Drink Driving in Finland

SMART policies for tackling drink driving

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Responsible traffic.

Courage and co-operation

Content

- Facts & number of drink driving cases

- Sober Road -project

- Alcohol Interlocks

- Campaigns

Finland: facts

Area 338 432 m² (10 % lakes)

~ **5,5** million inhabitants
~ **3,7** million driving licences
~ **5,0** million motor vehicles
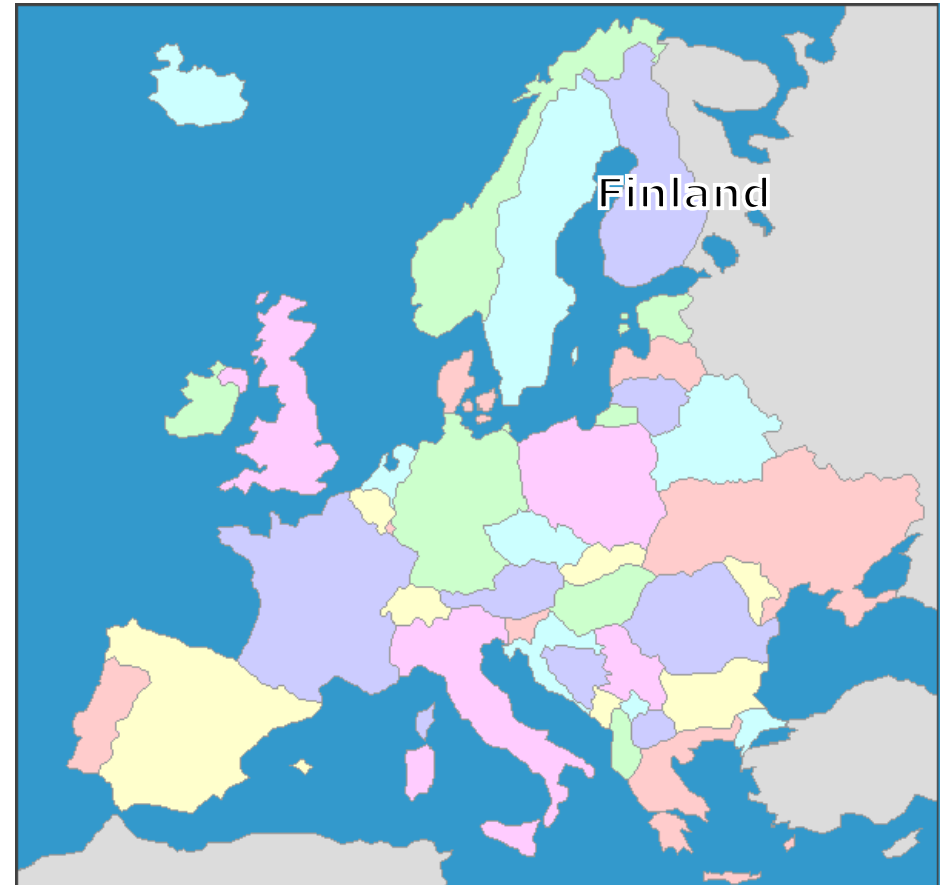
BAC-limit **0,5 ‰**

Random checks by the police:
~ **2 million**/year

In 2015 about **13 000** drink
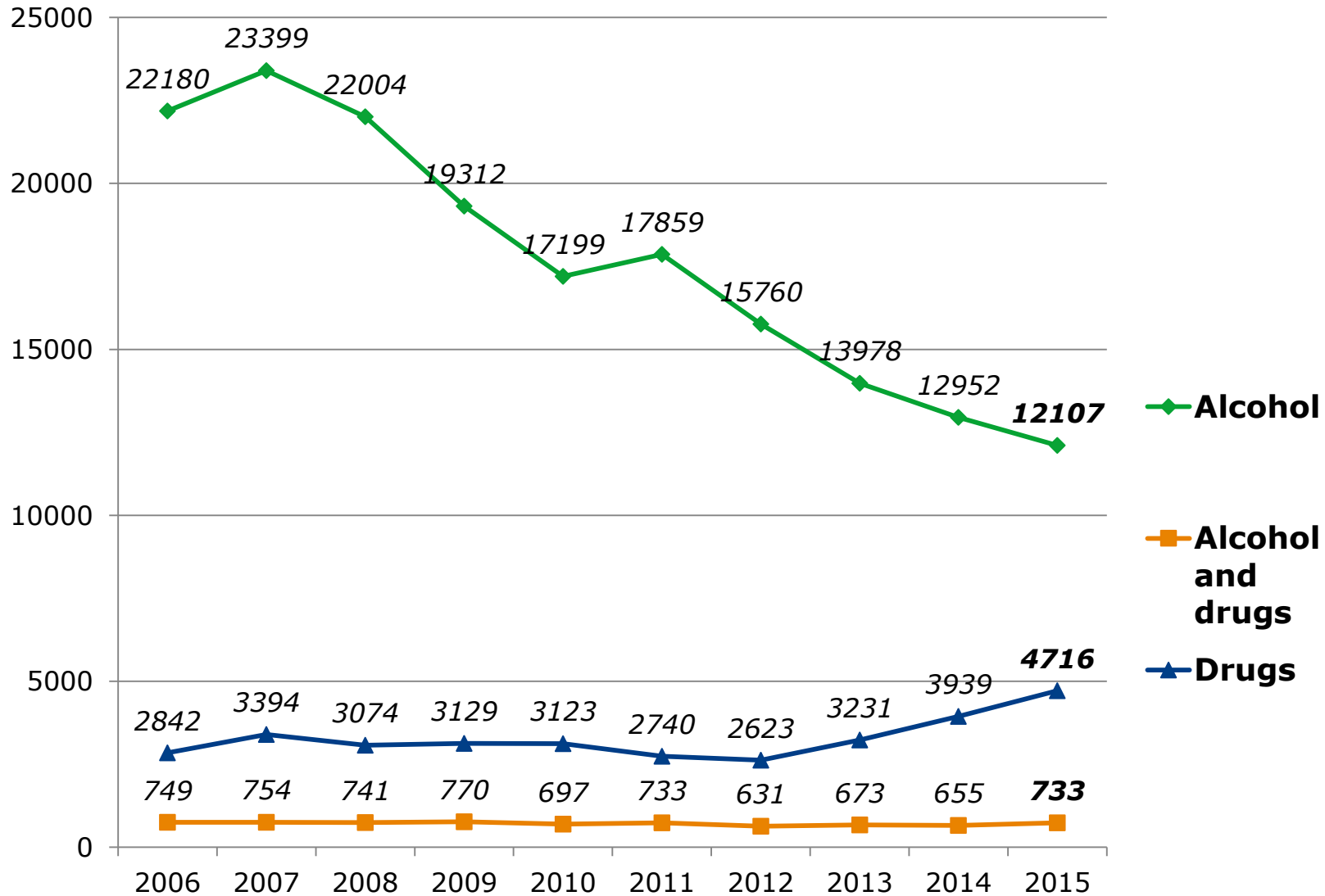drivers caught by the police

Road traffic accidents:
~ **20 %** of deaths and
~ **10 %** of injuries related to DUI

Finland

Drink driving cases per year (caught by the police)

Sober Road -project to support young drivers

- The project offers support to **young drivers** caught drink driving, along the principles of a low threshold, voluntariness and **prompt intervention**.

- The police and the social & health services work together in this project to prevent serial drink driving.

- The main tool is **a discussion** about the use of intoxicants, **held by social & health services** (considering also possible social and mental health problems behind drink driving).

- First-offenders are more likely to take the support offered, whereas serial offenders and problem users of intoxicants are less likely to. However, the project **reaches young people at risk of exclusion**.

- One key result is that intervention and bringing up the subject of use of intoxicants are sensible, viable tools in customer contacts in social work.

- The social worker at the police department turned out to be an invaluably important liaison between the police and social & health services.

Alcohol Interlocks for DUI offenders since 2005

- Voluntary; all drink-driving offenders are able to apply for a driving licence with a requirement to use an alcohol interlock
  → possible to keep on driving sober

- Alcohol interlock kept for 1–3 years (court decides the length for each driver; on average it's between 1–2 years)

- Driving licence with national code 111 (from 1 January 2017 harmonized European code 69)

- Log-data read-out every 60 days, the police follows up the data

- Health care sector involved with one discussion with each driver

- The driver pays all the costs (on average less than 5 € per day)

- **At least one third** of the drivers leave the alcohol interlock **voluntarily** in the vehicle after the mandatory period (voluntary use settings applied, e.g. no running re-tests, no log-data read-out)**!**

- Evaluation study: Trafi Publications 6/2013 (in English): "Effectiveness and impact of alcohol interlock-controlled driving rights"

Alcohol Interlocks as a preventive measure

Since 2011 alcohol interlocks mandatory in chartered school and day care transports (more than 10 000 taxies and busses equipped with interlocks)

Since 2013 "health-related" alcohol interlock

- Doctors have an obligation to inform the police if a driving licence holder does not meet the minimum health requirements for the driving licence.

- **Doctors** are able to **propose an alcohol interlock** if the person would not otherwise receive/keep the driving licence due to unmet health requirements (in terms of alcohol use).

- National code 113 is recorded on the driving licence to show the obligation to use an alcohol interlock in all vehicles that the person is driving.

- The person may get rid of this code if he/she is able to convince the doctor that he/she does not have any problematic issues with alcohol use any longer.

CAMPAIGNS
Situational control 1980's:

"If you take –
do not drive
If you drive –
do not drink"

CAMPAIGNS:
Self control
2000's:

"There are mornings when it is wise to leave the car home"

CAMPAIGNS (2012):
Youngsters came up with this idea themselves (Slogan competition)

"It is OK to be stupid – but it's NOT OK to be drunk driver"

Thank you!

Questions?
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