



# Research In Progress

## Examine Breath Test Refusals and a Warrant Program in North Carolina Counties

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The objectives of this project were to: 1) Assist local law enforcement agencies and prosecutors in several counties to implement a procedure to obtain warrants for blood samples on suspected DWI offenders who refuse to provide a breath test; 2) Determine the effectiveness of the warrant and blood draw procedure in those counties.

As the study has progressed, some of the original counties dropped out, and program implementation was not as strong as had been planned. Data was collected on the number of refusals and number of obtained BACs, and was compared between implementation counties and comparison counties. Interviews were conducted with officers, prosecutors, judges, etc. to learn their impressions of the warrant/blood draw program and to document issues that may have occurred.

As a separate task, we conducted case studies in four states that use warrants for blood draws when drivers refuse a breath test. Interviews with officers, prosecutors, judges, etc. were conducted in Arizona, Utah, Michigan, and Oregon. The resulting information can be found in the final report: *Use of Warrants for Breath Refusals: Case Studies* (2007) which can be found on NHTSA's website at [www.Nhtsa.dot.gov](http://www.Nhtsa.dot.gov). The information was also incorporated into NHTSA's *Refusal of Intoxication Testing: A Report to Congress* (2008), which can also be found on NHTSA's website.

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