



Research In Progress

Evaluation of the SCRAM™ Device as a Tool in Monitoring Impaired Driving Offenders

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A component of DWI offender monitoring programs is to protect the public by preventing future impaired driving. Increasingly, courts are using technology (e.g., continuous alcohol monitoring) to assist in monitoring impaired driving offenders. Continuous alcohol monitoring devices use electrochemical sensing technology to test perspiration above the surface of the skin (often called transdermal) for the presence of alcohol. Courts are primarily using Alcohol Monitoring Systems' (AMS) Secure Continuous Remote Alcohol Monitoring (SCRAM™) device for this purpose. The SCRAM system consists of an ankle bracelet that conducts transdermal alcohol readings by sampling the perspiration above the skin. The readings are stored, and at set times, transmitted via wireless radio frequency signal to the SCRAM modem, and stored/managed in a web-based SCRAMNet. It is presumably less expensive than incarceration, and allows offenders to: remain in their homes, go to work, and maintain their other responsibilities.

The objectives of this project are to determine the effectiveness of SCRAM as a monitoring tool and in reducing drinking and driving. This project will document under what conditions SCRAM is being used, how long the program has been in use, how long the device has been used in the program, and how long is it used by the offenders; as well as, who pays for the device, how the data is used and who uses it, how oversight is conducted, and how the SCRAM device assists jurisdictions monitor for recidivism.

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