

2020 Ignition Interlock Recidivism Case Study:

Montgomery County, Texas



Case Study

To explore the recidivism and ignition interlocks in Texas, the Texas A&M Transportation Institute partnered with the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office to review DWI cases. There were a total of 2,289 DWI cases from 2015 and the results of the case study revealed:

Repeat Offenses

- 12% of individuals with a DWI case had another DWI case (e.g., DWI, intoxication assault) by July 2020
 - 50% of 2015 DWI defendants had an ignition interlock as a condition of bond
 - 13% of 2015 DWI defendants had an ignition interlock as a condition of probation
- 11% of 2015 DWI defendants without an ignition interlock ordered as a condition of bond had another DWI case by July 2020
- 14% of 2015 DWI defendants with an ignition interlock ordered as a condition of bond had another DWI case by July 2020
- 12% of convicted 2015 DWI offenders without an ignition interlock as a condition of probation had another DWI case by July 2020
- 11% of convicted 2015 DWI offenders with an ignition interlock ordered as a condition of probation had another DWI case by July 2020

Post-DWI Crash

- 4% of convicted 2015 DWI offenders with a disposed 2015 DWI case had a post-DWI crash (DWI crash occurring after the case offense date)
 - 44% of convicted 2015 DWI offenders had an ignition interlock ordered as a condition of bond
 - 18% of convicted 2015 DWI offenders had an ignition interlock ordered as a condition of probation
- 4% of convicted 2015 DWI offenders without an ignition interlock as a condition of bond had a post-DWI crash vs 5% of convicted 2015 DWI offenders ordered an ignition interlock as a condition of bond had a post-DWI crash

A person wearing a tan shirt and blue jeans is shown from the chest down. They are wearing metal handcuffs on their wrists and holding a brown glass beer bottle with both hands. The background is dark and out of focus.

In 2019, there were 97,539 DWI CHARGES IN TEXAS.
Of which, 2,756 were in Montgomery County, Texas.¹
This represents a 10% INCREASE STATEWIDE and 52% INCREASE IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY since 2016.

DWI Recidivism and Ignition Interlocks

What we know²

- Ignition interlocks have been shown to reduce alcohol-related crashes while installed
- Ignition interlocks have been shown to reduce DWI recidivism rates while installed

What we don't know

- Ignition interlocks impact on recidivism in Texas
- Ignition interlocks impacts when only used for specific offenders (e.g., repeat offenders, high BAC offenders)

References

1. Texas Department of Public Safety. 2020 DWI Report by Agency. Retrieved from: https://www.dps.texas.gov/administration/crime_records/docs/DWIReport/2020-01byAgency.pdf
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Reduce Post-Interlock Recidivism: Alcohol Ignition Interlocks Plus Treatment for DUI Offenders. Retrieved from: https://www.cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety/pdf/impaired_driving/reduce_post-interlock_recidivism-a.pdf