

The Drug Driving Situation In The Netherlands

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Regulating Drug Driving to Protect All Road Users

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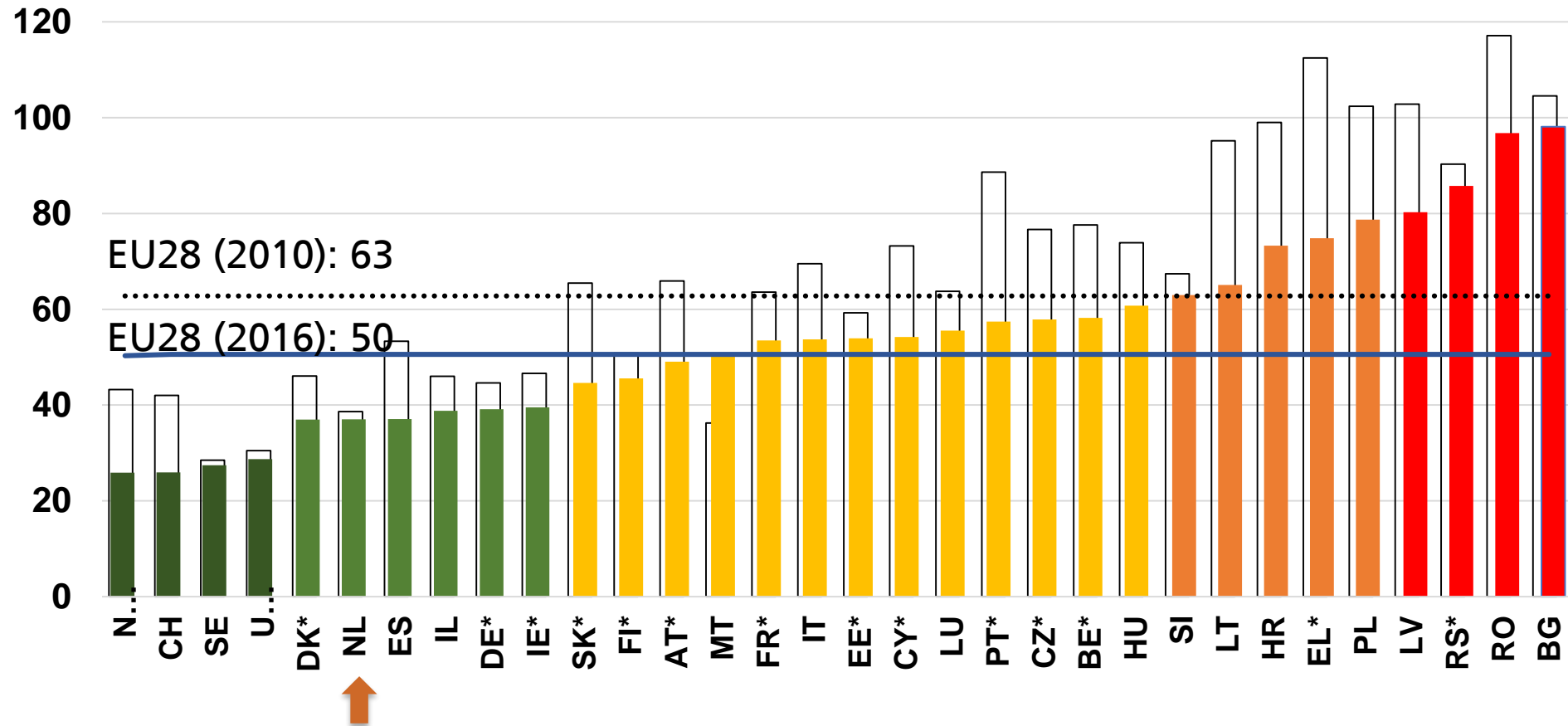
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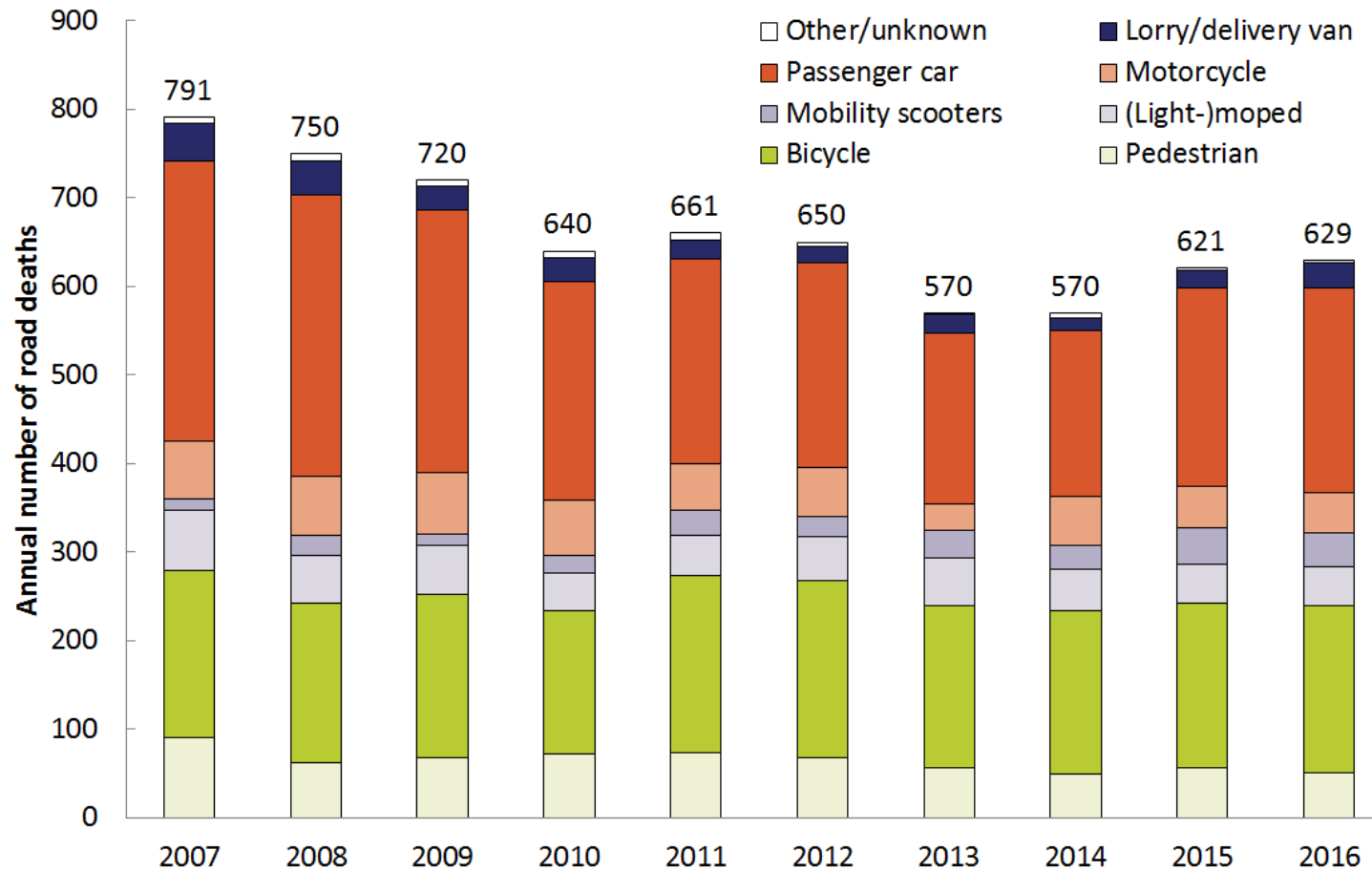
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ROAD SAFETY SITUATION

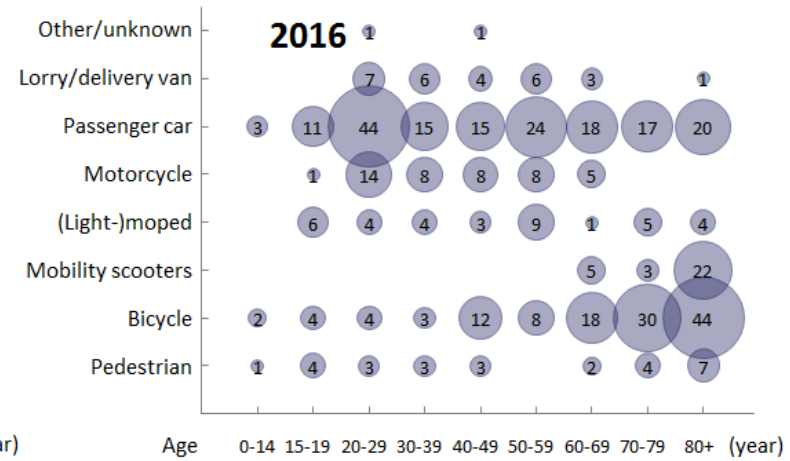
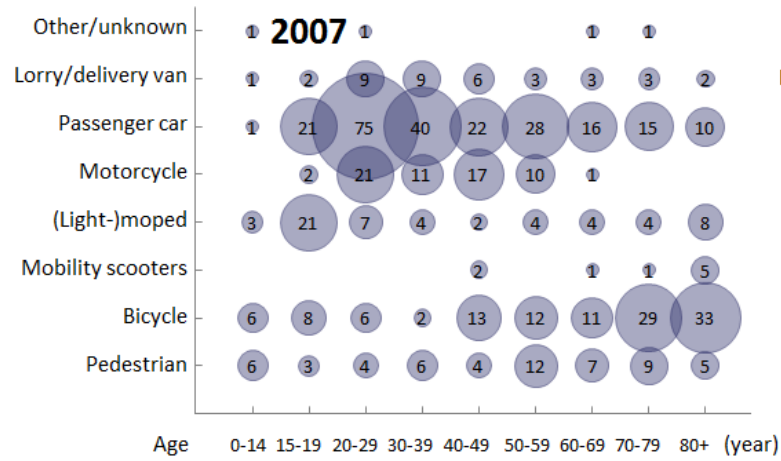


ROAD SAFETY SITUATION

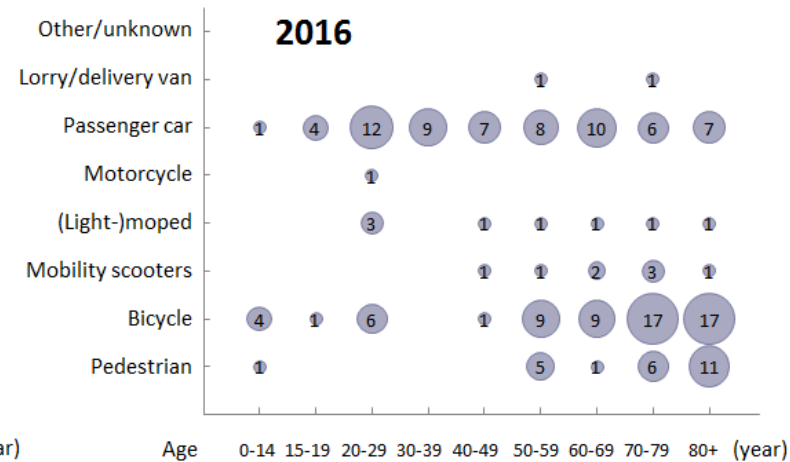
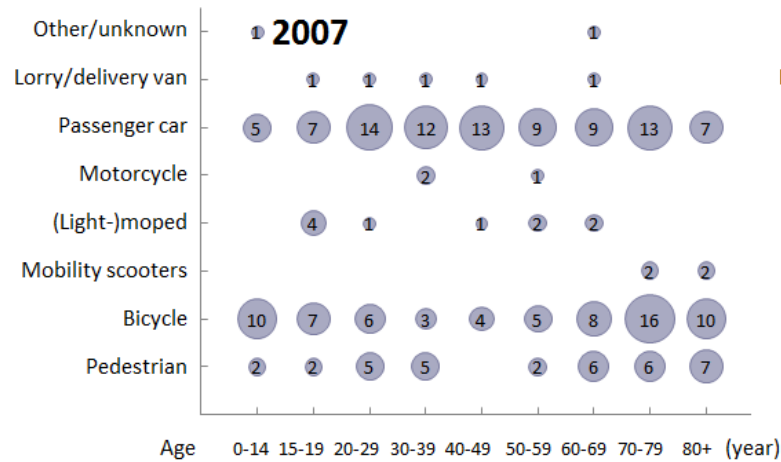


ROAD SAFETY SITUATION

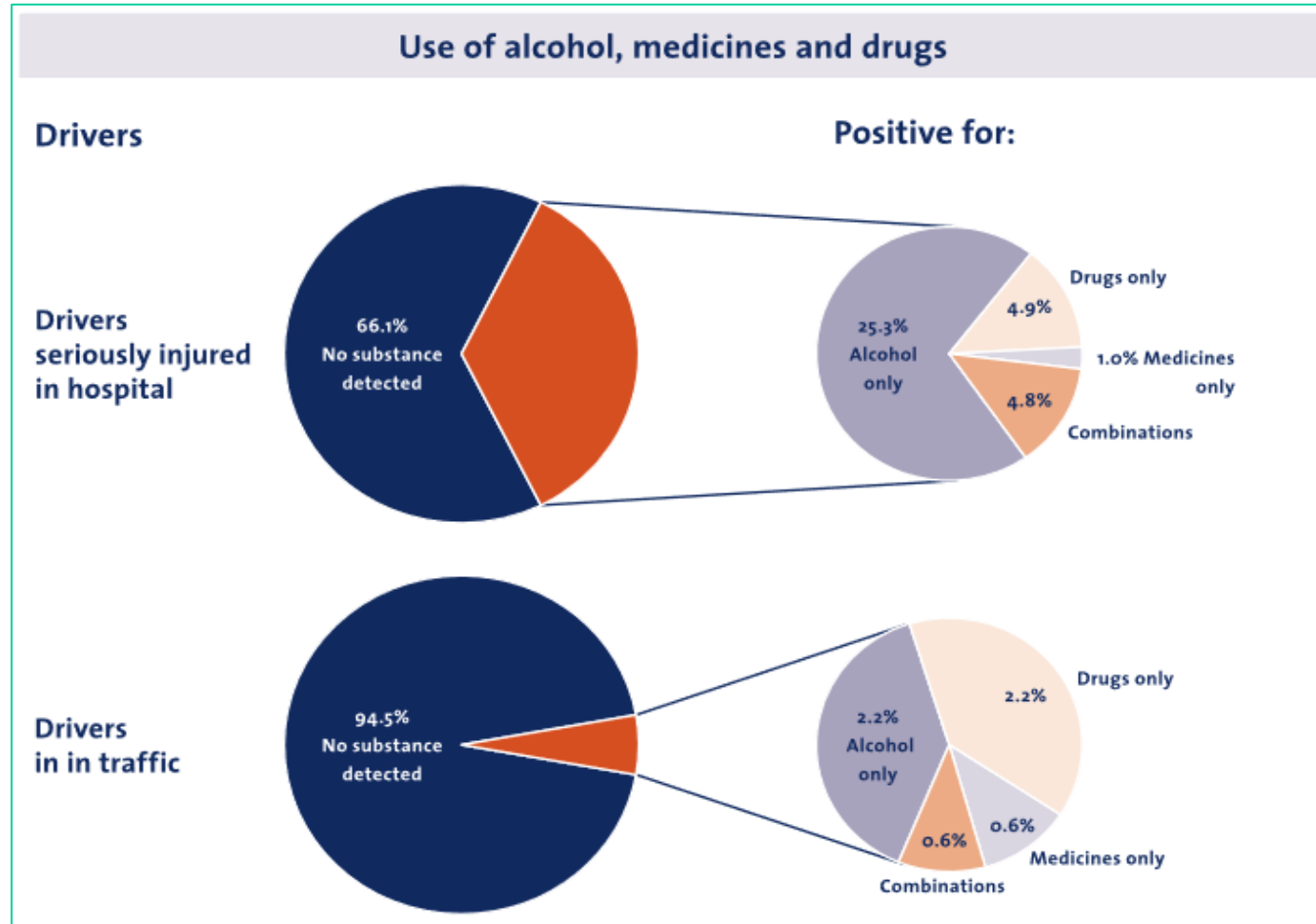
Men



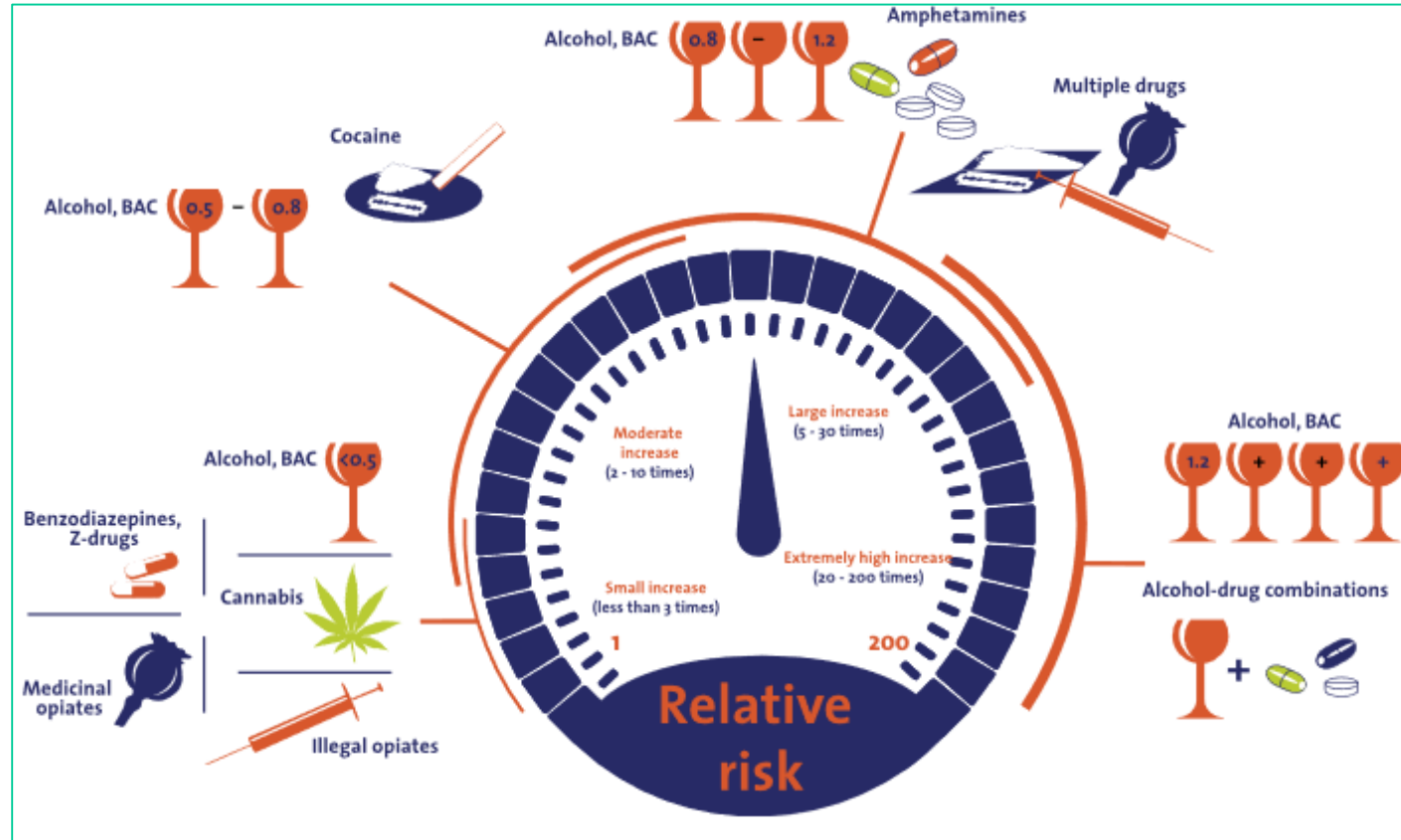
Women



DRUG USE IN THE NETHERLANDS



HOW DANGEROUS ARE DRUGS?



DUTCH ENFORCEMENT BEFORE 01/07/2017

Before 2012:

- Estimate drug use from outward physical signs
- Blood analysis at police station
- Results after several weeks
- Procedure not very practical in terms of time efficiency

After 2012:

- Saliva screening test
- Very low number of drug offenders detected between 2013-2015:
 - 1.100-1.200 drivers
 - 3 situations
 - ??% legally prosecuted

NEW DRUG LEGISLATION IN THE NETHERLANDS

As of 01 July 2017: legal limits for drug

- Behaviour-related limits for single use drug
- Limit values similar to 0.5g/L limit for alcohol
 - Zero limits for combined drug use
 - No exception for medical purposes

DRUGS UNDER THE NEW LEGISLATION

Drug limits included for designated drugs

- Amphetamine
- Methamphetamine
 - Cocaine
 - Cannabis
 - Heroin
 - Morphine
- MDMA (XTC)
 - MDEA (3,4-Methylenedioxy-N-ethylamphetamine (MDEA, MDE; "Eve"))
- MDA (3,4-methyleendioxyamphetamine; comparable to active ingredient in Ecstasy)
 - GHB (Gamma-Hydroxybutyric Acid)
 - Gamma butyro-lacton
 - 1,4-butaandiol

PROCEDURE

Screening:

- Breath test (Alcohol)
- Saliva test
(Once repeatable if not valid)
- Psychomotor functions, eyes, speech

Follow-Up Examination:

- Blood test
- Within 1.5 hour
- Doctor or Nurse
- NFI (Laboratory)

LEGAL LIMITS (CUT-OFF VALUES)

Type of drugs	Limit for driving under the influence of drugs (single use)	Limit for use combined with other drugs, alcohol, or medication
Amfetamine, methamfetamine, MDMA, MDEA en MDA	50 microgram per liter blood	25 microgram or 50 microgram by use in combination with amfetamine-like substances
Cannabis	3,0 microgram THC per liter blood	1,0 microgram THC per liter blood;
Heroïne and morfine	20 microgram morfine per liter blood	10 microgram morfine per liter blood;
GHB, gamma butyrolacton and 1,4-butaandiol	10 milligram GHB per liter blood.	5,0 milligram GHB per liter blood;
Cocaïne	50 microgram per liter blood	10 microgram cocaïne per liter blood
(combined with Alcohol)		0,2 milligram ethanol per milliliter blood

SANCTIONS

	First time offender	First time recidivist	Multiple recidivist (Court)
Single <u>designated</u> drug detected (amphetamine, methamphetamine, cocaine, MDMA, MDEA, MDA, cannabis, heroin, morphine, GHB)	€ 850 sanction + 6 months driving disqualification	€ 950 sanction + 8 months driving disqualification	€ 950 sanction + 8 months driving disqualification
Single <u>non-designated</u> drug/medicine detected (and concluded by the NFI (the Netherlands Forensic Institute) that driving ability was negatively affected)	€ 1000 sanction + 9 months driving disqualification	€ 1100 sanction + 10 months driving disqualification	€ 1100 sanction + 10 months driving disqualification
Combination use Drugs and drugs detected, or: Alcohol and drugs detected	60 to 70 hours community service + 12 to 15 months driving disqualification	70 to 80 hours community service + 15 to 16 months driving disqualification	70 to 80 hours community service + 15 to 16 months driving disqualification

FUTURE ENFORCEMENT ISSUES/PROBLEMS

- Best strategy for combining alcohol and drug enforcement in traffic?
 - Training police officers in recognising drugs signs
 - Providing officers with a checklist for recognising drugs sign
- Enforcing cycling under influence: consequences for driving licence!
 - Justice issue: frequent medicine users!?

CONCLUSIONS

- Drugs in traffic is a considerable problem
 - The new Dutch legislation enables far more efficient enforcement of drug driving
- Enforcement of drugs should not be done at the cost of the enforcement of alcohol-impaired driving
 - Since new legislation is very recent there is no empirical evaluation yet

THANK YOU!



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