

UTAH LEGISLATIVE PRIMER: IGNITION INTERLOCK DEVICES

An ignition interlock device (IID) is an in-car breathalyzer that requires the driver to prove their sobriety prior to starting their vehicle. In 30 states, including Utah, these devices are mandated for drivers convicted of a DUI at any level. If the IID detects alcohol in the driver's system, the vehicle will not start. Rolling re-tests performed throughout the drive ensure that a driver does not consume alcohol after the initial breath test.

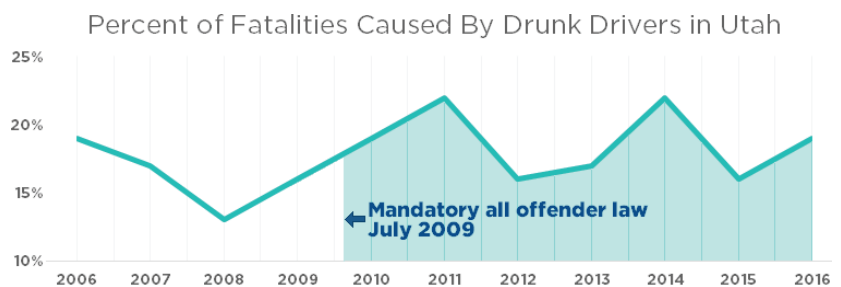


A new report by the Traffic Injury Research Foundation found that Utah has the second-worst IID compliance rate in the nation and an independent investigation by KSL showed that 72% of Utah's convicted drunk drivers never install a mandatory IID. If Utah isn't enforcing current DUI laws, why is it passing controversial new ones like the .05 BAC arrest threshold?

Studies show ignition interlocks are only effective while the device is installed on an offender's car. Once the interlock is removed, offenders reoffend at the same rate as those who never installed an interlock. And when compliance isn't monitored, convicted drunk drivers can continue driving with no consequences at all. The American Beverage Institute advocates for strict enforcement of ignition interlock mandates for high-BAC and repeat offenders as well as extended sentences of IID's for those offenders.

Utah fails to monitor the 7,336 drivers currently required to install an ignition interlock device, which is why Utah's "mandatory" all offender IID law failed to reduce the percentage of drunk driving fatalities in the state over the eight years it's been in place.

Creating an entirely new category of drunk drivers by reducing the arrest threshold from 0.08 to 0.05 BAC will only increase the monitoring burden, and siphon resources away from programs that prevent the most dangerous drivers—high BAC and repeat offenders—from reoffending.



Reinstate .08 per se BAC arrest threshold



Pass legislation to fund and ensure stringent enforcement of Utah's ignition interlock law

4.5x

Drunk drivers involved in a fatal crash are 4.5 times more likely to have a prior DUI conviction.

69%

In Utah, 69 percent of alcohol-related traffic fatalities involve a driver with a BAC of 0.15 or above.

.201

In Utah, the average BAC of a drunk driver in a fatal crash is .201.

Utah already has a mandatory all-offender ignition interlock law. It isn't working because it isn't being enforced.