



MICAP RECAP

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A Publication of the Michigan Council on Alcohol Problems
an American Alcohol and Drug Information Foundation Entity

*Michigan Council on Alcohol Problems
Celebrating its 111th Anniversary in 2016*

Dear MICAP/RECAP Readers and Supporters,

Some of the MICAP Board's volunteer time is expended in contacting legislators, department heads and the Michigan Liquor Control Commission (MLCC). This is one way to maintain our visibility on the state level and for these leaders to recognize MICAP and for what it stands: A Better Social Policy Regarding Beverage Alcohol.

From time to time, various bills arise or new policies are suggested from various departments in state government. MICAP, through its volunteer board of directors, testifies at hearings and contacts legislators as these new bills and/or policies arise. We speak FOR a bill or policy which will make BETTER our public policy toward beverage alcohol, and we speak AGAINST a bill or policy which would HARM or make WORSE our public policies toward the same.

The following article is included in this month's *MICAP-RECAP* because it represents good work by one department of state government. And, of course, as you read it, you'll see that many persons in our state government have contributed to that GOOD. Too often good government goes unsung. This is our attempt to highlight the good work done under the direction of The Secretary of State as well as the sobriety courts. Enjoy!

Sincerely,

Rev. W. J. (Bill) Amundsen
Board Member and Treasurer, Michigan Council on Alcohol Problems

New Report Shows Success of Michigan's DWI/Sobriety Court Ignition Interlock Program

APRIL 20, 2016

Use of devices increases participants' success rate, reduces recidivism

LANSING, Mich. A new research report evaluating Michigan's program to prevent repeat drunk driving by chronic offenders through the use of ignition interlocks concludes that the devices, when used in conjunction with a Sobriety Court program, contribute to significantly better success rates among participants.

Offenders participating in the state's DWI/Sobriety Courts without the use of interlocks were found to have three times greater odds of failing out

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AADIF/MICAP

(517) 999-0013
info@micap.org

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News Report Shows Success of Michigan's DWI/Sobriety Court Ignition Interlock Program

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of Sobriety Court than those ordered by the court to use the devices.

An ignition interlock device connects with a motor vehicle's ignition and other control systems. The interlock device measures the driver's bodily alcohol content through their breath and keeps the vehicle from starting if the Blood Alcohol Content is 0.025 or higher. The device also will ask for random retests while the person is driving.

The report, commissioned by the Michigan Association of Treatment Court Professionals (MATCP) to evaluate the first five years of the DWI/Sobriety Court Ignition Interlock Program, was announced by Secretary of State Ruth Johnson, judges and legislators at a news conference as part of Alcohol Awareness Month in Lansing today. A program graduate was also in attendance to share his success story.

District Judge Harvey Hoffman implemented Michigan's first DWI/Sobriety Court in Eaton County in 2009 and is a state and national leader in the development of this kind of problem-solving court, which combines judicial supervision with testing, treatment, punitive sanctions and positive incentives for participants.

"The marriage of DWI/Sobriety Courts with ignition interlocks when dealing with repeat DWI Offenders has helped to make Michigan's roads and highways safer and has improved the lives of alcoholic drivers," Hoffman said. "The partnership between Michigan's courts and the Secretary of State, in allowing program participants to lawfully drive to and from court, treatment, school, testing and employment, has been crucial in spreading DWI/Sobriety Courts across the state."

Statistics for the group of DWI/Sobriety Court participants using interlocks were compared to a similar group that did not use the devices. Among the report's findings:

- 97 percent of Sobriety Court participants ordered to install interlock devices on their vehicles complied with the court.
- Of the participants using an interlock, only 11.4 percent failed to graduate from the program—a rate nearly three times better

than the number of participants not using an interlock who did not graduate.

- Alcohol and drug use among Sobriety Court participants using an interlock was substantially lower compared to the offenders not under interlock supervision.
- Sobriety Court participants using an interlock were more likely to improve their levels of education during their time in the program.
- Sobriety Court participants using an interlock spent less time in jail, had fewer warrants issued against them and had a higher number of overall sobriety days.

The Michigan Department of State (MDOS) administers the Breath Alcohol Ignition Interlock Detection (BAIID) Program and currently has more than 9,700 individuals who are required to use an interlock device under the vehicle code for High BAC convictions, ordered by an MDOS hearing officer or through the DWI/Sobriety Court. DWI/Sobriety Courts account for 3,700 of those devices, Johnson said.

"The data clearly shows that the ignition interlock devices and Sobriety Courts are effective tools for controlling drunk driving recidivism," she said. "More people are now required to use these devices because of changes in drunk driving laws and Sobriety Court programs. It's making our roads safer and we believe it is saving lives."

Johnson thanked MATCP, Hoffman and his colleagues from other treatment courts for their efforts, and Gov. Rick Snyder and legislators including Sen. Tonya Schuitmaker and Sen. Rick Jones for recent changes to the law that closed loopholes and strengthened the regulation of ignition interlock devices in Michigan.

For media questions, please call
Gisgie Dávila Gendreau or
Fred Woodhams at 517-373-2520.

Customers may call the Department of State Information Center to speak to a customer service representative at 888-SOS-MICH (767-6424).

Effects of Illegal Drugs on the Heart - Part 2

Cocaine

Cocaine is an appetite suppressant and powerful stimulant drug that comes from the coca plant, from which it derives its name. It is used for a variety of instantaneous effects that it produces, including delusions of supremacy, euphoria, increased energy, and alertness. As these effects wear off, however, restlessness, anxiety, and paranoia can set in, as well as higher body temperatures, an elevated pulse rate and blood pressure, and shortness of breath. The increase in blood pressure alone can cause a heart attack in some cases; however, it can also cause irregular heart rhythm, a problem known as arrhythmia, which can also be fatal. Long-term usage of cocaine can lead not only to addiction but also dehydration and a dry mouth, which can lead to damage being done to the teeth. Kidney failure, autoimmune diseases like lupus, and strokes are other risks that come with prolonged use of cocaine. Cocaine is especially damaging to the heart because it carries with it the risk of occasional small heart attacks, plus it interferes with drugs such as beta blockers that doctors use to treat heart attacks.

- Cocaine, Other Drugs, and Heart Disease (http://www.heart.org/HEARTORG/Conditions/Cocaine-Marijuana-and-Other-Drugs_UCM_428537_Article.jsp)
- Cocaine Use and its Effects (<http://www.webmd.com/mental-health/addiction/cocaine-use-and-its-effects>)
- Cocaine Use Can Affect the Heart (<http://www.nytimes.com/1986/06/26/sports/cocaine-use-can-affect-heart.html>)
- Can Cocaine Affect My Risk of Heart Failure? (<http://abcnews.go.com/Health/HeartFailureRisk/story?id=5227306>)
- Cocaine-Related Cardiomyopathy (<http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/152535-overview>)

Methamphetamine

Methamphetamine, or meth, is a form of stimulant and aphrodisiac that is related to drugs that doctors use to treat problems such as attention

deficit disorder and excessive weight. Recreational usage of meth is due to a variety of effects that the drug offers, including euphoria, increased sexual desire and function, uplifting one's mood, and an increase in concentration, alertness, personal energy, and stamina. Harmful side effects include but are not limited to twitchiness and hyperactivity, excessively high or low blood pressure, diarrhea or constipation, and irregular heart rates. It can also cause psychosis, irritability, depression, restlessness, and even suicidal thoughts. In addition to the high risk of addiction, long-term damage includes damage to teeth due to issues with dry mouth, an increased chance of contracting Parkinson's disease, and even brain damage. Methamphetamine usage can also cause congestive heart failure, arrhythmia, and damage to heart muscles and blood vessels via inflammation. This illicit drug not only reduces blood flow to vital organs and the heart itself, but it also speeds up the body's heart rate, putting stress on the heart and further elevating the risk of heart failure or a stroke.

- The Heart In Overdrive (<http://www.methproject.org/answers/does-meth-affect-your-heart.html#Heart-in Overdrive>)
- Medical Aspects of Methamphetamine Abuse (<http://www.nmtf.us/methamphetamine/methamphetamine.htm#methmed>)
- What Does Methamphetamine Do to Your Body? (<http://www.asu.edu/courses/css335/p4.htm>)
- Case Report: Crystal Methamphetamine-Associated Cardiomyopathy - Tip of the Iceberg? (http://www.hawaii.edu/hivandaids/Crystal_Methamphetamine-Associated_Cardiomyopathy_Tip_of_the_Iceberg.pdf) (PDF)
- Short- and Long-Term Dangers of Taking Methamphetamine (http://healthcenter.ucsc.edu/shop/aodprogram/other/methamphetamine.html#short_term)

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Michigan Council on Alcohol Problems
American Alcohol and Drug Information Foundation
Mailing address: P.O. Box 10212, Lansing, MI 48901

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Our Speaker's Bureau

If your group or church or class/school would like to hear something more about MICAP, or Alcohol Problems in Michigan or the USA, please contact Rev. Bill Amundsen at (517) 323-2445. Please leave a message if no one answers. He will return your call to arrange a mutually convenient time. We are a temperance organization concerned with under-age and abusive drinking. We work with the State Legislature to encourage a better social policy on beverage alcohol.

A Donation to MICAP Would be Wonderful

MICAP is a small non-profit organization with a mission to provide information about the consequences of alcohol abuse, and to promote public policies that address these issues. It is a big task, and we are committed to doing our part.

For this work, MICAP depends 100% on gifts from people like you. Our work year-around depends directly on these gifts. MICAP could not do its work without your financial support, which truly makes a difference in this important work.

MICAP is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Your gift to MICAP is tax deductible to the extent allowed by the tax code. Please use the enclosed envelope, or send your check to: MICAP, P.O. Box 10212, Lansing, MI 48901. From the bottom of our heart, we thank you.