

Reoffending Evaluation of Alcohol Ignition Interlock sentencing in New Zealand

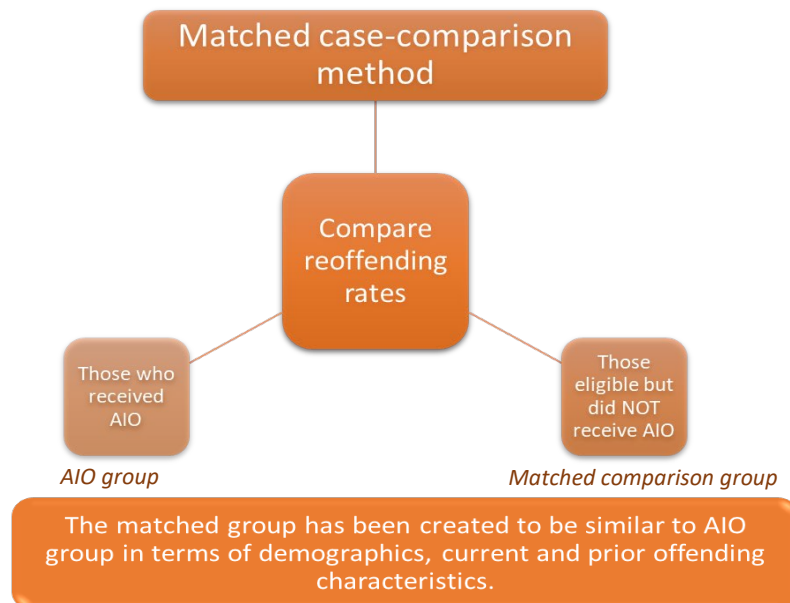
Background

- Alcohol Interlock is similar to a breathalyser and is hard wired to the ignition of a vehicle.
- An Alcohol Interlock Order (AIO) provides the court with the option of requiring an offender to have an alcohol interlock fitted for a period, rather than sentencing the person to detention or community service.
- This study is aimed at understanding reoffending rates amongst people who received an AIO order versus those who did not receive an AIO order.
- Overseas research suggests interlock, although reduces risk of recidivism for drink driving offence, the interlock itself doesn't cause long-term change in drink driving behaviour.



Methodology

Study compares reoffending rates of those who were given AIO to those who were eligible but didn't receive AIO
 Study examines data for driving offences issued between 1st January 2013- 31st December 2017



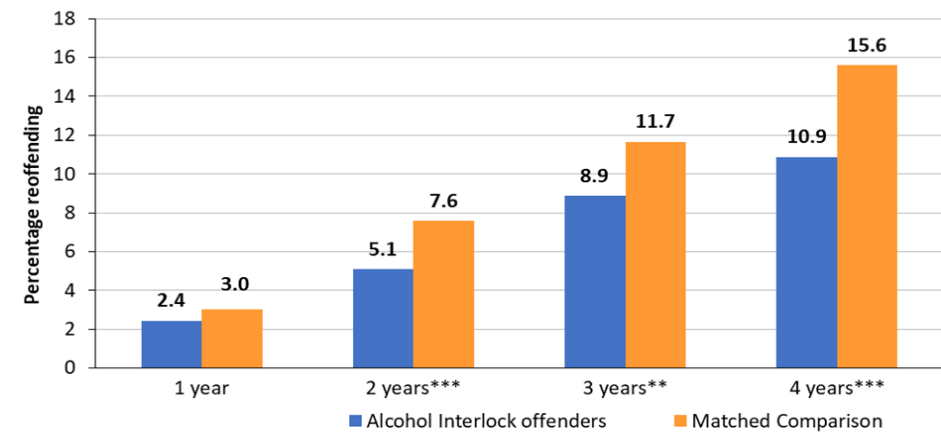
Eligible offenders for Interlock order
 Those with 2 offences within 5 years (based on offence dates)
 OR
 One offence of excess breath alcohol (EBA) of 800 mcg per litre

Summary of main findings

Results: AIO group reoffended significantly less than the matched comparison group

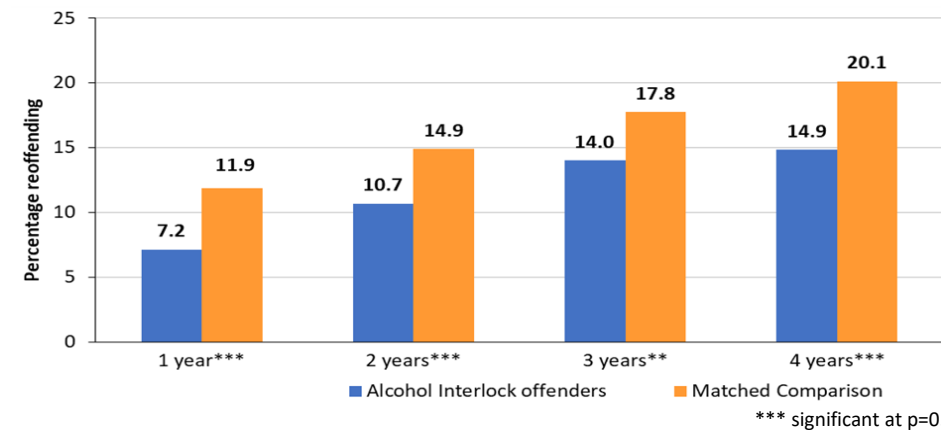
- On an average of 27% less for drink driving
- On an average of 29% less for disqualified driving

Figure 1: Risk-adjusted percentage of reoffending for drink driving offences, after 1 to 4 years, by offender group



The risk-adjusted percentages use ratios of actual number of individuals with proved outcomes (i.e. charges proved in court to have been committed) with predicted numbers.

Figure 2: Risk-adjusted percentage of reoffending for disqualified driving offences, after 1 to 4 years, by offender group



*** significant at p=0.01 ** significant at p=0.05

Recommended next steps

- A study to assess why the interlock sentence is not being fully utilised at Court
- A scoping study to ascertain what types of data can be utilised and from what agencies, and the feasibility of
 - An inter-agency evaluation framework
 - A longitudinal evaluation study

Data limitations

- No data gathered on interlock installations against Alcohol Interlock licenses issued
- The study does not ascertain effectiveness of AIO due to lack of installation duration data

- There is no set timeframe within which an interlock must be fitted
- The study does not include any employment or income data