing current events here in Maine. *Pedestrian Fatalities on Urban Arterial Roads at*

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Save the date:

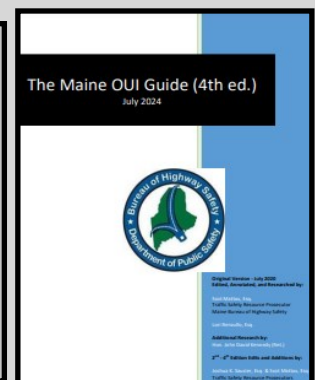
2025 Maine Impaired Driving Summit

June 20th - Friday

Portland Sheraton at Sable Oaks
200 Sable Oaks Drive
South Portland, Maine



Both the SFST pocket guide and the Maine OUI guide can be obtained for your Agency by reaching out to your LEL's. The Maine OUI guide (4th edition) can be found electronically [here](#).





DIRIGO SAFETY, LLC

PUBLIC SAFETY ADVOCATES

Access our full training schedule by clicking this [LINK](#)

FUNDAMENTALS OF OUI INVESTIGATIONS

April 28, 2025 0800-1600
Presque Isle PD
43 North Rd
Presque Isle ME 047869

Price: FREE - This class is sponsored by the Maine Bureau of Highway Safety

GREEN LAB

May 1, 2025 0800-1600
Presque Isle PD
43 North Rd
Presque Isle ME 047869

Price: FREE for Maine LEO's. Sponsored by OCP. \$600 for non-Maine LEO's. Lunch will be provided.

OUI AFTER THE ARREST

May 2, 2025 0800-1600
Presque Isle PD
43 North Rd
Presque Isle ME 047869

Price: FREE - This class is sponsored by the Maine Bureau of Highway Safety

ARIDE

June 4 & June 5 0800-1630
Topsham Police Department
100 Main St
Topsham ME 04086
Contact Edwin.D.Finnegan@maine.gov to register

GREEN LAB- Cannabis impairment detection.

August 7 2025 0800-1700
Dirigo Safety LLC
95 Main St
Auburn ME 04210

Price: FREE for Maine LEO's. Sponsored by OCP. \$600 for non-Maine LEO's. Lunch will be provided.



Updates From

Impaired Driving Enforcement Training Unit



16 law enforcement officers completed their training to become Drug Recognition Experts and returned to Maine ready to put their skills to use. It didn't take long – within 24 hours, one of them already was conducting an evaluation on a suspected drug-impaired driver, with several more completed since.

Our new DREs come from several municipal police departments, including Fort Fairfield, Bangor, Cape Elizabeth, Waterville, Westbrook, Scarborough, Lewiston and Topsham; county sheriff's offices included Oxford, Sagadahoc and Somerset, as well as members of the Maine State Police. They'll be busy, as we're running three weeks of SFST training beginning next week, as well as Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement classes in Presque Isle, Holden and Topsham in the coming months.





TSRP Talk:

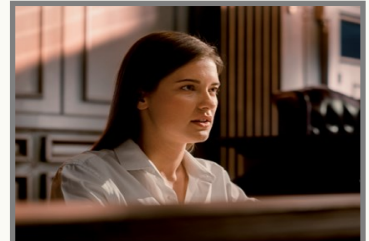
News & Current Events

The National District Attorneys Association's National Traffic Law Center (NTLC) is a resource designed to benefit prosecutors, judges, law enforcement officers and others in the justice system. The mission of NTLC is to improve the quality of justice in traffic safety adjudications by increasing the awareness of highway safety issues through the compilation, creation and dissemination of legal and technical information, and by providing training and reference services.

In the February 2025 edition, Joshua Saucier who is one of Maine's Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutors (TSRP) had his article titled *Smith v. Arizona: Hearsay and the presentation of forensic evidence* published. The [link](#) to the NTLC is here.



BETWEEN THE LINES



Smith v. Arizona: Hearsay and the Presentation of Forensic Evidence

By Joshua K. Saucier

Need access to free NHTSA social media images and content for all NHTSA Campaigns? Try the newly updated Traffic Safety Marketing web page line [here](#).

Traffic Safety Marketing

Powered by NHTSA

Communication Resources

For States, Partner Organizations, and Highway Safety Professionals

I want communication material for

Safety Topic

View

RIGHT NOW 50 MILLION

VEHICLES ON THE ROAD HAVE OPEN SAFETY RECALLS

Is yours one of them?



CheckToProtect.org for vehicle recalls



MaineDOT

Traffic Camera

LINK

Chemist Corner

MAINE CDC-DHHS:

HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL TESTING LABORATORY:

FORENSIC CHEMISTRY SECTION: TOXICOLOGY

Maine OUI/DUID 2024 Statistics-A Year in Review

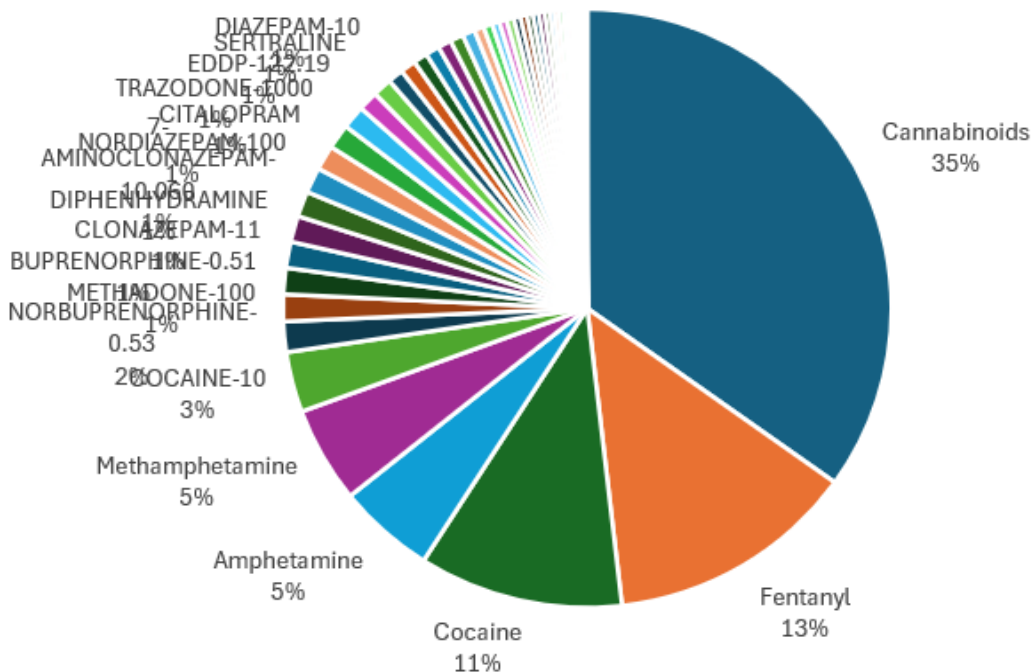
Top 5 Most Frequently Seen Drugs in Blood (metabolites included with parent drug)

Cannabinoids
Fentanyl
Cocaine
Amphetamine
Methamphetamine

OUI/DUID Blood Drug Cases Submitted to HETL

DRE Involved	63%
No DRE	37%

2024 BLOOD: OUI/DUID Drug Frequency



Chemist Corner

MAINE CDC-DHHS:

HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL TESTING LABORATORY:

FORENSIC CHEMISTRY SECTION: TOXICOLOGY

Maine OUI/DUID Statistics-A Year in Review

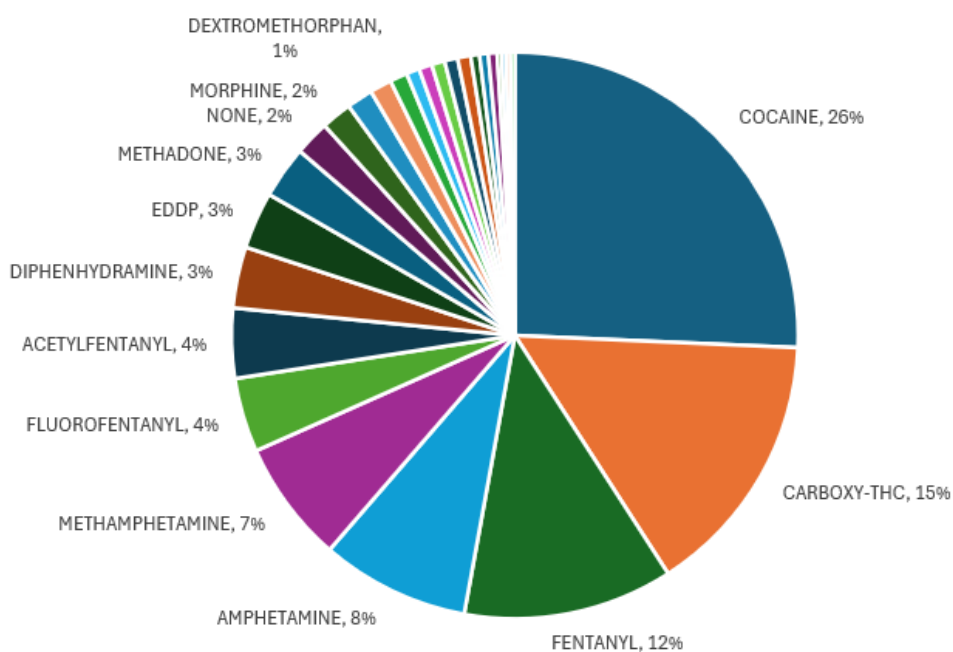
Top 5 Most Frequently Seen Drugs in urine (metabolites included with parent drug)

Cocaine
Carboxy-THC
Fentanyl
Amphetamine
Methamphetamine

OUI/DUID Urine Cases Submitted to HETL

DRE Involved	73%
No DRE	27%

2024 URINE: OUI/DUID Drug Frequency



The Bureau of Highway Safety *Coordinators*

UPDATES

FROM

Grant Funded Equipment

BHS have six used WatchGuard cruiser cameras systems that have been returned to us that are in need of a new home. We also have one used LI-DAR available as well. If you can use any of these, please contact Jeremy.Morin@Maine.gov.

Forensic Phlebotomy

The most current on call list of trained FP professionals can be found [HERE](#).

Next Forensic Phlebotomy class is scheduled for 10/6/25 thru 11/9/2025. In-person labs will be Nov. 12, 13, and 14.

For more information about the Forensic Phlebotomy program, please contact Kasey.Theriault@Maine.gov.

Maine BHS 2025 National Child Passenger Safety Certification Trainings



Training Date & Time: May 5–8, 2025 ~ 8:00AM-5:00PM Lunch provided!

Training Location: Educare Central Maine 56 Drummond Ave Waterville, ME 04901

Course ID Number: ME20250131180

Training Date & Time: June 23-26, 2025 ~ 8:00AM-5:00PM Lunch provided!

Training Location: Gorham Fire Department 270 Main Street Gorham, ME 04038

Course ID Number: ME20250131177

Training Date & Time: July 21-24, 2025 ~ 8:00AM-5:00PM Lunch provided!

Training Location: EMCC Rangeley Hall 268 Sylvan Road Bangor, ME 04401

Course ID Number: ME20250131178

Training Date & Time: August 19-22, 2025 ~ 8:00AM-5:00PM Lunch provided!

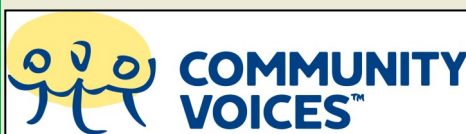
Training Location: Knox County EMA 301 Park Street Rockland, ME 04841

Course ID Number: ME20250131179

Certification Cost (Paid directly to Safe Kids Worldwide): \$95

To register for these trainings, please go to <https://cert.safekids.org/>

FMI: Maine Bureau of Highway Safety at 207-626-3840 or by email at erica.davis@maine.gov



A Local Approach to Improving Seat Belt Use

The Community Voices program is a grassroots initiative to increase seat belt use in rural Maine, specifically focusing on young men who drive pickup trucks. Recognizing that traditional safety messaging often fails to reach this audience, the pro-

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ME SADD

SADD Urges Teens To Make Choices That Get Them Home Safe This Prom Season

As prom season approaches, Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) is reminding students and their families to prioritize safety during this exciting time. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reports an increase in teen-related vehicular deaths on the weekends of prom and graduation season, with 1 in 3 teen-related vehicular deaths occurring in this annual period alone.

Please Return on Monday (PROM) is a peer development program designed to promote safe decision-making by teens before, during, and after their school's prom. Students are at risk of peer pressure to use drugs and alcohol. When mixed with late-night driving, the risk is far too great to ignore.

SADD urges parents and guardians to engage in open conversations with their teens about prom safety. Discuss expectations, encourage transparency, and emphasize the importance of making responsible choices

Tips for a Safe Prom Night:

1. **Plan Ahead:** Arrange transportation, and make sure you know your ride home is safe.
2. **Look Out for Friends:** If someone appears to be making risky decisions, step in and help.
3. **Know the Law:** Underage drinking, impaired driving, and other illegal activities can lead to serious consequences.

Use the Buddy System: Stay connected with your group throughout the night.

Click [here](#) to learn more about the Please Return on Monday toolkit.

Through a national network of peer-led chapters in middle schools, high schools, and colleges, SADD equips our students with the resources they need to advocate for change on their campuses and in their communities. Join the movement by visiting www.sadd.org.



(Community Voices continued from page 7)

gram is taking a community-driven approach to develop messages that resonate. Rather than relying on generic public service announcements, Community Voices works directly with residents, empowering them as the program's creative team to shape the campaign's messaging and determine the most effective media channels for outreach.

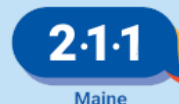
To ensure the campaign is tailored to the realities of rural Maine, program staff have been collaborating with groups and people that are not traditionally focused on road safety, including schools, universities, and community organizations. Focus group discussions with students, community leaders, and truck owners have provided valuable insights into behaviors, motivations, and barriers to seat belt use. These conversations are

(Continued on page 10)

Community Resource Page



Help Me Grow
Maine



A Solution to Help Young Children Shine



Help Me Grow is a central access point designed to connect families to information and services about child development and community resources.

In partnership with 211 Maine caregivers and providers can contact Help Me Grow for additional support. Help Me Grow will listen, link families to services, and provide follow-up to both caregivers and referral sources.

How It Works:

Eligibility

We are available at no cost to all Maine children, birth to eight, and their families/caregivers. Parents can also call for assistance during pregnancy.

Centralized Access Point

We assist caregivers and child health providers in connecting children to the grid of existing community and State resources that can help them thrive, through a "warm hand-off" from families to resources.

Resources

We help support a network of connected service providers, that can effectively serve families in Maine who have a variety of needs.

Developmental Screening

We promote working with families to recognize developmental milestones and utilize the Ages & Stages Questionnaires® (ASQ) to assess development. If concerns are identified in the screening process, we work with families to connect to early intervention professionals for further assessment.

Consider Referring A Family When:

- You are unsure what services a family might be eligible for, but know they need support.
- A family needs additional support navigating next steps in accessing resources (CDS, WIC, etc.).
- A screening needs to be completed, or family needs support completing an online ASQ®.



Scan QR Code to the right to learn more



Non-Discrimination Notice

The Department of Health and Human Services does not discriminate.

**CHOICES
MATTER.**



Hillari Morgan

Director of Youth Programs | CHOICES MATTER

- 207.356.5095
- hillari@alliance1MS.com
- www.choicesmatter.com
- 2525 Perimeter Place Dr. Suite 136 Nashville, TN 37214

About Maine

In partnership with the Maine Bureau of Highway Safety, Choices Matter is a life changing in-school program using personal stories and interactive materials to inspire students to make the right choices both behind the wheel and in life.

(AAA continued from page 2)

Night: An In-Depth Crash analysis and Three Case Studies and Examination of Cannabis Users' Perceptions and Self-Reported Behaviors to Inform Messaging to Deter Impaired Driving.

Pedestrian Fatalities on Urban Arterial Roads at Night: An In-Depth Crash Analysis and Three Case Studies



A new study from the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety looked at the factors contributing to the up-tick in pedestrian fatalities by examining real-world crashes, policies advancing pedestrian safety, and potential collaboration efforts to counter the trend growth. It found that the number of pedestrians killed on U.S. roads and streets has increased by more than 80% since reaching its modern-era low record since 2009 and, almost the entire increase in pedestrian deaths has occurred on urban arterial roads and after dark. To read the complete study click on the link.

[Pedestrian Fatalities on Urban Arterial Roads at Night: An In-Depth Crash Analysis and Three Case Studies - AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety](#)

Examination of Cannabis Users' Perceptions and Self-Reported Behaviors to Inform Messaging to Deter Impaired Driving



The AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety conducted two separate but complementary studies to 1) analyze cannabis consumers' thoughts, perceptions, and reasons for driving under the influence, 2) develop messages that might deter this behavior in the future, and 3) enhance public knowledge and safety around this form of impairment. Some key findings include: 44.1% said they consume cannabis multiple times per day, 57.8% indicated that they drive daily and 84.8% revealed that they drive the same day that they consume cannabis, with 53% saying they consumed an hour or less before driving. The study is included in this link;

[Examination of Cannabis Users' Perceptions and Self-Reported Behaviors to Inform Messaging to Deter Impaired Driving - AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety](#)

(Community Voices continued from page 8)

shaping a campaign that speaks directly to the target demographic in a relatable and impactful way.

The Community Voices seat belt campaign will launch this summer in Oxford and Hancock Counties and continue into the fall. By engaging community members as partners in message development, the program aims to create a lasting impact and shift seat belt habits among high-risk drivers and their passengers. Law enforcement agencies can play a crucial role in supporting and reinforcing these efforts, helping to amplify the message and encourage safe driving behavior throughout Maine.

Jeff Larason – Travelers Marketing





Bureau of Highway Safety *In the field*

On March 10, 2025, an Intoxilyzer Site Coordinator training was held at MCJA. Nearly two dozen members of our law enforcement community attended the training bolstering the Intoxilyzer program. The training team pictured here consisted of members of HETL, MCJA, and the Bureau of Highway Safety.

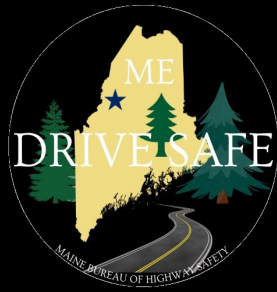
L to R: Heather Dyer, Jeremy Morin, Maria Pease, Patrick Hood, Josh Saucier, Ellen Fraser, James Willis, Katherine Kilgore, James Lyman.



As the weather continues to warm across the State, our roadside testing vehicle (RTV) will be ready for use! If your Agency could benefit from the deployment of this fully operational mobile breath testing vehicle, please contact Jeremy.Morin@Maine.gov.

We will be seeking interest from our Intoxilyzer Site Coordinators on a callout basis to manage the BTM in the truck to ensure all the technology is up and running to support RIDE teams across Maine. We are also seeking qualified RTV drivers who hold a Class B license and are in the State of Maine driving pool. Please direct all questions about deployment requests and support (driving and overseeing the BTM) to Jeremy Morin.





Bureau of Highway Safety *In the field*



On March 10, 2025, Highway Safety Coordinators Kasey Theriault and Tracy Johnson attended a safe driving event at Maine Maritime Academy in Castine.

The training was called Alert n' Alive, a program focused on staying vigilant behind the wheel to ensure everyone in the vehicle arrives safely each trip.

Students at MMA had the chance to use distracted/impaired driving simulators provided by the Bureau of Highway Safety.

Several partners in roadway safety were also part of the day and included representatives from Alliance, SADD, MEMIC, Maine Motorcycle Safety Program.

If your school or business would like more information on roadway safety, please reach out to Tracy.Johnson@maine.gov for more information.

