Drivers License Status Report for Milwaukee County Presentation

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Drivers License Status Report for Milwaukee County
Presentation for the Center on Driver’s License Recovery & Employability
June 13, 2012

by Lois Quinn and John Pawasarat, Employment and Training Institute, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Methodology

ETI examined driving records of 629,222 Milwaukee County residents in the state DOT files, including:

- drivers with a current license as of January 2012
- plus other residents in the files with suspensions and revocations in 2009-2011.
Impact of CDLRE revocation and suspension reforms
As a result of legislative reforms initiated by the CDLRE, the number of revocations issued to Milwaukee County residents dropped by over 17,000 from 2009 to 2011.
Annual OAR (Operating After Revocation) charges dropped from 10,124 to 64, and OWS (Operating While Suspended) revocations went from 5,815 to 130.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>OAR</th>
<th>OWS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>10,124</td>
<td>5,815</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>2,006</td>
<td>913</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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The annual number of Milwaukee County residents issued revocations decreased by 62% from 2009 to 2011.
The impact of the CDLRE reforms is most evident in lower-income neighborhoods.

Drivers issued revocations →

14,736 in 2009

5,607 in 2011
Drug conviction suspensions have all but been eliminated, under legislative reforms initiated by the CDLRE.
The number of **Milwaukee County residents** issued license suspensions in 2011 was down by 10% over 2009, but still remains very high.
Challenges facing the CDLRE
License suspensions issued for failure to pay forfeitures (FPF) remain extremely high – 97,036 suspensions in 2011.
Most license suspensions are for failure to pay forfeitures rather than unsafe driving.

- Failure to Pay Forfeiture: 73%
- FPF-Juvenile: 4%
- Other: 23%
FTF suspensions are highly concentrated in poverty neighborhoods.

By contrast, OWIs are more evenly distributed throughout the county.
The scale of the problems is challenging: 92,172 Milwaukee County residents have had driver’s license problems in the last three years.

- Has current license, and suspensions/revocations: 50,133
- Has expired license, and suspensions/revocations: 15,360
- Has NO license, and suspensions/revocations: 26,679
African American males in their twenties have the most serious suspension and revocation problems.

- Current license, no sus/rev: 6,491
- Current license with sus/rev: 4,847
- Unlicensed, with sus/rev: 6,512
Licensing patterns of 16-17 year old teens show very different patterns of access to driver’s ed and license preparation by race. Far fewer African American youth have licenses or learning permits.
Successes of the CDLRE from an employment perspective
1. Aiding hundreds of county residents in handling their driver’s license problems and restoring their driving privileges.

2. Dramatic reductions in the number of revocations issued in Milwaukee County and statewide.


4. Promotion of programs to help lower-income teens secure affordable access to driver’s ed and assistance in getting their license.
5. Recognition of the importance of helping ex-offenders restore their driving privileges.

6. Providing public education about the Failure to Pay Forfeiture (“driving while poor”) suspension policies and modeling community service and installment payment alternatives.

7. Identifying the driver’s license as a primary asset for employment.
More info at [www.eti.uwm.edu](http://www.eti.uwm.edu) and [licenserecovery.org](http://licenserecovery.org).