

VIRGIN ISLANDS OFFICE OF HIGHWAY SAFETY

2012 ANNUAL REPORT

The Virgin Islands Office of Highway Safety (VIOHS) is a division within the Virgin Islands Police Department and is mandated by the Virgin Islands Highway Safety Act of 1966 to assist in the reduction of crashes throughout the territory through its management programs, enforcement initiatives in conjunction with the Virgin Islands Police Department (VIPD) and educational and out-reach programs of non-profit sub-grantees.

Through the US Department of Transportation/National Highway Safety Administration Agency, the territory is appropriated funds to enable the programs and initiatives to exist. The VIOHS is charged with the responsibility of management of the federal highway safety funds (402, 405, 406, and 408), local funds (non-matching), and the distribution of funds to sub-grantee agencies.

During the fiscal year 2012, a total of \$3,957,101 was available to VIOHS. Of this amount, \$2,796,290 was funds carried forward from the previous fiscal years. The territory expended \$453,359 (See Table 1).

Table 1

Grant Program	Carry Forward	2012 Award	Total Funding Available for FY 2012	Expended	Remaining Balance
402	\$ 814,492.00	\$ 587,175.00	\$ 1,401,667.00	\$ 188,869.00	\$ 1,212,798.00
405	\$ 60,727.00	\$ 73,636.00	\$ 134,363.00	\$ 134,363.00	\$ -
406	\$ 174,659.00	\$ -	\$ 174,659.00	\$ -	\$ 174,659.00
408	\$ 1,746,411.00	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 2,246,411.00	\$ 130,127.00	\$ 2,116,284.00
Total	\$ 2,796,289.00	\$ 1,160,811.00	\$ 3,957,100.00	\$ 453,359.00	\$ 3,503,741.00

The VIOHS was able to conduct some activities in Sections 402, 405 and 408 areas. However, most of the cost incurred were related to salaries for the program coordinators, annual seat belt survey and youth alcohol activities.

The activities related to Alcohol Safety Program Management, Planning and Administration, Occupant Protection, Youth Alcohol and Traffic Records are listed below.

Project Title/Program Area: Alcohol Safety Program Management

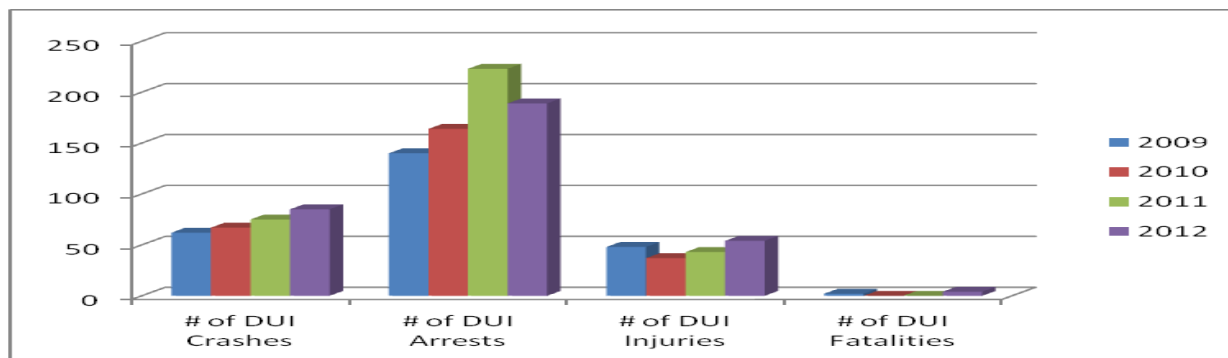
Funding Source(s): Section 402

OVERALL PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND/OR PROBLEM STATEMENT:

The United States Virgin Islands is experiencing problems with motorists that continue to drink and drive. Unfortunately, these motorists tend to comply with the law only when there are campaigns on Driving While Impaired (DWI), and during public educational awareness initiatives. Based on the 2009 to 2012 statistics (see table below), concerns are raised continuously by the Virgin Islands communities in regards to alcohol-related crashes, arrests, injuries and fatalities.

Table - Alcohol-Related Crashes /Arrests/Injuries/Fatalities

	2009	2010	2011	2012
# of DUI Crashes	62	67	75	85
# of DUI Arrests	140	164	223	189
# of DUI Injuries	48	37	43	54
# of DUI Fatalities	2	0	0	4



The Alcohol Safety Program was implemented for the main purpose of disseminating information and educating the public about the dangers of drinking and driving; to conduct presentations to various groups such as high-school students, pregnant and breastfeeding mothers in relations to Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS); and to collaborate on other alcohol prevention projects with non-profit community organizations such as the Division of Mental Health, Alcoholism and Drug Dependency and Prevention Services; St. Croix Unity Coalition, Inc; St. Croix Mission Outreach, Inc.; and Seventh Day Adventist Church – Hope. The program also planned on distributing information on the dangers of drunk driving through booklets and brochures. The program also planned to incorporate quarterly reviews and monitoring of all alcohol projects to ensure that the sub-grantees were following through with their implementation plans. The monitoring aspect of the program was to ensure that any initiative which targets the prevention and intervention of drunk driving was conducted in accordance with the rules and regulations of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES:

- Objective 1:** a) Conduct ten (10) quarterly on-site monitoring by the end of FY2012.
b) Evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of the Alcohol projects.
c) Report the findings.
- Objective 2:** a) Conduct at least seven (7) impaired driving prevention presentations to High Schools on St. Croix and on St. Thomas during Alcohol Awareness Month - April 2012.
b) Conduct year-round Public Information and Education within the Territory through National Mobilization Campaigns and other local events and activities for FY 2012.
- Objective 3:** Advise sub-grantee project managers on policies and procedures concerning their projects costs that are allowable and non-allowable during FY 2012.

OVERALL RESULTS TO DATE:

- Objective 1:** This objective has been accomplished at twenty (20) percent. Attempts were made by the coordinator to conduct other onsite monitoring. However, due to a majority of the project manager's focus on the fulfillment of compliance with the VI Police department Consent Decree, the remaining monitoring visits were postponed.

Objective 2: Public Information and Education campaigns have increased 100 percent in creating more public awareness on the dangers and consequences of drunk driving and underage drinking.

The Police Commissioner and the Virgin Islands Police Department's Public Information Officer collaborated with the Alcohol Safety Coordinator in meeting this objective. All conferences and events were carried out as scheduled and with great achievements. As a result, the general public adhered to the messages and precautions of traffic safety.

Objective 3: This objective was partially met as the coordinator was able to provide assistance via telephone has been met at 50 percent. The Alcohol Safety Coordinator provided assistance via telephone communication to the project.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Public Information and Education campaigns have increased 100 percent in creating more public awareness on the dangers and consequences of drunk driving and underage drinking especially in the high schools. The survey samples and the results are attached at the end of the Alcohol Safety Program Management section of this report.

Other accomplishments include:

- ✓ National Drunk and Drugged Driving (3D) month – December 16, 2011 to January 2, 2012.
- ✓ Public Information and Education campaigns were conducted to create public awareness on the dangers and consequences of drunk driving and underage drinking.
- ✓ On-site monitoring of the St. Croix Unity Coalition Inc.'s Youth Project

CHALLENGES TO DATE:

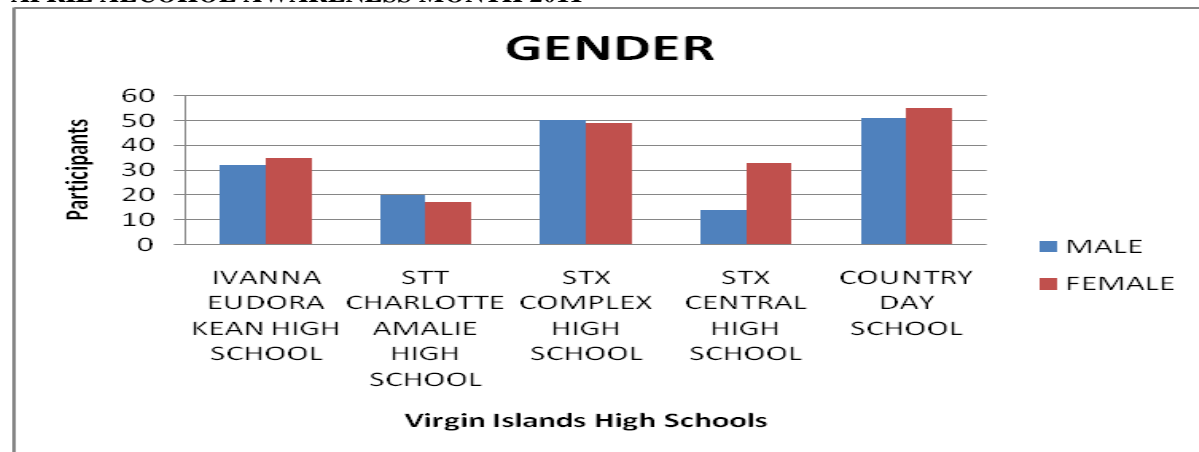
Previously, the VIOHS was allowed to award funds to sub-grantees at its discretion. However, this method was changed by the regional office. Therefore, delays were encountered in the review of sub-grants and the approval process.

The posting the budgets of approved projects onto the local ERP system was also delayed. The limitations of available funding greatly hampered the implementation plans of the non-profit sub-grantee and the traffic commanders. Although two (2) new sub-grantees were awarded funds for their projects, their funding was not entered onto the local government ERP system due to time and personnel constraints.

RESULTS OF PRESENTATION SURVEY

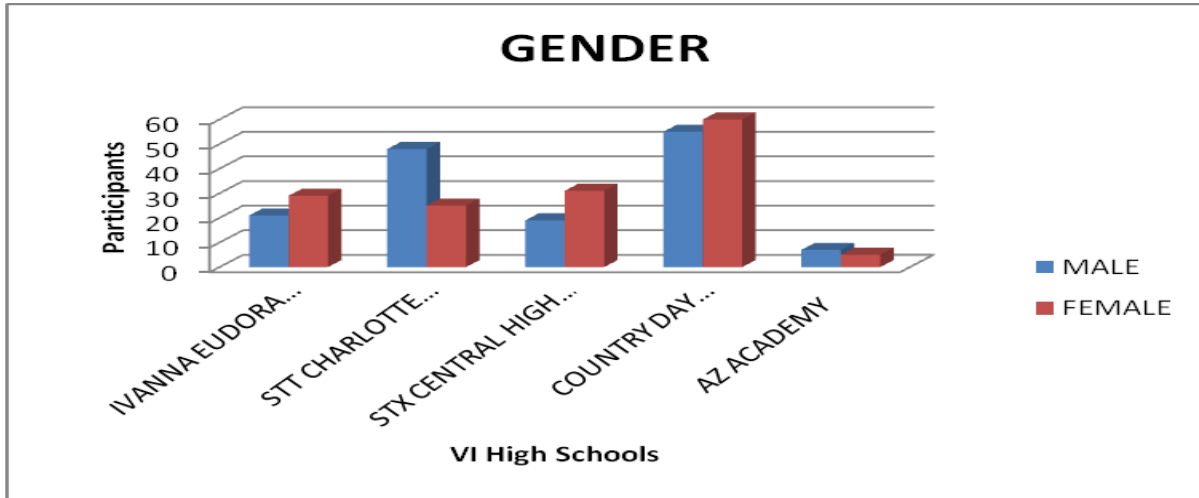
The information on the charts revealed that there is a decrease in alcohol consumption by high school students in the public and private sectors. The following graphs are presented in a manner to show participation and other important information at the annual Alcohol Awareness presentations. They are as follows:

APRIL ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH 2011



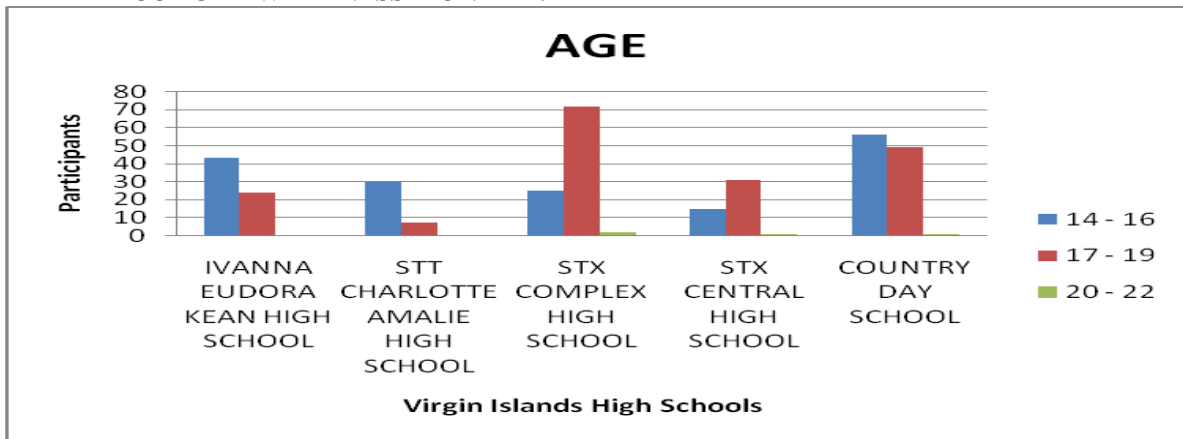
Male = 167 Female = 189

APRIL ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH 2012



Male = 150 Female = 150

APRIL ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH 2011

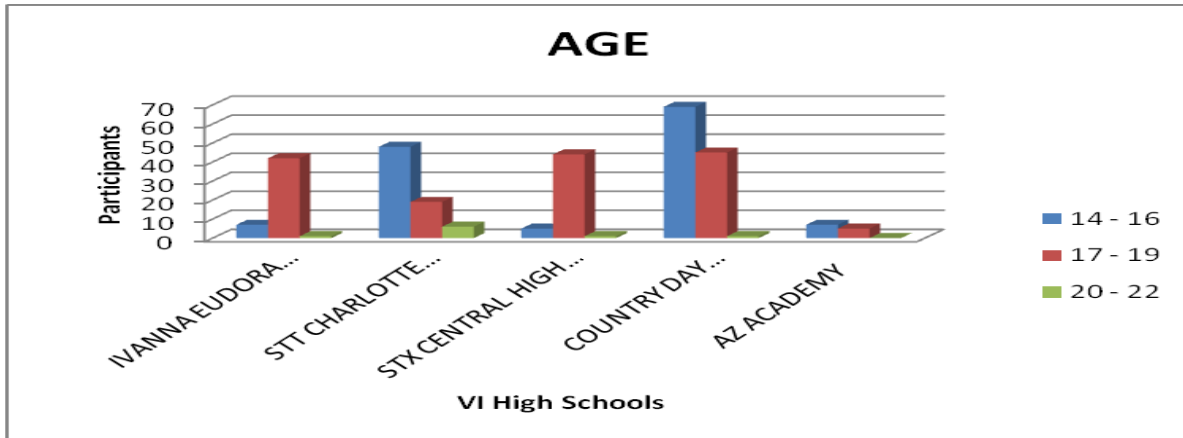


14 - 16 years = 169

17 - 19 years = 183

20 - 22 years = 4

APRIL ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH 2012

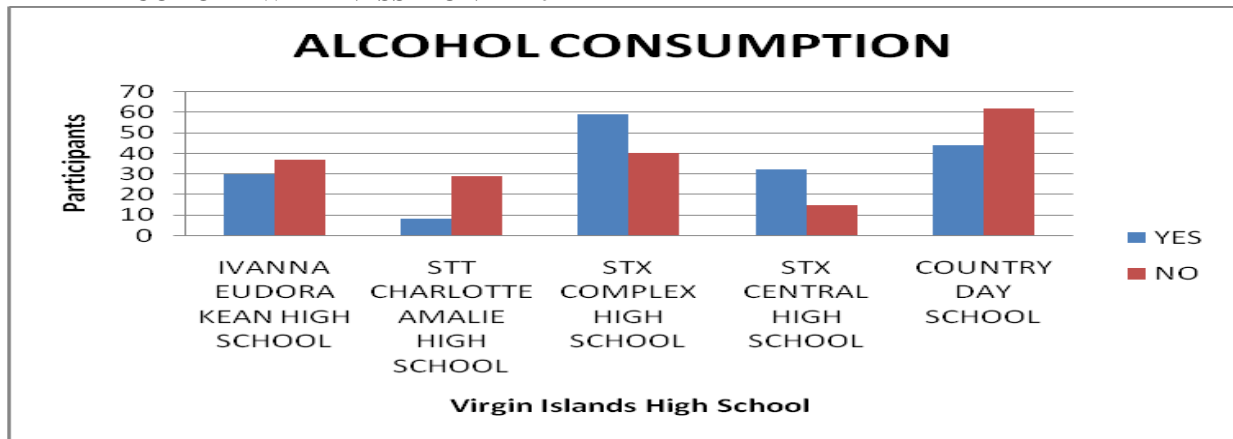


14 - 16 years = 136

17 - 19 years = 155

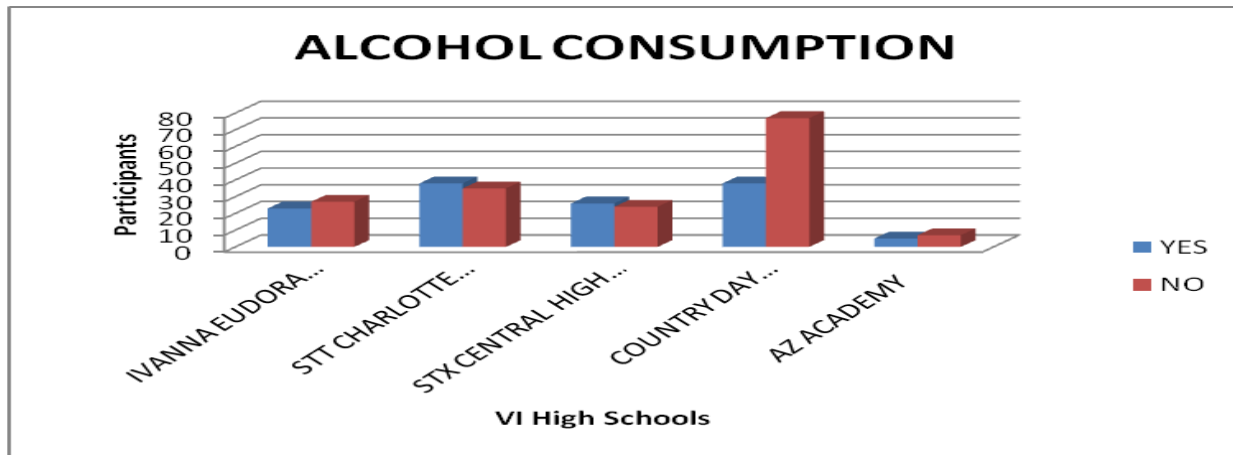
20 - 22 years = 9

APRIL ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH 2011



YES = 173 NO = 183

APRIL ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH 2012



YES = 130 NO = 170

Project Title/Program Area: Empower Youth – Reduce Direct Sale of Alcohol to Minors

Overall Project Description and/or Problem Statement:

The St. Croix Unity Coalition, Inc. (SCUC) is a non-profit drug free community coalition. It is a spin off from the former VI Victory Partnership, which was founded in 1994 to counter the rise of drug use among young people and adults. In 1999 the St. Croix Drug Demand Reduction Unity Coalition (presently St. Croix Unity Coalition, Inc.) developed and adopted the Victory Partnership's central goal to reduce substance abuse through the development of a coalition of individuals, agencies and organizations who will work cooperatively to plan, coordinate and enhance the current alcohol and drug abuse efforts.

Our Goals are:

- Develop and implement a Youth Underage Drinking Media Campaign.
- Provide further trainings to TOP leadership skills and project development.
- To provide a day underage drinking youth summit for 100 youth in each district.
- Provide award certificates to businesses that do not provide or sell to minors during “sting” operations.
- Decrease underage youth access to alcohol and increase youth awareness of the consequences of driving under the influence during the Prom season.

Overall Objectives: To decrease underage youth access to alcohol and increase youth awareness of the consequences of drinking under the influence

Overall Strategies: To provide alcohol free venues/ activities for youth to part take in.

Overall Results to Date: Youth Summit – Provided to 75 youth between the ages of 12-17 on leadership skills, consequences of underage drinking and youth development. Provided (2) two family alcohol free bowling events for a total of 225. Also we have ongoing radio and newspaper ads on the harms of underage drinking.

Accomplishments to Date (Overall and Specific Examples):

- ✚ Underage Drinking PSAs ran continuously on numerous radio stations along with Channel 8 television station.
- ✚ Held the 7th Annual Bowling Against Alcohol at Tropical Ten Pins on Friday, September 28, 2012; approximately 100 people came out to support this event individuals participated at this year's event. Collaborative partners were Grove Place Weed & Seed and Office of Highway Safety. At this event the guest speaker Mona L. Barnes. Ms. Barnes is a pastor, business owner, and the State Command Major Sergeant with the Virgin Islands National Guard. She also discussed the harms of underage drinking.
- ✚ Held the 6th Annual Bowling Against Alcohol at Tropical Ten Pins on Friday, July 27, 2012; approximately 225 people came out to support this event individuals participated at

this year's event. Collaborative partners were Grove Place Weed & Seed and Office of Highway Safety. At this event the guest speaker was Ms. Annette Scott from Department of Health (DOH) who discussed the harms of alcohol.

Challenges to Date (Overall and Specific Examples):

- ✚ Vendor trying to charge government rate after quoting non-profit rate due to government requisition process being utilized.
- ✚ Monies being placed on line in order to complete goals and objectives in a timely fashion.

OCCUPANT PROTECTION

Project Title/Program Area: Occupant Protection Program Management

Funding Source(s): Section 402

The Occupant Protection management program expended funds for costs incurred in fiscal year 2011.

PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION

Project Title/Program Area: Planning and Administration

Funding Source(s): Section 402

The Planning and Administrative project under Section 402 was unable to conduct any activities during the fiscal year 2012. The main objective was to get a Fiscal Officer hired for the Office of Highway Safety. However, delays in obtaining the RFP for the position, the choice of potential candidates and other administrative obstacles, the position remains unfilled. The expenditures for the fiscal year were for one management trip for the Administrator and supplies for the office.

OCCUPANT PROTECTION

Project Title/Program Area: Occupant Protection Program

Funding Source(s): Section 405

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Office has also established a program with the Queen Louise Home, Early Head Start program and elementary schools to educate teen mothers about the proper use of car seats. In this program, mothers will go through a series of presentations through the Office of Highway Safety, which they will be trained about the proper use of child restraints.

There are ten (10) newly certified child passenger safety technicians and two (2) instructors in the territory. This now brings the total of technicians to twenty-eight (28) and instructors to four (4).

The annual seat belt survey was conducted after an extended procurement process. Since the inception of this program, the Virgin Islands seat belt usage has been increased from 80.2 percent in 2006 to 84.0 percent in 2011.

CHALLENGES

More child passenger technicians are needed throughout the territory to cover the growing need for the child passenger safety program.

The office continues to encounter problems with the Seatbelt survey contract. Property and Procurement requested documents that were not initially stated in the RFP. Therefore, the VIOHS had to continually change information in the proposed contract. We have requested that the contract run for three years with extension for one year after so that this process is not repeated again, however, that was denied.

MONITORING ACTIVITIES

Presently, there are two enforcement grants for the Police Department that are being monitored: Occupant Protection Enforcement on St. Croix and St. Thomas/St. John. Monitoring was conducted in which technical support was provided.

ACTIVITIES

The Virgin Islands Office of Highway Safety has collaborated with several community partners to ensure that the safety message of buckling up is being echoed throughout the community. We have joined forces with non-profit organizations and other government agencies to include, Rotary Mid Island and Rotary West, Queen Louise Home for Children, Hispanos Unidos of the Virgin Islands, Williams Delight, Marley and Frederiksted Headstarts, the Lew Muckle Elementary School and Parent University.

For the 2012 year, there was one child passenger safety program held on the island of St. Thomas at the University of the Virgin Islands Sports and Fitness Center during its Safety Day Expo. The presentation provided information about the correct use of all car restraints and allowed children in the various summer camps to participate in hands on demonstrations throughout the day. The Occupant protection program participated in the 41th Annual Agriculture and Food Fair. At the fair, there were displays of car and booster seats and brochures, which illustrated the correct way to install car seats.

The Virgin Islands Office of Highway Safety has been in partnership with the Queen Louise Home Early Headstart / Teen mothers program and was able to do one presentation during FY2012.

The Occupant Protection program also operates a loaner car seat program and was able to provide 30 seats.

ENFORCEMENT

There were no enforcement initiatives funded by NHTSA funds during FY 2012.

PLANS FOR 2013

The VIOHS intends to be more aggressive in ensuring that the program activities are funded and implemented along with the Occupant Protection Enforcement initiatives. The VIOHS would also like to host a Child Passenger Safety conference on the island of St. John to incorporate more public and private entities in our efforts to promote child passenger safety.

TRAFFIC RECORDS

Project Title/Program Area: Traffic Records

Funding Source(s): Section 408

PERFORMANCE GOALS

- Design, develop, and implement a traffic citation/adjudication data subsystem which can deliver traffic citation and adjudication data in a timely manner to all users.
- Increase accessibility and shorten the time it takes to process information within the agencies by linking the Virgin Islands Police Department (VIPD), Bureau of Motor Vehicle (BMV), Office of the Attorney General (AG), and the Superior Court (SC) databases using linkage software that connects citation, adjudication, and disposition systems.
- Continue to collaborate with (VIPD) to ensure that all law enforcement officers fully utilize the new electronic Uniform Traffic Crash Report.
- Continue to make complete traffic information available to stakeholders to aid in their resource allocation and decision making process.

PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES

- Purchase a user-friendly e-citation software and hardware that can be deployed and used throughout the territory.
- Capture 100% of all traffic citations electronically.
- Create an inter-agency web-based portal that connects all necessary agencies and provides for the transfer of traffic-based data.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- Percent of tickets processed electronically and the number of citations electronically captured.
- The percentage of increase in timeliness, completeness, and accuracy of report documents.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Each of the projects outlined in the Traffic Records Program are interrelated and are critical to the success of this program. There has been strides in data collection and reporting in fiscal year 2012, since the completion of the following projects: Crash Reporting Re-Design, the Electronic Crash Reporting (ECR) system, and the Emergency Medical Services Patient Care Reporting (EMSPCR) system. The project achievements are:

1. Electronic Crash Report

The ECR system collects information on all traffic crash that occurs in the territory into a database (Report Beam); incorporating Model Minimum Uniform Crash Criteria (MMUCC) elements. Through continued collaboration with VIPD, all law enforcement officers are fully utilizing the new electronic Uniform Traffic Crash Report (VIUCR); therefore, 100% of the traffic crash reports are electronically entered into the database by officers territory-wide. As a result, the redundant data entry by a second party is eliminated, which increases the accuracy of the data, as well as improve the completeness and timeliness. This project achieved the following in fiscal year 2012:

- 100% of the officers at Port Authority were trained to utilize the e-Uniform Crash form; and are currently submitting traffic reports electronically.
- No handwritten traffic crash reports are accepted by the Virgin Islands Police Department Records Division territory-wide, which ensures all reports are electronically entered in the database.
- The Report Beam System continues to improve accessibility by supporting electronic uploads and downloads of crash data for authorized VIPD personnel and agencies, such as the Traffic Investigation Bureau, VIPD Planning and Research Division, and Department of Public Works. Authorized users can query and generate summary reports of crash data in a timely manner.

2. Emergency Medical Services Patient Care Reporting System

The Emergency Medical Services Patient Care Reporting System (EMSPCR) system collects information on all EMS (ambulance) responses into a database, in which the National Emergency Medical Service Information System (NEMSIS) elements are incorporated. EMSCharts was purchased as the platform to create the territorial Patient Care Report (PCR), which is an internet based software that allows documentation of PCRs anywhere there is internet access. This also allows exporting of data sets and extrapolation of data for reports. There has been a few notable achievements with this project in fiscal year 2012, which are:

- The percent of errors found during EMS data audits of critical data elements (Accuracy) also has improved somewhat.

- Upgrades to EMSPCR allowed VIEMS the capability to report data to VIOHS for its Statewide Injury Surveillance System , as well as to the National NEMESIS.

CHALLENGES

Lack of data has been an ongoing challenge for VIPD, VIOHS, and other agencies that need comprehensive and complete traffic information on a timely basis.

Emergency Medical Services Patient Care Reporting System

The areas of timeliness and completeness have shown improvement in the past for the EMSPCR system. VIEMS does not possess the internal funding to purchase its own internet access as a result it depends on access provided by the Department of Health (DOH)/and or the local hospitals. Both the hospital and the DOH Medical Information System that is responsible for internet access are archaic and do not possess enough bandwidth for the increase electronic traffic to sustain reliable connectivity. Additionally, because of decreased EMS staffing there has been decreased EMS supervision, sporadic quality improvement sessions and programs, and increased EMT duty hours with increased calls per EMS team per shift. EMS has no funds to hire a data manager. The lack of a data manager makes it difficult to report the percentage of traffic crash related EMS runs in the database; however, the data exist in the VIPCR system. VIEMS has no authority to integrate its data with the hospital and does not have access to the hospitals' data. Usually the reporting of this performance measure would be facilitated by a Trauma Registry; but there is no trauma registry in the Virgin Islands. The percentage of traffic related EMS injury runs that can be precisely linked to crash reports is also a statistic that VIEMS cannot report due to the lack of a trauma registry in the territory.

Electronic Citation

The Electronic Citation Project is not completed and is behind schedule. The department of Property and Procurement requested that the project be solicited through a Request for Proposal (RFP). On August 2, 2012, the evaluation was conducted for the RFP-016-2012. However, the VIPD/MIS Division stated the scope of work needs to be revised and re-advertised because the connectivity portion was not addressed and it is a critical component for the project to be successful. The revised RFP needs to be reviewed and approved by the Committee before it is re-submitted to P&P.

Equipment

No equipment was purchased during fiscal year 2012.

PLANS FOR 2013

The TRCC needs to review the current Traffic Records Strategic Plan to determine which projects should be continued, enhanced, or deleted.

VIOHS will encourage EMS to submit a grant application to secure funding to resolve the problems they are having due to unreliable internet service and the lack of a data manager.

It is the Traffic Records Program's goal is to create a unified records management system, which will eliminate the need to enter data multiple times in different offices. When an officer files a traffic crash report or citation, that report should be able to be accessible by the clerk's office, the jail, the state attorney's office, the courts, and other law enforcement agencies in the territory. Presently, most reports are running on different systems. The Virgin Islands Police Department (VIPD), the Bureau of Corrections (BOC), the Attorney General Office (AG), and the Superior Court are on separate systems.

VIOHS will continue to strengthen our traffic management systems and processes as we expedite our efforts to bring about electronic citations and substantial traffic analysis. The creation of a web portal which will be a state of the art e-citation tracking system inter-linking the VIPD, AG's Office, and Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV). This will allow for the seamless transfer of e-citation data among these agencies. This system will also aide VIPD and Court officials in convicting and removing unsafe drivers from our roads and highways, and also assist in capturing vital incident information that will provide us with valuable insight on how best to reduce and eliminate traffic accidents, traffic violations, and fatal crashes and injuries.