

Drink and drugs driving in France

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Causes of fatal accidents	Causes identifiées dans un accident mortel	France métropolitaine
Speed	Vitesse	27%
Alcohol	Alcool	18%
Other causes	Autre cause	11%
Not known	Cause indéterminée	15%
Refusal of priority	Priorité	10%
Lack of attention	Inattention	10%
Illegal drugs	Stupéfiant	9%
Malaise	Malaise	7%
Dangerous overtaking	Dépassement dangereux	5%
Drowsiness	Somnolence / Fatigue	3%
Lane change	Changement de file	4%
Wrong way	Contresens	2%
Obstacle	Obstacle	1%
Vehicle defect	Facteurs liés au véhicule	0%
Phone	Téléphone	1%
Lack of safety distance	Non respect des distances de sécurité	1%
Total	Total	100%

Alcohol and drugs average among fatal accident

Facteurs principaux d'accidents mortels des hommes PR selon l'âge (2021-2023)

 Facteurs identifiés dans un accident mortel	18-34 ans	35-54 ans	55 ans et +
Vitesse excessive ou inadaptée	47%	31%	12%
Alcool	33%	29%	11%
Stupéfiant	21%	15%	3%
Inattention	10%	13%	13%
Malaise	1%	6%	28%
Priorité *	6%	7%	11%
Dépassement dangereux *	8%	6%	4%
Contresens *	4%	3%	3%
Somnolence -fatigue	5%	3%	4%
Changement de file *	4%	4%	4%
Eblouissement	2%	2%	2%
Non respect des distances de sécurité *	2%	2%	1%
Téléphone et distracteurs techno.	2%	1%	0%
Médicaments	0%	1%	1%
Autre cause	8%	9%	8%
Cause indéterminée	9%	13%	14%
Nombre de PR	2 924	2 164	2 333

* Au moins un facteur de non-respect des règles de circulation dans un accident mortel : 22 % PR hommes et 28 % PR femmes

Legal context

- **Different circumstances of detection in the law: Mandatory, allowed, prevention (check points)**
- **Mandatory detection** in case of fatal accident or accident with injuries.
- **Detection allowed but not mandatory** in case of:
 - Accident with only material damages
 - Violation of driving rules
 - Reasonable suspicion of drug use at wheel, finding in the car (drug)
- **Preventive detection: Any driver (and also driving school teacher or parent if accompanied driving**

Procedure

- Four families of drugs researched with road side tests:
- cannabis, cocaïne and crack, opiates, amphetamines (including also metamphétamine and ecstasy-MDMA).
- Detection in saliva (directly by a police officer in saliva on the road side, but urine test is allowed in some cases, requiring a nurse or a medical doctor)
- Confirmation in saliva by sampling in the same time or blood if impossible collection of a sample for detection like injured drivers).

Procedure (2)

- Prosecution if positive confirmation
- No prosecution if negative
- Prosecution is not possible on the only base of the driver's consent which cannot be considered as an adequate evidence (the driver could change his mind later...)

Sanctions

- **Drug driving = Criminal offence : maximum 2 years of jail, 4500€ fine, 6 points (in 12) of the driving licence.**
- **Drug + alcohol driving = Criminal offence : maximum 3 years of jail, 9000€ fine, 6 points (in 12) of the driving licence**
- **Additional justice sanctions:**
 - Suspension or cancellation of the driving licence
 - Sentence of « days–fine) (choice given between fine and days of jail)
 - Sentence of work in general interest services
 - Educational training course related to traffic safety
 - Educational training course related to drug and alcohol use
 - Prohibition of the use of certain types of vehicles (car without a licence)

Sanctions (2)

- Up to 5 years of jail and 75 000 € fine if accident with injuries
- Up to 7 years jail and 100 000 € fine if additional offenses (alcohol + drugs, hit and run offenses, accident with fatalities)
- Up to 10 years jail and 150 000 € fine if accident with fatalities + additional offenses (alcohol + drugs, hit and run, driving without license)

Drug driving: Additional administrative management

- Unfit to drive in case of addiction or abuse with psychotropic substances, in case of chronic use without medical justification and prescription.
- Use of urine or hair tests in case of professional driving
- Mandatory probation after medical examination drug test in urine, biological markers of alcohol (GGT, CDT) from 6 months to one year, which can be renewed during 2 years
- Then depending of the opinion of the medical commission.

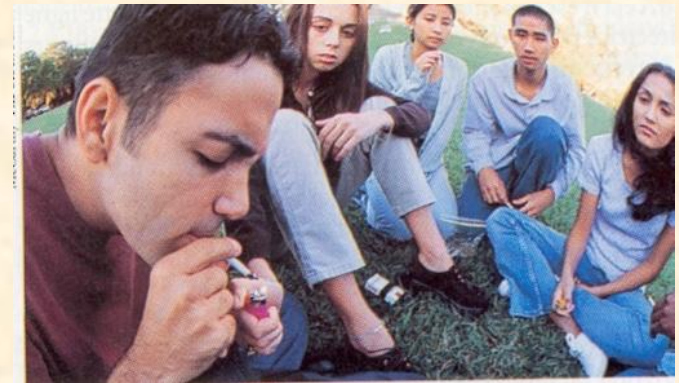
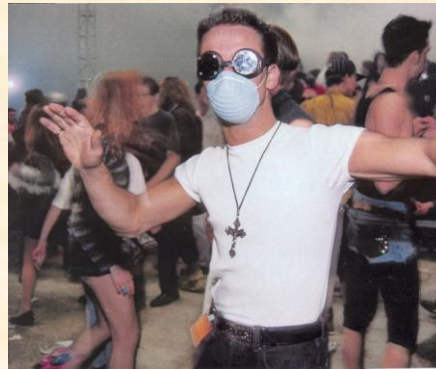
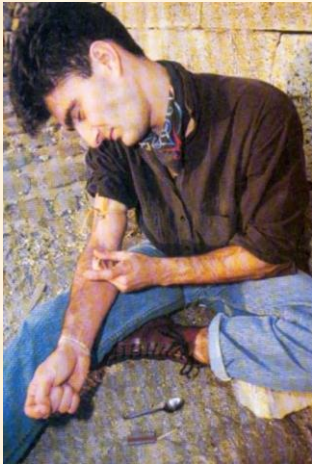
Drug driving: Additional administrative management (2)

- For « heavy group » licences (Trucks, Buses, Taxis, Driving school teachers):
- Driving licence validity for 6 month then 2 medical and biological controls every 6 months during 3 years.
- Then depending of the medical commission

Alcoholism / problem drinker



« Hard drugs »/ « recreational « soft » drugs



Drugs

- **European Council Resolution of 27 November 2003** on combating the impact of psychoactive substances use on road accidents
 - **Underlines** the importance of :
 - Promoting research on the influence of psychoactive substances over driving ability
 - Developing research to improve road side tests
 - Measures for rehabilitation of drivers
- **Follow-up of this Resolution:**
 - «Alcohol, drugs and medicines» working group
 - Research and DRUID project

Working Group on drugs and driving

- **Recommendations**

- all member states of the EU should allow random roadside testing for drugs.
- warnings for combined use of alcohol and drugs
- all drivers of fatal or severe injury accidents should be tested for the presence of alcohol and drugs
- work further on the topic of medicines and driving

- **Update of Annex III of Directive 91/439/EEC**

- Annex III (minimum standards of physical and mental fitness to drive), §15:
« Driving licences shall not be issued to or renewed for applicants or drivers who are dependent on psychoactive substances or who regularly abuse them »

- Saliva roadside tests can be easily used in prevention (no need for urine, fast)
- Not always in case of accident,
- Importance of the need for an evidence, which is possible now through evidential saliva analysis
- Field sobriety tests and DRE face limits: we don't look only for impaired drivers: we track drivers with a higher relative risk of accident

Where are we now ?

- Alcohol consumption decreasing in youth
- No real change in adults
- Cannabis allowed in many new countries: Why ???
- Many bad reasons: CF: to stop the traffic of drugs...
- And an escalation in new intensive drugs

Where do we go ?