



March 1, 2021

Support SF 1101 to help stop drunk driving

The Honorable Julia Coleman
Minnesota State Senate

Dear Senator Coleman,

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) thanks you for your leadership to stop drunk driving and writes in support of SF 1101 improving the DWI ignition interlock law. MADD supports the measure you authored because it would drastically improve the implementation of the repeat offender ignition interlock law.

Since July 2011 in Minnesota, interlocks have been required for all repeat and first-time convicted drunk drivers with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .16 or greater. However, repeat offenders can wait out the ignition interlock restriction. First offenders with a BAC of .08 to .15 are eligible to go on an interlock for a 90-day license revocation. SF 1101 would require **repeat offenders** to use an ignition interlock before ever obtaining an unrestricted driver's license.

What is an ignition interlock? An ignition interlock is a device about the size of a smart phone that is wired into the ignition system of a vehicle. If an interlock user is drunk, the vehicle will not start or operate. Interlocks cost around \$3 a day to lease, but in Minnesota, drivers can obtain the device at a reduced rate from an interlock vendor if they cannot afford it.

Over the past 13 years, ignition interlocks have prevented 551,068 attempts to drink and drive in Minnesota, including 81,605 attempts to drive drunk with a BAC of .08 greater. Can you imagine how many more attempts to drive drunk will be stopped by enacting SF 1101?

Interlocks are more effective than license suspension. According to the CDC, interlocks reduce repeat drunk driving offenses by 67 percent. An ignition interlock is more effective than license suspension alone, as up to 75 percent of convicted drunk drivers continue to drive on a suspended license. License suspension with the use of an interlock is our best hope for stopping repeat drunk driving.

MADD urges you to support SF 1101 or any improvement to the ignition interlock law. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact MADD Director of State Government Affairs Frank Harris at frank.harris@madd.org or 202-688-1194. Enclosed is more information on ignition interlocks. Thank you in advance for your prompt consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,

Alex Otte
MADD National President

Drinking and Driving Attempts Stopped by an Ignition Interlock in 2019

	Total	.08 BAC and over stops	.02 to .07 BAC Stops
Alabama	15,934	1,847	14,087
Alaska	25,823	2,551	23,272
Arizona	142,911	12,332	130,579
Arkansas	131,154	14,699	116,455
California	264,717	25,072	239,645
Colorado	139,020	10,506	128,514
Connecticut	102,693	14,173	88,520
Delaware	7,184	918	6,266
D.C.	2,659	175	2,484
Florida	53,062	8,931	44,131
Georgia	42,142	4,610	37,532
Hawaii	16,526	1,061	15,465
Idaho	9,576	1,104	8,472
Illinois	72,036	6,944	65,092
Indiana	16,872	1,758	15,114
Iowa	207,763	26,681	181,082
Kansas	101,751	9,873	91,878
Kentucky	13,795	1,734	12,061
Louisiana	103,194	15,522	87,672
Maine	8,319	1,302	7,017
Maryland	118,226	9,575	108,651
Massachusetts	36,664	3,806	32,858
Michigan	22,436	2,258	20,178
Minnesota	76,071	7,496	68,575
Mississippi	10,617	1,188	9,429
Missouri	86,021	11,194	74,827
Montana	3,091	314	2,777
Nebraska	44,036	4,178	39,858
Nevada	31,808	3,914	27,894
New Hampshire	8,827	1,175	7,652
New Jersey	73,649	15,759	57,890
New Mexico	46,414	3,862	42,552
New York	44,927	5,589	39,338
North Carolina	24,944	2,689	22,255
North Dakota	238	79	159
Ohio	25,321	3,001	22,320
Oklahoma	100,645	11,080	89,565
Oregon	63,740	5,639	58,101
Pennsylvania	59,564	6,820	52,744
Rhode Island	10,741	1,139	9,602
South Carolina	17,009	1,879	15,130
South Dakota	892	64	828
Tennessee	97,289	9,055	88,234
Texas	248,116	29,649	218,467
Utah	28,780	3,843	24,937
Vermont	14,193	1,267	12,926
Virginia	28,937	2,709	26,228
Washington	154,883	14,225	140,658
West Virginia	15,463	1,642	13,821
Wisconsin	250,743	29,795	220,948
Wyoming	14,331	3,222	11,109
Total	3,235,747	359,898	2,875,849

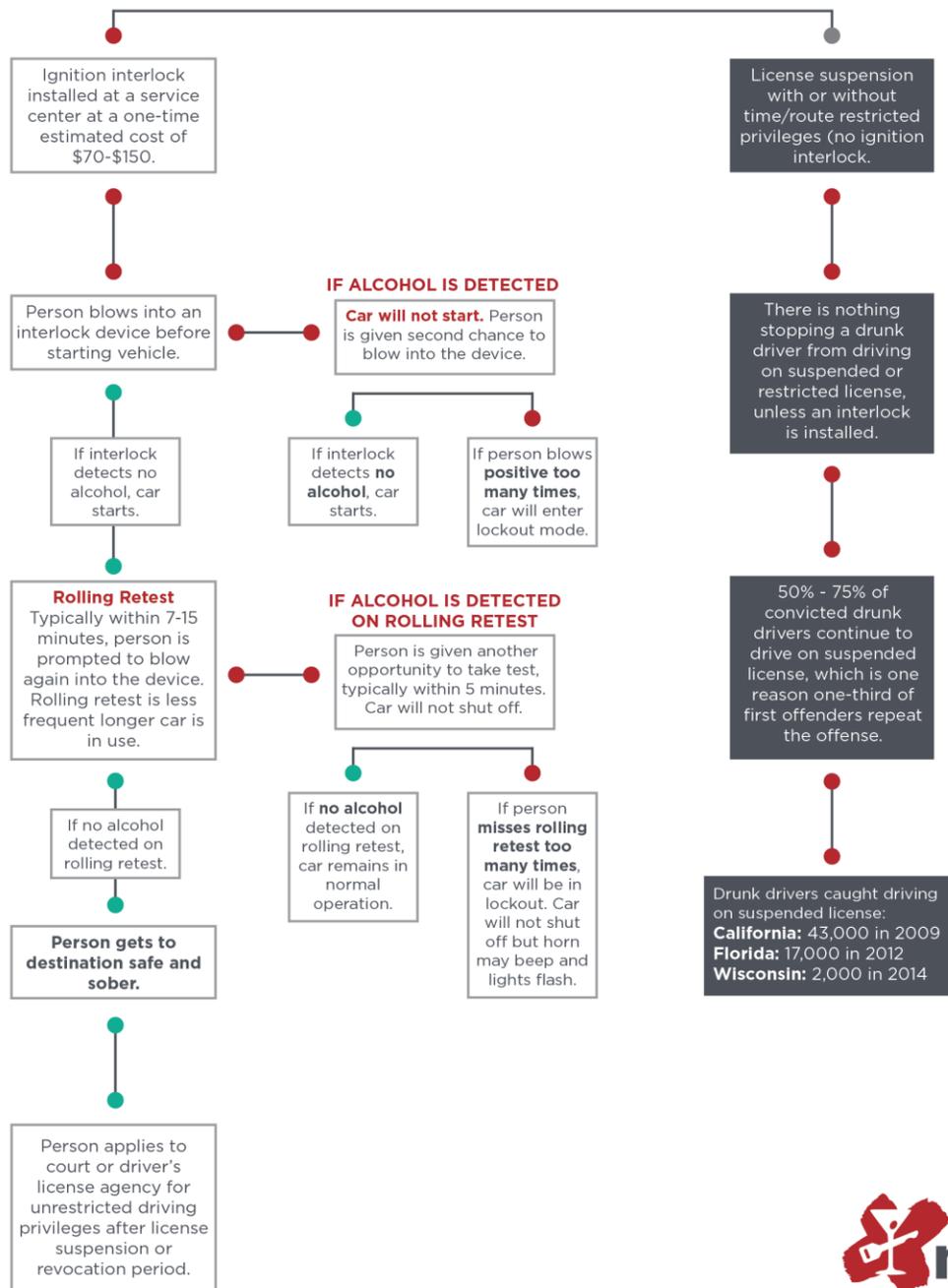
Data collected from interlock vendors. The time period is from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019

Drinking and Driving Attempts Stopped by an Ignition Interlock from 2006 to 2019

	Total	.08 BAC and over stops	.02 to .79 BAC Stops
Alabama	49,498	6,038	43,460
Alaska	220,894	16,942	203,952
Arizona	1,249,701	110,166	1,139,535
Arkansas	802,352	95,604	706,748
California	2,265,139	271,114	1,994,025
Colorado	1,205,273	121,289	1,083,984
Connecticut	638,022	82,109	555,913
Delaware	73,643	6,907	66,736
D.C.	19,669	280	19,389
Florida	1,011,932	98,016	913,916
Georgia	299,811	40,106	259,705
Hawaii	166,636	10,886	155,750
Idaho	65,288	8,076	57,212
Illinois	618,329	121,168	497,161
Indiana	121,371	12,372	108,999
Iowa	1,202,806	157,793	1,045,013
Kansas	1,026,396	116,480	909,916
Kentucky	69,140	6,951	62,189
Louisiana	833,008	118,559	714,449
Maine	67,300	15,896	51,404
Maryland	687,807	67,197	620,610
Massachusetts	296,385	43,288	253,097
Michigan	273,764	30,396	243,368
Minnesota	551,068	81,625	469,443
Mississippi	75,384	8,085	67,299
Missouri	932,526	117,703	814,823
Montana	34,592	6,258	28,334
Nebraska	387,785	38,684	349,101
Nevada	85,399	12,529	72,870
New Hampshire	66,297	12,794	53,503
New Jersey	534,800	103,684	431,116
New Mexico	487,570	83,139	404,431
New York	498,635	103,376	395,259
North Carolina	242,153	25,535	216,618
North Dakota	1,033	401	632
Ohio	210,489	30,679	179,810
Oklahoma	718,993	92,135	626,858
Oregon	375,376	53,723	321,653
Pennsylvania	419,804	84,087	335,717
Rhode Island	57,252	6,126	51,126
South Carolina	87,068	10,604	76,464
South Dakota	10,839	1,843	8,996
Tennessee	513,512	69,047	444,465
Texas	2,390,284	339,246	2,051,038
Utah	182,175	23,226	158,949
Vermont	83,578	10,361	73,217
Virginia	221,018	25,304	195,714
Washington	1,062,974	134,384	928,590
West Virginia	363,151	29,671	333,480
Wisconsin	2,069,523	331,976	1,737,547
Wyoming	104,668	20,115	84,553
Total	26,032,110	3,413,973	22,618,137

Data collected from interlock vendors. The time period is from December 1, 2006 to December 31, 2019

Ignition Interlock vs. License Suspension After DUI



People who use an interlock are less likely to reoffend. Compared to license suspension alone, interlocks reduce repeat offenses by 67% while the device is installed and 39% after the device is removed. Compliance Based Removal could help decrease repeat offenses even more.

MADD supports ignition interlocks for ALL apprehended drunk drivers. Interlocks accomplish what license suspension and other monitoring technologies do not — separate drinking from driving.

- **Interlock Service Center:** Person must get interlock serviced every 30 days.
- **Lockout Mode:** If person blows positive for alcohol too many times or misses a rolling test, device may need to be taken to get serviced sooner than 30 days.
- **Extra time on interlock possible.** The interlock service center may report any violations, too many positive blows or missed rolling retests to a monitoring agency which may result in extra time on interlock if the state has a **Compliance Based Removal** aspect to the interlock law. Many states require offenders to show proof of installation and/or compliance with the interlock order to the court/driver's license agency in order to have device removed.



Studies on the Effectiveness of Ignition Interlocks

Teoh et al, Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, “State Ignition Interlock Laws and Fatal Crashes,” March 2018.

- The number of impaired driving crashes falls 16 percent when states enact all-offender ignition interlock laws.
- If all states mandated interlocks for all DUI offenders, more than 500 of those deaths would have been avoided.

McGinty, Emma E. American Journal of Preventative Medicine, “Ignition Interlock Laws: Effects on Fatal Motor Vehicle Crashes, 1982–2013,” January, 2017

- Ignition interlock laws reduce alcohol-involved fatal crashes. Increasing the spread of interlock laws that are mandatory for all offenders would have significant public health benefit.
- Laws requiring interlocks for all drunk driving offenders with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or greater were associated with a seven percent decrease in the rate of drunk driving fatal crashes.
- Laws requiring interlocks for first-time offenders with a BAC of .15 or greater were associated with an eight percent decrease in the rate of drunk driving fatal crashes.
- Laws requiring interlocks for segments of high-risk drunk driving offenders, such as repeat offenders, may reduce alcohol-involved fatal crashes after two years of implementation.

California DMV Study of Four-County Ignition Interlock Pilot Program, June 2016

- Ignition interlocks are **74% more effective in reducing DUI recidivism** than license suspension alone for first offenders during the first 182 days after conviction.
- **Interlocks are 45% more effective** in preventing a repeat DUI incidence when compared to license suspension alone during days 183 to 365 after conviction. (Many first-time offenders have the device removed after 182 days of use.)
- Ignition interlocks are **70% more effective than license suspension** alone in preventing repeat offenses for second-time offenders, compared to license suspension alone, for the first 364 days of use.
- Interlocks are **58% more effective in preventing a repeat DUI incidence during days 365 to 730** days of use for second-time offenders.
- **Third-time offenders who only had a suspended license were 3.4 times more likely to have a fourth DUI** conviction or incidence compared to the interlocked offender group.
- Because interlocked offenders are able to be a part of society and provide for their family by driving to work, grocery stores, restaurants and any anywhere else, their crash risk is most likely similar to the general driving population in California, but higher than offenders whose licenses were suspended or revoked and not permitted to drive.

Kaufman, University of Pennsylvania, “Impact of State Ignition Interlock Laws on Alcohol-Involved Crash Deaths in the United States,” March 2016

- DUI **deaths decreased by 15%** in states that enacted all-offender interlock laws.
- States with mandatory interlock laws saw a **0.8 decrease in deaths for every 100,000 people** each year – which is comparable to lives shown to have been saved from mandatory airbag laws (0.9 lives saved per 100,000 people).



Ignition Interlocks Save Lives

Ignition interlocks are effective in reducing repeat drunk driving offenses by 67 percent while the device is installed compared to license suspension alone. (CDC)

Interlocks help reduce repeat offenses even after the device is removed by 39 percent compared to offenders who never installed an interlock. (Marques, 2010)

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.



All-offender ignition interlock laws stop drunk drivers with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) .08 or greater from reoffending.

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.
- All-offender interlock laws are widespread. Thirty-four states plus DC have laws requiring ignition interlocks for all first-time convicted drunk drivers.
- As of December 2017, there are approximately 349,030 interlocks in use in the United States.

Ignition interlock laws saves lives. Due in part to laws requiring interlocks for all convicted drunk drivers, drunk driving deaths have declined dramatically and at a better pace compared to the national average decline:

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|------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ✓ West Virginia: 60 percent | ✓ Vermont: 40 percent | ✓ Oklahoma: 29 percent |
| ✓ Louisiana: 41 percent | ✓ Arizona: 34 percent | ✓ Arkansas: 25 percent |
| ✓ Delaware: 40 percent | ✓ Kansas: 32 percent | ✓ Mississippi: 19 percent |

Public supports Interlocks for all convicted drunk drivers. Three surveys indicate strong public support of ignition interlocks for all convicted drunk drivers.

- 88 percent (Center for Excellence in Rural Safety, 2010)
- 84 percent (Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, 2009)
- 76 percent (American Automobile Association, 2012)