



## FACT SHEET

### Ignition Interlock Devices Save Lives

*Ignition interlocks are effective in the Campaign to Eliminate Drunk Driving®*

Ignition interlocks are small breathalyzers linked to a vehicle's ignition system. The convicted drunk driver must blow into the device to start the car. If the driver's Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) is above the preset level the car will not start.

Ignition interlocks are effective in reducing drunk driving repeat offenses by [67 percent](#), according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). All-offender interlock laws are [found to reduce repeat offenses](#) significantly, when effectively implemented. First-time offenders are serious offenders. Research from the CDC indicates that first time offenders have driven drunk at least 80 times before they are arrested. Additionally, research has found that first offenders' patterns of recidivism are generally similar to a repeat offender.

State data shows a growing trend of convicted drunk drivers being rearrested for driving on a suspended license demonstrating the need for immediate installation of an ignition interlock following a DUI. In 2009 in California, there were 43,598 convictions for driving on a DUI suspended license. In 2010 in Florida, there were 21,576 arrests for those who had a suspended/revoked license as a result of a previous DUI. In 2012 in Wisconsin, 2,212 people convicted for DUI and within six months of convicted for driving on revoked/suspended license.

#### The FACTS

- An interlock is more effective than license suspension alone, as 50 to 75 percent of convicted drunk drivers continue to drive on a suspended license.
- States requiring all convicted drunk drivers to use an ignition interlock, such as Arizona, Oregon, New Mexico and Louisiana have cut DUI deaths by over 33 percent.
- All-offender interlock laws are widespread. Twenty states, plus a California pilot program (covering a population of over 13 million) have laws requiring ignition interlocks for all first-time convicted drunk drivers.
- As of July 2013, there are approximately 305,000 interlocks in use in the United States.

MADD supports immediate installation of reinstatement of driving privileges for convicted drunk drivers provided the offender uses an ignition interlock for at least six months. Three surveys indicate 76 to 88 percent of the public support interlocks for all convicted drunk drivers:

- [88 percent](#) support interlocks for all convicted drunk drivers.
- [84 percent](#) support ignition interlocks for convicted drunk drivers.
- [Over 3 of 4](#) persons support requiring interlocks for first-time convicted drunk drivers.

MADD, supports ignition interlocks for all convicted drunk drivers, including all first offenders with an illegal BAC of .08 or greater. Additionally, these leading traffic safety organizations, Advocates for Auto and Highway Safety, American Automobile Association (AAA), Auto Alliance, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Governors Highways Safety Association (GHSA), Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS), International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), National Safety Council (NSC), and National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) support ignition interlocks for all convicted drunk drivers, including all first time offenders with an illegal BAC of .08 or greater.

### **MADD's 2013 State Legislative Action**

In 2013, Maine and Tennessee became the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> state to enact an all offender ignition interlock laws. New York improved on Leandra's Law by closing loopholes in their previous drunk driving law which resulted in only 1/3 of convicted drunk drivers installing an interlock.

Connecticut is one of 20 states that requires the use of ignition interlocks for all convicted drunk drivers, but a majority of first-time arrested offenders are exempt from the interlock requirement as these offenders receive diversion. In 2013, Connecticut lawmakers attempted to close this loophole by requiring interlocks in cases in diversion agreements, but ran out of time.

### **How some states have little to no interlocks installed?**

In 2011, Alabama became the last state to enact an ignition interlock law (the devices are required for repeat and first-time offenders with a BAC of .15 or greater. However, the law has not been implemented yet. Legislation in 2013 would have implemented the current law and incentivized the use of interlocks for all first-time offenders, however action was deferred and a study committee called. MADD hopes action is taken in 2014.

The other state without any interlocks installed is Mississippi. In 2013, the Mississippi House of Representatives passed legislation sponsored by Speaker Gunn that would have made Mississippi the 21<sup>st</sup> state to enact an all offender interlock law. However, the legislation was amended in the 11 ½ hour of the legislative process making interlock use optional and allowing for expungements and diversion for almost any convicted drunk driver. Action is needed in 2014 to fix the loopholes in the law and to make ignition interlocks mandatory for all convicted drunk drivers and in cases of diversion agreements.

For more information on ignition interlocks, please visit [madd.org/interlock](http://madd.org/interlock). For MADD's model law, please visit: [http://www.madd.org/laws/law-overview/Draft-Ignition Interlocks Overview.pdf](http://www.madd.org/laws/law-overview/Draft-Ignition%20Interlocks%20Overview.pdf).

For information about MADD's *Campaign to Eliminate Drunk Driving*® and ignition interlock laws, please visit: <http://www.madd.org> or contact the Public Policy Office – 202-600-3032.

### **About Mothers Against Drunk Driving**

Founded in 1980 by a mother whose daughter was killed by a drunk driver, Mothers Against Drunk Driving® (MADD) is the nation's largest nonprofit working to protect families from drunk driving and underage drinking. MADD also supports drunk and drugged driving victims and survivors at no charge, serving one person every eight minutes through local MADD victim advocates and at 1-877-MADD-HELP. Learn more at [www.madd.org](http://www.madd.org) or by calling 1-877-ASK-MADD.

# Status of State Ignition Interlock Laws

## Interlock requirement starts on the first conviction

Mandatory with a BAC of .08 or greater		Mandatory with a BAC of .15 or greater	
Alaska (1/09)	Missouri (3/14)	Alabama (9/12)	New Hampshire .16 BAC (7/07)
Arizona (9/07)	Nebraska (1/09)	Delaware (7/09)	New Jersey (1/10)
Arkansas (4/09)	New Mexico (6/05)	Florida (10/08)	North Carolina (12/07)
California Pilot Program* (7/10)	New York (8/10)	Iowa** .10 BAC (7/95)	Oklahoma (11/11)
Colorado (1/09)	Oregon (1/08)	Maryland (10/11)	Texas (9/05)
Connecticut (1/12)	Tennessee (7/13)	Michigan .17 BAC (10/10)	Wisconsin (7/10)
Hawaii (1/11)	Utah (7/09)	Minnesota .16 BAC (7/11)	Wyoming (7/09)
Illinois (1/09)	Virginia (7/12)	Nevada .18 BAC (7/05)	
Kansas (7/11)	Washington (1/09)		
Louisiana (7/07)	West Virginia (7/08)		
Maine (12/13)			

(month/year listed note effective date)

Mandatory with a second conviction
Georgia (5/99)
Idaho (10/00)
Massachusetts (1/06)
Mississippi (7/14)
Montana (5/09)
Ohio (9/08)
Pennsylvania (10/03)
South Carolina (1/09)

Not mandatory
<b>Judicial discretion</b>
California for any offender
Indiana for any offender
Kentucky for any offender
North Dakota for any offender
Rhode Island for repeat offenders
<b>Other</b>
DC any offender can choose to go an interlock
South Dakota part of the 24/7 program
Vermont any offender can choose to go an interlock

Revised July 2013

\* California's pilot program covers the counties of Los Angeles, Alameda, Sacramento, and Tulare. These counties combined have a population of over 13 million.

\*\* In Iowa, interlocks are required starting on the first conviction for offenders with a BAC of .10 or greater.