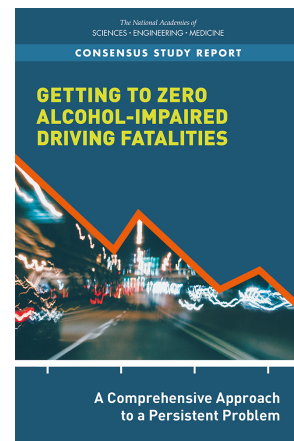




GETTING TO ZERO ALCOHOL-IMPAIRED DRIVING FATALITIES

ALL STATES SHOULD ENACT ALL-OFFENDER IGNITION INTERLOCK LAWS

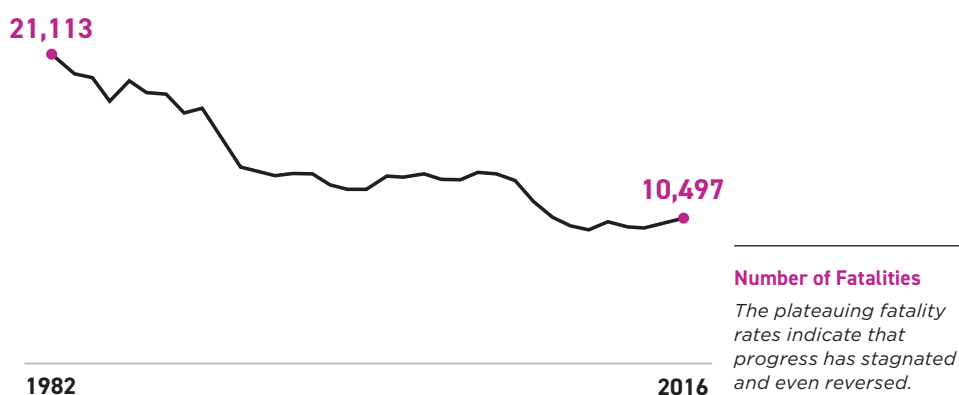


Alcohol-impaired driving is the deadliest and costliest danger on roads in the United States. It's also preventable. Promising technologies and policies can be leveraged to reach a bold goal: zero deaths from drinking and driving.

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.

Alcohol-Impaired Driving Fatalities in the United States, 1982–2016



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?

Ignition interlocks reduce recidivism.

Interlock devices reduce alcohol-impaired driving recidivism in first-time and repeat offenders by 50 to 90 percent while they are installed.

Ignition interlocks reduce alcohol-related crashes.

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.

Ignition interlocks are currently underused.

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.

Ignition interlocks are cost-effective.

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.

Ignition interlocks have public support.

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?

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

- 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

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.**

To download a free copy of the full report and other resources, please visit nationalacademies.org/endDWIdeaths

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