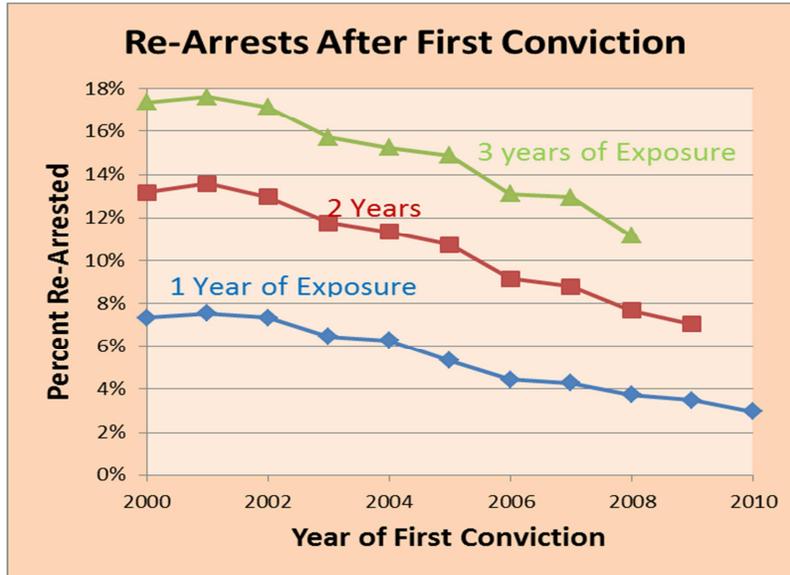


Decreases in Re-arrest Rates are Highly Correlated With Interlock Installations

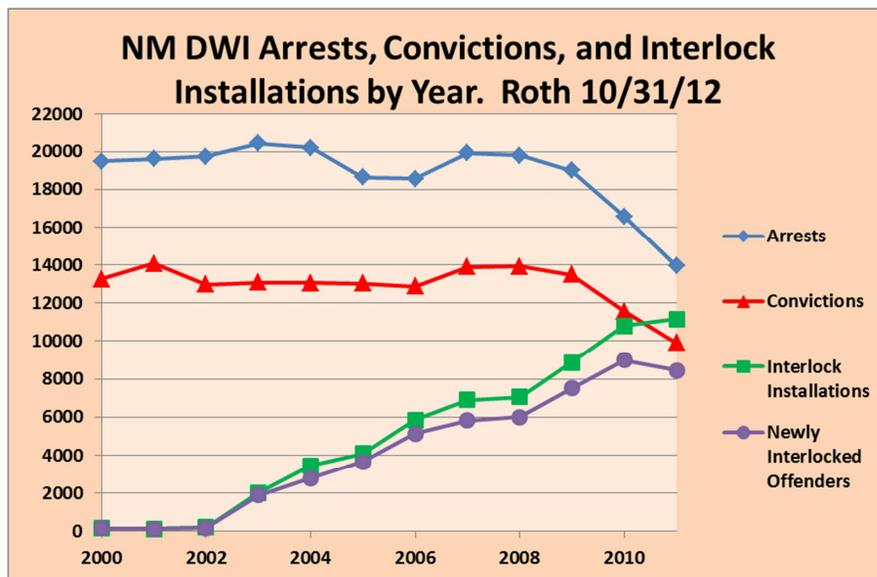
Richard Roth, PhD December 3, 2012

An 11 year study of the recidivism of first offenders and the number of newly interlocked offenders shows that as the yearly number of newly interlocked offenders has increased in New Mexico, the re-arrest rate of offenders has decreased.

This first figure shows the re-arrest rate of first offenders as functions of the year of their first conviction. In the first year after conviction the re-arrest rate decreased from 7.3% in 2000 to 3.0% in 2010. In the two years after conviction the decrease was 47% from 13.2% to 7.0%. In the three years after conviction the decrease in re-arrest rate was 36% from 17.4% to 11.2%.



The second figure shows the annual numbers of DWI arrests, convictions¹, Interlock installations and newly interlocked offenders. The number of newly interlocked offenders increased from 150 in 2000 to 8987 in 2010.



¹ Arrests and convictions are a poor measure of drunk driving because they can stay the same when decreased drunk driving is offset by increased enforcement.

The Increase in newly interlocked offenders and the re-arrest rate of those convicted for the first time for DWI in New Mexico are highly correlated ($r = -0.99$). This does not prove that interlocks are fully responsible for this decline but it is strongly suggestive of a causal relationship.

