

# ***Law Enforcement Assistance Fund Annual Report***

## **2001**



***Transportation Safety and  
Traffic Engineering Branch***

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**Drinking And Driving? . . .**



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

After several years in decline, alcohol-related traffic deaths in Colorado increased over 9 percent in 2000 compared to 1999. In 2000, 209 people died in alcohol related traffic crashes compared to 193 during 1999. In the first nine months of 2001, 186 people died in alcohol related traffic crashes. This increase repeats what is happening nationally, as alcohol-related deaths rose nationwide in 2000 for the first time in five years.

During 2000, drivers in the 35-44 year-old age group were involved in more than 30 percent of the alcohol-related traffic deaths in which the driver's blood alcohol level was .05 or greater. Drivers in the 21 to 24 year-old age group were involved in nearly 18 percent of the deadly crashes, yet they comprised only 8 percent of all drivers. Underage drinking was also a problem in 2000. Drivers under age 21 were involved in nearly 13 percent of the alcohol-related fatal traffic crashes in 2000. (Statistics for 2000 are the latest available for ages of drivers involved in alcohol-related traffic crashes in Colorado.)

Alcohol-related traffic fatalities reached a record high in Colorado in 1981 when 425 people died in such crashes. In 2000, alcohol-related traffic crashes claimed 209 lives. Since 1981, vehicle miles traveled in Colorado increased 85 percent, from 22.3 billion miles in 1981 to 41.5 billion in 2000. If alcohol-related traffic deaths had increased at the same rate, over 785 people would have died as a result of drunken driving in 2000.

Responding to a surge in summertime drunken driving fatalities during 1995, the Colorado Department of Transportation's LEAF program and the Public Information Office and the Colorado State Patrol launched "The Heat Is On!" campaign. The campaign started with a coordinated strike against intoxicated drivers just prior to the 1996 July Fourth Holiday weekend. Now, completing its sixth year, the campaign is planned through 2002. The results are encouraging. Since the campaign began in July 1996, DUI arrests have increased 29 percent and alcohol-related traffic deaths have decreased 20 percent.

*The purpose of this report is to comply with C.R.S. 43-4-404 which states in part: "The Office of Transportation Safety shall report annually to the general assembly on the distribution and expenditure of these funds and the nature and purpose of the programs".*

# BACKGROUND

Major changes in Colorado's DUI laws took place during the 1982 and 1983 legislative sessions. Amendments to Section 42-4-1202, Colorado Revised Statutes, authorized LEAF and required anyone convicted of an alcohol or drug related traffic offense to pay \$65 into a fund to help local law enforcement trying to increase DUI arrests while also increasing public awareness of the problems created by impaired drivers. Senate Bill 190, passed during the 1990 session, increased the LEAF fee to \$90 which provided funding to the Department of Health for laboratory services and implied consent specialists. These costs were previously paid out of the Highway Users Trust Fund.

The establishment of LEAF by the Colorado Legislature clearly showed the lawmakers' commitment to reducing the problem of impaired driving. The manner in which the monies were to be allocated to local political subdivisions was thoroughly debated by the committees of reference in both the House and Senate. Formula allocations based on population or other mathematical means were considered but not adopted.

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) was assigned responsibility for allocating money toward improving law enforcement program efforts at the city and county level. Eighty percent of the monies in the fund are appropriated by the General Assembly to CDOT to accomplish this task each year. A minimum of 30 percent and a maximum of 50 percent of these funds are allocated to counties. Conversely, a minimum of 50 percent and a maximum of 70 percent are allocated to cities. State statute requires these funds be used for drunken driving prevention and law enforcement improvement by cities and counties. The remaining 20 percent of LEAF monies are appropriated to the Department of Human Services, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division (ADAD). Both CDOT and ADAD may use up to eight percent of the money allocated to them for administering their respective LEAF programs.

LEAF was patterned after a pilot project initiated by CDOT with federal funding support from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and conducted in Fort Collins. The two-year project, from October 1977 through September 1979, focused on increasing DUI arrest and conviction rates, reducing processing time, funding one full time officer and providing DUI enforcement training to all of their peace officers.

The stated intent of the Colorado General Assembly is that LEAF monies be "expended in a manner which will improve enforcement of drunken driving laws," as well as increasing prevention efforts concerning the problems created by drinking drivers. The enabling legislation required CDOT to establish and promulgate rules and regulations and to determine minimum requirements for qualified programs.

Copies of the Rules and Regulations may be obtained from CDOT or visit our web site at <http://www.dot.state.co.us/public/transportationsafety>.

## The Heat Is On! Campaign

Thanks to participating law enforcement agencies and sponsors, the "Heat is On!" DUI enforcement campaign was extraordinarily successful. The campaign ran over 6 holiday weekends throughout the year, as well as for "Heat Wave Weekend" in August, and Office Party weekend in December. During that time, enforcement agencies targeted certain weekends with large, multi-agency saturation patrols, sobriety checkpoints and increased patrols, resulting in 3590 DUI arrests. The campaign targeted various holiday weekends, but is specifically increased during the summer. Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) research reveals that since 1995, most alcohol-related traffic deaths occur in the period beginning with Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day Weekend. Throughout the year, CDOT and law enforcement representatives conducted news conferences, media tours and media events. On selected enforcement weekends, law enforcement agencies reported statistics from their saturation patrols and checkpoints to CDOT. CDOT, in turn, released the information to media outlets statewide.

The campaign worked! Statistics given to the media during the "Heat is On!" campaign and regional campaign events resulted in numerous television stories, newspapers articles and radio interviews. "Heat is On!" became a recognizable force against drunken driving.

In 1995, the year prior to the launching of the "Heat is On!" campaign, alcohol-related traffic accidents claimed 141 lives during the months of May through September. In 2001, 120 lives were lost during the same period to alcohol-related traffic accidents. This represents a reduction of over 15%. Overall, since the program began in 1996, statewide DUI arrests are up 20.5%, from 28,760 in 1995 to 36,135 in 2000. More importantly, alcohol-related traffic fatalities are down nearly 21%, from 262 in 1995, to 209 in 2000.



# LABORATORY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

LEAF monies fund the Certification Program in the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Laboratory and Radiation Services (LARS) Division. Governing statutes empower the Colorado Board of Health to enact Rules and Regulations administered by the Certification Program. This rule establishes the minimum standards for the certification and approval of entities and processes utilized for alcohol and drug testing of suspected impaired drivers.

The Department is responsible for:

- ❖ Approval and certification of Evidential Breath Alcohol Test (EBAT) devices;
- ❖ Training and certifying EBAT Operators and Operator Instructors;
- ❖ Maintaining a centralized repair facility for EBAT devices and equipment;
- ❖ Establish standards of performance and certification of public and private laboratories;
- ❖ Providing certified records and documents to legal community.

2001 LEAF Supported Activities:

- Certification of 167 EBAT devices
- Performed repair and maintenance of 167 EBAT devices and 350 Simulators
- Approved 145 EBAT facilities
- Conducted 25 training classes to certify 173 EBAT Operator-Instructors and 126 Operator-Instructors re-certified by written examination
- Provided materials for 247 Operator training classes certifying 2,687 Operators
- Prepared and distributed 2000 units of certified EBAT standard solutions
- Certified fourteen laboratories
- Provided proficiency test samples to certified laboratories
- Prepared delayed breath alcohol standards for certified laboratories
- Processed 1,701 subpoenas
- Provided certified documents for 636 DUI cases
- Provided technical assistance, expert court testimony, to law enforcement and legal community

Individuals arrested for impaired driving are offered a chemical test of their blood or breath to determine the alcohol content. The majority of individuals elect a breath alcohol test. Evidential Breath Alcohol Testing is accomplished by using the Intoxilyzer Model 5000 64 Series or the newer Intoxilyzer Model 5000 Enhanced called the 5000EN. The 5000EN uses design advancements and additional electronic technology for the analysis of breath to measure breath alcohol concentration. The 5000EN will also allow for a computerized central data management system to collect, summarize and compile reports on DUI arrests for program effectiveness and efficiency.

During 2001 the Certification Program completed a Highway Safety Grant with the Colorado Department of Transportation, Office of Transportation Safety. The funding from this Highway Safety Grant enabled the Alcohol Test Unit to purchase and place 40 evidential Intoxilyzer breath alcohol-testing devices at law enforcement agencies throughout the state for Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol/Drugs (DUI/D) enforcement. The grant was accomplished with the cooperation of law enforcement agencies providing 25% in matching funds to acquire the newer Intoxilyzer 5000 Enhanced model.

As part of the grant, the Certification Program also provided training for 72 law enforcement officers to become certified Operator/ Instructors who returned to their respective agencies to train and certify 297 Intoxilyzer Operators to perform breath alcohol tests on the newer instrumentation. In addition, 10 Intoxilyzers were purchased as “loaners” to be used when field units require maintenance, repair or certification.

During 2001 83 Intoxilyzer 5000EN units were placed into field service, for a total 140 locations since 1998 when the unit was first approved. Currently, All Law enforcement agencies are expected to transition to the newer Intoxilyzer 5000EN by July 2002.

### ***TOXICOLOGY LABORATORY***

LEAF monies partially fund activities of toxicology scientists. The laboratory provides analyses of blood specimens for alcohol content and urine specimens for drug content of suspected impaired drivers. Staff supports these analytical results in courts of law when needed. Education and training are provided to the legal and law enforcement communities of Colorado regularly.

#### 2001 LEAF Supported Toxicology Activities

- 4,486 blood specimens were analyzed for alcohol content
- 5,122 urine specimens were analyzed for drug content
- Performed quality control analyses for alcohol and blood standard solutions provided by the Certification Program
- Participated in the College of American Pathologist Urine Drug Testing Proficiencies and Blood Alcohol Proficiencies
- Provided legal records for 274 DUI and DUID cases
- Provided legal testimony in 8 DUI and DUID cases
- Provided routine consultation to law enforcement and the legal community regarding analytical testing performed
- Attended The Seventh IACP DRE Training Conference on Drugs, Alcohol and Impaired Driving

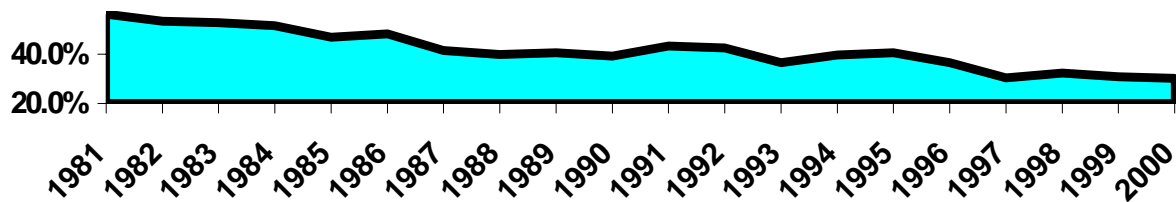


# LEAF IMPACT

In most LEAF communities DUI arrest rates have increased, some dramatically; DUI arrests made by Federal Heights PD increased by 31%, Jefferson County SO by 35% and Boulder PD raised DUI arrests by 15% in 2001. In a few of the other communities, arrests decreased because of the saturation effect of several years of intense DUI enforcement efforts. Logic indicates this increased level of DUI enforcement has achieved its goal of reducing the number of instances where people drive after drinking. This is further substantiated by the fact alcohol related fatal traffic crashes have decreased substantially since 1981.

## Alcohol Related Fatal Crashes as a percentage to the total

*Colorado*



Alcohol related traffic fatalities reached a record high in Colorado in 1981 when 425 people died in such crashes. In 2000, alcohol related traffic crashes claimed 209 lives. The LEAF program has played an important role in preventing these deaths by removing impaired drivers before a crash occurs.



## DUI ARRESTS OVER THE YEARS

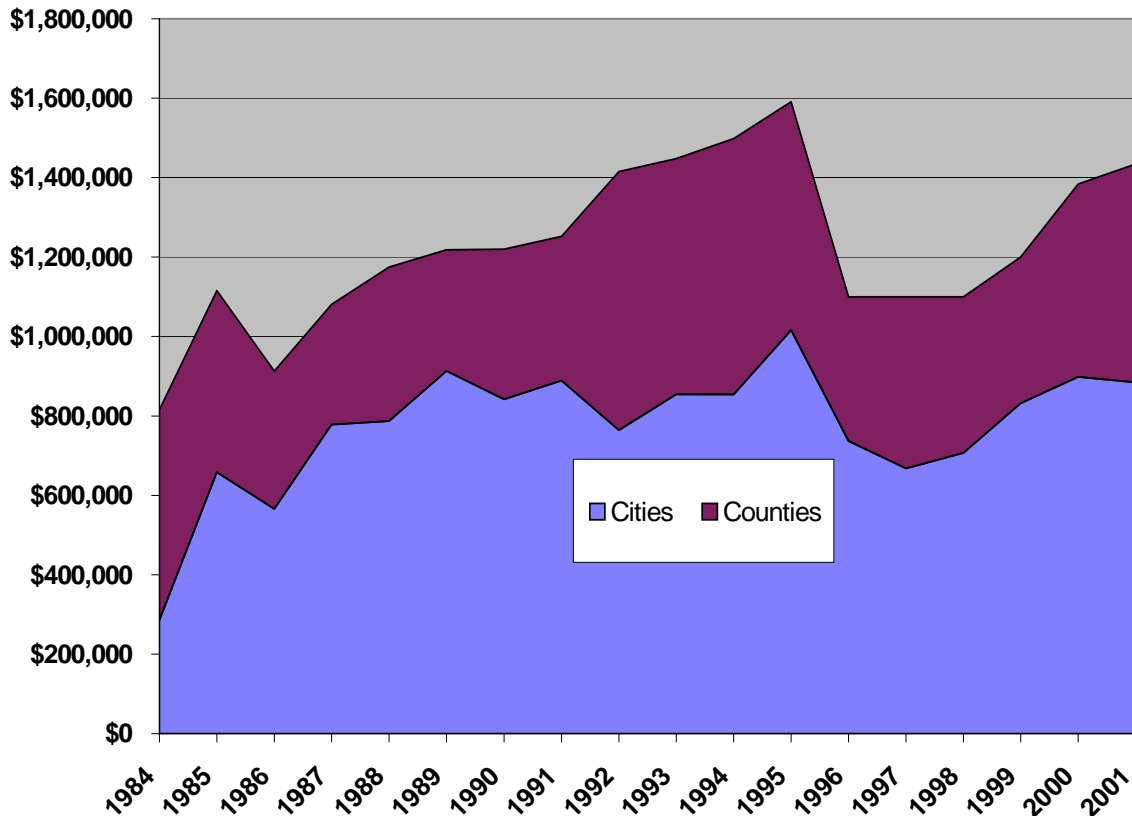
During 2000, LEAF agencies comprised only 22 percent of all law enforcement agencies in the state, but they made just over 60% of all the Colorado DUI arrests. Consistent enforcement of Colorado's laws and strong public awareness will be needed to keep the gains that have been made in reducing these deaths.

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>STATEWIDE</b>	<b>LEAF</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE</b>
<b>1983</b>	37,618	5,833	15*
<b>1984</b>	38,830	14,128	36
<b>1985</b>	42,330	19,089	45
<b>1986</b>	34,202	17,354	51
<b>1987</b>	35,429	14,038	40
<b>1988</b>	31,820	17,253	54
<b>1989</b>	38,579	22,801	59
<b>1990</b>	39,988	20,752	52
<b>1991</b>	37,557	19,632	52
<b>1992</b>	37,824	17,334	46
<b>1993</b>	37,550	25,203	66
<b>1994</b>	33,475	20,291	61
<b>1995</b>	28,760	19,476	67
<b>1996</b>	36,398	16,293	45
<b>1997</b>	36,726	16,737	46
<b>1998</b>	37,237	20,429	55
<b>1999</b>	36,676	19,512	53
<b>2000</b>	36,135	21,714	60
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>657,134</b>	<b>327,869</b>	<b>49%</b>

- 2001 statewide totals unavailable at time of report
- 2001 LEAF arrests were 20,651, 4th highest ever)
- LEAF started on July 1, 1983

# THE LEAF BUDGET

Collection of revenues for the Fund began July 1, 1982. Other activities beginning on July 1 included the promulgation of rules and regulations, designing the contract management manual, soliciting communities to participate in the program and evaluating applications. Also during this time, revenue trends were established in order to set realistic funding levels for the program. The first funds for LEAF activities were obligated in May 1983. They covered activities for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1984. During the first year of LEAF operations, 28 cities and counties were funded. In its second year, 44 projects were funded for the year January 1 through December 31, 1984. Subsequent LEAF projects have remained on the calendar year basis as opposed to state fiscal year budget schedules. LEAF procedures were



designed to accommodate the calendar year budget cycle of cities and counties. Since the inception of LEAF, projects (106 cities and counties) have been awarded totaling \$22,030,372. During calendar year 2001 \$1,434,250 was awarded for 36 city and 17 county LEAF projects. The majority of the money (89 percent) was used to pay for DUI officer's salary and overtime DUI enforcement. Capital equipment purchases include DUI vehicles and breathtesting instruments, where needed. Operating funds purchased supplies, blood testing kits and vehicle maintenance for DUI cars. Travel funds supported court appearances and training seminars.

# SELECTION PROCESS

Successful applications for LEAF funds provide a solution to identified problems. It is strongly urged attention be given to the achievement of measurable accomplishments resulting from LEAF projects. In other words, how will the impaired driver be affected and what reduction in alcohol and drug related crashes can be expected.

Proposals are reviewed by CDOT in the following areas:

1. How does the project propose to increase and improve the enforcement of the laws pertaining to alcohol and drug related traffic offenses?
2. How does the project propose to increase prevention efforts concerning problems created by impaired drivers and to emphasize the consequences resulting from arrest and conviction of alcohol and drug related traffic offenses?
3. How does the project propose to coordinate the efforts of a municipal, county, or city and county within their own jurisdictions and with other jurisdictions in establishing and administering a qualified program?
4. How does the project propose to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the administrative systems which support drinking driving countermeasures programs?

The objective for each LEAF project is:

***TO INCREASE AND IMPROVE THE ENFORCEMENT  
OF LAWS PERTAINING TO ALCOHOL AND DRUG  
RELATED TRAFFIC OFFENSES.***

Some of the major tasks include:

- 1) increase DUI enforcement;
- 2) increase coordination of efforts among law enforcement agencies;
- 3) assign officers to special DUI responsibilities;
- 4) designate a patrol vehicle for DUI enforcement;
- 5) increase DUI arrest rates; and
- 6) train officers in DUI detection and apprehension.

(LEAF Rules and Regulations, guidelines and application forms are available on our web site at <http://www.dot.state.co.us/public/transportationsafety> or you call us at 303 757-9462.)

## DOLLARS OBLIGATED FOR 2001 LEAF PROJECTS

ADAMS COUNTY	25,000
ARAPAHOE COUNTY	24,500
AURORA	25,000
BENT COUNTY	25,000
BLACKHAWK	21,000
BOULDER	41,000
BOULDER COUNTY	41,000
BRUSH	10,100
BRIGHTON	25,000
BUENA VISTA	20,000
CENTER	17,200
CENTRAL CITY	21,000
CHAFEE COUNTY	13,500
CLEAR CREEK	16,500
COLORADO SPRINGS	62,200
COMMERCE CITY	26,600
CONEJOS COUNTY	6000
CRESTED BUTTE	17,000
DOUGLAS COUNTY	37,000
DURANGO	31,000
EAGLE COUNTY	41,000
EDGEWATER	19,000
EL PASO COUNTY	45,000
ERIE	14,000
FEDERAL HEIGHTS	21,000
FORT COLLINS	40,000
FORT LUPTON	28,000
FORT MORGAN	13,200
FRUITA	24,400
GLENWOOD SPRINGS	54,100
GRAND COUNTY	25,500
GREELEY	46,000
GREENWOOD VILLAGE	41,000
JEFFERSON COUNTY	41,000
LAFAYETTE	23,500
LAMAR	11,000
LARIMER COUNTY	18,650
LITTLETON	28,880
MESA COUNTY	38,850
MONTE VISTA	18,600
MONTEZUMA COUNTY	32,900
MORGAN COUNTY	18,000
PARKER	31,000
PUEBLO COUNTY	57,500
SHERIDAN	26,100

## 2001 LEAF Grants Continued

SNOWMASS VILLAGE	19,300
SUMMIT COUNTY	31,000
TELLER COUNTY	28,500
TELLURIDE	15,600
VAIL	18,500
WINDSOR	16,500
WOODLAND PARK	32,700
YUMA	8370
<b>Total 2001 LEAF Grants</b>	<b>\$1,434,250</b>



**Drinking And Driving? . . .**



## CONCLUSION

Because of the work done by LEAF agencies, this report contains encouraging information, but the drunk and drugged driving campaign is far from over. In the long run, in addition to LEAF efforts, substantial improvement of our DUI system can best be attained by enhanced public education and awareness of the dangers of impaired driving and the laws that exist to deter and control the loss of life and property which result from this problem. For the most part, the laws which have made a difference in saving lives are in place. The most difficult need remains unfulfilled, however; that is to change behavior patterns and societal attitudes associated with driving after drinking.

LEAF operations around the state have experienced a high visibility in the media, creating an increased perception of risk that drinking drivers will not go undetected. This higher perception of risk translates directly into deterring the impaired driver. Additionally, the presence of police vehicles which are clearly marked "DUI ENFORCEMENT" further strengthens this perception of risk. This occurs whenever the vehicle is in public view whether or not the vehicle is in service.

***The Heat Is On!*** campaign has promoted coordinated patrols and sobriety checkpoints by municipal police agencies, county sheriffs and the Colorado State Patrol. This kind of cooperation has been rare in the past and may lead to improved coordination in the future for other areas of law enforcement. Notable examples of this cooperative effort can be found in Ft. Collins, Larimer County, Adams County, Boulder and Aurora.

Some LEAF agencies have reported the presence of DUI enforcement activity has, in their judgment, had a beneficial effect of reducing other types of crime such as burglary and vagrancy. This is an unforeseen advantage of LEAF.

We have found 36 months is usually not a sufficient time in which to establish a meaningful level of operation or to continue DUI countermeasures when LEAF funding ends. Ideally, a four to five year funding cycle would allow more time in which to integrate a DUI countermeasure program into agency operations. However, LEAF budget constraints prevent this approach. If it were not for LEAF, we believe some communities would have little DUI enforcement due to lack of resources. If these monies are curtailed, many local police and sheriff agencies say they do not have the money to continue the coverage that they have under LEAF.

