



Road Safety & Drug Driving in Italy

A presentation by **Emanuele Laurenzi** — journalist since 1997, road safety reporter for over 12 years, and Press Office Manager at the **ANIA Foundation** since 2010.

About the ANIA Foundation

Founded

Established in 2004, funded by the Italian insurance industry.

Mission

Reduce road accidents and promote a new culture of road safety in Italy.

How

Dialogue with public sector, memoranda with governments, training and information campaigns.



Road Accident Trends in Italy

Data published by **ACI and ISTAT** in collaboration with the Ministry of Infrastructure shows a complex picture: accidents and injuries rose in 2024, but fatalities and 2025 estimates point to improvement.

Period	Accidents	Change	Fatalities	Change	Injuries	Change
2023 (full year)	166,525	—	3,039	—	224,634	—
2024 (full year)	173,364	+4.1%	3,030	-0.3%	233,853	+4.1%
2025 (1st half, est.)	82,344	-1.3%	1,310	-6.8%	111,090	-1.2%

Top 3 Causes of Road Accidents (2024)



☐ **Distraction / Indecisive Driving**

35,371 accidents — 15.7% of total

☐ **Failure to Give Way / Obey Traffic Lights**

30,471 accidents — 13.5% of total


☐ **Excessive Speed**

19,497 accidents — 8.6% of total

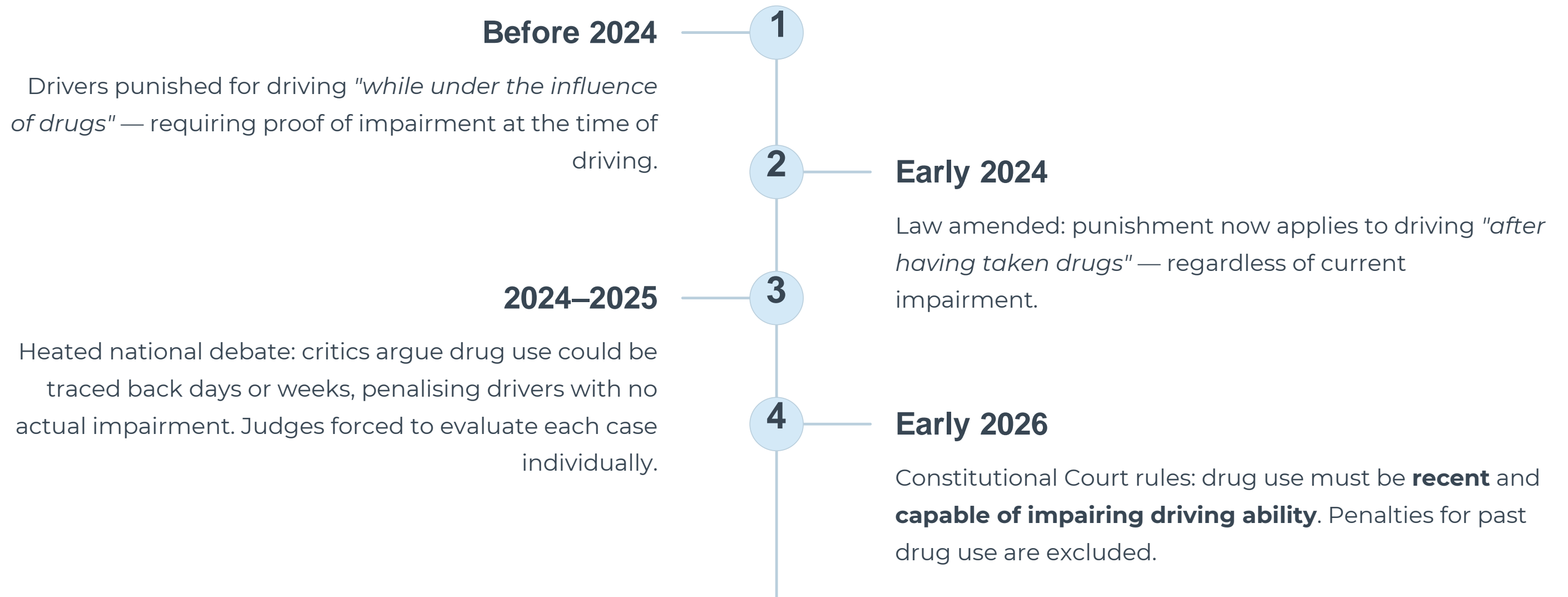
Driving Under the Influence of Drugs

Italy has no single official dataset on drug-impaired driving. Below are penalties issued by law enforcement under **Article 187 of the Highway Code**.

Year	Police	Carabinieri	Municipal Police	Total
2022	1,610	2,146	852	4,608
2023	1,639	1,891	779	4,309
2024	1,639	2,019	853	4,511

 Fines up to €6,000 · Imprisonment up to 1 year · License suspension up to 2 years

Timeline of the Legislative Debate



The debate continues: calls for reintroduction of the "altered state" criterion, a grey area for judges, and no objective cut-off thresholds in law.

Proposed Drug Threshold Limits

One proposed solution mirrors the **English model**: a table of minimum blood concentration limits per substance.

Drug Type	Threshold ($\mu\text{g/L}$ of blood)
Benzoyllecgonine	50 $\mu\text{g/L}$
Cocaine	10 $\mu\text{g/L}$
Delta-9-THC (Cannabis)	2 $\mu\text{g/L}$
Ketamine	20 $\mu\text{g/L}$
LSD	1 $\mu\text{g/L}$
Methylamphetamine	10 $\mu\text{g/L}$
MDMA	10 $\mu\text{g/L}$
6-Monoacetylmorphine (Heroin)	5 $\mu\text{g/L}$

Drive Carefully – Drug Check

In **2022**, the ANIA Foundation partnered with the Italian Police to launch a landmark awareness and enforcement initiative targeting drug-impaired driving on Italian roads.

Operative Protocol

Joint framework with Italian Police defining actions to combat drug driving.

Mobile Laboratory

ANIA Foundation financed a state-of-the-art mobile lab by **Forensic Lab Service**.

Where & When

Mainly weekends, on congested rural roads and near Italian highways.



How the Mobile Lab Works



01

Two Saliva Samples Taken

Simultaneously collected using two specific devices.

02

Chain of Custody Sample

Stored and available for counter-analysis at driver's request.

03

Immediate On-Site Analysis

Second sample analysed in the vehicle within **~15 minutes.**

04

Doctor Certification

State of intoxication certified directly on-site by a physician.



Campaign Results: A Worrying Signal

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Years of Campaign

70+

Weekends Active

1,902

Drivers Checked

189

Tested Positive

To one or more drugs



~10% positive rate — Not a representative sample, but a clear trend. The data should draw urgent attention to driving under the influence of drugs.