

Comment from Tonya Mead

Thanks for allowing citizens to comment on the NHTSA Drug-Impaired Driving Criminal Justice Evaluation Tool. My name is Tonya Mead, PhD, educational psychologist, data quality, cyber security and administrative investigator at Shared Knowledge LLC <http://ishareknowledge.com>

My firm is registered in the VA DCJS system. I have reviewed the tool and have the following recommendations for your consideration.

1. Segment the tool so that each Tabbed worksheet is given only to professionals and practitioners in that particular area. This will reduce the time required to complete the tool and provide high quality answers. For instance, law enforcement officers will have no need to speculate on the Prosecution side, or Judiciary for example. There are built-in biases that can be avoided should you consider adopting the approach I have suggested.
2. Provide a legend so that survey participants have a better understanding as to what the assumptions are or the generalizations the researcher or data collector have made at the onset. While these were probably agreed upon during committee and panel meetings, once the participant heads back to the field, these assumptions are easily forgotten. The generalizations can vary from person to person. For instance the term "leadership." Does it refer to a Governor (executive branch), State Reps (Legislative branch), Mayor (municipalities), or City/ County Agency Head (Chief of Police) or head of a Union? Depending upon the survey participant's point of reference, as you can see, "leadership" can take on many forms. And therefore, many divergent answers that will be difficult to find meaning and write a coherent report for actionable next steps.
3. Provide examples of resources (or bullet points of best practices) in the third column, heading "Resources." An expert data scientist will have already provided and conducted ample research and embedded it within the tool so that inquisitive participants can click the link for additional resources and research while they are completing the tool. In this manner, their answers will be much more informed.
4. Refrain from asking two or three questions per row when space for one answer of one question has been provided by the tool. As a point of reference, please take a look at Row #6. While it is acceptable to ask a follow up question after the initial yes or no response, the third follow on question should be listed on its own row.

These represent only a few recommendations that I hope you will find useful. Your agency and panel/task force should be commended for its great work thus far and the excellent leadership provided to all interested in lowering drug-related traffic accidents and fatalities. I am very interested in lending my expertise to your organization and can provide consulting and outreach services in this regard. My firm Shared Knowledge LLC is registered DCJS and has a DUNS# and CAGE#. It is MBE certified by CRMSDC and has won numerous awards for professionalism. In 2014, the founder, Dr. Mead was awarded the Cafritz Award for Excellence in Public Service and Government Leadership. I have a sincere interest in your work and would like to use my considerable expertise to help move it forward. Thanks for your time!