DO UVU STUDENTS BELIEVE SOBRIETY CHECKPOINTS ARE EFFECTIVE?

GROUP 8

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Gathering Statistics

• We communicated with Department of Public Safety of Utah County and Salt Lake County to gather statistical data of their checkpoints previously conducted in the past 5 years.
• We asked the Department of Public Safety and police officers whether they thought that checkpoints are effective. They said that they are effective in general deterrence but they prefer saturated patrol.*
• *Saturated patrol: A large number of officers are concentrated into a small geographic area: used for hotspot crime reduction, DUI checkpoints and other location specific patrols.
Do you feel that it is fair that a portion of the fee to impound a car from a DUI arrest goes to the state to support checkpoints and DUI blitzes.

Would you agree to support the state funded project if you learned that because of the state funded project, Utah has the lowest fatality rate in the US?
Lit Review

How these findings will help this study:

There are multiple articles that show roadblocks are an effective way to deter people from drinking and driving, they also shows how costly they can be and the amount of manpower necessary to conduct roadblocks. Through our extensive research, we have found a large quantity of statistics regarding daily crashes and the amount of accidents during the holiday seasons. Statistics show that after country wide roadblocks, the countries DUI accident rates decreased. Most of the statistics found support our hypothesis that roadblocks are an effective way to not only discourage drinking and driving but also to penalize those that do drive while intoxicated or impaired before an accident occurs.
Hypothesis

• We hypothesize that sobriety checkpoints are effective in the reduction of accidents, although, they are ineffective because the resources are limited.
  • I.e., the amount of officers needed at once and finances to pay those officers overtime.
  • The officers are not scheduled for these—it’s all volunteered OT.

• We define “effective” as: Roadblocks are effective if they deter the possibility of drunk driving.
Distribution of Surveys

Emails sent: 500
Emails opened: 291
Started: 39
Completed: 25
Problems We Faced

• First time using Qualtrics

• No one admits to drinking alcohol
  • Not much data received because of this

• Questions on Survey
  • Not a topic many people care to talk about.
  • We believe that it’s possible they could have doubted that it was anonymous and don’t want to admit to doing something that’s so taboo here.
  • We also believe that if we ordered them differently, we could have gotten more people to complete the survey.
  • We put our demographic questions last and our skip logic skipped them.
HAVE YOU EVER BEEN THROUGH A SOBRIETY CHECKPOINT?

- **YES**: 7 Responses (28%)
- **NO**: 18 Responses (72%)

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN CITED FOR A DUI?

- **YES**: 1-4%
- **NO**: 24-96%
DO SOBRIETY CHECKPOINTS DETER YOU FROM DRINKING AND DRIVING?

- **YES**: 11 Responses...
- **NO**: 18 Responses 62%

DO YOU THINK SOBRIETY CHECKPOINTS DETER OTHERS FROM DRINKING AND DRIVING?

- Total: 18 Responses
- Strongly Agree: 0
- Agree: 6 (24%)
- Neither: 4 (16%)
- Disagree: 4 (16%)
- Strongly Disagree: 2 (11%)

62% of respondents believe sobriety checkpoints deter others from drinking and driving.
~In the year 2013, there were 19 checkpoints in the entire state of Utah.
~In the entirety of these checkpoints there were 1,350 shifts that were worked
~517 DUI arrests were made,
~3,400 other citations were given (in addition to the DUls)
Conclusion

• Out of the 25 completed surveys, only 1 admitted to drinking and receiving a DUI
  • This made it so the majority of people did not answer most of our questions because of skip logic. (Due to non drinkers)

• The majority of the individuals agreed that checkpoints are effective in deterring drinking and driving for others, but not themselves.

• They also believe that the checkpoints are financially justified.
  • Our hypothesis