



Effectiveness of Alcohol Ignition Interlocks: What the Research Indicates

September 21, 2022



Impaired Driving Tertiary Prevention Objectives

- Change convicted DUI offender's risky behavior.
- Protect the public from the risk presented by DUI offenders while their behavior is being modified.



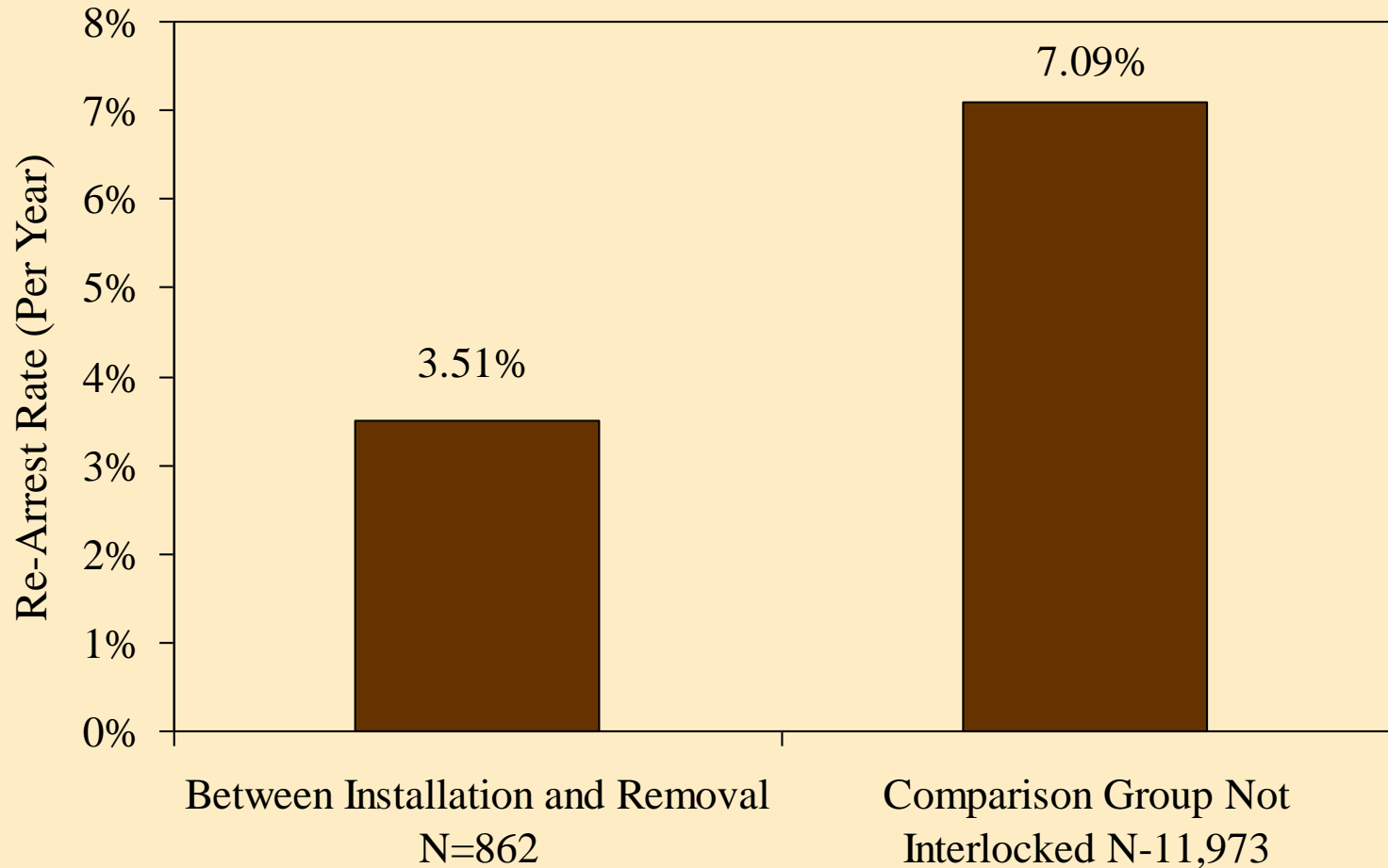
Alcohol Ignition Interlock Laws Reduce Offender Recidivism

Alcohol Ignition Interlocks



- **Reduces DWI recidivism by about 65%** for offenders with interlocks (who sometimes use alternative vehicles) compared to similar offenders who did not get the interlock.
- **Reduces recidivism by 70%** for first-time DWI offenders (on, then off).
- **Reduces recidivism by 55%** for multiple DWI offenders (on, then off).
- If installed on all vehicles of offenders, would probably prevent **95%** of DWI behavior during installation period.

New Mexico *Effectiveness* Study



NM First Offender Study

Summary of Interlock Evaluation Studies

Authors/Year	Jurisdiction	Characteristics of population	Findings: Recidivism with interlock	Findings: Recidivism after interlock	Comparison Group
EMT Group (1990)	California	First and multiple	Interlock 3.9% Noninterlock 5.9%	—	Suspended
Elliot & Morse (1993)	Cincinnati, Ohio	First offenders over .20% BAC plus multiple offenders	Interlock 2.9% Noninterlock 8.4%	Interlock 6.6% Noninterlock 6.5%	Suspended
Jones (1993)	Oregon	Multiple offenders	Interlock 5% Noninterlock 8%	Interlock 10.8% Noninterlock 11.5%	Restricted
Popkin, Stewart, Beckmeyer, & Martell (1993)	North Carolina	Second offenders	Interlock 2.7% Restricted 7.1% Suspended 9.8%	Interlock same or higher than noninterlock	Restricted license & suspended
Weinrath (1997)	Alberta	Multiple offenders	Interlock 10% Noninterlock 25%	Interlock 7% Noninterlock 11%	Suspended
Tippetts & Voas (1997)	West Virginia	First and second offenders	Interlock 1.6% Noninterlock 6.4%	Interlock 10% Noninterlock 10%	Licensed & suspended
Beck, Rauch, Baker, & Williams (1999)	Maryland (Random assignment)	Second offenders	Interlock 2.4% Noninterlock 6.7%	Interlock 3.5% Noninterlock 2.6%	Licensed

Summary of Interlock Evaluation Studies (cont.)

Authors/Year	Jurisdiction	Characteristics of population	Findings: Recidivism with interlock	Findings: Recidivism after interlock	Comparison Group
Voas et al. (1999)	Alberta	First offenders	(12 months) Interlock 0.1% Suspended 2.23% Ineligible 4.61%	Interlock 2.75% Reinstated 2.63% Still suspended 2.48%	Reinstated & ineligible
		Multiple offenders	(24 months) Interlock 0.85% Suspended 8.08% Ineligible 18.72%	Interlock 7.05% Reinstated 7.32% Still suspended 3.94% Ineligible 10.52%	Reinstated & ineligible
Vezina (2002)	Quebec	First and repeat offenders	1st (12 months) Interlock <.5% Suspended 2% 2nd (24 months) Interlock <2% Suspended 6%	24 months Interlock 4% Suspended 5% 36 months Interlock 4% Suspended 7%	Suspended
Frank, Raub, Lucke, & Wark (2002)	Illinois	Multiple	Interlock 1.3% Restricted 6.8%	Interlock 1.7% Restricted 2.0%	Restricted
Bjerre (2003)	Sweden	First and Multiple	Interlock 0% Revoked 2.9% Matched 1.6%	—	Revoked & matched



Evidence that Alcohol Ignition Interlock Laws Serve as a General Deterrent to Impaired Driving

Study by Insurance Institute for Highway Safety

Effects of All-Offender Alcohol Ignition Interlock Laws on Recidivism and Alcohol-Related Crashes [State of Washington]

McCartt, Eichelberger, Leaf (2013)

- ❖ ***Recidivism rates reduced by 12%*** for interlocked offenders
- ❖ ***Crash reductions*** associated with all-offender law suggests they can have a ***general deterrent effect***

Another Study by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety

State alcohol ignition interlock laws and fatal crashes

Eric Teoh, IIHS, James Fell, NORC

Michael Scherer, PIRE, Danielle Wolfe, IIHS

March 2018

- All-Offender Laws associated with **16%** fewer drivers with BACs \geq .08 involved in fatal crashes compared to no law
- Repeat and High BAC Laws: **8%** reduction compared to no law

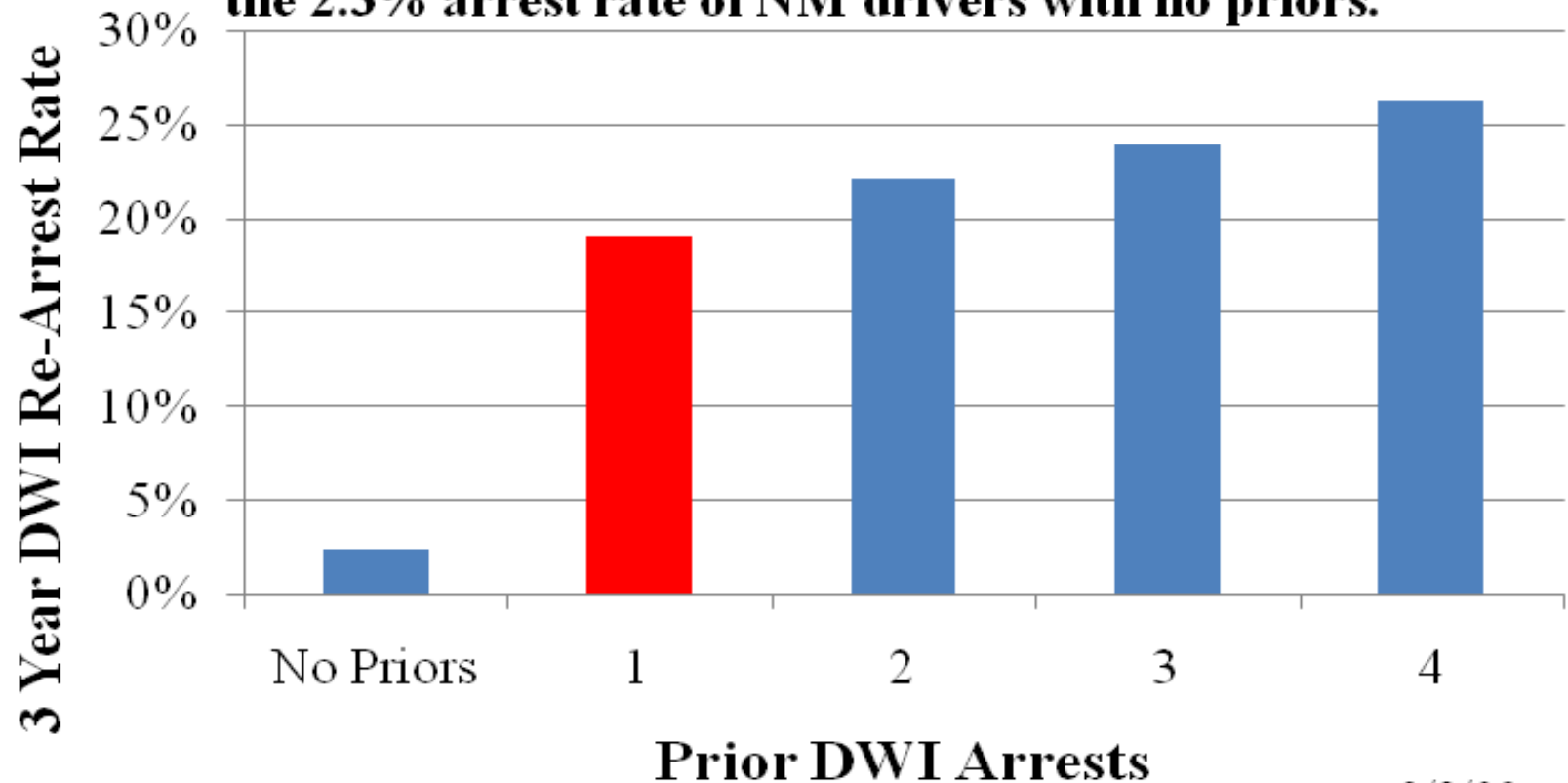


Mandatory Alcohol Ignition Interlock Laws for All DUI Offenders

Why Interlocks for First Offenders?

3 Year DWI Re-Arrest Rate in NM

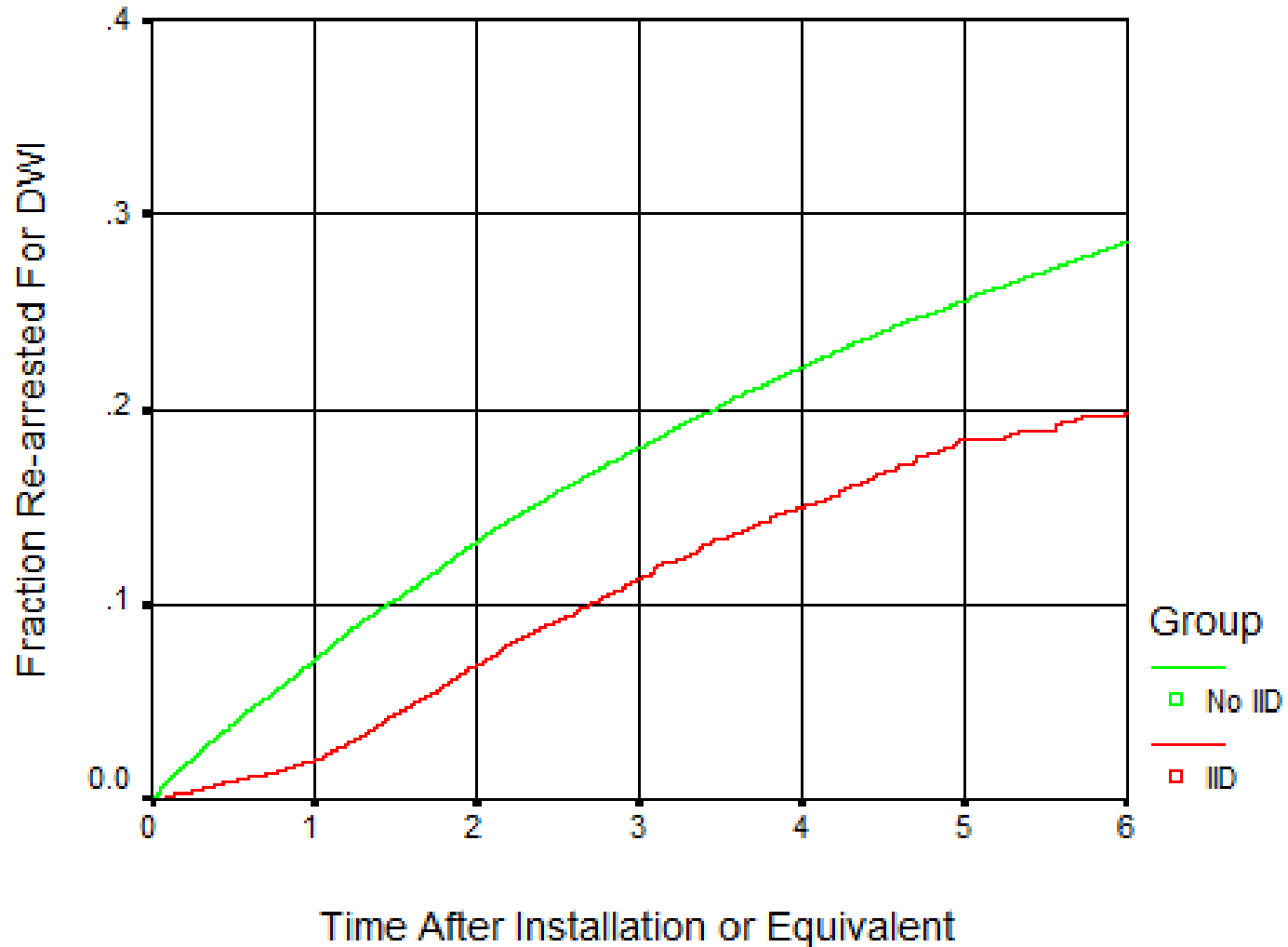
The 19% re-arrest rate of first offenders is closer to the 22% rate of second offenders than to the 2.3% arrest rate of NM drivers with no priors.




3/2/09

New Mexico – Rearrests Over 6 Years

Recidivism After First DWI Conviction





**Do DUI Offenders Drive While
their License is Suspended?**

NHTSA Study of DUI Offenders Driving During License Suspension

- Systematic unobtrusive observations were conducted by surveillance professionals of first time DUI offenders in two cities.
- **88%** of suspended DUI offenders in one city were observed driving. **36%** of suspended DUI offenders were observed driving in the second city.
- Prevalence of driving while suspended is high and can vary substantially between jurisdictions

Source: McCartt, Geary & Berning (2003)



What Does the National Academy of Sciences Engineering and Medicine Say?

National Academy of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine Report 2018

“Getting to Zero Alcohol-Impaired Driving Fatalities”

- Recommended mandatory alcohol ignition interlocks for all DUI offenders
- To increase effectiveness, States should consider increased monitoring periods based on the offender’s BAC or past recidivism.

Source: NASEM (2018) National Academies Press, Washington, DC.



Contact Information

James C. Fell

Principal Research Scientist

National Opinion Research Center (NORC) at
the University of Chicago

4350 East-West Highway, 8th Floor

Bethesda, MD 20814

240-354-2137

fell-jim@norc.org