



Research In Progress

Examine the Feasibility of an Ignition Interlock Program For Teen Drivers

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Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for teenagers in the United States, and typically about 25% of the young drivers killed in crashes have a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or higher.

Ignition interlocks have been used as a sanction for over twenty years, typically for multiple offenders, and increasingly for first offenders, and they appear effective while on a vehicle, at decreasing a driver's drinking and driving trips, based on reduced recidivism. In recent years, some States have begun requiring interlocks on first-time offenders' vehicles. Interlocks prevent a driver from driving after drinking, in effect, making a decision for- someone who has shown poor judgment about driving after drinking in the past and restricting the trips that can be made in the interlock-installed vehicle. Many parents may be interested in a similar approach for their teenage drivers who may not always show the best judgment regarding driving, especially after drinking.

This project explores the **feasibility** of using interlocks as a preventative measure, for a new cohort of young novice drivers, rather than as a punishment for impaired drivers who have already been convicted. We will contact interlock providers to discuss how a potential program might work. We will also learn from teen drivers, and parents of teen drivers, whether such a program would be of interest, and if so, if any sort of incentives (besides safety and "peace of mind") would be required for participation. We will also meet with community groups to learn how an interlock program for teen drivers might be supported.

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