

A Weekly FAX from the Center for Substance Abuse Research

University of Maryland at College Park*

Alcohol Education and Treatment Reduce the Risk of Reconviction for Drinking and Driving in Maryland

A new study shows that alcohol education and treatment are the only sentencing conditions which significantly reduce the risk of reconviction for drinking and driving in Maryland. Alcohol education reduced the risk of reconviction over a three-year period by 22%; alcohol treatment by 17%. However, these conditions were included in only 21% and 35%, respectively, of the sentences given to the drinking and driving offenders in the sample. The study recommends an increased use of alcohol education and treatment conditions as part of drinking and driving sentences in order to reduce the reconviction rate.

Risk of Reconviction, by Sentencing Condition¹ (N = 3,711 Maryland Drinking and Driving Offenders)

Sentencing Condition	Risk of Reconviction for this Sentencing Condition ²
<u>Punishment Conditions</u>	
Supervised Probation	14% Higher
Guilty Disposition ³	11% Higher
Unsupervised Probation	9% Higher
Fine	8% Higher
Jail	5% Higher
License Restriction	1% Lower
DDMP ⁴	5% Lower
<u>Rehabilitation Conditions</u>	
Alcoholics Anonymous	18% Higher
Abstinence	11% Higher
Alcohol Treatment	17% Lower*
Alcohol Education	22% Lower*

¹Based upon the results of cox regression model which include offender characteristics and sentence conditions.

²Relative to the risk of reconviction without this sentencing condition, controlling for offender and sentence characteristics.

³Relative to the risk of reconviction with probation before judgement (PBJ).

⁴Drinking Driver Monitor Program (DDMP), a specialized probation program for drinking and driving offenders.

*p<.10 These are aggregate measures of all programs offered in the state of Maryland. The higher significance level of .10 was used because of the extreme variation in the interventions and because actual attendance in the programs is unknown.

SOURCE: F. Taxman, B. Mattson, E. Wish, and K. Petronis, 1994. Drunk Driving in Maryland: An Analysis of Recidivism and Policy Issues. CESAR White Paper. Please contact CESAR to receive your complimentary copy, available after June 20, 1994. For more information about the study, please contact Dr. Faye Taxman at the Institute for Law and Justice, (703) 684-5300 or at the University of Maryland, (301) 405-4781.

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