

2020 Ignition Interlock Penetration Case Study:

Montgomery County, Texas



Case Study

To explore the penetration of ignition interlocks, the Texas A&M Transportation Institute partnered with the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office to review driving while intoxicated (DWI) cases where ignition interlocks were ordered. Researchers explored DWI cases from 2015 and found:

- 11% of DWI cases requiring an ignition interlock as a condition of bond were not ordered a device
- 15% of DWI cases requiring an ignition interlock as a condition of probation were not ordered a device
- 24% of convicted DWI offenders had their ignition interlock removed before the minimum time requirements were completed



Did You Know?

Texas requires ignition interlocks for the following offenses?*

Condition of Bond	Condition of Probation
Subsequent Offenses	50% of probation term for subsequent offenses
Intoxication Assault	50% of probation term for defendants under 21 years old
Intoxication Manslaughter	DWI with a BAC \geq 0.15
DWI with a Child Passenger	

*A judge may waive the ignition interlock requirement if it is in the best interest of justice.

Recommendations

1. Judges should ask questions to identify if any of the automatic ignition interlock requirements are met.
 - a. *Has the defendant had a prior DWI?*
 - b. *How old was the defendant at the time of arrest?*
 - c. *Did the defendant have a BAC above 0.15?*
2. Judges and prosecutors should receive **education** on ignition interlocks and applicable laws in Texas.
3. Prosecutors should **notify judges** when automatic ignition interlock requirements are met.
4. Researchers should work with the judiciary to **identify factors** used when ordering and not ordering ignition interlocks.
5. Judges and prosecutors should be made aware of any **financial assistance** offered by ignition interlock providers in Montgomery County, Texas.

From 2015 to 2020, there were:

101 FATALITIES resulting from an alcohol-impaired driving crash which accounted for **31% OF ALL CRASH FATALITIES** in Montgomery County, Texas