



**MINNESOTA
JUDICIAL BRANCH**
FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Ignition Interlock Update

May 2014

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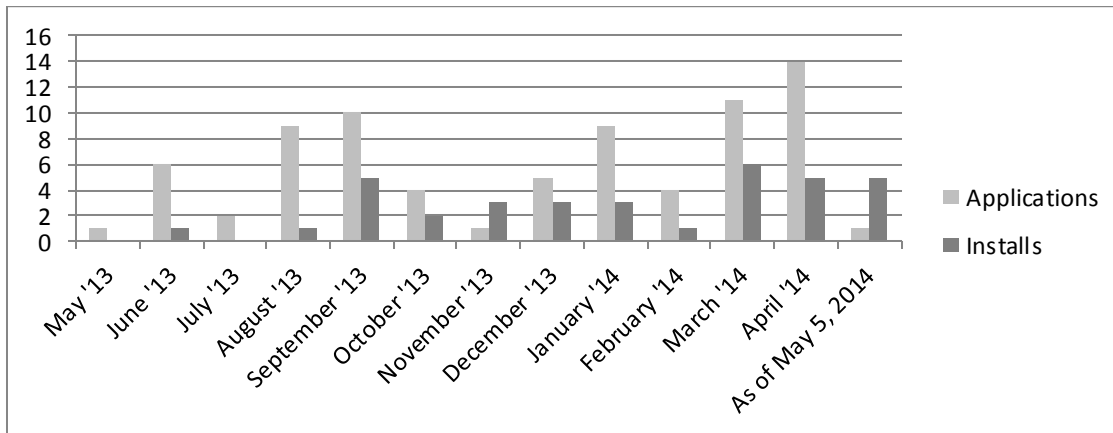
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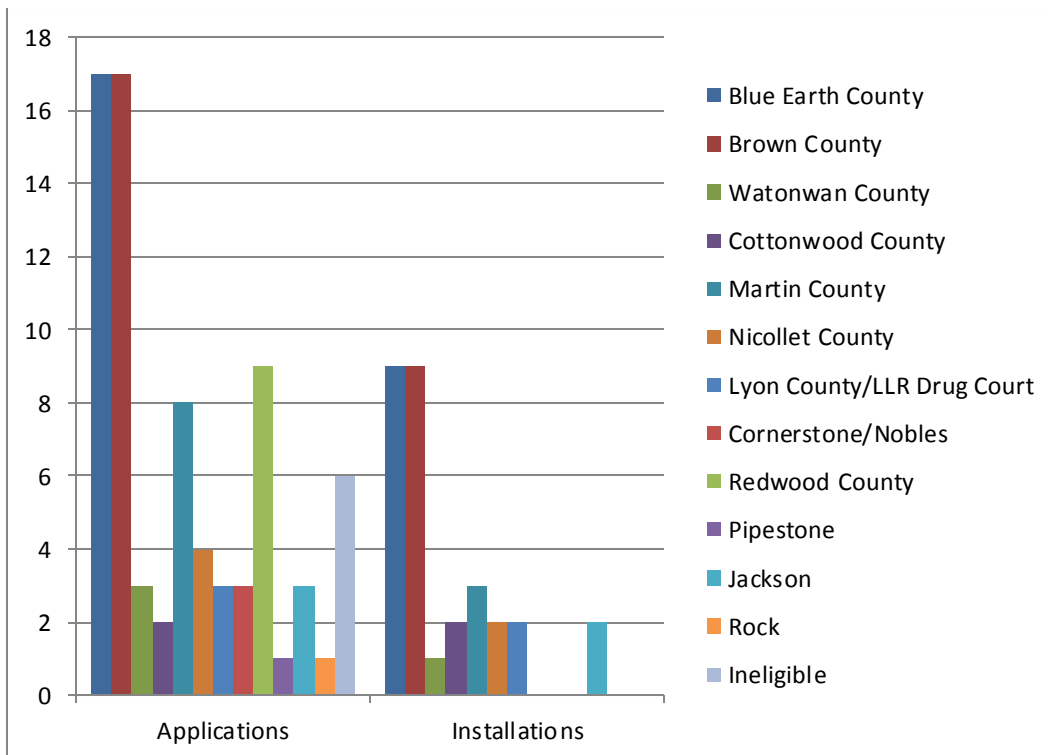
Fifth Judicial District Ignition Interlock Program Statistics

The word is spreading about the Fifth Judicial District's Ignition Interlock Program. April was another record month for applications, 14 were received bringing the total in the first year of applications to 78. Of these applications, 70 were eligible for assistance from the District and 35 have installed ignition interlock.

Applications & Installations by Month



Applications & Installs by County



Interceptor barred from Minnesota's Ignition Interlock Program

One of our program's vendors was recently informed they will no longer be allowed to work in the state of Minnesota. The Fifth Judicial District's Ignition Interlock program staff had been working with the state's Ignition Interlock Vendor Liaison to address a number of concerns with Interceptor's practices. Evidently the concerns rose to the level that Driver and Vehicle Services issued a cease and desist order that's in place until they are officially decertified 7/1/14.

Plans are underway to transition the program participants installed with Interceptor to Intoxalock. Interceptor is required by the state to uninstall their devices at no charge to the customers. The Fifth Judicial District's grant can pay for reinstallation of the ignition interlock device.

Thankfully in our work with Intoxalock, including witnessing their installers work firsthand, no such concerns have been raised with their practices. Intoxalock had already been working to increase their service centers in the areas of Marshall, Redwood Falls and New Ulm and expects to have a service center opening in Marshall soon.

FMJ Drug Court implements policy regarding license reinstatement

In April the Faribault, Martin and Jackson County Adult Substance Abuse Court implemented a new policy requiring all participants that do not have a valid license make and follow a license reinstatement plan. During the first phase all participants will meet with the coordinator to design a plan for license reinstatement. On an ongoing basis the drug court team will determine if the participant is truly making his or her best effort to regain driving privileges and institute appropriate sanctions and incentives for a participant's progress or lack thereof.

FMJ also accepted its first Felony DWI participant with the condition that he must comply with the Fifth Judicial District's Ignition Interlock Program. Updates will be shared as these new policies are implemented.

Helpful Hints for Ignition Interlock Program Participants

It may not come as a surprise that many of our offenders do not seek out the ignition interlock program manual when applying to install ignition interlock. Others may forget the rules they agreed to several weeks prior to actually installing ignition interlock. Given the issues our program staff have seen with participants not knowing or forgetting program rules, all participants are being sent information about program rules and hints for troubleshooting issues with the device. The information is sent out with their payment voucher at the time of installation.

Cancelled Drivers Ignition Interlock Reminders

1. DO NOT DRIVE UNTIL YOU HAVE A LIMITED LICENSE IN YOUR HANDS. Contact Miranda Rosa (507-402-9375) if two weeks have passed and you do not have it yet.
2. You must do at least 30 initial breath tests (tests when you start your vehicle) each month.
3. You must give a breath sample for all rolling retests within 10 minutes. Three missed rolling retests in a 7-day period will extend the required period of ignition interlock installation.
4. If you have an alcohol violation your license will be cancelled and you will need to restart your ignition interlock time period.
5. If you believe an alcohol test by your ignition interlock device is incorrect, remember the following:
 - If you have a failed test when starting your vehicle, the device will allow you to retest three times (once every five minutes). While you wait to retest, air out your car and/or rinse your mouth out with cold water.
 - The device will allow you to retest a failed rolling retest within 10 minutes.
 - If you continue to get a false positive test, request a PBT at your local law enforcement center. Proof of this test will be needed for a review hearing with Driver & Vehicle Services.
 - Contact Andy Leif, the judicial district's Ignition Interlock Technician, at 507-276-1999 with any concerns or questions regarding a false positive test.
6. Other people may drive your vehicle but they also must be sober to drive it.
7. You must drive a vehicle with ignition interlock equipped. You can be charged with a crime for not driving a vehicle with ignition interlock installed.
 - Contact Driver and Vehicle Services about employment exemptions, if applicable.
8. If you are no longer able to participate in the ignition interlock program, contact Miranda to make sure you properly withdraw so you get credit for the time you had ignition interlock installed.
9. Do not uninstall the ignition interlock device until you are notified by Driver and Vehicle Services that you are authorized to uninstall.
10. If you have a problem with your device, contact your vendor, Intoxalock, at 888-283-6148.
11. If your device is damaged in an accident or stolen you must make a police report then contact your insurance agency and your ignition interlock device vendor. You have seven days to install a new device, though this can be extended if Driver & Vehicle Services is notified of the issue. If you have questions, contact Miranda (507-402-9375).
12. Other violations include:
 - Tampering, bypassing or circumventing the device. The device has a camera. We will see if someone else is blowing into the device for you to drive the vehicle. You can be charged with a crime for doing this and it will extend your ignition interlock period.

- Not following your limited license schedule. You may update this schedule but allow two weeks for the update to take place.
13. You may be contacted by Miranda or Andy if there are concerns about your device. They may make unannounced visits to check on how the ignition interlock device installed in your vehicle. If you do not agree to such checks your assistance may end and your probation agent will be notified.
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Revoked Drivers Ignition Interlock Reminders

1. **DO NOT DRIVE UNTIL YOU KNOW THAT YOUR LICENSE IS VALID.** You may check on license status by calling 651-284-2000 or by visiting www.mndriveinfo.org. Once your status shows valid, you are able to drive on your yellow receipt until you receive your plastic card in the mail.
2. You must give a breath sample for all rolling retests within 10 minutes. Three missed rolling retests in a 7-day period will extend the required period of ignition interlock installation.
3. If you have an alcohol violation during the last 90 days of your revocation period, you will be continued on ignition interlock for another 90 days. You will not be done with your ignition interlock period until the last 90 days of your revocation period is free from alcohol violations.
4. If you believe an alcohol test by your ignition interlock device is incorrect, remember the following:
 - If you have a failed test when starting your vehicle, the device will allow you to retest three times (once every five minutes). While you wait to retest, air out your car and/or rinse your mouth out with cold water.
 - The device will allow you to retest a failed rolling retest within 10 minutes.
 - If you continue to get a false positive test, request a PBT at your local law enforcement center. Proof of this test will be needed for a review hearing with Driver & Vehicle Services.
 - Contact Andy Leif, our program's Ignition Interlock Technician, at 507-276-1999 with any concerns or questions regarding a false positive test.
5. Other people may drive your vehicle but they also must be sober to drive it.
6. You must drive a vehicle with ignition interlock equipped. You can be charged with a crime for not driving a vehicle with ignition interlock installed.
 - Contact Driver and Vehicle Services about employment exemptions, if applicable.
7. Do not uninstall the ignition interlock device until you are notified by Driver and Vehicle Services that you are authorized to uninstall.
8. If you have a problem with your device, contact your vendor, Intoxalock, at 888-283-6148
9. If your device is damaged in an accident or stolen you must make a police report then contact your insurance agency and your ignition interlock device vendor. You have seven days to install

a new device, though this can be extended if Driver & Vehicle Services is notified of the issue. If you have questions, contact Miranda (507-402-9375).

10. Tampering, bypassing or circumventing the device is a violation. The device has a camera. We will see if someone else is blowing into the device for you to drive the vehicle. You can be charged with a crime for doing this and it will extend your ignition interlock period.
11. You may be contacted by Miranda or Andy if there are concerns about your device. They may make unannounced visits to check on how the ignition interlock device installed in your vehicle. If you do not agree to such checks your assistance may end and your probation agent will be notified.

The Behavioral Economics of Drunk Driving

“Although by several indicators, persons who drink and drive tend to appear to take a shorter-run perspective in decision-making than others do, they do not generally differ in cognitive ability, and if anything, have a better understanding of the legal consequences of a DWI.”

“It seems highly implausible that drinking and driving per se causes impatience in the time dimension, shorter financial planning horizons, or lesser time devoted to planning more generally. Rather it is likely that the persons with these attributes are more likely to drink and drive. An implication is that programs to treat persons convicted of drinking and driving should stress broader personality factors rather than limit the focus to alcohol use and abuse, as at least some do.”

[Click here to see the full study](#)

New Research Explores Female Drunk Drivers

[By: Robyn Robertson, President and CEO and Erin Holmes, Research Scientist
Traffic Injury Research Foundation, Ottawa, Canada](#)

Several high-profile female drunk driving cases have focused attention on these drivers and also resulted in new laws and penalties. However, a 2011 literature review revealed that research is outdated and that there are important gaps in knowledge about this population and effective strategies to manage them.

In response, in 2013 the [Traffic Injury Research Foundation \(TIRF\)](#) conducted a multi-state study to explore the life histories and experiences of this population in the criminal justice and treatment systems. It was funded by The Century Council and involved case studies in four states (CA, MI, MO and

NY) that were selected to provide a broad cross-section of 150 offenders and 36 practitioners representing diverse characteristics and practices.

Three main profiles of women emerged from the study:

- Young women who drink in order to ‘fit in’ and drink at house parties and bars;
- Recently married women who drink after having children as a means of coping with loneliness; and,
- Divorced older women and/or “empty nesters” who begin to drink later in life, often following a catalyst (e.g., death of a parent, end of a marriage, or children leaving home).

Other characteristics commonly reported in the literature were prevalent across study participants including mental health disorders, family history of substance misuse, multiple impaired driving arrests, trauma history, failed relationships, and feelings of shame.

Many women defined their experiences in terms of emotional reactions such as shame, depression, and anxiety, and they expressed concern about the emphasis placed on their offense and not on underlying factors. They reported that their sentence failed to account for life circumstances or address their issues. However, most women agreed that accountability is essential, and that the level of communication, support, and encouragement provided by practitioners can influence outcomes.

Female drunk drivers in this study indicated that treatment was generally beneficial, but many also experienced frustration with it. A majority responded favorably to female-only programs that included individual counseling and group therapy and agreed that general substance abuse treatment programs had limited benefit.

The collective experiences of offenders and practitioners suggested some lessons learned to guide the development of interventions. Female drunk drivers often come to supervision and treatment with other issues including substance misuse, mental health problems or a history of trauma. They also generally experience more pressure to succeed due to financial and/or childcare responsibilities, and they are more likely to be successful than males in completing their sentence.

Two useful guidelines for practitioners to consider are: 1) the importance of balancing accountability with support; and, 2) applying a comprehensive approach to supervision and treatment as female offenders often suffer from a broader range of life issues.

This study adds to the body of knowledge about female drunk drivers and provides greater insight into their pathways to offending. The results of this study clearly demonstrate the importance of focusing efforts to begin to better understand this problem and to develop more effective strategies both to prevent and manage it.