



## Resources

# ORAL FLUID FIELD SCREENING (OFFS) & ROADSIDE DRUG TESTING

Drug and polysubstance-impaired driving is a complex and growing problem that represents a critical public safety threat. For many years, officers have been able to utilize preliminary breath tests (PBTs) – field screening for breath alcohol – to supplement roadside investigations for alcohol-impaired driving. There is now scientific evidence to support a reliable technology to conduct similar roadside field screening for drugs.

The use of oral fluid screening roadside is a valuable tool available for law enforcement to strengthen drug-impaired driving investigations. Roadside drug testing programs have been implemented in many countries and an increasing number of states around the country moving forward with similar initiatives. The progress shown in states like Alabama, Arizona, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, and others has led to significant interest from law enforcement agencies, state highway safety offices (SHSOs), state forensic laboratories, and other DUID system stakeholders to implement programs in their own state or jurisdiction.

The following list offers a comprehensive collection of resources for agencies and leaders interested in moving forward with an oral fluid field screening (OFFS) program. Through this document, stakeholders have access to:

- **Scientific literature and reports supporting the use of oral fluid as a drug testing matrix for roadside screening and laboratory confirmation testing in DUID investigations.**
- **Toolkits, on-demand webinars, and new resources developed by the [National Alliance to Stop Impaired Driving \(NASID\)](#) that provide guidance on how to effectively implement and expand OFFS programs.**
- **Lessons learned and insights from states that have already implemented statewide pilots and programs along with access to program websites.**
- **Policy and legal resources that offer guidance for those who need to pursue legislative change to authorize oral fluid use or address legal policy concerns.**

# ORAL FLUID LITERATURE & IMPLEMENTATION RESOURCES

## Society of Forensic Toxicologists (SOFT)

### [Oral Fluid Literature](#)

Reference list of oral fluid studies compiled and updated by SOFT (with links). Includes general oral fluid studies, research focusing on specific drug categories (e.g., cannabinoids, cocaine, central nervous system depressants, opioids, etc.), and oral fluid screening devices.

### [Oral Fluid Testing FAQs \(2018\)](#)

Resource document developed by SOFT's Oral Fluid Committee that provides answers to 14 of the most commonly asked questions about oral fluid screening and confirmation testing in the context of impaired driving investigations. The document also includes a reference list of key oral fluid studies.

### [Oral Fluid Pilot Program Guidelines \(2020\)](#)

Guidelines developed by SOFT's Oral Fluid Committee to aid in the implementation of oral fluid field screening or laboratory oral fluid confirmation programs. The guidelines are developed for law enforcement, toxicologists, and other DUID system stakeholders who are interested in establishing either a roadside or evidential oral fluid initiative.

## AAA

### [Using Oral Fluid To Detect Drugged Drivers: A Toolkit \(2022\)](#)

A comprehensive toolkit designed to facilitate the implementation of an OFFS or oral fluid confirmation testing program. The toolkit is valuable for administrative and criminal justice stakeholders particularly law enforcement, prosecutors, and toxicologists who are interested in establishing an oral fluid program in their jurisdiction. The toolkit provides guidance and key considerations to each of the aforementioned stakeholders with sections focusing on setting up a roadside drug screening program, establishing laboratory oral fluid confirmation testing, and exploring the use of oral fluid in court when adjudicating DUID cases.

### [Use Of Oral Fluid To Detect Drugged Drivers Handout \(2024\)](#)

A supplemental resource to AAA's Oral Fluid Toolkit, this handout provides an overview of oral fluid screening vs. oral fluid confirmation testing and identifies where each fit within the DUID investigative process. It includes a map identifying which states currently authorize oral fluid use in statute (current as of Oct. 2023). The document also highlights the advantages of oral fluid use for detecting drugs and provides a reference list of important studies, key terms, and contacts.

# ORAL FLUID LITERATURE & IMPLEMENTATION RESOURCES

## National Sheriffs' Association (NSA)

### [Oral Fluid Roadside Screening: A Tool for Law Enforcement Webinar \(2024\)](#)

Recording of a webinar hosted by NSA in partnership with Responsibility.org and NASID. The webinar provides an overview of oral fluid screening and how it can be utilized at roadside to aid law enforcement officers in impaired driving investigations. In addition, lessons learned from states that have implemented roadside drug testing programs are shared with a spotlight on Indiana's statewide program and outcome data demonstrating how it has improved road safety. Presenters include Sheriff John Whetsel (ret.), Chuck DeWeese (NASID), Chris Kirby (IN LEL), and Lt. Casey Lehman (IN DRE).

## National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB)

### [Alcohol, Other Drug, and Multiple Drug Use among Drivers \(2022\)](#)

Safety research report created by NTSB that examines the crash risk associated with different drugs, including alcohol, and the prevalence of their use among drivers. The report focuses on countermeasures to reduce impairment-related crashes including oral fluid testing. The authors determine that oral fluid "is a valuable but underutilized biological specimen for the detection of drug use by drivers and can support the enforcement of impaired driving laws."

## Abbott Toxicology Comprehensive Webinar Series

### [Safer Roads Webinars](#)

On-demand library of Abbott educational webinars focused on road safety, drug-impaired driving, and roadside oral fluid field screening. These webinars and videos feature international experts and key opinion leaders who share insights on the complexities of drug and polysubstance-impaired driving, strategies to address the growing public safety threat posed by DUID, and how oral fluid testing can be part of the solution. Also spotlighted are lessons learned from roadside drug testing programs internationally and experiences and data from states including Alabama, Indiana, and Michigan.

# STATE PILOT REPORTS, STUDIES, & PROGRAM RESOURCES

## Alabama Department of Forensic Services (ADFS)

### [Toxicology Oral Fluid Drug Testing Program](#)

Overview of Alabama's oral fluid drug testing program which is the first in the U.S. to involve both oral fluid field screening and confirmation testing for evidentiary purposes. This document includes background on implementation, process, and approved devices. This ADFS webpage also includes links to other relevant resources.

## Journal of Analytical Toxicology

### [Implementation of the First Comprehensive State Oral Fluid Drug Testing Program for Roadside Screening and Laboratory Testing in Duid Cases: A 5-Year Review](#)

Study utilizing five years of data from Alabama's comprehensive oral fluid drug testing program which includes both roadside screening and laboratory oral fluid confirmation methods. The researchers found that "oral fluid is a viable alternative or supplemental specimen for DUID investigations and that collecting oral fluid close to the driving event increase the opportunity to identify pharmacologically active substances."

## Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI)

### [Roadside Oral Fluid Program](#)

Overview of Indiana's roadside oral fluid screening program that is administered by ICJI's Traffic Safety Division. The program was launched in December 2020, and the webpage includes links to the program launch release and a list of participating law enforcement agencies. As of 2024, Indiana has the largest roadside oral fluid program in the country and has established the benchmark for program implementation and expansion.

## Police Chief Magazine

### [One State's Experience with Oral Fluid Testing](#)

Article written by Matt Kling, a DRE with the Angola Police Department in Indiana and published in Police Chief Magazine. Kling provides a substantive discussion of Indiana's experience implementing and expanding the country's largest roadside oral fluid program. Additionally, he highlights program outcome measures now that more than 3,000 oral fluid screening tests have been conducted since the inception of the program. Since the program began in late 2020, the number of DRE evaluations has increased, the number of blood samples sent to the state lab for drug analysis has increased significantly, and more DUID arrests are being made. The article concludes that "roadside oral fluid testing is an important tool in Indiana's continued efforts to enhance enforcement effectiveness and reduce impaired driving crash fatalities."

# STATE PILOT REPORTS, STUDIES, & PROGRAM RESOURCES

## Michigan State Police (MSP)

### **Oral Fluid Roadside Analysis Pilot Program**

The passage of Michigan's Swift Law led to the establishment of a landmark five-county oral fluid pilot program in 2016. The law authorized the Michigan State Police to promulgate administrative rules, develop policy, and implement a pilot program.

#### **[Phase I Pilot Report \(2019\)](#)**

Phase I of the pilot commenced in November 2017 and ran for a 12-month period. This initial program produced promising data and led the Michigan Legislature to support the expansion of the pilot statewide.

#### **[Phase II Pilot Report \(2021\)](#)**

Phase II of the pilot ran from October 2019 to September 2020 and involved 65 participating law enforcement agencies, making it the largest U.S. oral fluid pilot to date. In the Phase II report released in early 2021, MSP analyzed the statewide pilot data and determined that "oral fluid testing has been found to be accurate for purposes of preliminary roadside testing."

## Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene, Forensic Toxicology Section

### **Dane County Oral Fluid Pilot Studies**

#### **[Drugged Driving in Wisconsin: Oral Fluid Vs. Blood \(2017\)](#)**

Toxicologists in Wisconsin partnered with law enforcement agencies in Dane County to conduct a two-phase pilot study to evaluate the use of oral fluid screening. The objectives of the project were to evaluate devices in the field, identify the frequency of individuals testing positive for drugs and a combination of alcohol and drugs in OWI cases, examine the differences between detecting drugs in oral fluid and in blood, and to determine the effect of the laboratory drug testing cancellation policy (stop testing protocols) that prohibits testing for drugs in samples where the BAC exceeds 0.10.

#### **[Summary of Dane County Roadside Oral Fluid Project: Phase I and II Findings \(2023\)](#)**

The summary white paper includes results from both phases which provide insight into the size of the polysubstance-impaired driving problem and concludes that oral fluid screening is a useful tool for identifying drivers under the influence of drugs. The next step for Wisconsin is to use the pilot data to pursue legislative change to authorize OFFS and expand the pilot to a statewide roadside drug testing program.

# POLICY & LEGAL RESOURCES

## National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB)

### [State Oral Fluid Safety Recommendation](#)

Recommendation issued by the NTSB for states to “modify your impaired driving laws to allow for oral fluid collection, screening, and testing for the detection of drug use by drivers.” The document includes letters issued to states and tracks responses regarding their plans to follow through on implementing the recommendation.

## National Traffic Law Center (NTLC)

### [Use of Oral Fluid to Detect Drugged Drivers, Between the Lines, 28\(10\), \(October 2020\)](#)

Article written by the author’s of AAA’s Oral Fluid Toolkit that serves as a condensed summary of key points contained within the larger guide. The article is written for prosecutors and discusses the use of oral fluid in both screening and confirmation capacities and highlights how this testing matrix offers numerous benefits to DUID investigations and the adjudication of these cases. The article concludes with legal analysis of how oral fluid results are likely to be handled in court based on existing impaired driving case law.

## Police Chief Magazine

### [Oral Fluid Testing for Impaired Driving Enforcement, Flannigan, Talpins, & Moore, January 2017, 58-63](#)

Article provides an in-depth analysis of the current impaired driving investigation process and highlights current limitations of blood and urine testing. This study recommends exploring the use of oral fluid testing and identifies key considerations for implementation. The authors provide analysis of legal issues including admissibility and whether oral fluid collection is likely to be subject to a warrant requirement or be classified as a search incident to arrest like breath tests.

## National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)

### [States Explore Oral Fluid Testing to Combat Impaired Driving \(2021\)](#)

Overview of oral fluid screening designed to educate policymakers about the drug-impaired driving problem and how roadside oral fluid testing can be a potential solution. This article provides an overview of recent state activities.

**Disclaimer: These materials are being provided for informational purposes only and do not represent legal guidance. NASID and its members do not accept any responsibility for reliance on these materials and encourage everyone to conduct their own research and diligence.**

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## Acknowledgements

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### **About Responsibility.org**

Responsibility.org is a national not-for-profit that aims to eliminate drunk driving and work with others to end all impaired driving, eliminate underage drinking, and empower adults to make a lifetime of responsible alcohol choices. Responsibility.org is funded by the following distillers: Bacardi USA, Inc.; Brown-Forman; Campari Group; Constellation Brands; DIAGEO; Edrington, Hotaling & Co.; Mast-Jägermeister US, Inc.; Moët Hennessy USA; Ole Smoky, LLC; Pernod Ricard USA; Suntory Global Spirits; and William Grant & Sons. For more than 30 years, Responsibility.org has transformed countless lives through programs that bring individuals, families, and communities together to inspire a lifetime of responsible alcohol choices. To learn more, please visit [www.Responsibility.org](http://www.Responsibility.org).

### **About NASID**

The National Alliance to Stop Impaired Driving is a coalition established and led by Responsibility.org to eliminate all forms of impaired driving, especially multiple substance impaired driving, through effective and proven measures such as DUI system reform, DUI detection, and improved use of data and technology. To learn more visit [NASID.org](http://NASID.org).