The Use of Situation Assessments to Understand the Drink Driving Issue
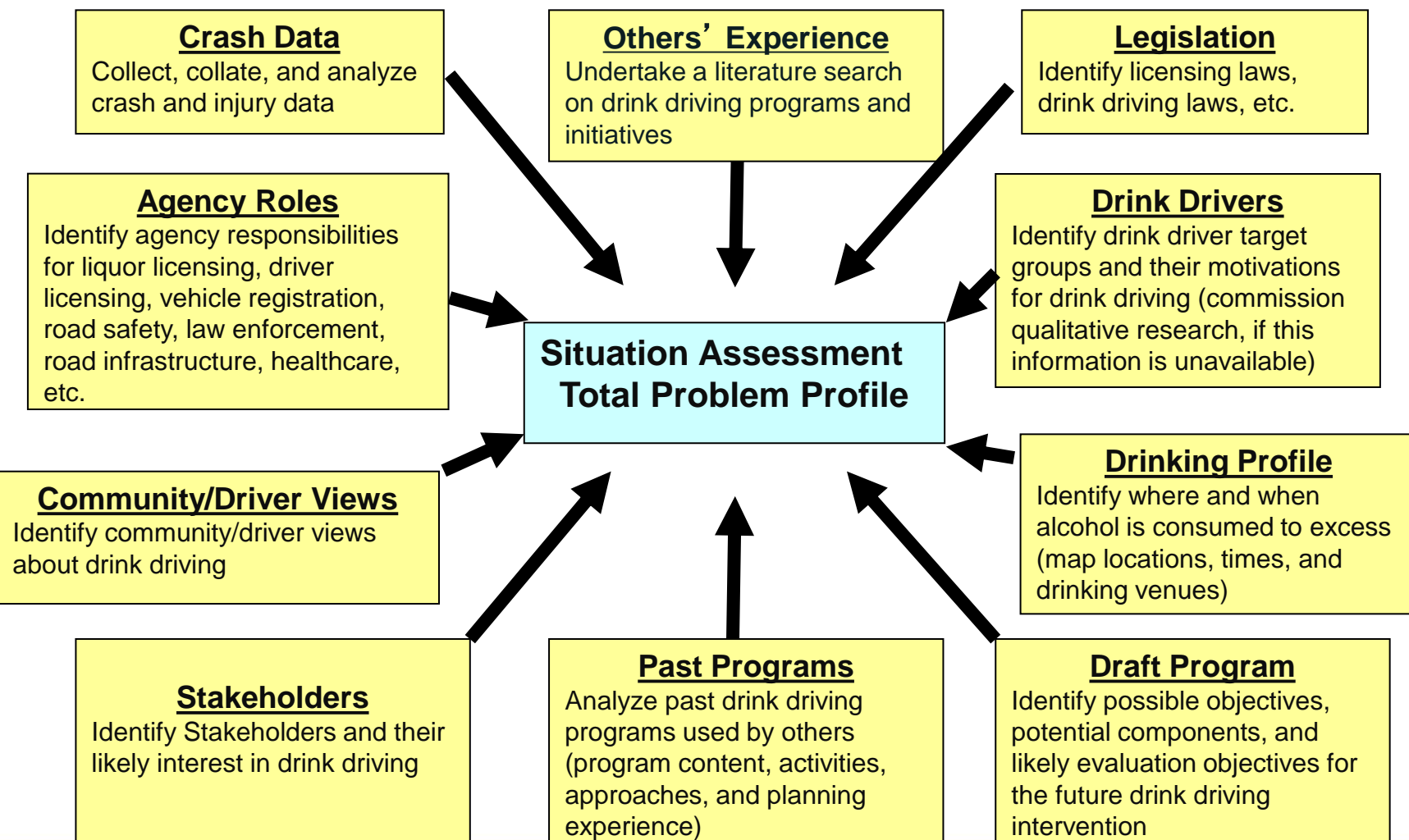
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November 13, 2014

Why Assess the Situation?

- Important to conduct a situation assessment before implementing a program to prevent alcohol related crashes.

- Three main reasons:
    - To identify the scale of the problem
    - To understand the currently available mechanisms in place
    - To provide baseline data for monitoring and evaluation

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Overview of a Situation Assessment

- Comprehensive document profiling everything about the problem
- Used to guide program development
- Identifies information gaps
- Records past experience
- Points toward program objectives
- Points toward program design
- Points toward program evaluation

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Developing a Situation Assessment

Crash Data
Collect, collate, and analyze crash and injury data

Others' Experience
Undertake a literature search on drink driving programs and initiatives

Legislation
Identify licensing laws, drink driving laws, etc.

Agency Roles
Identify agency responsibilities for liquor licensing, driver licensing, vehicle registration, road safety, law enforcement, road infrastructure, healthcare, etc.

Drink Drivers
Identify drink driver target groups and their motivations for drink driving (commission qualitative research, if this information is unavailable)

Situation Assessment Total Problem Profile

Community/Driver Views
Identify community/driver views about drink driving

Drinking Profile
Identify where and when alcohol is consumed to excess (map locations, times, and drinking venues)

Stakeholders
Identify Stakeholders and their likely interest in drink driving

Past Programs
Analyze past drink driving programs used by others (program content, activities, approaches, and planning experience)

Draft Program
Identify possible objectives, potential components, and likely evaluation objectives for the future drink driving intervention

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Information Interpretation

- Key components must be analyzed
- Use a simple question sheet
- Use a yes/no response process
- Map the gaps or things not known
- Build a picture of the things known
- Build a picture of improvements needed

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Crash Data Interpretation

Question	Do we know?	What to do?
How many crashes and injuries from road accidents?	Yes	Maintain/improve data
How many crashes and injuries involving illegal alcohol?	No	Law exists, but full data not available, so need a system to collect data
Where and when do alcohol related crashes occur?	No	Include location and times of crashes in agreed data collection system
What types of drivers are most likely to be involved in alcohol related crashes?	Yes	Local surveys have identified but data system does not. Include age, gender, driving experience in agreed data system.

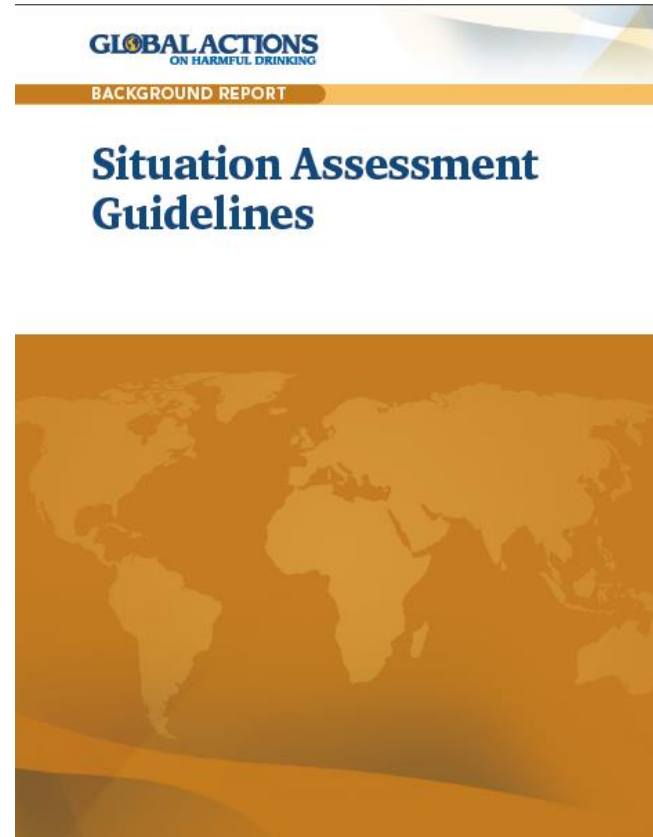ICAP **International Center for Alcohol Policies**
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Legislation Interpretation

Question	Do we know?	What to do?
Is drink driving illegal?	Yes	No action needed
Is the definition measurable?	No	Law must be based on blood/breath data not subjective judgments
Do police have powers to stop drivers randomly and ask them to take a test?	No	Include random stopping for breath testing in draft legislation
Is there a law requiring drivers who have crashed to provide breath or blood alcohol readings	Yes	Link illegal alcohol law to crashed driver data when law is passed.
Is there a legal minimum drinking age law?	Yes	Assess effectiveness

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Community Views

Question	Do we know?	What to do?
Do people think alcohol consumption is a factor in road crashes?	Yes	Check proportion and strength of view
What level of alcohol consumption do people think increases crash risk?	No	Check views of levels in survey
Do people agree with police having random stopping powers?	No	Negotiate with legislators. Consider a publicity campaign on value of random stopping
What proportion of people knows the penalties for being caught drink driving?	Yes	If small proportion need to tell them, if large proportion we don't.
Do people believe there is a high chance of being caught if they are drink driving?	No	Build increased enforcement levels into a program

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Situation Assessment Guidelines

- Developed by ICAP in 2010
- Used to conduct situation assessments in 6 countries
  - China
  - Colombia
  - Mexico
  - Nigeria
  - Russia
  - Vietnam
- Assessments conducted by local consultancies

GLOBAL ACTIONS
ON HARMFUL DRINKING
BACKGROUND REPORT

Situation Assessment Guidelines

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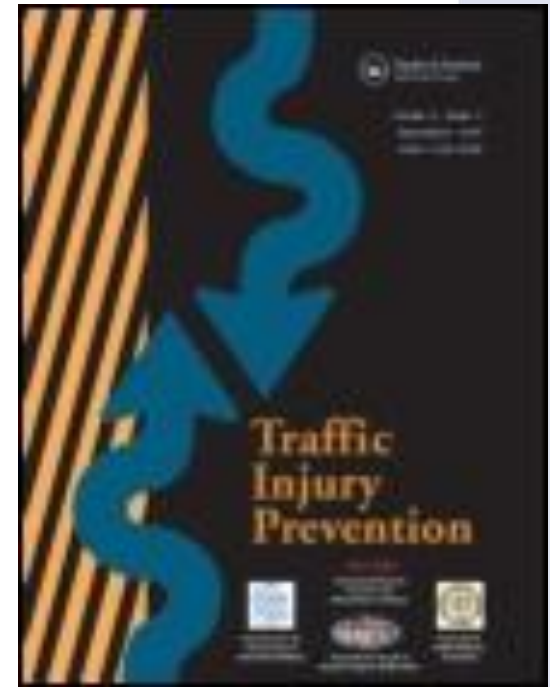Analysis. Balance. Partnership.

Much diversity . . .
But. . . some common issues

- Lack of accurate official statistics
- Lack of public awareness/concern about drink driving
- Lack of legal framework, e.g., illegal BAC limit
- Lack of enforcement resources: training, equipment
- Lack of alcohol control policies
- Availability of unregulated alcohol
- Cultural acceptance of alcohol use
- Lack of norms about drinking and driving

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- Published summaries of the situation assessment process and results:
    - China
    - Colombia
    - Nigeria
    - Vietnam

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Summary

- Situation assessment is the first step
- Collect and collate information
- Analyze and interpret the information
- Use simple check sheets and questions

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Thank you.

Questions?

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