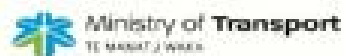


Impact of mandatory alcohol interlock sentencing law

Dylan Thomsen, NZ Automobile Association





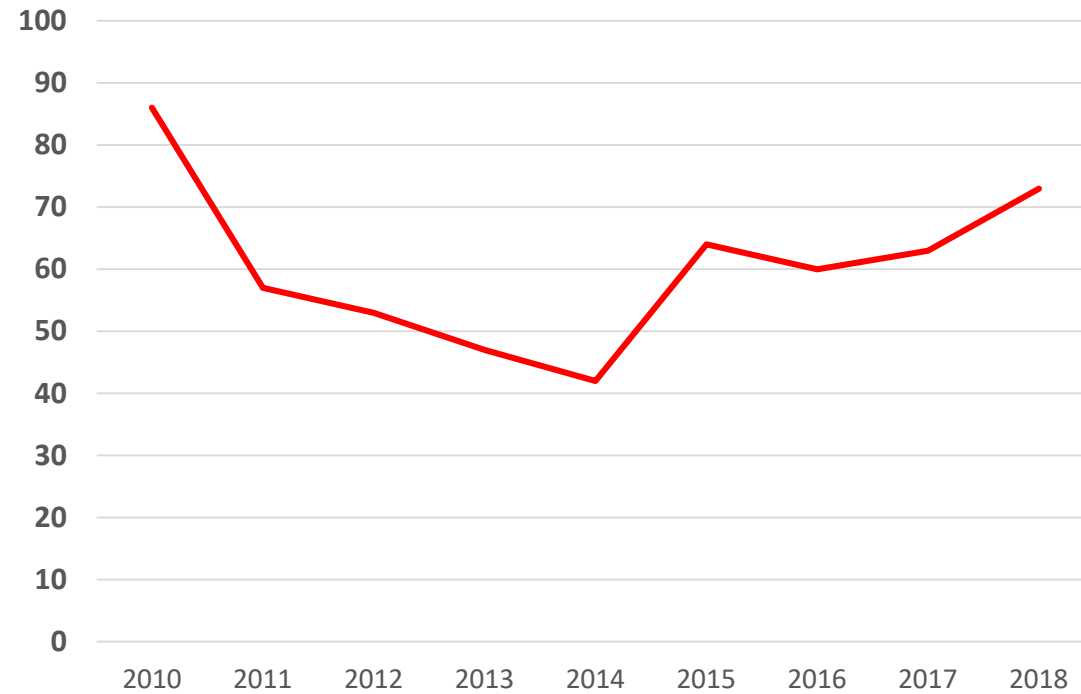
They became a sentencing option in New Zealand in 2012.

Alcohol interlocks are like an in-car breathalyser, and prevent a vehicle from starting if they detect alcohol.



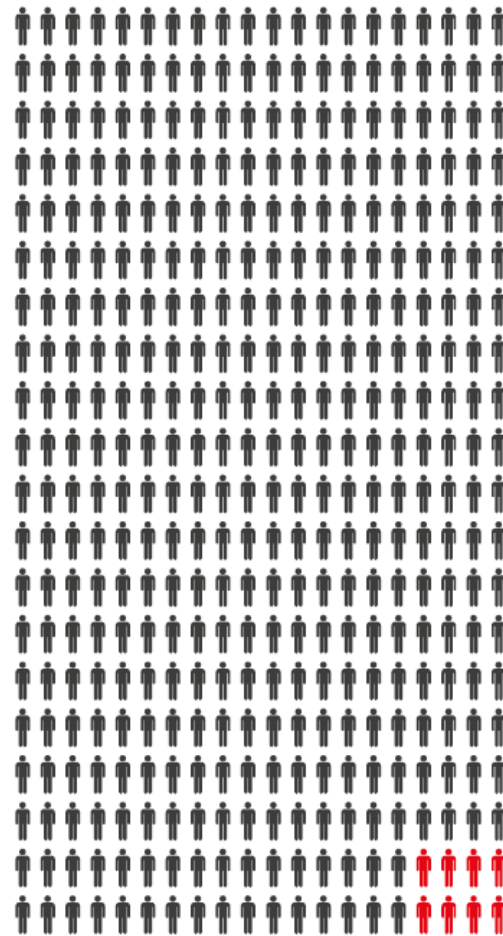


Fatal crashes per year involving a driver above the alcohol limit or test refused



About 1 in 5 fatal crashes involve a drunk driver

What happened
in the past:



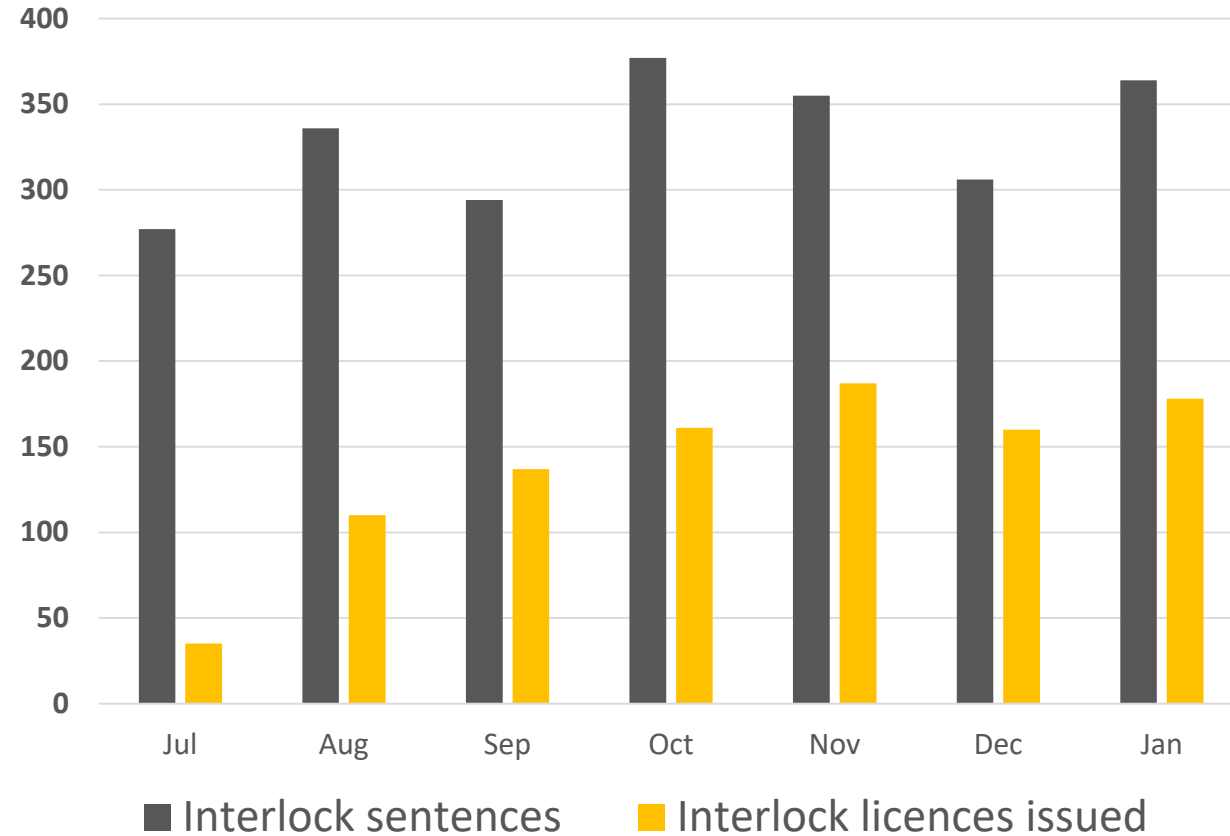
17,582
drink drivers in
court in 2016

353
given an
alcohol interlock

 = Approximately 44 people



What has happened since interlocks became mandatory?





Reasons given to interlock providers for not installing.

- Booked install no show and another a bit later on. Now won't answer messages or texts.
- Ready to install, has been biking to work and thought the sentence would go away, will talk to lawyer to see what options are.
- In rehab until early April.
- Home detention finishes in April, wants to install but not while on HD and short of money.
- Has cancelled 2 appointments for install, short of money.
- Car getting repaired 4th Feb, will call when fixed.
- Client has mental health issues so we need to deal with the father.

Interlock costs with and without subsidy

	Cost	Subsidy cost
Interlock licence	\$200	\$0
Interlock instalment	\$150	\$0
Interlock (per month)	\$175	\$125
Interlock removal	\$150	\$0
Zero BAC licence	\$66	\$0
Total (for 1 year)	\$2666	\$1500



52% of those eligible for a mandatory interlock were sentenced to one in the first six months since the law change.



Research found no difference in sentencing rates between genders, slight differences among ethnicities but a big difference among young offenders.

Age of mandatory interlock offender	% sentenced to interlock
19 + under	11%
20-29	55%
30+	67%

Ethnicity of mandatory interlock offender	% sentenced to interlock
European/other	61%
Pasifika	49%
Maori	46%
Unknown	40%

Also found significant variation between courts, with some having sentencing rates below 30% while others had sentencing rates 70%+.



A potential future problem?



Those that neither apply for their interlock licence
or do not get an interlock installed are effectively
disqualified for life.



There is no requirement in law to either apply for an interlock licence or have an interlock fitted.





Lack of communication between organisations involved in interlocks seen as a problem.



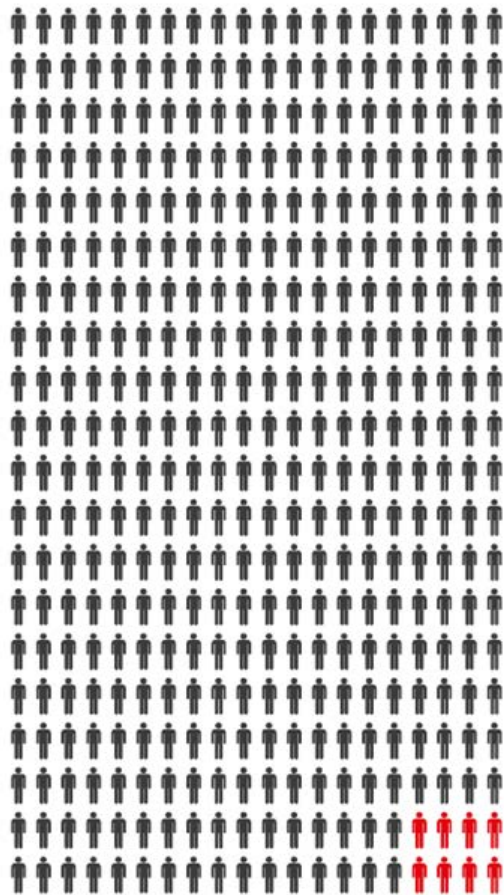
'We never receive any reports on interlock uptake from MoJ or anyone else, would be great if we did!' NZTA provides us with no information on how many people have got their interlock licence, neither do they require us to tell them how many people have enquired but not got installed.'

- Interlock provider

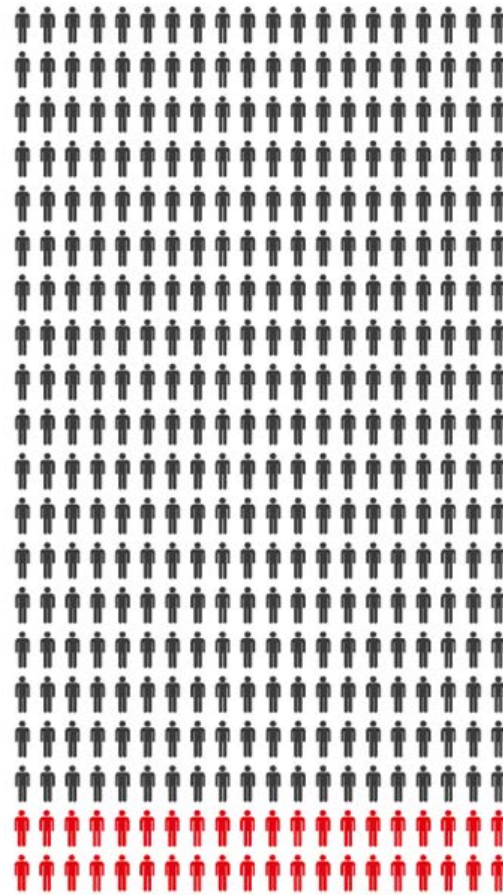


First year of mandatory interlocks = mixed results

- About half of those eligible for a mandatory interlock not sentenced to one in court
- About half of those sentenced are going on to get an interlock licence
- Less again go on to actually get a device installed



Before mandatory
interlocks



After mandatory interlocks

