



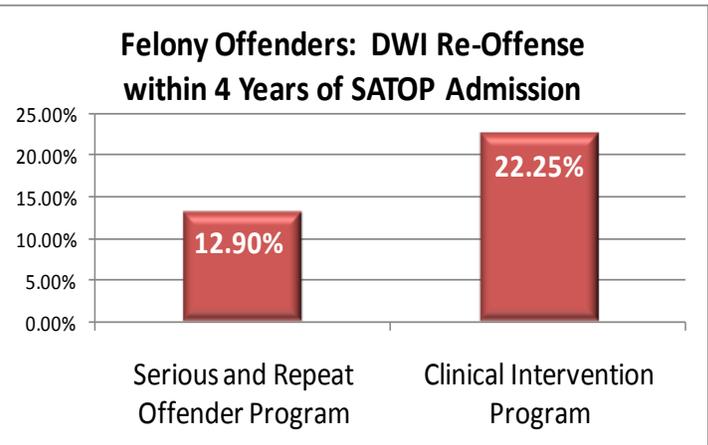
The Serious and Repeat Offender Program

Approximately 18 percent of Missouri’s adult population report driving under the influence of alcohol at least once in the past year. Compared to other states, Missouri ranks 13th highest.¹ Each year, approximately 39,400 DWI arrests are made on Missouri’s roadways.² An estimated 10 percent of these arrests are for repeat offenders with at least 4 prior DWI’s.³ In evaluating possible interventions including treatment, driver license actions, and jail terms, research shows that treatment in combination with license restriction is most effective at reducing DWI re-offense.⁴ In Missouri, a requirement for license reinstatement after a DWI arrest is the completion of the Substance Abuse Traffic Offenders Program (SATOP). The level of SATOP participation is determined by an evaluation from a qualified substance abuse professional that includes a review of the offender’s driver’s license record and a face-to-face interview with the offender. In 2002, SATOP added a demonstration project named the Serious and Repeat Offender Program (SROP) for high risk DWI offenders.

The Serious and Repeat Offender Program: Currently, the SROP program is located only in Greene County and provides substance abuse treatment for felony offenders participating in the Greene County DWI Court Program. The program serves approximately 100 offenders each year. While other SATOP interventions are designed to be completed within several days to five weeks, the SROP is designed to offer more long-term treatment engagement needed by individuals with serious substance abuse issues and are at high risk of re-offending. Most of the Greene County SROP participants are in the program for at least nine months.

Program Effectiveness: DWI re-offense rates for SROP participants were compared with that of felony offenders admitted to the Clinical Intervention Program (CIP). Whereas the CIP program is designed to be completed in about five weeks, the duration of the SROP program is much longer. About one-half of SROP participants are in that program for at least 280 days. Because of the differences in the duration of the programs, the re-offense rates were determined relative to the program admission date. Of the felony offenders admitted to the CIP program between 2003 and 2005, about 22 percent re-offended within 4 years of program admission. In comparison, about 13 percent of the SROP group got a subsequent DWI within 4 years of program admission. This represents a 40 percent reduction in the re-offense rate. These results indicate that longer engagement in treatment in combination with DWI Court supervision produces lower re-offense rates than short-term treatment only. Approximately one-half of the SROP re-offenders did not complete the program. Of the SROP participants that did complete the program, only about 6 percent re-offended within 4 years. CIP re-offenders tended to get their next DWI, on average, 121 days earlier than the SROP re-offenders.

A Repeat DWI Offender and SROP Graduate...
He had been a moderate to heavy drinker most of his adult life. After felony charges, the choice was to get sober or go to prison. He had two young daughters to care for. After a couple of months in the SROP program, he realized that the program could work for him. Now, he has five years in recovery and is raising his daughters.



Sources:
¹Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Office of Applied Studies. National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2004-2006.
²Missouri Department of Public Safety (2010). [Data from the Driving While Intoxicated Tracking System].
³Missouri Department of Mental Health (2010). [Analysis of the Department of Revenue driver’s license data.]
⁴DeYoung, D.J. (1997). “An Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Alcohol Treatment, Driver License Actions and Jail Terms in Reducing Drunk Driving Recidivism in California.” *Addiction* 92(8), 989-997.