

CASE STUDY JUSTICE SECTOR

Located in Billings, Montana, Passages is a pre-release center for women.



sobrcheck™

BACKGROUND

A leader in community corrections and re-entry strategies, Alternatives, Inc., is a Billings, Montana-based non-profit serving Yellowstone, Carbon and Stillwater Counties. Since 1980, Alternatives has provided alternatives to incarceration for federal, state and local offenders. It executes on a mission to promote public safety, and to challenge clients to become responsible, productive citizens through firm, fair and consistent supervision, treatment and education.

The group offers a wide range of services to its more than 7,000 clients, which includes 600 state, federal and work release clients across its two residential programs. Alpha House is a men's pre-release center that serves as an intermediate step between prisons and the community. Passages is a residential program for women, comprised of a 74-bed pre-release center, a 50-bed assessment center and a 50-bed drug and alcohol treatment program.

To access its programs and facilities, all clients are required to perform a staff-administered breathalyzer test. It was far from a perfect solution. Breathalyzers by nature are not hygienic, and the test can be time-consuming. Alternatives also faced challenges with clients who suffer from limited lung capacity and others who attempt to "game" the system by altering their breathing.

PROGRAM

In fall 2022, Alternatives hosted a field study of SOBRcheck™ and its touch-based, passive alcohol detection technology. The study validated the client enrollment process and its efficacy for replacing breathalyzers as the primary frontline screening solution.

Alternatives installed SOBRcheck devices at the Alpha House entry desk. Clients are confirming identity and sobriety with just the touch of a finger – no manual ID logging, or invasive breath, blood or urine samples required. Scanned results are immediately and securely communicated to administrators via the secure Microsoft Azure cloud.



RESULTS

Following the success of the SOBRcheck program at Alpha House, Alternatives installed a second device at Passages just two months later.

“The technology is much faster and more sanitary than breathalyzers, and with its biometric identity verification it lets our employees always know ‘who is who’ – even with a constantly changing clientele.”
said Alternatives CEO Dave Armstrong.

Much faster indeed. Since July 2023, the Alpha House facility registered 2,073 scans with SOBRcheck, demonstrating a consistent pass rate of 98% - 100%. When the facility was using the traditional breathalyzer, the average process time - with the breathalyzer test, checking IDs and manually recording data – was 45 seconds per person. Conversely, SOBRcheck delivers the client's identity verification and alcohol status in just 10 seconds.

Across 2,073 scans it would have taken the Alternatives team approximately 25 hours via their observed breathalyzer process...versus less than six hours with SOBRcheck – **up to 4x faster throughput.**

“SOBRcheck's innovative technology creates significant efficiencies, freeing up invaluable time to empower client recovery,” Armstrong said.
“We couldn't be happier with the technology and our partnership with SOBRsafe.”

Client Process / Check-in Time
SOBRcheck vs. Breathalyzers

Month*	Total Scans	SOBRcheck (hrs)	Breathalyzers (hrs)
July	581	1.6	7.2
August	445	1.2	5.5
September	212	0.6	2.7
October	385	1	4.8
November	450	1.25	5.6
Total Hours		5.65	25.8

*2023