



## 24/7 Sobriety Programs

### Responsibility.org Position:

Responsibility.org 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.

*This paper includes the most current and relevant data for this position as of January 9, 2025.*

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### Overview:

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 rural western states.

Under the 24/7 Sobriety 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. Recognizing that many 24/7 programs operate in rural areas, it is essential for judicial options to incorporate testing methods such as CAM devices, rather than relying exclusively on onsite tests for individuals who live far from monitoring locations. **The goal of the 24/7 Sobriety Programs 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. Blood alcohol concentration (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. The federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act provides funds for states with compliant programs. To qualify, a state must require all impaired driving offenders to have restricted driving privileges for at least 30 days and must have a law or program authorizing a local or statewide 24/7 Sobriety Program. Historically, these programs were federally supported through MAP-21 and the FAST Act, earlier funding initiatives.

To maximize their impact, **24/7 Sobriety Programs can be used in conjunction with ignition interlock devices to prevent vehicle operation under the influence, as well as mental health screening and assessment tools** to identify offenders who may benefit from targeted treatment interventions.

### **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 Program participants at one-, two-, and three-years following program completion, and the number of repeat offenses dropped 12% at the county level (Kilmer et al., 2013).
- 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 compared to similar DUI offenders not in the program. 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:**

24/7 Sobriety Programs are in place in Alaska, Florida Idaho, Iowa, Montana (certain counties), Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Washington (pilot program in five counties introduced in 2014), and Wyoming.

States with pilot 24/7 Sobriety Programs: Kentucky, Minnesota, New Mexico, and Wisconsin.

### **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.