



24/7 Sobriety 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.
- Compared to DUI offenders not in the project, South Dakota 24/7 program participants with two DUI arrests (in the 30 consecutive day program) had a 74% reduction in recidivism when studied three years after their second DUI arrest.
- 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.
- The South Dakota 24/7 Coordinator reports that the program has saved the state over \$22 million (2007).
- 69% of adults consider ankle bracelets that measure alcohol consumption and report results to a judge as an effective countermeasure to keep drunk drivers off our roadways.

States currently utilizing the 24/7 Sobriety Program:

Montana (certain counties), Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Washington (new 2014 pilot program in 5 municipalities)

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.