



Offender Programs: Experiences in North America

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About TIRF

- > **National, independent road safety research institute**
- > **Registered charity**
- > **Staff**
- > **Funding**
- > **Emphasis on road users**
- > **Scope of activities**



Overview

- > **Evolution of offender programs in North America**
- > **Recent growth in interlock programs**
- > **Common program features**
- > **Emerging trends**
- > **Conclusions**
- > **Resources**



Evolution of interlock programs

- > **Presence of programs in Canada and United States. See <http://iiip.tirf.ca/>.**
- > **Relative priority of programs.**
- > **Three approaches to program delivery.**
- > **Agencies engaged in program delivery.**
- > **Agency roles and responsibilities.**
- > **Targeted offender populations.**



Recent growth

- > **Advances in research and technology.**
- > **Programs are becoming a higher priority to achieve gains in reducing impaired driving.**
- > **Expansion of programs to include more offender populations.**
- > **This has resulted in:**
 - » increased ownership of programs by jurisdictions; and,
 - » more attention devoted to operational practices.



TIRF project

- > **TIRF provides training and technical assistance through a cooperative agreement with NHTSA.**
 - » Consistently identify eligible offenders and track program participation;
 - » Clarify agency roles and responsibilities;
 - » Streamline and strength procedures/practices;
 - » Create accountability; and,
 - » Manage and efficiently use resources.
- > **Work completed/ongoing in IL, NY, SC, VT, NC, VA, WV, MD, DE, KY, MO, CT, CA, ID, OK, MN and AK.**





Common program features

> Program goals

- » Incapacitation, deterrence, punishment, and rehabilitation.
- » Punishment emphasized over rehabilitation.

> Technical standards

- » More jurisdictions are developing standards.
- » Lack of knowledge of device technology.
- » Lack of familiarity with differences across devices or appropriate use of features.
- » Inconsistent testing and certification.



Common program features

> Vendor certification

- » Multiple vendors in many jurisdictions.
- » Different mechanisms to work with vendors.
- » Frequency of approval or certification varies.
- » Different scope of requirements.
- » Limited use of oversight or auditing procedures.
- » De-certification procedures are inconsistent.



Common program features

> Enforcement

- » More jurisdictions note restriction on licence.
- » Few jurisdictions actively train/engage officers.
- » Concerns regarding detection of unlicensed drivers.

> Unaffordability provisions

- » No Canadian jurisdictions and less than half of U.S. jurisdictions use strategies for unaffordability.
- » Lack of consensus on need for and how best to manage strategies.



Common program features

> **Graduated sanctions**

- » Increased use of graduated sanctions to increase accountability; need for flexibility.
- » Increased interest in reinforcements.

> **Removal from the program**

- » Non-compliant offenders still often removed.
- » Challenges existing philosophy of ALS/ALR.
- » Often strong political objections to granting licence, particularly among non-compliant offenders.



Common program features

- > **Low participation rates are an issue, despite growth in past five years.**
- > **Reasons include:**
 - » ability to opt out; lack of follow-up or communication;
 - » inconvenience/embarrassment;
 - » eligibility barriers;
 - » cost;
 - » lengthy hard suspensions;
 - » inability of agencies to impose sanctions; and,
 - » loss of offenders to other jurisdictions.



Emerging trends

- > **Mandatory vs. voluntary participation**
 - » Inclusion of high-BAC and first offenders.
- > **Reduced hard suspension periods**
- > **Increased emphasis on workflow**
 - » More jurisdictions developing detailed workflow processes and procedures.
 - » Use of workflow to help clearly define roles and responsibilities of agencies and facilitate communication.



Emerging trends

- > **Training/education for practitioners:**
 - » Recognized need for education and training for all program staff.
 - » Need to deliver ongoing education due to staff turnover and new recruits; training becoming mandatory.
 - » Jurisdictions have begun to develop training programs and informational materials.



Emerging trends

- > **Update administrative rules**
 - » To reflect advances in research.
 - » To strengthen operational practices.
 - » To better define role of vendors.
- > **Update technical standards**
 - » More jurisdictions are implementing their own technical standards.
 - » Inclusion of new technology features.
 - » Strengthening testing and approval processes.



Emerging trends

> **Uniform/automated reporting**

- » Trend toward standardization.
- » Transition to automated systems.
- » Recognize value of vendor partnerships.

> **Database development**

- » Increased need due to first offender laws.
- » Resulted in increased efficiencies and management of program.
- » Major investment with considerable benefits but a tough “sell” politically.



Emerging trends

> **Inclusion of treatment**

- » Use of screening and assessment.
- » Individualized treatment interventions.
- » Sharing of interlock data with treatment staff.

> **Performance-based exit**

- » Keeping offenders on device until they can demonstrate compliance.
- » Must be a true alcohol-positive test.



Emerging trends

> Vendor oversight

- » Increasingly important to protect jurisdictions.
- » Few examples to guide efforts.
- » Limited resources to support process.

> Revenue generation

- » Seeking strategies to make program self-sustaining as program participation/costs increase.
- » Use of special interlock license fees, program application fees, installation decals, and monitoring fees.



Emerging trends

> **Jurisdictional reciprocity**

- » Recognition of issue.
- » Uncertainty as to magnitude/characteristics.
- » Need for processes to manage and track these offenders.

> **Leadership**

- » Increased desire for networking and sharing of practices across jurisdictions.
- » Creation of program administrators association (AIIPA).



Conclusions

- > Jurisdictions are focusing on strengthening operational practices.**
- > There is a need for more guidance regarding the implementation of interlock programs and a repository of information.**
- > Network of contacts to share/borrow practices and procedures is growing.**
- > Growing balance between punishment and rehabilitation.**
- > Research and evaluation is encouraged to identify optimal program features.**



1 Overview



1 Overview

2 Research

3 Technology

4 Implementation

5 Legal Concerns

6 Vendors/Service Providers

Instructor Materials

[Introduction](#) | [About the Curriculum](#) | [Using the Curriculum](#) | [Sponsorship](#) | [Acknowledgments](#)

Introduction

Welcome to the Alcohol Ignition Interlock Curriculum for Practitioners!

This website contains a variety of instructional materials that can assist agencies and organizations in educating their staff and members about alcohol ignition interlocks.

An alcohol ignition interlock is a breath testing device that connects to the starter or ignition, or other on-board computer system of a vehicle. The device prevents the vehicle from starting if breath test results shows a breath alcohol concentration (BrAC) is found to exceed a certain pre-set limit (usually corresponding to blood alcohol concentration of .02%). This device also requires the driver to continue to pass repeated breath tests while the vehicle is in use to ensure that the driver remains sober. In addition, these programmable devices possess a range of anti-circumvention features. It should be noted that the alcohol interlock will never interfere with a running engine.

This curriculum allows instructors to tailor educational materials to meet their respective needs and deliver these materials at their convenience. It is designed to meet the educational needs of law enforcement, prosecutors, the judiciary, probation and parole officers, treatment and driver licensing professionals.

Most importantly, this curriculum is available to relevant practitioners at no cost.

Information relating to the following topics can be found at this site:

- international research findings from studies on alcohol interlocks;
- alcohol interlock technology including a range of visual materials;
- information about the implementation of alcohol interlocks as part of a program to control and monitor impaired driving offenders;
- legal concerns about the use of alcohol interlocks that may be raised in a criminal justice setting; and,
- information about contracting with vendors and service providers including a range of forms, contracts and other administrative materials.

This curriculum was developed with input from researchers and representatives of several national criminal justice organizations, treatment professionals, and licensing agencies.

Materials contained in this site are structured in a question/answer format and allow practitioners to select the topics and information that are most relevant to their audience.

They include:

- clear and comprehensive written materials for instructors;
- concise summaries that allow instructors to create their own handouts;
- powerpoint slides that allow instructors to create their own presentations;
- visual materials including an instructional video; and,
- glossaries and reference materials.



TIRF ongoing initiatives

- > **TIRF is continuing to provide technical assistance and training to jurisdictions.**
- > **Inclusion of new modules to enhance interlock curriculum:**
 - » Testing and certification of devices
 - » Jurisdictional reciprocity
 - » Program audits to prepare for evaluation
 - » Commercial programs
- >



TRAFFIC INJURY RESEARCH FOUNDATION

**THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ALCOHOL INTERLOCKS FOR FIRST OFFENDERS:
A CASE STUDY**

The knowledge source for safe driving

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