

Excellence in Prevention – descriptions of the prevention programs and strategies with the greatest evidence of success

Name of Program/Strategy: License Suspension/Revocation

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1. Overview and description

Sanction of suspending or revoking a license.

2. Implementation considerations (if available)

3. Descriptive information

Areas of Interest	Substance abuse prevention
Outcomes	
Outcome Categories	Alcohol
Ages	

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Gender	Male Female
Races/Ethnicities	American Indian or Alaska Native Asian Black or African American Hispanic or Latino White Race/ethnicity unspecified
Settings	
Geographic Locations	Urban Suburban Rural and/or frontier Tribal
Implementation History	
NIH Funding/CER Studies	
Adaptations	
Adverse Effects	
IOM Prevention Categories	Universal

4. Outcomes

Scientific Evidence

Combining alcohol treatment with either license restriction or suspension is associated with the lowest DUI recidivism rates when comparing alcohol treatment, driver's license actions, and jail terms (An analysis of all drivers with a California license convicted of DUI during 1990 and 1991, DeYoung, 1997).

Implementing compulsory blood alcohol testing when traffic crashes result in injury (National Committee on Injury Prevention and Control, 1989).

An increasingly common response by legislatures is to suspend or revoke an offender's driver's license (NHTSA & NIAAA, 1999, September).

Previously, license suspension and revocation were pursued in the context of drunk driving. However, states have expanded the grounds for which driver's licenses may be suspended or revoked to encompass underage drinking offenses that do not involve the operation of a motor vehicle (Alcohol Policy Information System (APIS), 2007).

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Law enforcement personnel strongly believe that the possibility of license revocation is an effective deterrent because a driver's license is important to most youth. There is some concern, however, that because the threat of detection of driving without a license is so low, youth will simply drive without a license (Canadian Cancer Society, 2001, September). However, this has not been empirically demonstrated nor has the belief that license revocation is an effective deterrent to underage drinking in general.

- 5. Cost effectiveness report (Washington State Institute of Public Policy – if available)**
- 6. Washington State results (from Performance Based Prevention System (PBPS) – if available)**
- 7. Who is using this program/strategy**

Washington Counties	Oregon Counties
All counties	

- 8. Study populations**
- 9. Quality of studies**

The documents below were reviewed for Quality of Research. The research point of contact can provide information regarding the studies reviewed and the availability of additional materials, including those from more recent studies that may have been conducted.

References

Alcohol Policy Information System (APIS). (2007). State profiles of underage drinking laws. National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. Accessed December 19, 2007, from the World Wide Web: <http://www.alcoholpolicy.niaaa.nih.gov/stateprofiles//index.asp>

Canadian Cancer Society. (2001, September). Youth tobacco possession laws: Policy analysis. Ottawa, Ontario: Canadian Cancer Society.

DeYoung, D. J. (1997). An evaluation of the effectiveness of alcohol treatment driver license actions and jail terms in reducing drunk driving recidivism in California. *Addiction*, 92(8), 989-997.

National Committee for Injury Protection and Control. (1989). *Injury prevention: Meeting the challenge*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Excellence in Prevention is a project of Oregon Addiction and Mental Health Services and Washington Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery. Information is drawn from many sources, including the National Registry for Effective Prevention Programs (NREPP), sponsored by the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention.

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NHTSA/NIAAA. (September, 1999). Sentencing and dispositions of youth DUI and other alcohol offenses: a guide for Judges and Prosecutors (DOT HS 808 891). Washington DC: Institute National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (DOT)/National Institute on Alcohol Abuse Alcoholism.

10. Readiness for Dissemination

Revised Code of Washington

The Revised Code of Washington (RCW) is the compilation of all permanent laws now in force. It is a collection of Session Laws (enacted by the Legislature, and signed by the Governor, or enacted via the initiative process), arranged by topic, with amendments added and repealed laws removed. It does not include temporary laws such as appropriations acts.

RCW 46.61.5055—Alcohol Violators—Penalty Schedule.

- (9) The license, permit, or nonresident privilege of a person convicted of driving or being in physical control of a motor vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs must:
- (a) If the person's alcohol concentration was less than 0.15, or if for reasons other than the person's refusal to take a test offered under RCW 46.20.308 there is no test result indicating the person's alcohol concentration:
 - (i) Where there has been no prior offense within seven years, be suspended or denied by the department for ninety days;
 - (ii) Where there has been one prior offense within seven years, be revoked or denied by the department for two years; or
 - (iii) Where there have been two or more prior offenses within seven years, be revoked or denied by the department for three years;
 - (b) If the person's alcohol concentration was at least 0.15:
 - (i) Where there has been no prior offense within seven years, be revoked or denied by the department for one year;
 - (ii) Where there has been one prior offense within seven years, be revoked or denied by the department for nine hundred days; or
 - (iii) Where there have been two or more prior offenses within seven years, be revoked or denied by the department for four years; or
 - (c) If by reason of the person's refusal to take a test offered under RCW 46.20.308, there is no test result indicating the person's alcohol concentration:
 - (i) Where there have been no prior offenses within seven years, be revoked or denied by the department for two years;
 - (ii) Where there has been one prior offense within seven years, be revoked or denied by the

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department for three years; or

(iii) Where there have been two or more previous offenses within seven years, be revoked or denied by the department for four years.

The department shall grant credit on a day-for-day basis for any portion of a suspension, revocation, or denial already served under this subsection for a suspension, revocation, or denial imposed under RCW 46.20.3101 arising out of the same incident.

For purposes of this subsection (9), the department shall refer to the driver's record maintained under RCW 46.52.120 when determining the existence of prior offenses.

(10) After expiration of any period of suspension, revocation, or denial of the offender's license, permit, or privilege to drive required by this section, the department shall place the offender's driving privilege in probationary status pursuant to RCW 46.20.355.

(11)(a) In addition to any nonsuspendable and nondeferrable jail sentence required by this section, whenever the court imposes up to three hundred sixty-four days in jail, the court shall also suspend but shall not defer a period of confinement for a period not exceeding five years. The court shall impose conditions of probation that include:

(i) Not driving a motor vehicle within this state without a valid license to drive and proof of financial responsibility for the future;

(ii) not driving a motor vehicle within this state while having an alcohol concentration of 0.08 or more within two hours after driving; and

(iii) not refusing to submit to a test of his or her breath or blood to determine alcohol concentration upon request of a law enforcement officer who has reasonable grounds to believe the person was driving or was in actual physical control of a motor vehicle within this state while under the influence of intoxicating liquor. The court may impose conditions of probation that include nonrepetition, installation of an ignition interlock device on the probationer's motor vehicle, alcohol or drug treatment, supervised probation, or other conditions that may be appropriate. The sentence may be imposed in whole or in part upon violation of a condition of probation during the suspension period.

(b) For each violation of mandatory conditions of probation under (a)(i), (ii), or (iii) of this subsection, the court shall order the convicted person to be confined for thirty days, which shall not be suspended or deferred.

(c) For each incident involving a violation of a mandatory condition of probation imposed under this subsection, the license, permit, or privilege to drive of the person shall be suspended by the court for thirty days or, if such license, permit, or privilege to drive already is suspended, revoked, or denied at the time the finding of probation violation is made, the suspension, revocation, or denial then in effect shall be extended by thirty days. The court shall notify the department of any suspension, revocation, or denial or any extension of a suspension, revocation, or denial imposed under this subsection.

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11. Costs (if available)

12. Contacts

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