



**MINNESOTA
JUDICIAL BRANCH**
FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Ignition Interlock Update

June 2014

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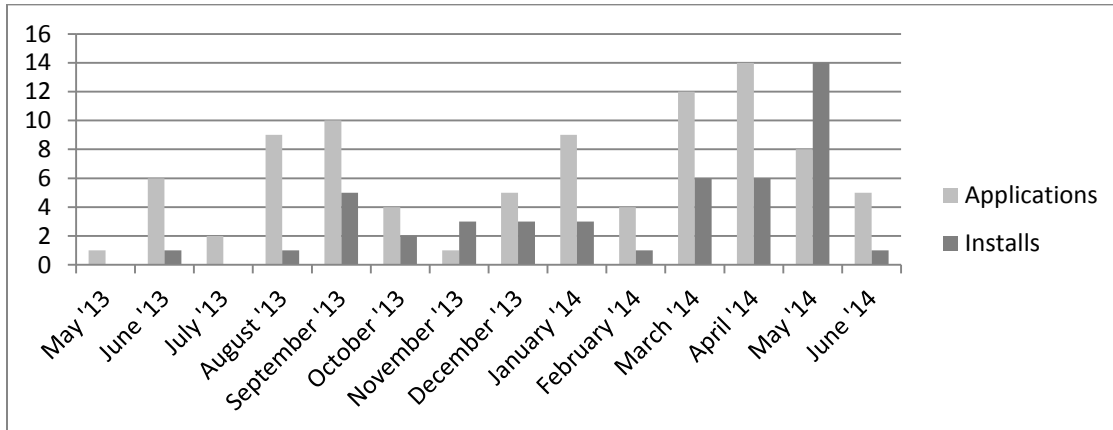
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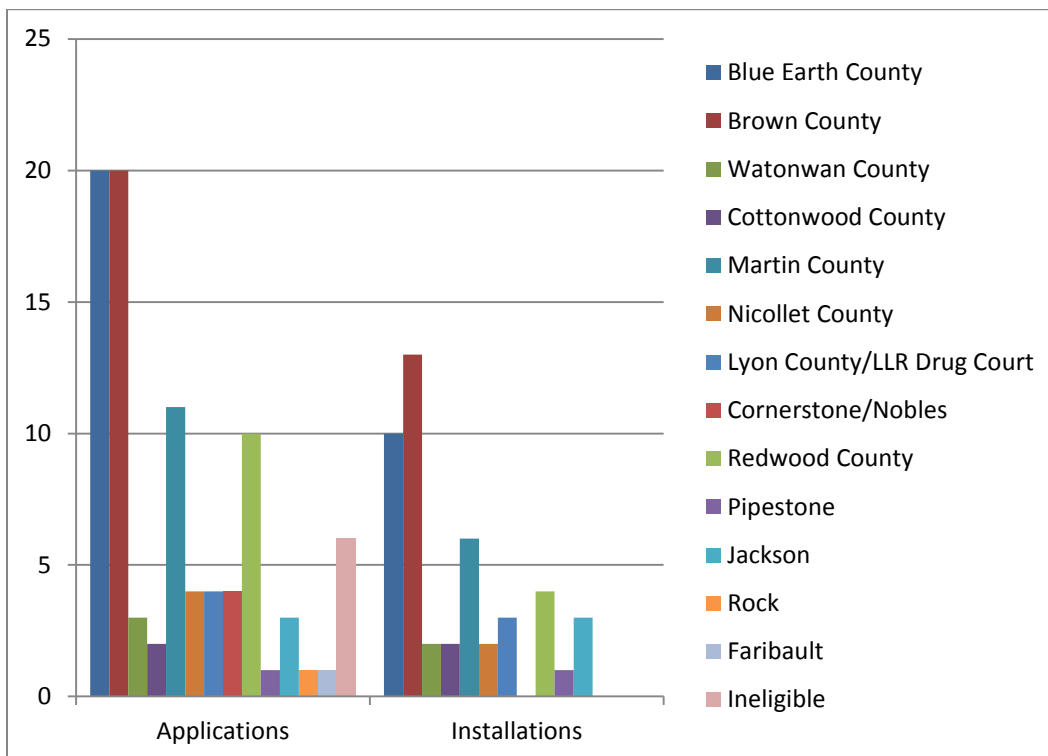
Fifth Judicial District Ignition Interlock Program Statistics

May was another busy month and so far June has been pretty busy too. Our program has received 90 applications and 46 have installed ignition interlock and start driving legally.

Applications & Installations by Month



Applications & Installs by County



Checks for circumvention and tampering began in May

Program staff attended the Ignition Interlock training in April. A lot of new research was presented and best practices were recommended. One such practice is random checks of vehicles to ensure no circumvention or tampering has taken place. While most tampering and circumvention will be detected by the device, it is best to occasionally check the vehicle. We learned why recently when we were informed someone in our area convinced their installer to install a toggle switch.

Andy Leif has been in touch with many probation agents across the district to arrange unannounced vehicle checks. If he's trying to contact you, likely he's looking for your assistance in arranging such a check. So far so good, nothing suspect has been found.

Police say repeat-offender DWI suspect re-wired built-in breathalyzer

[wwl.com Chris Miller Reporting](#)

Slidell police say a local man is behind bars after he rewired his ignition, dismantled the car's built-in breathalyzer, and drove his vehicle while intoxicated. Cops discovered the alleged tampering early Saturday morning, with a traffic stop on Pontchartrain Drive.

"The officer pulled over the driver...41-year-old Larry Paul," said Det. Daniel Suzeneau with the Slidell Police Department. "They performed the field sobriety test and he blew a 0.152...which is almost twice the legal limit."

Suzeneau says officers learned that Paul had a history of DWI arrests and had been ordered by the court to install an ignition interlock device, basically a breathalyzer built in to his car, to prevent the vehicle from starting if there is alcohol in the driver's system.

"Officers were kind of perplexed at the fact that how did Mr. Paul have his vehicle driving," Suzeneau said. "It turns out that Mr. Paul actually dismantled the interlock device and also re-wired his ignition to defeat the whole system."

Det. Suzeneau says they're pretty sure Paul did this a significant time before being discovered, as "it's something that takes a little bit of knowledge and work to do."

Update on Interceptor Decertification

As of July 1, 2014, Interceptor Ignition Interlock, will no longer be a certified manufacturer for the State of Minnesota. The company had appealed the decision but ultimately lost the appeal. Fifth District Ignition Interlock Program participants installed with an Interceptor device will have to switch to

another wireless vendor. Drivers may be confused about this switch as they've received conflicting information from Interceptor. We've been reaching out to these drivers and hope this confusion will be cleared up soon and that all of our Interceptor drivers will be switched to Intoxalock, the only remaining wireless ignition interlock provider in the state.

Intoxalock eLERT 24 Program – greater supervision for high risk DWI offenders

Intoxalock recently came out with an add-on to their ignition interlock device which allows for increased alcohol testing. For an additional \$20 per month Intoxalock will update the ignition interlock software to allow us to set up three extra scheduled alcohol tests on the device. Ideally test windows would be set for early morning, early evening and late evening. Participants are informed they are required to report to their vehicle for these daily tests. Any positive or missed tests would be immediately passed on to probation. Our program staff will also monitor photos for these tests, just like all other photos for the regular interlock are checked, to make sure no one else is blowing into the device for the driver.

DWI Recidivism Risk Factors

From a presentation at the National Drug Court Conference by Robyn Robertson of the Traffic Injury Research Foundation

- Alcohol use disorders one of main correlates of recidivism
 - Younger age strongly associated with DWI recidivism
 - Prior involvement in crashes, traffic violations (no insurance, no seatbelt, speeding, etc.) strongest predictor of repeat offender group
 - Life history (family with alcohol problems or arrests)
 - Male gender
 - Early onset drinking is predictive of future drinking after any driving, riding with passenger who has been drinking
 - Frequency (not amount ingested) of drinking is the single strongest predictor of driving after drinking
 - Prior impaired driving arrests predict future arrests
 - Age at first criminal arrest, age at first DWI conviction, prior alcohol and drug offenses, prior misdemeanor or any crimes against person. Five or more previous moving violations.
 - BAC alone is **not** useful and should be interpreted cautiously or in combination with other predictive variables
 - The MAST screen significantly predicts recidivism status
 - High scores on MAC scale of MMPI (raw score 23+) has predictive value for impaired driving recidivism
 - Subtle items on the RIASI are a predictor
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How ignition interlock devices can stop drunk drivers in their tracks

Lynn Walford@MobiWriter

Here's an effective way to stop drunk drivers from taking the road: Make sure that they can't start the car whenever they're under the influence.

That's the idea behind alcohol ignition interlock devices, which a growing number of states are using to keep drunk drivers off the road. An ignition interlock device can stop a vehicle from starting if a breathalyzer estimates the person behind the wheel has a blood alcohol content over a preset limit.

...

"States that adopted all-offender ignition interlock device legislation have seen as much as a 43 percent reduction in drunk driving fatalities on their roadways," Benvenisti said.



...

Ignition interlock systems can be ordered by judges after drunk driving convictions. The devices allow people with drunk driving convictions to commute to work, while also reducing the risk of a repeat offense. A growing number of states are turning to ignition interlocks in drunk driving cases: 22 states have laws requiring ignition interlocks for first-time drunk driving convictions while California is running a pilot program for mandatory ignition interlocks in select counties. Just this past week, a [law went into effect](#) in West Virginia that lets DUI offenders opt into the state's interlock program more quickly, while a bill requiring ignition locks for first-time offenders is [making its way through Ohio's legislature](#).

...

The next phase of keeping drunks from driving is in the works through a program from the Automotive Coalition for Traffic Safety and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration called [Driver Alcohol Detection System for Safety](#) or DADSS. The idea behind DADSS is to research policy challenges that lead to more widespread use of in-vehicle technology for preventing alcohol-impaired driving—that includes passive forms of monitoring such as [sensors that determine alcohol concentration](#) and breath analysis that doesn't require a driver to breathe into a mouthpiece.