

Ranking EU progress on car occupant safety

PIN Flash Report 27



Car occupant deaths halve in EU 27 between 2001 & 2012

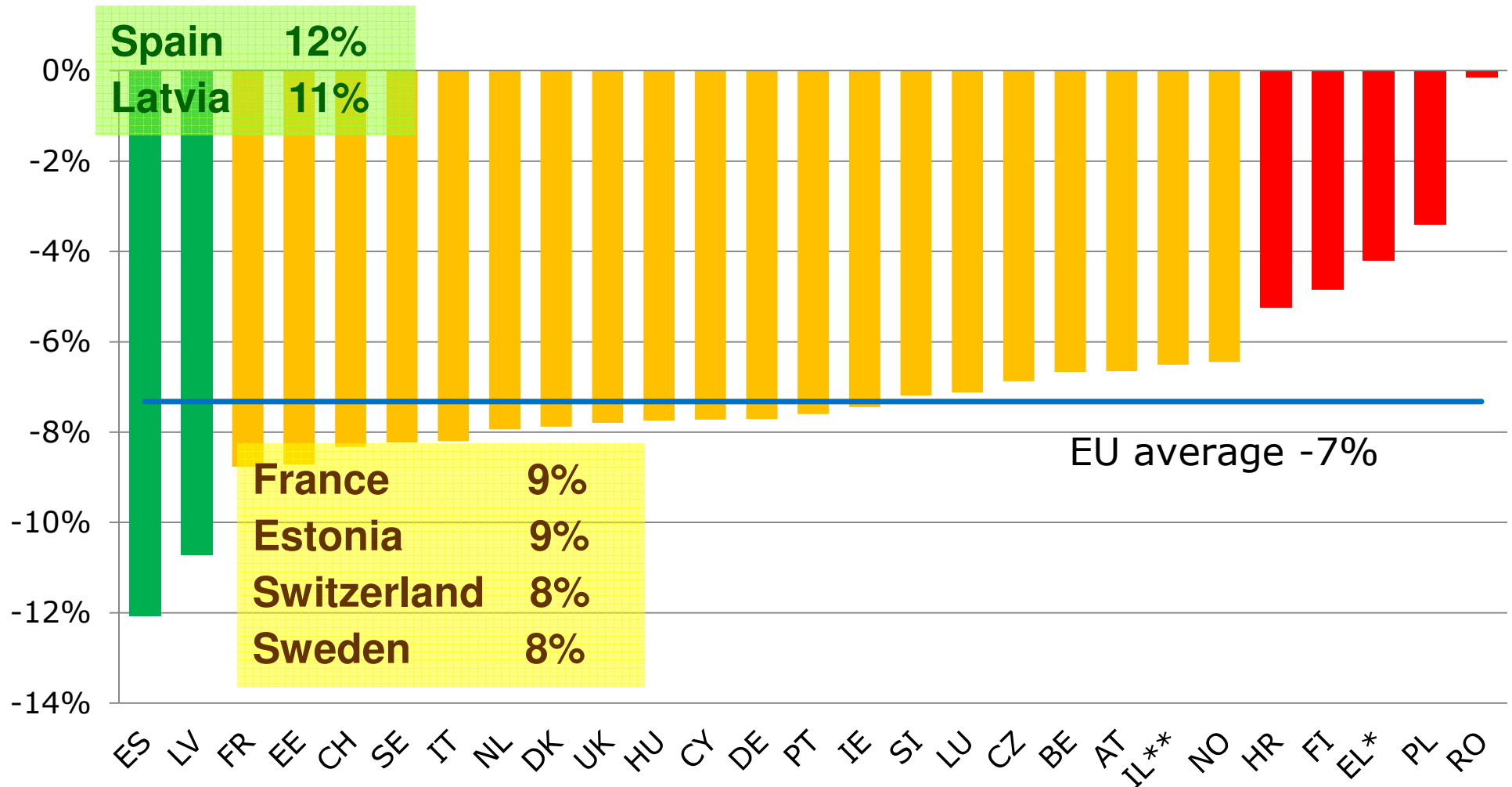
- Around 240,000 car occupants* were killed in the EU27 in years 2001-2012
- 27,700 car occupant deaths in 2001 to 12,345 in 2012, a cut of 55%
- This is substantially more than the reduction in death rate for other road users (41%) over this period.
- But car occupants still accounted for almost half (48%) of all road deaths in 2012.

**Car occupants are drivers and their passengers*

More needs to be done

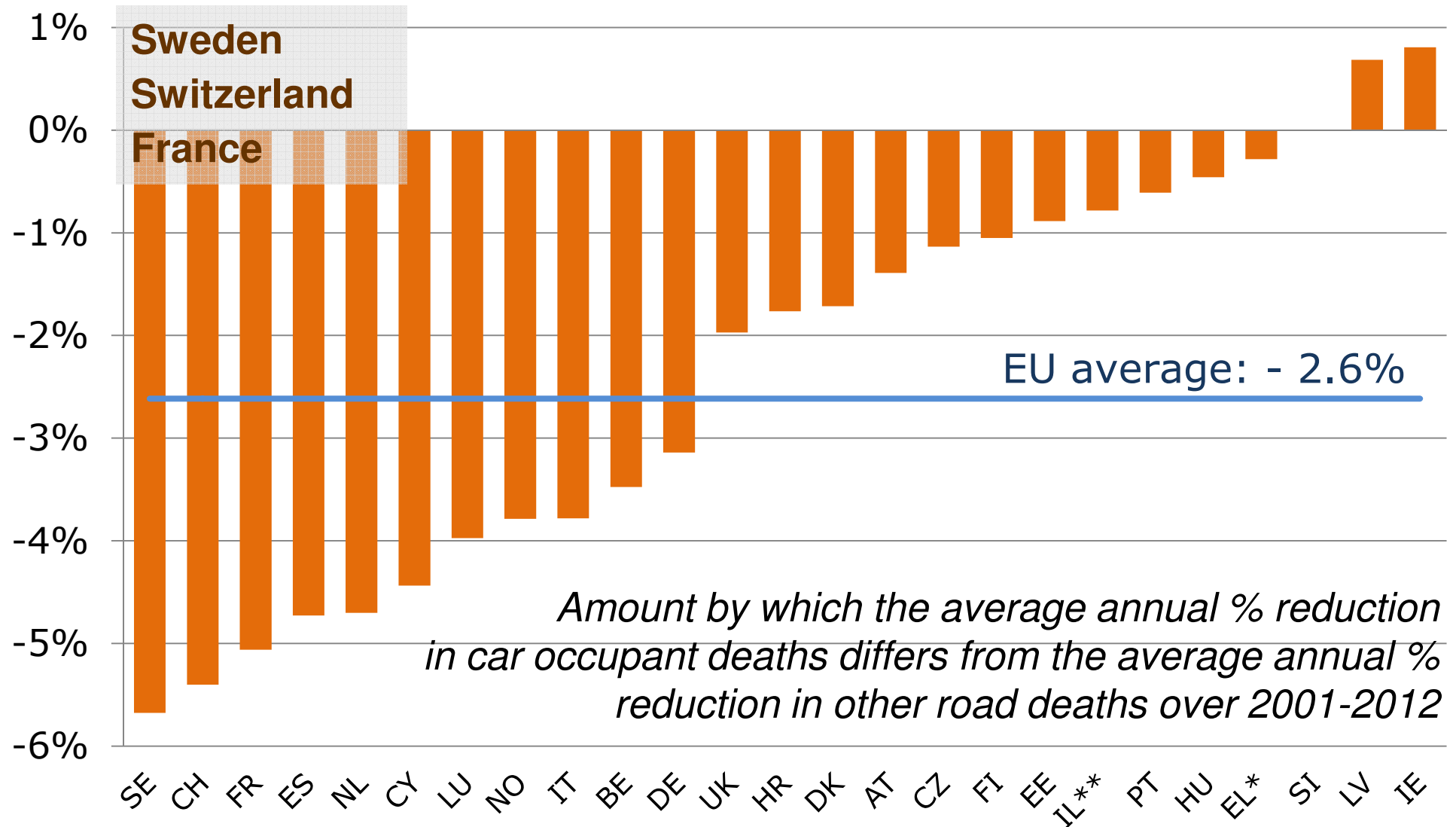
- Car occupants have benefitted more than other road users from road safety measures adopted over the past decade.
- Achieving the EU 2020 road safety target will continue to depend strongly on the EU and its Member States sustaining reductions in car occupant deaths.

Progress since 2001



Average annual percentage change in car occupant deaths 2001-2012

Car occupant deaths have fallen faster than other deaths



Sweden

- **Safer cars**

Between 2007 and 2012 the percentage of new cars sold that were models awarded 5 stars by Euro NCAP increased from 66% to 87%.

- **Better infrastructure**

On roads limited to 90km/h or more the percentage of traffic volume on sections with median barrier has increased from ~50% in 2007 to 72% in 2013.

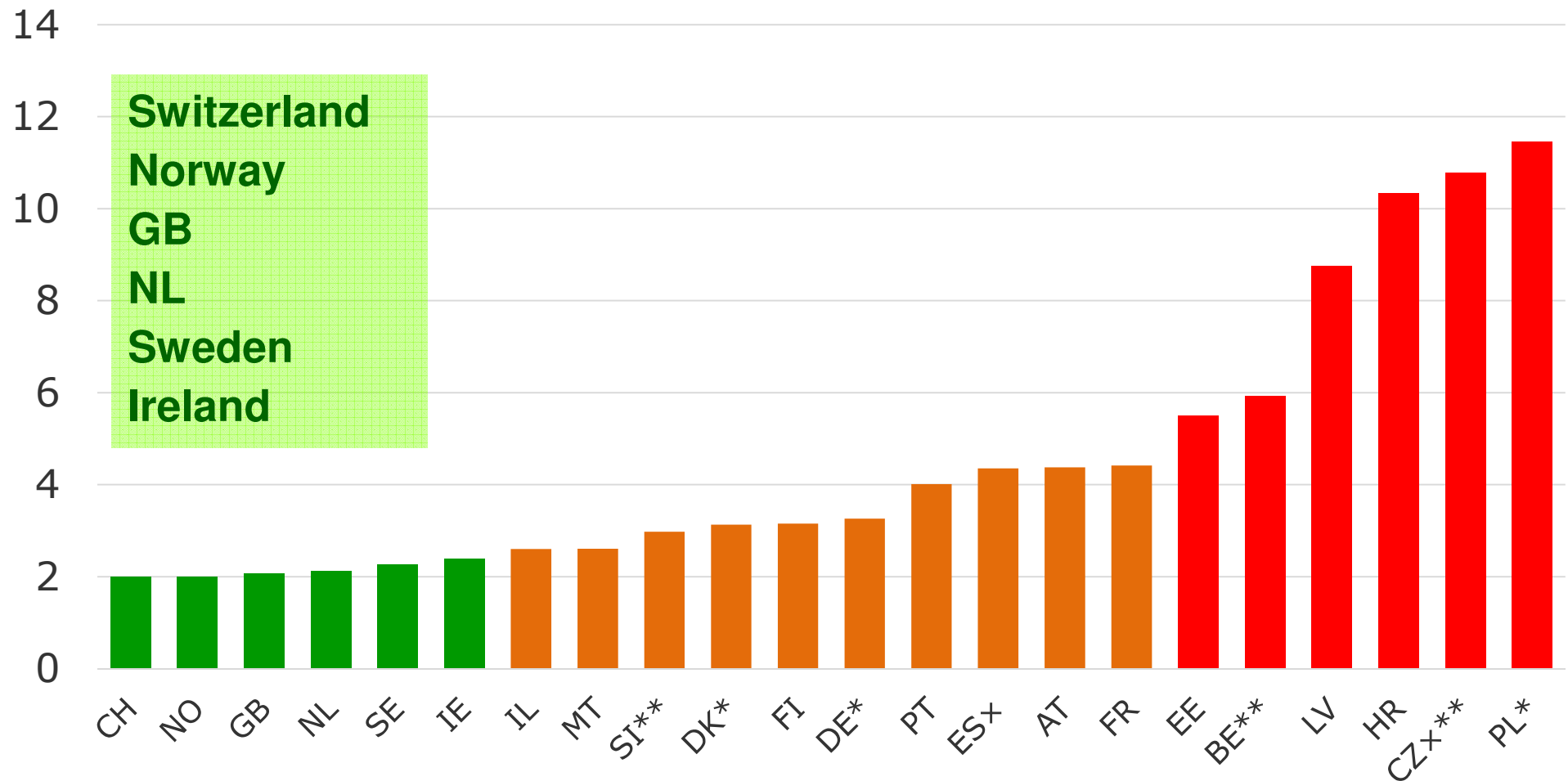
- **Lower speed**

The mean speeds on national roads decreased from 82km/h in 2004 to 78km/h in 2012.

Speed reduction

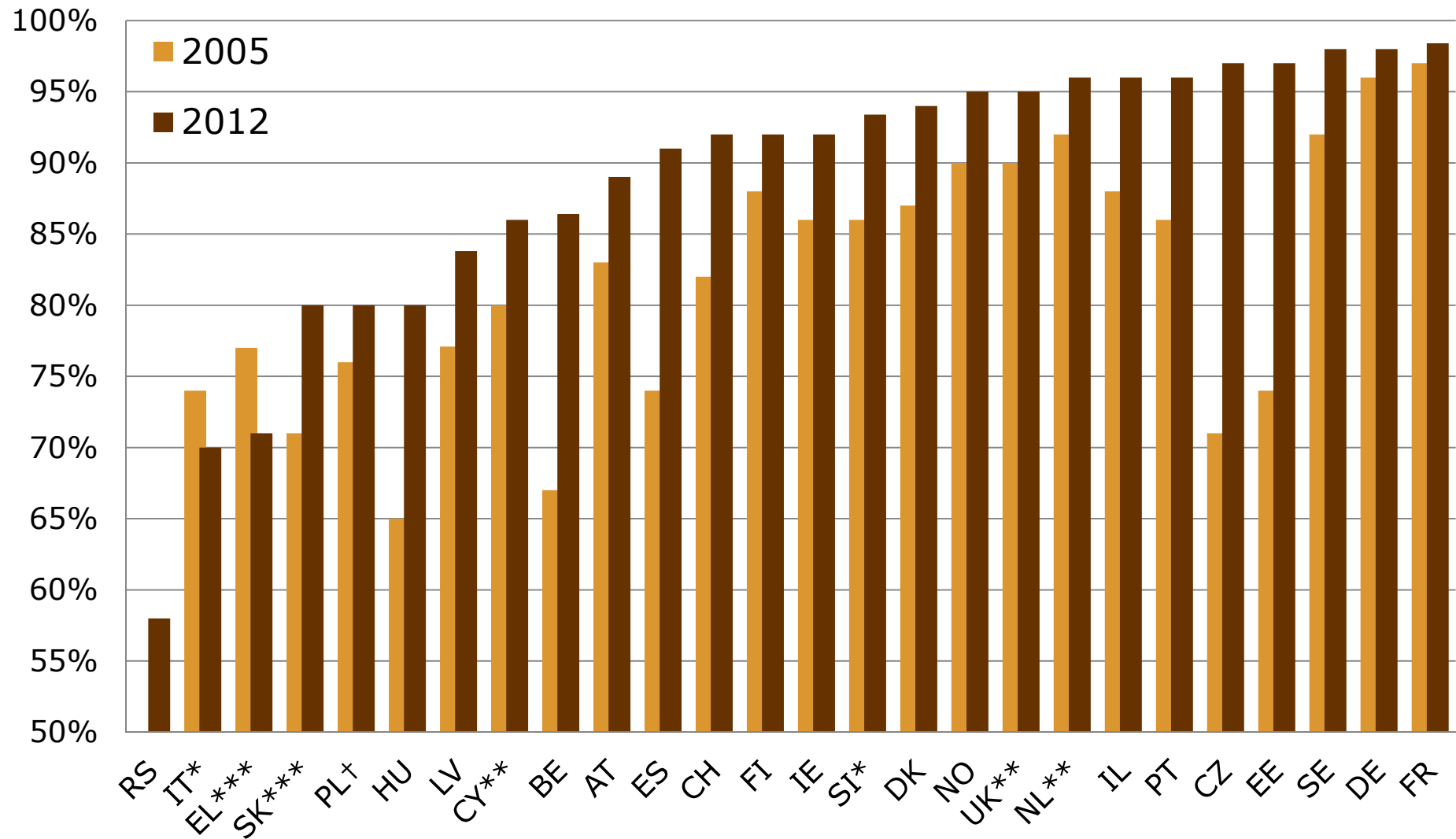
- Even 1km/h reduction in mean speeds can save about 1300 road deaths a year on the roads of the EU which is an important contribution to reducing traffic deaths and injuries.
- Deployment of safety cameras, coupled with stricter sanctions like penalty point systems including speed offences and higher fines have made an impact in France, Switzerland, Spain, and Lithuania .

Car occupant deaths by distance travelled

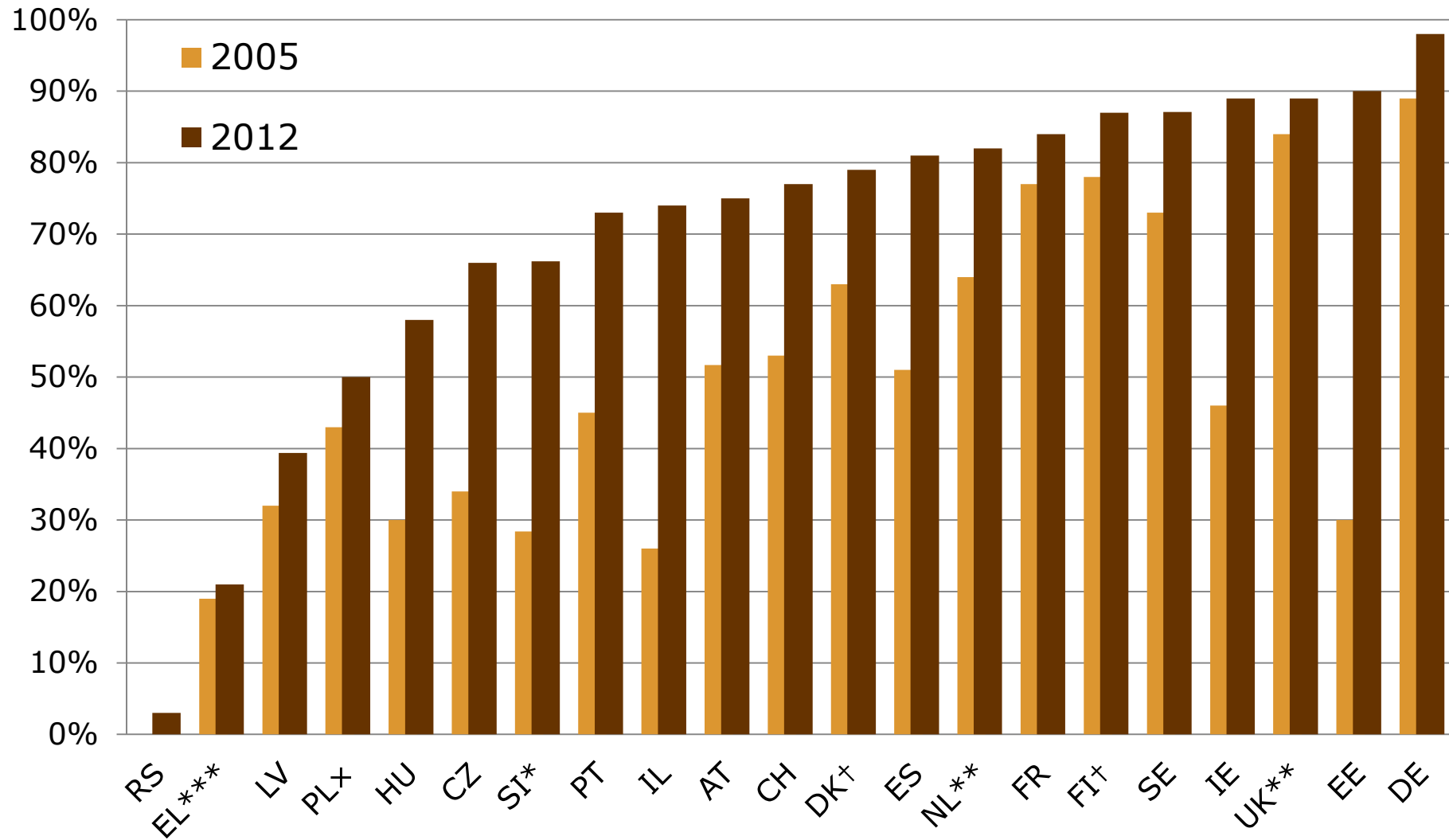


Car occupant deaths per billion vehicle-km in 2012
(or latest year available)

Seat belt - front seats



Seat belt - rear seats



Deaths prevented

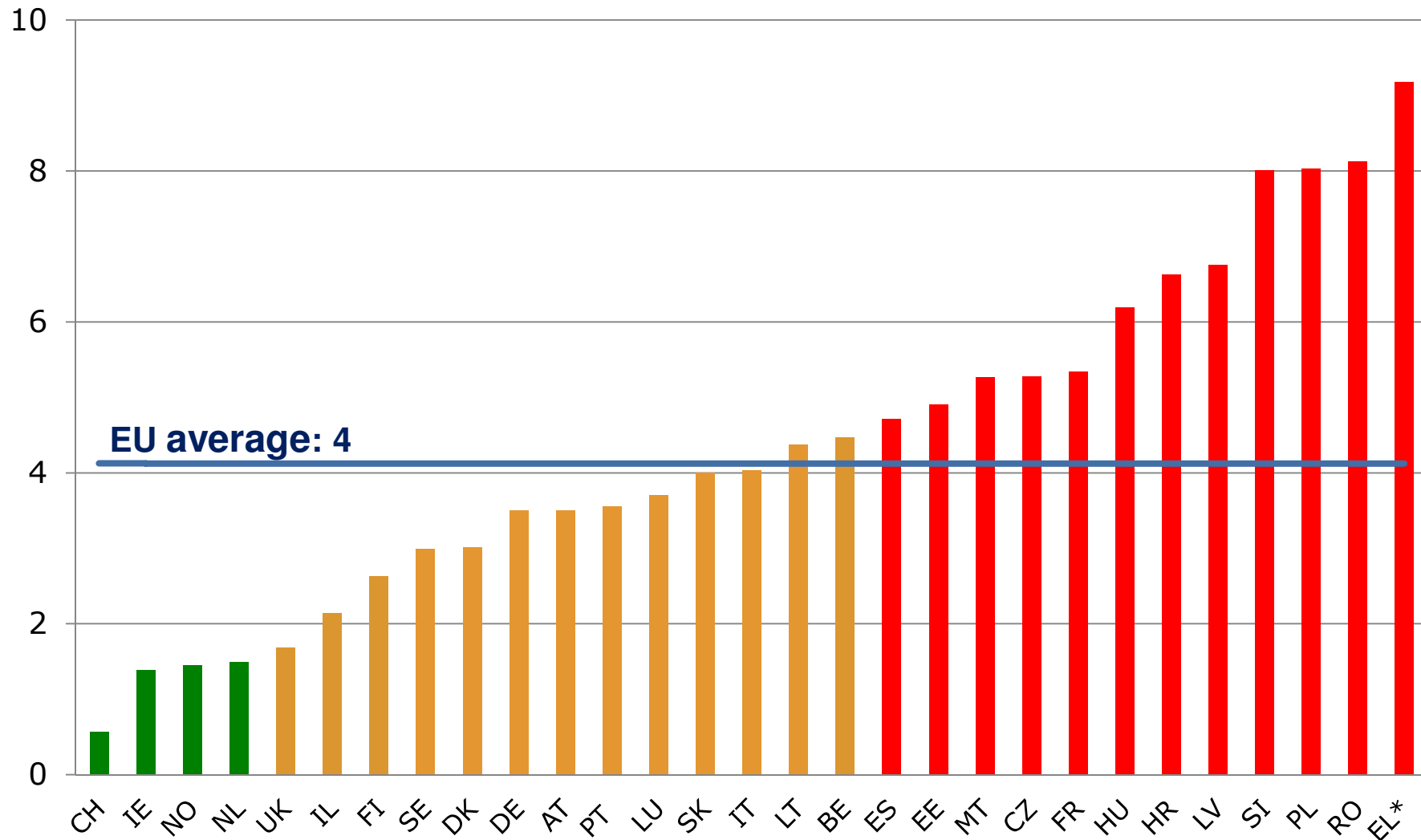
- ETSC estimates that 8650 car occupants in the EU survived serious collisions in 2012 alone because they wore a seat belt.
- ETSC estimates that another 900 deaths could have been prevented if 99% of occupants had been wearing a seat belt, a rate that could be reached with seat belt reminders on all car seats.

Recommendations – seat belt

To the EU institutions

- Within the context of the revision of the General Safety Regulation, extend the mandatory fitment of seat belt reminders as standard equipment to all seats.

Children killed in cars per million child inhabitants



Importance of correct size and fitment of child restraints

- In 2012 at least 320 children aged 0-14 years killed in cars in EU 28
- Children up to 150cm high must use a child restraint
- Parents need better information about correct fitment of child restraints which are essential to keep their children safe in cars
- Price often a barrier especially if two or more young children – EU Directive 77/388/EEC allows reduced VAT
- More encouragement needed for enforcement of legislation on use of seat belts and child restraints