Ignition Interlock

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A breath test device linked to a vehicle’s ignition system. When a convicted drunk driving offender wishes to start his/her vehicle, he/she must first blow into this device. The vehicle will not start unless the driver’s BAC is below a pre-set standard. A data recorder logs the driver’s BAC for each attempt to start the vehicle. Interlocks are calibrated to have “rolling retests,” which require a driver to provide breath tests at regular intervals, preventing drivers from asking a sober friend to start the car, drink while driving, or leaving the car idling in a bar parking lot.

What is an Ignition Interlock?
Estimates of most first time offenders have operated vehicles while impaired many times prior to their first conviction. The most conservative estimates show that DUI offenders drive drunk on average 87 times before they are caught.

Half to two thirds of all DUI offenders are technically first time offenders. Therefore, limiting interlock programs to repeat offenders will not make a full contribution to reducing alcohol related crashes on our roads.
Current Studies show that two-thirds of convicted DUI offenders continue to drive even when they have a revoked or suspended license. Why? Because they can. Long-term license suspension if not an effective consequence for the majority of convicted offenders. If convicted offenders were required to install an ignition interlock on their car, they could continue to legally drive, but would no longer be able to drive while impaired.

Why Do We Need Interlocks For Every DUI Offender?
A considerable body of research – more than 15 published studies on interlock effectiveness – shows that interlocks are associated with substantial and impressive reductions in recidivism, ranging from 50 to 90 percent. The evaluations involved a diversity of programs, accounting for the variation in results. Findings have consistently shown the overwhelming benefit of interlocks.
In numerous jurisdictions across the country

- Statewide, New Mexico has one of the most successful models of a judicial ignition interlock program.
  - In 2005 New Mexico pass a law making interlocks mandatory for all drunk driving offenders; one year for first offenders, two years for second, three years for third, and a lifetime for the fourth offense.
  - Highest rates of currently-installed interlocks per capita than any other state in the nation.
  - Recidivism of interlocked offenders has been reduced on average by 65 percent.
    - Alcohol-involved crashes have gone down by 31 percent.
    - Alcohol-involved injuries have gone down by 41 percent.
    - Alcohol-involved fatalities have gone down by 36 percent.
Iowa’s IID Law

- No mandatory interlock requirement for reinstatement for first offense
- Required for 1 year after reinstatement for a second or subsequent OWI Revocation (in or out of state occurrence)
- May be required for obtaining Temporary Restricted License (TRL)
  - All test refusals
  - First offense if involved in an accident or tested above .10 BAC.
  - All second or subsequent offenses
- 5,351 Drivers with IID Restriction
  - As of June 2, 2011
- 5,491 Total Customers Issued in 2010 with IID restriction
• MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Drivers)
  ◦ Legislation requiring IID on all OWI
  ◦ Reporting of incidents with IID’s
  ◦ Under-cover interactions with companies and drivers
Recommendations to Strengthen Ignition Interlock Programs

- Develop Test Protocols
  - Designate test agency
  - Field test devices to ensure proper installation and configuration
- Create a framework of graduated sanctions and reinforcements
- Explore the development of an automated reporting system
- Improve training and education for those involved in program
- Network with administrators in neighboring jurisdictions
- Review Strategies and protocols from other jurisdictions
Thank You For Your Time.