



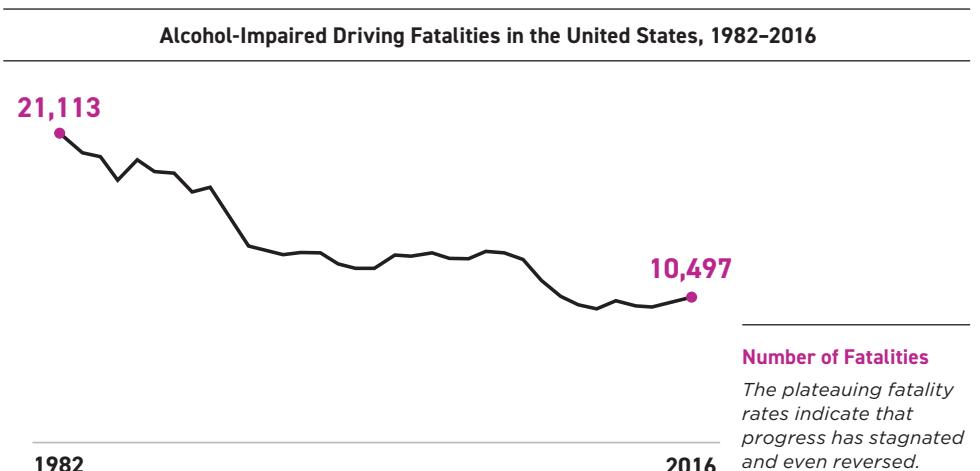
# GETTING TO ZERO ALCOHOL-IMPAIRED DRIVING FATALITIES

## ALL STATES SHOULD ENACT ALL-OFFENDER IGNITION INTERLOCK LAWS

Alcohol-impaired driving is the deadliest and costliest danger on roads in the United States. It's also preventable. Promising technologies and policies can be leveraged to reach a bold goal: zero deaths from drinking and driving.

Laws requiring the use of ignition interlock devices in vehicles of alcohol-impaired driving offenders are one key policy intervention to reduce alcohol-impaired driving and the resulting crashes, injuries, and fatalities.

Based on a large body of supporting evidence, a report by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine recommends that **all states enact all-offender ignition interlock device laws** for offenders with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) above the limit set by state law.



## A PERSISTENT PROBLEM

In 2016, alcohol-impaired driving fatalities accounted for 28 percent of traffic deaths with a total of **10,497 lives lost.**

About **20 to 28 percent** of first-time DWI offenders will repeat the offense.

Repeat offenders are **62 percent** more likely to be involved in a fatal crash.

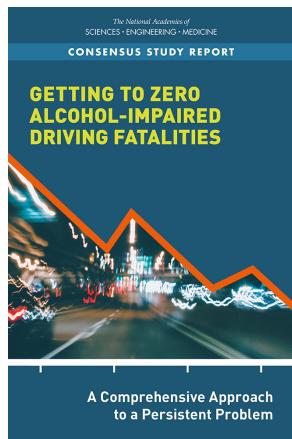
## RECOMMENDED ACTION

All states should enact all-offender ignition interlock laws to reduce alcohol-impaired driving fatalities. An ignition interlock device should be required for all offenders with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) above the limit set by state law. To increase effectiveness, states should consider increased monitoring periods based on the offender's BAC or past recidivism.

## WHAT IS AN IGNITION INTERLOCK DEVICE?

An ignition interlock device is a breath alcohol analyzer connected to a vehicle's ignition. The device requires a breath sample to start the engine, and inhibits driving if sample contains more than a preset alcohol concentration, usually 0.02%. The interlock device includes:

- a rolling retest system that requires at least one retest once a trip has begun (many ignition interlocks require a retest every 20 to 30 minutes while driving);
- a tamper-proof system;
- a data-recording system that logs BAC results, compliance, and engine operation; and
- an embedded camera in recent models, which can help identify the driver providing the breath sample.



## WHY ENACT ALL-OFFENDER IGNITION INTERLOCK LAWS?

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<b>Ignition interlocks reduce recidivism.</b>	Interlock devices reduce alcohol-impaired driving recidivism in first-time and repeat offenders by 50 to 90 percent while they are installed.
<b>Ignition interlocks reduce alcohol-related crashes.</b>	Ignition interlock research has also found the devices reduce alcohol-related crashes while installed. For example, one recent study found states with all-offender interlock laws had lower alcohol-related crash death rates than states without such a law.
<b>Ignition interlocks are currently underused.</b>	More than 318,000 ignition interlock devices were in use in 2014. Yet the devices remain underused relative to the number of eligible offenders: Research suggests the current ratio is one installed interlock to five DWI arrests.
<b>Ignition interlocks are cost-effective.</b>	Ignition interlock fees are generally affordable but are borne by the offender. Offenders usually pay \$100 to \$250 to install the device, and then about \$65 to \$90 per month. Ignition interlocks can be made more affordable for low-income offenders through indigent funds. Research suggests all-offender interlock devices are cost-effective, especially for first-time offenders.
<b>Ignition interlocks have public support.</b>	In a nationally representative poll, 84 percent supported mandating interlocks for all convicted offenders; 42 percent expressed interest in such technology in their own vehicles.

## DID YOU KNOW?

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Motorcyclists are a high risk group for alcohol-impaired driving fatalities, and they represent a very low percent of interlocks in service. Despite some technical challenges, manufacturers indicate a willingness to adapt or develop interlock technology for motorcycles if states required an option specifically for motorcyclists.

## KEY FACTS

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- Substantial scientific evidence shows that ignition interlock devices are an effective measure to reduce alcohol-impaired driving.
- Every state has some form of an ignition interlock law, but these laws vary in structure and practice. Most states have all-offender ignition interlock laws, although these laws vary in the length of time for which offenders must have the device installed.
- Some states require offenders to obtain a marked license indicating they can only drive a vehicle with an ignition interlock. Other states may instead offer incentives such as a limited driving permit or jail time avoidance if an offender installs an ignition interlock.
- Dedicated monitoring can increase compliance with the requirements of an interlock program and that increased compliance is associated with reductions in impaired driving recidivism after completing a period of interlock monitoring. A minimum monitoring period of two years is effective for a first offense and four years for a second offense.
- The positive effects of ignition interlock devices generally dissipate after their removal. An interlock program may therefore benefit from being paired with alcohol use disorder treatment.

## CONCLUSION

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Each alcohol-impaired driving crash represents a failure of the system, whether that is excessive alcohol service, lack of safe and affordable transportation alternatives, lack of adequate clinical services, or lack of effective policies or enforcement. A systems approach—coordinated, systematic, multi-level, and spanning multiple sectors—is needed to accelerate change. Enacting all-offender ignition interlock laws is one evidence-based, population-level intervention with widespread impact that could help reach a bold goal: **zero deaths from drinking and driving.**

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To download a free copy of the full report and other resources, please visit [nationalacademies.org/endDWIdeaths](https://nationalacademies.org/endDWIdeaths)

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