

# Where there's a DUI stop, there's blood

**POLICE:** Defense attorneys criticize O.C.'s high use of such tests for intoxication.

By **SUSAN KELLEHER**  
The Orange County Register

Thousands of Californians will be pulled over tonight for suspected drunken driving, and if history is any indication, they're more likely to have their blood tested in Orange County than nearly anywhere else in the state.

Although DUI suspects have

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the right to choose between blood, breath or urine tests to detect alcohol levels, state statistics show that drivers in Orange County received blood tests 64 percent of the time this year.

That compares to 19 percent for Los Angeles, 39 percent for San Diego, 44 percent for San Bernardino and 42 percent for Riverside.

The trend — which dates to

1993 — is a statistical anomaly that has some defense attorneys concerned that Orange County suspects aren't being given their right to choose which evidence is provided to police.

"That's unbelievable," defense attorney Richard A. Hutton said when told that Orange County Sheriff's Department figures showed blood testing rates for drunken driving arrests reached nearly 73 percent in July.

Under state law, DUI suspects must allow police to measure their blood-alcohol content. Test results showing levels at 0.08 per-

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## HOW O.C. COMPARES

64%

Orange County rates among the highest for blood-alcohol testing in California.



Source: County reports to the California Department of Motor Vehicles

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