Criminal Justice Testing and Evaluation Consortium
A Program of the National Institute of Justice

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Alcohol and Drug Monitoring for Community Supervision

The Criminal Justice Testing and Evaluation Consortium, a program of the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), released a four-part brief series on technologies that support agencies tasked with monitoring individuals released to community supervision. This document summarizes the brief, *Supervision Alcohol and Drug Monitoring for Community Supervision*.

Key Takeaways

The key takeaways of the consortium's alcohol and drug monitoring research include:

- Providing reliable, timely, and cost-effective monitoring of alcohol and drug use for persons on community supervision as a condition of their release is a serious challenge given high-volume caseloads and concerns with public safety.
- Innovation in drug monitoring is hindered by technological limitations, such as the ability to test multiple substances and logistical challenges.
- The COVID-19 pandemic acutely affected alcohol and drug monitoring.
- Although remote solutions for alcohol monitoring are on the market and are used in the context of community supervision, the equivalent for drug monitoring does not exist.
- Alcohol and drug monitoring solutions play a role in community supervision today, but research is needed to understand the impact on recidivism and behavior change.

The brief describes why alcohol and drug monitoring are an important component in supervising individuals on probation, parole, or pretrial release. In short, many individuals released to community supervision have a history of substance use. As a requirement of release to the community, abstaining from drug and alcohol use is essential, and systems that help drive compliance aim to reduce recidivism and support treatment efforts. The brief highlights how alcohol and drug monitoring systems can help officers who face challenges in providing sensitive, specific, timely, and cost-effective solutions, given high-volume caseloads and other supervision variables.

The brief also highlights when alcohol and drug monitoring is appropriate, the testing strategies (i.e., frequency, method, individual risk, etc.), and the technologies available. The brief discusses an important element of alcohol and drug monitoring—reliability and accuracy. The research indicates that solutions that have electrochemical fuel cell technology are widely admissible in court hearings, while semiconductor sensors are not.

The brief segments alcohol and drug monitoring systems into two parts. For alcohol monitoring systems, onsite and remote devices are outlined. Onsite solutions, where a person reports to a designated location for testing, include preliminary breath testing devices (PBT), kiosks, and urine and fluid tests. Remote alcohol monitoring solutions include ignition interlock, portable alcohol monitoring, and transdermal alcohol monitoring devices. For each system, pros and cons are outlined. The brief also covers future trends for alcohol monitoring systems, including these observations:

- Agencies will increasingly rely on them.
- There is an increased need for discreet, convenient solutions, and these systems are a step in that direction.
- The explosion in consumer wearables, many for health monitoring, will push the supervision technology available forward.

The second portion of the brief focuses on drug monitoring systems. Again, agencies are using drug monitoring to deter use and criminal reoffending. The brief outlines several challenges agencies face with drug monitoring, including:

- The history of substance use among those supervised.
- The specificity needed to monitor for certain drugs is lagging today.
- Tests provide limited information, and specimen collection practices face legal hurdles.
- Efficacy of systems needs to be further studied.

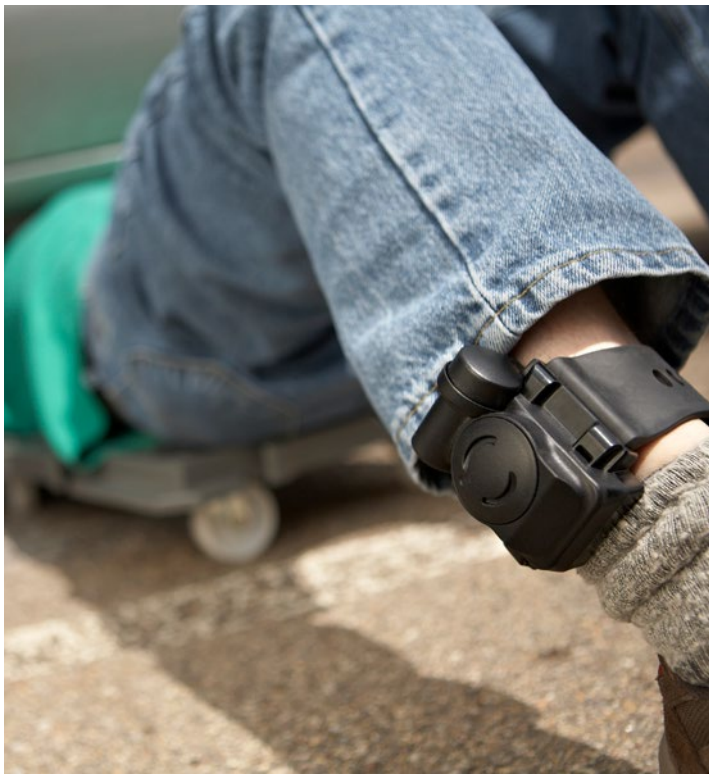
The brief goes into various types of drug monitoring systems, pros and cons, and future trends. Finally, the brief highlights practical agency considerations for implementing these systems and a detailed checklist with questions for agencies to evaluate.

BI Incorporated Solutions Match Trending Technology Usage

For more than four decades, BI Incorporated has developed and supported a comprehensive technology continuum. Below are BI systems that fall within the alcohol monitoring category.

Court-admissible Alcohol Monitoring & Detection Technologies

BI SL3®, a portable sobriety monitoring device, detects the presence of alcohol through a deep lung breath sample. The device uses biometric facial comparison technology to accurately confirm client identity. Clients simply power on the unit, insert the mouthpiece, and follow the directions on the LCD screen for one-touch testing. This user-friendly device enables individuals to submit BrAC tests to officers discreetly while they work, attend school, and live in the community.



BI TAD®, an ankle bracelet system, continuously monitors for alcohol consumption through a noninvasive skin sensor worn on a client's ankle. If a client drinks alcohol while wearing TAD, the sensor detects a "drinking event" via sensible perspiration (sweat) and insensible perspiration (vapor) emitted through the skin. TAD can distinguish drinking events from false positives with 99% statistical accuracy.