

24/7 Programs

The 24/7 Sobriety Program originated in South Dakota in 2005. It was created by then State Attorney General Larry Long to address repeat impaired driving offenders across the state. It involved collaboration with local police departments, sheriffs' offices, and the judicial system. It was broadly supported, including support from the beverage alcohol industry and has been implemented mainly in Western, rural states.

Under the 24/7 Program model, repeat offenders are required to maintain sobriety as a condition of remaining in the community and avoiding incarceration. Participants are tested twice-daily for alcohol through scheduled onsite breath tests or with a continuous alcohol monitoring (CAM) device. If an offender tests positive for alcohol or drugs, they are taken into custody and appear before a judge within 24 hours. The goal of the program is to ensure that sanctions are swift and certain.

The programs follow a participant pay model. Program flexibility allows utilization of existing or new resources for maximum efficiency. BAC testing costs have been kept low to allow for limited use of state indigent funds. After the initial implementation phase, the costs to the jurisdiction are minimal or nonexistent. Grant funds are provided through the Federal transportation law (MAP-21) to help offset start-up costs of 24/7 programs.

Research Highlights:

- Evaluations of intensive supervision programs have shown substantial reductions in DUI recidivism (Wiliszowski et al., 2011).
- DUI recidivism is substantially lower among 24/7 Sobriety participants at one, two, and three years following program completion and repeat offenses have dropped 12% at the county level (Kilmer et al., 2013).
- Compared to DUI offenders not in the project, participants with two DUI arrests who were in the program for 30 consecutive days had a 74% reduction in recidivism when studied three years after their second DUI arrests. Those with three DUI arrests had a 44% reduction in recidivism, and those with four DUI arrests had a 31% reduction in recidivism (Loudenburg et al., 2012).
- Analysis suggests the 24/7 Sobriety Program is statistically significant in lowering recidivism for DUI offenders who remain on the program for 30 or more consecutive days (Loudenburg et al., 2012).

Prevalence:

Montana (certain counties), Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Washington (pilot program in five counties introduced in 2014).

Responsibility.org Position:

The Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility supports the use of technology and cost effective supervision methods, such as 24/7 Sobriety programs, to provide swift identification, certain punishment, and effective treatment for repeat drunk driving offenders.

References:

Kilmer, B., Nicosia, N., Heaton, P., & Midgette, G. (2013). Efficacy of frequent monitoring with swift, certain, and modest sanctions for violations: Insights from South Dakota's 24/7 Sobriety Project. *American Journal of Public Health, 103*(1), 37-43.

Loudenburg, R., Drube, G., & Leonardson, G. (2012). *South Dakota 24/7 Sobriety Program Evaluation Findings Report*. Salem: Mountain Plains Evaluation, LLC.

Wiliszowski, C., Fell, J., McKnight, S., & Tippetts, S. (2011). *An Evaluation of Intensive Supervision Programs for Serious DWI Offenders*. DOT HS 811 446. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Transportation.