



FOUNDATION FOR ADVANCING ALCOHOL RESPONSIBILITY

Ignition interlocks for all DUI offenders

The Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility supports mandatory and effective use of IIDs for all convicted DUI offenders. Effective use of IIDs requires proper assessment and treatment, supervision, and verification of installation for all offenders ordered to install an IID.

Ignition interlock devices (IIDs) are legislatively authorized and/or mandated in all states. Currently 20 states and 4 California counties mandate IIDs for all convicted DUI offenders. Federal law includes financial incentives for states to pass mandatory IID laws for all DUI offenders.

Ignition interlocks have proven to be highly effective for both hardcore drunk drivers and first-time DUI offenders, while they are installed. Interlocks have the most potential to reduce recidivism when coupled with other effective interventions such as assessment and treatment.

Additional research, technological advances and improved administration in the states show interlocks can play an important role in eliminating drunk driving.

24/7 programs for repeat offenders

The Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility supports the use of technology and cost effective supervision methods, such as 24/7 Sobriety programs, to provide swift identification, certain punishment and effective treatment for repeat drunk driving offenders.

Under the 24/7 Program model, repeat offenders are required to maintain sobriety as a condition of remaining in the community and avoiding incarceration. Participants are tested twice-daily for alcohol through scheduled onsite breath tests or with a continuous alcohol monitoring (CAM) device. If an offender tests positive for alcohol or drugs, they are taken into custody and appear before a judge within 24 hours. The goal of the program is to ensure that sanctions are swift and certain.

Evaluations of intensive supervision programs have shown substantial reductions in DUI recidivism. South Dakota 24/7 program participants with two DUI arrests had a 74 percent reduction in recidivism when studied three years after their second DUI arrest.

The programs follow a participant pay model. After the initial implementation phase, the costs to the jurisdiction are minimal or nonexistent. Grant funds are provided through the Federal transportation law to help offset start-up costs of 24/7 programs.

Pre-trial actions for repeat offenders

The Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility supports pre-trial actions for repeat DUI offenders to reduce recidivism, protect public safety, reduce failures to appear and ensure supervision for repeat DUI offenders from the time of arrest.

Accused hardcore drunk driving defendants often re-offend between arrest and trial/resolution of pending DUI charges. Pre-conviction, court-imposed actions are often required as conditions of bail. These actions address public safety issues and may include assessment, technology (IIDs and continuous alcohol monitoring devices), counseling programs, license restrictions, and daily reporting to the court. Any pre-trial release conditions imposed by the court should be related to public safety and/or the likelihood of appearance at future court dates.

A pre-trial assessment will provide the court with the defendant's level of risk. Assessments often reveal a history of serious driving behavior (multiple DUI convictions, high BAC levels, BAC test refusals, driver license suspensions, failure to appear, and convictions for other violations such as reckless driving which may have been originally a DWI charge). Assessments can also reveal other criminal convictions, alcohol and/or drug abuse issues and other co-morbidities.

High visibility enforcement campaigns

The Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility supports high visibility enforcement efforts (HVE) to reduce impaired driving. These comprehensive enforcement efforts should be utilized in areas with a high occurrence of impaired driving crashes or fatalities.

Law enforcement agencies routinely utilize general deterrence strategies. These strategies are effective because they raise the perceived risk of arrest for DUI. Research shows that in order to be effective, enforcement activities must be well planned, properly executed, visible and sustained for substantial periods of time. These DUI enforcement strategies must be complemented by aggressive, timely and complementary public information campaigns.

High visibility enforcement campaigns typically utilize stepped up enforcement efforts that may include saturation patrols, No Refusal programs and/or sobriety checkpoints combined with strong complementary public information campaigns. Electronic message boards, road signs, command posts, scene lighting, and Breath Alcohol Testing (BAT) vehicles enhance the highly visible law enforcement presence.

No Refusal programs

The Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility supports the efforts of law enforcement and prosecutors to effectively identify and prosecute suspected DUI offenders. No Refusal programs provide law enforcement with a tool to increase compliance with BAC testing.

Test refusals are a major problem for the judicial system in confronting and identifying hardcore drunk drivers. Many DUI suspects refuse to answer questions, perform field sobriety tests, or provide breath samples. BAC test refusal deprives the court of the most important evidence needed for a DUI conviction.

A No Refusal program coordinates efforts of law enforcement, paralegals, prosecutors, nurses and judges to ensure BAC testing when circumstances warrant a test. After implementation, Montgomery County, Texas, reduced refusals from 45 percent to 25 percent and Phoenix Police reported a decrease in the refusal rate from 40 percent to 5 percent.