

# Reducing Alcohol-Impaired Driving: Ignition Interlocks

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## 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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### Disclaimer

The findings and conclusions on this page are those of the Community Preventive Services Task Force and do not necessarily represent those of CDC. Task Force evidence-based recommendations are not mandates for compliance or spending. Instead, they provide information and options for decision makers and stakeholders to consider when determining which programs, services, and policies best meet the needs, preferences, available resources, and constraints of their constituents.

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### Suggested citation:

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