

Reducing Alcohol-Impaired Driving: Ignition Interlocks

Task Force Finding

Intervention Definition

Ignition interlocks are devices that can be installed in motor vehicles to prevent operation of the vehicle by a driver who has a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) above a specified level (usually 0.02% – 0.04%). Interlocks are most often installed in vehicles of people who have been convicted of alcohol-impaired driving to give them an opportunity to drive legally.

Task Force Finding (April 2006)

The Community Preventive Services Task Force recommends the use of ignition interlocks for people convicted of alcohol-impaired driving on the basis of strong evidence of their effectiveness in reducing re-arrest rates while the interlocks are installed. Public health benefits of the intervention are currently limited by the small proportion of offenders who install interlocks in their vehicles. More widespread and sustained use of interlocks among this population could have a substantial impact on alcohol-related crashes.

Publications

Elder RW, Voas R, Beirness D, Shults RA, Sleet DA, Nichols JL, Compton R, Task Force on Community Preventive Services. Effectiveness of ignition interlocks for preventing alcohol-impaired driving and alcohol-related crashes: a Community Guide systematic review. *Am J Prev Med* 2011;40(3):362–76.

Task Force on Community Preventive Services. Recommendations on the effectiveness of ignition interlocks for preventing alcohol-impaired driving and alcohol-related crashes. *Am J Prev Med* 2011;40(3):377.

Magnusson P, Jakobsson L, Hultman S. Alcohol interlock systems in Sweden: 10 years of systematic work. *Am J Prev Med* 2011;40(3):378–9.

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