

# How traffic law enforcement can contribute to safer roads – an EU perspective

PIN Talk, Ljubljana | 8 December 2025



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European Transport Safety Council

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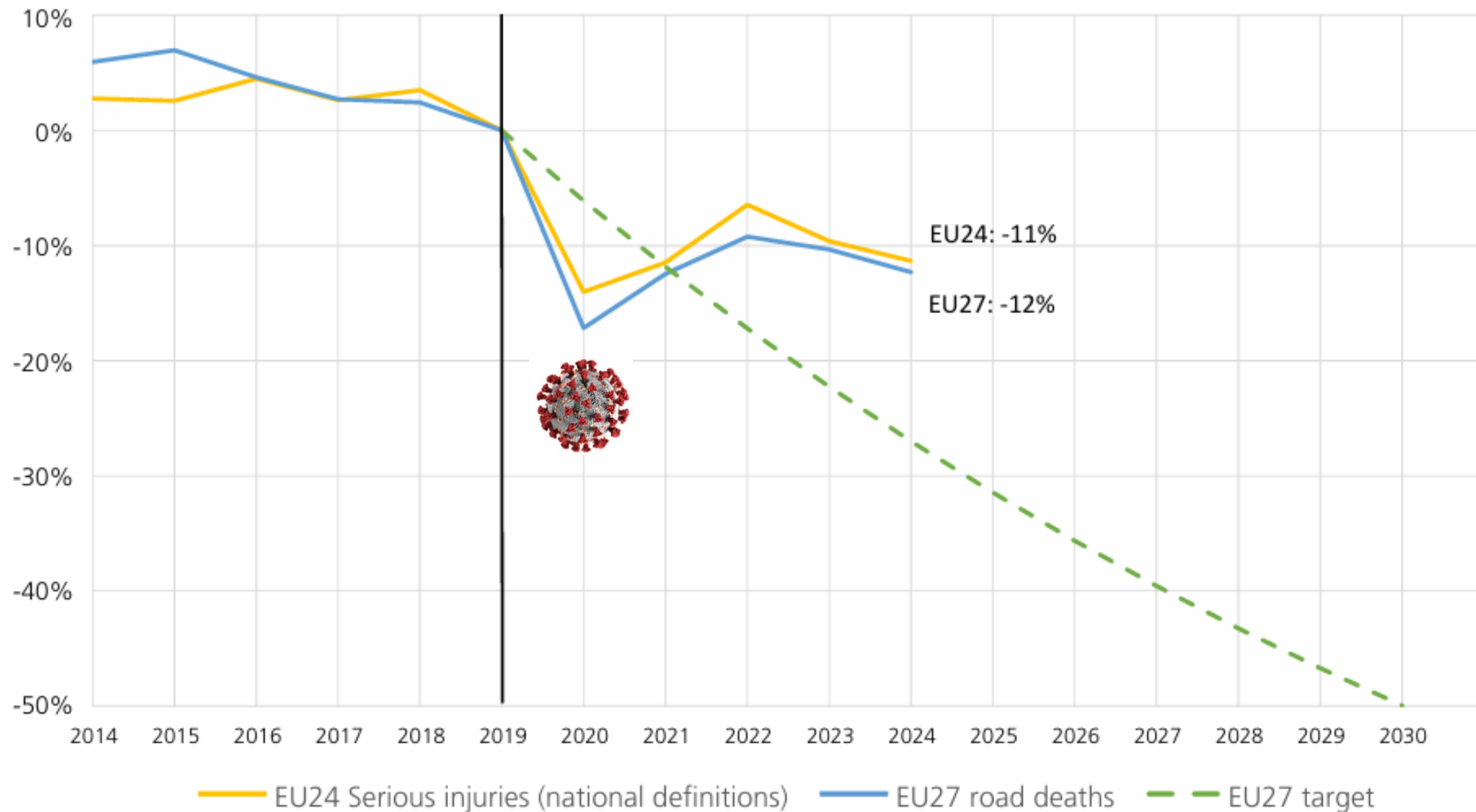
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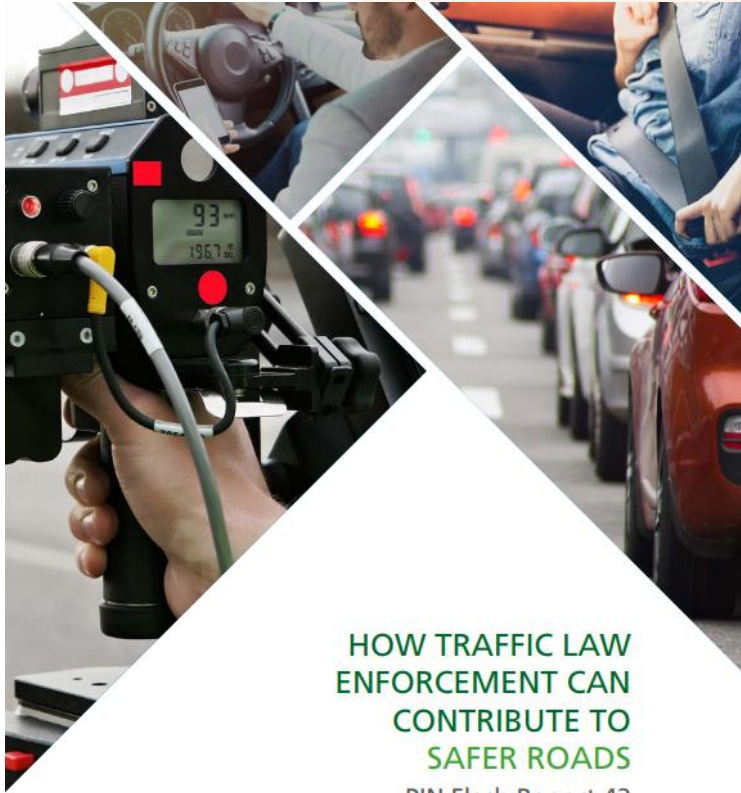
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people died in road traffic  
in the EU in 2024

# Road safety progress 2014-2024





HOW TRAFFIC LAW  
ENFORCEMENT CAN  
CONTRIBUTE TO  
SAFER ROADS

PIN Flash Report 42

March 2022



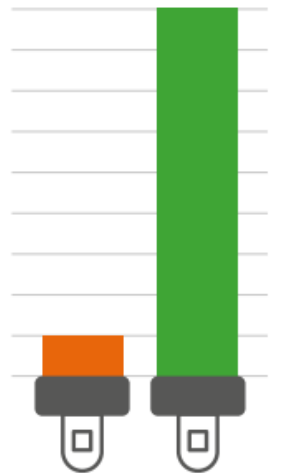
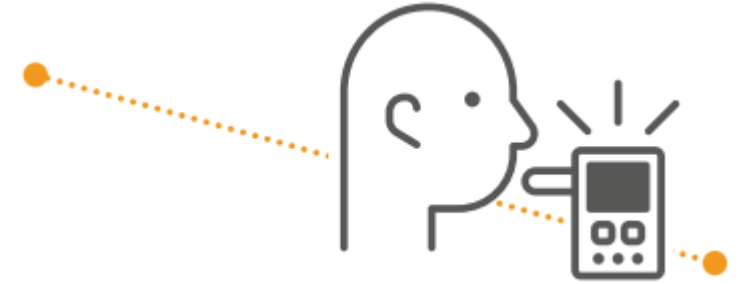
# PIN Flash Report 42

## How traffic law enforcement can contribute to safer roads

Published March 2022

# Focus of the PIN Report

- Speed
- Drink-driving and drug driving
- Seatbelt use
- Mobile phone use while driving
- Cross border enforcement



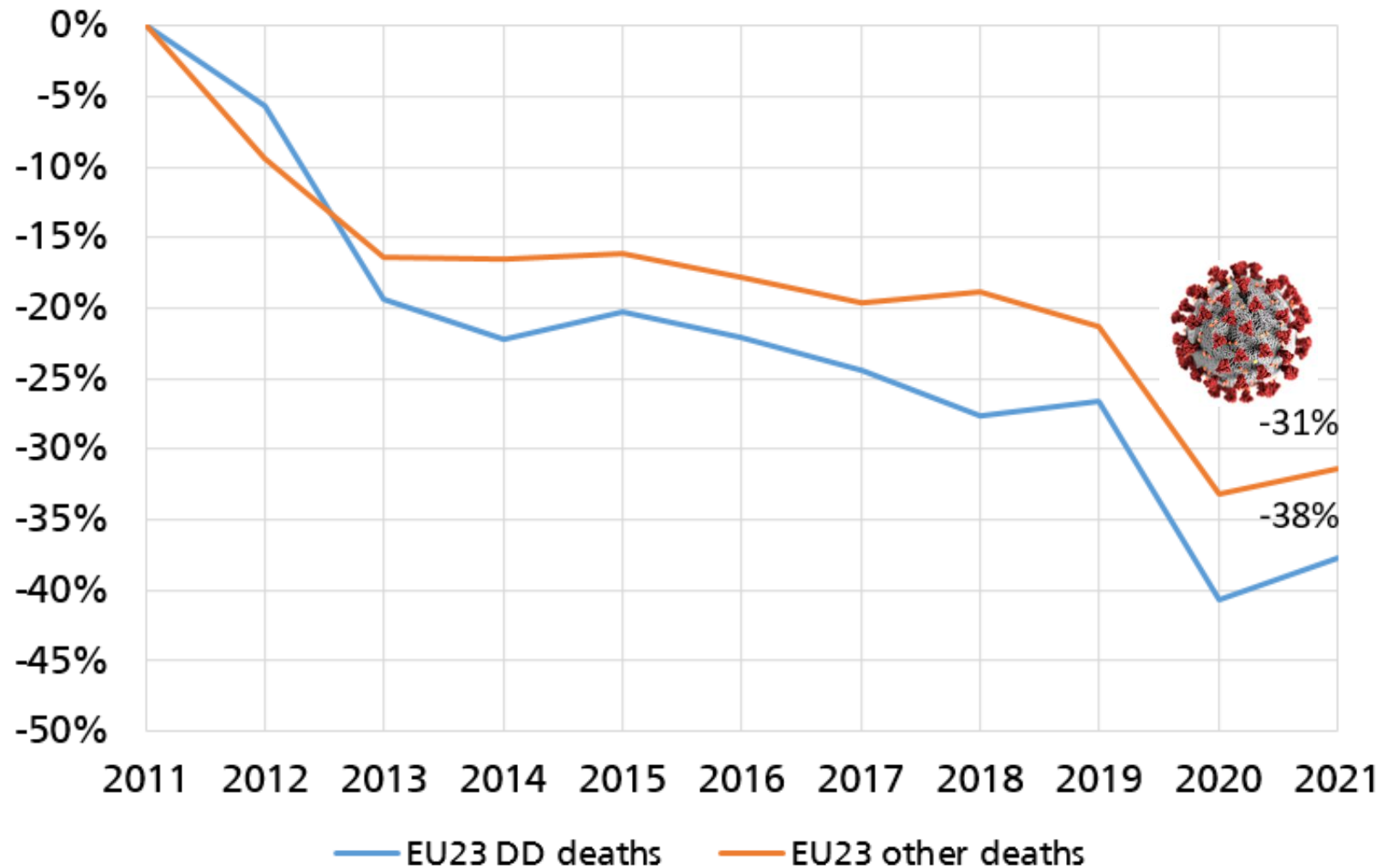
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people died in alcohol-related crashes  
in 2021\*

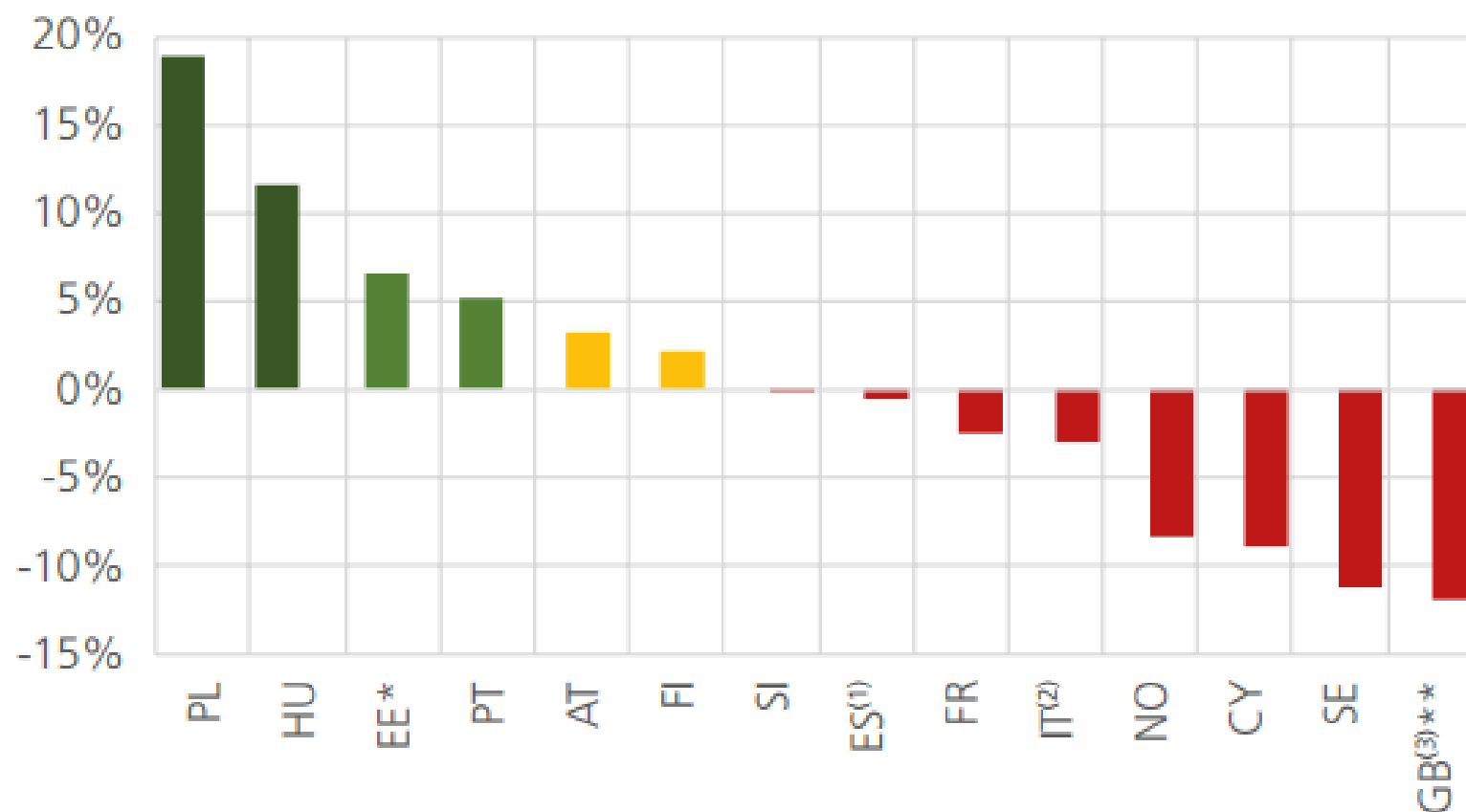
*\*in 23 EU countries*

# Drink driving progress 2011-2021





# Drink-driving – alcohol breath checks (2010-2019)



Average annual change in the number of alcohol roadside breath checks per 1000 population over the period 2010-2019

# Drink-driving – alcohol breath checks (2010-2019)

	2020		2019		2018		2017		2016		2015		2010	
	Roadside police tests per 1000 inhabitants	Proportion above the legal limit (in %)	Roadside police tests per 1000 inhabitants	Proportion above the legal limit (in %)	Roadside police tests per 1000 inhabitants	Proportion above the legal limit (in %)	Roadside police tests per 1000 inhabitants	Proportion above the legal limit (in %)	Roadside police tests per 1000 inhabitants	Proportion above the legal limit (in %)	Roadside police tests per 1000 inhabitants	Proportion above the legal limit (in %)	Roadside police tests per 1000 inhabitants	Proportion above the legal limit (in %)
EE	566	0.9%	696	0.8%	584	0.9%	513	1.0%	656	0.8%	677	0.9%	105	5.5%
PL	177	n/a	444	n/a	434	n/a	470	n/a	473	n/a	466	0.7%	88	4.9%
HU	173	1.3%	279	0.9%	298	1.0%	241	1.2%	174	1.5%	135	1.5%	126	3.5%
CY	49	9.0%	92	8.9%	102	9.0%	120	7.2%	105	7.9%	135	7.0%	213	5.3%
SE	35	2.4%	125	0.9%	116	0.9%	117	1.0%	122	1.0%	147	0.9%	287	0.6%
IE <sup>(1)</sup>	21	0.4%	64	0.5%	65	0.5%	n/a							

# Effective measures



Lower Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) limits



Sanctions and enforcement



Alcohol Interlocks (rehabilitation and commercial transport)



Education and campaigns

# Alcohol interlock programmes

**10%** of all drink-driving offenders are involved in 2 / 3 of all alcohol-involved crashes



## Alcohol interlocks are:

- An effective measure for hard-core drink-driving offenders
- An effective prevention tool

## LEGISLATION NEEDED

Alcohol interlock programmes for drink-driving offenders should be **compulsory** and placed under administrative law.

# Find out more



European Transport Safety Council

**PROGRESS IN REDUCING  
DRINK-DRIVING AND  
OTHER ALCOHOL-RELATED  
ROAD DEATHS IN EUROPE**

December 2019



Watch our Videos



Interactive map on drink-driving policies online



# Drug driving

## SELF-DECLARED BEHAVIOUR AS A CAR DRIVER

Drive within 1 hour after taking drugs (other than prescribed or over the counter medication)



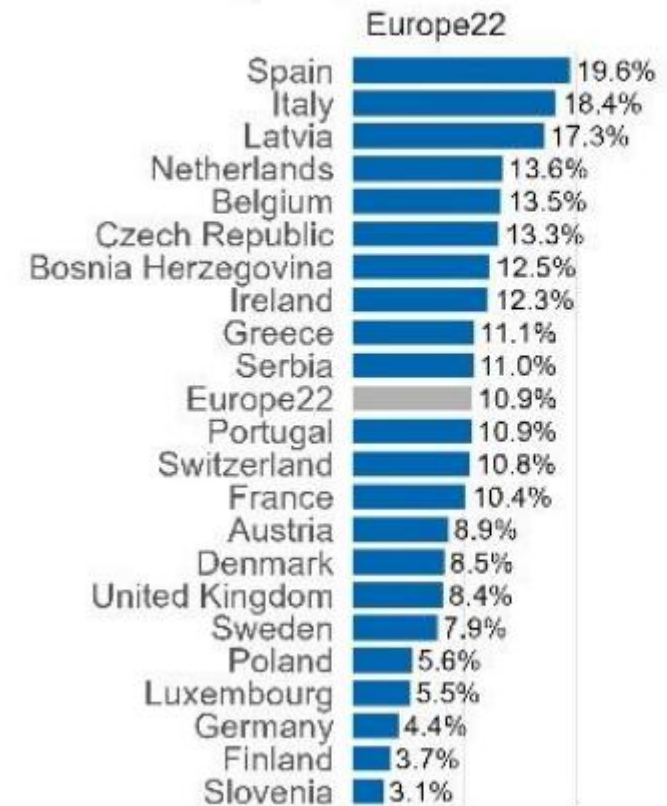
## SELF-DECLARED BEHAVIOUR AS A CAR DRIVER

Drive within 1 hour after taking drugs (other than prescribed or over the counter medication)



## ENFORCEMENT PERCEPTION

Checked by the police for the use of illegal drugs



# Drug driving - Finland

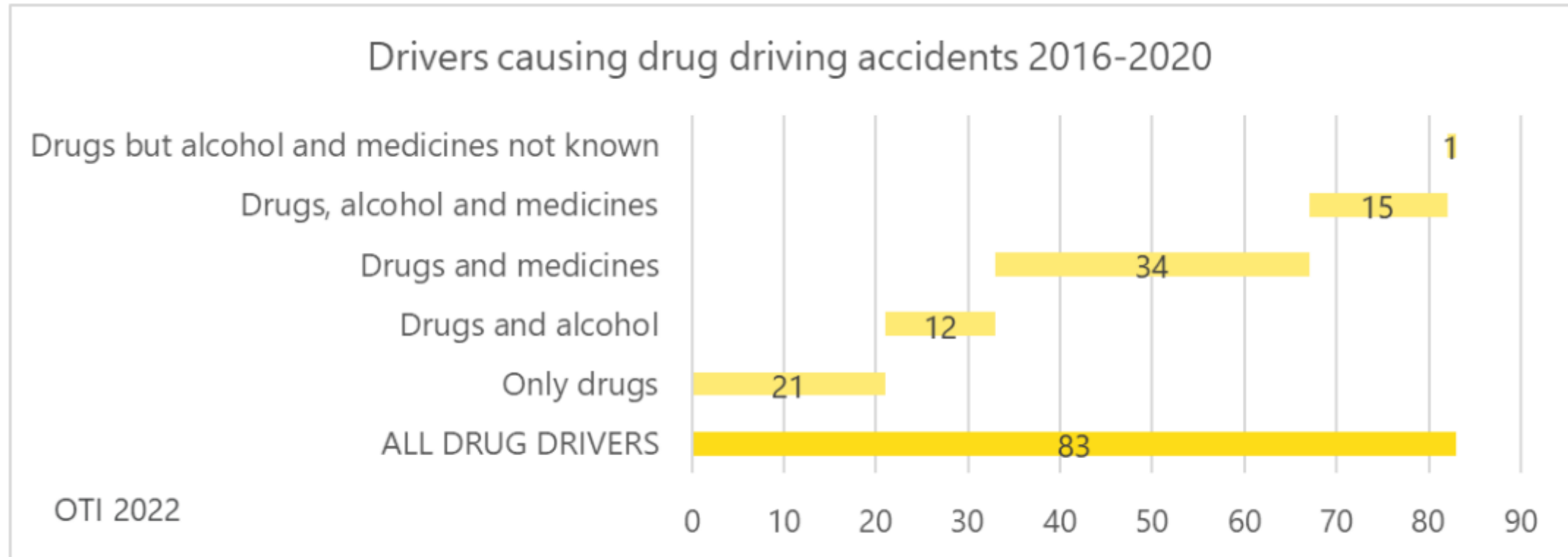


Figure 11. Mixed substance abuse in fatal drug driving accidents in 2016–2020.

# Drug driving - countermeasures

## **Legal limits/‘per se’ laws**

- Establish a fixed substance limit – similar to BAC levels. Any driver detected with a substance reaching or exceeding the legal limit is considered to have broken the law.

## **Zero tolerance laws**

- Set legal limits with a concentration set at the lab limit of detection. Any driver with a detectable amount of a relevant substance is considered to have broken the law.

## **Impairment legislation**

- In each case it must be proven that the skills of the driver were adversely affected by a specific drug. Signs of impairment are usually observed and recorded by the police when they stop a driver.



# Drug driving - countermeasures

## **Penalties**

- Withdrawal of the licence
- Fines
- Prison

## **Education and campaigns**

- In school, at work, public
- Target high risk groups
- Helps increase social disapproval
- Education for professionals

## **Enforcement**

- Legislation needs to be enforced
- Roadside screening
- Post-collision forensic testing

## **Rehabilitation and healthcare**

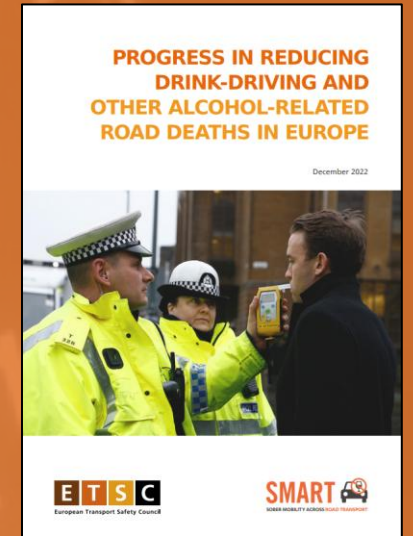
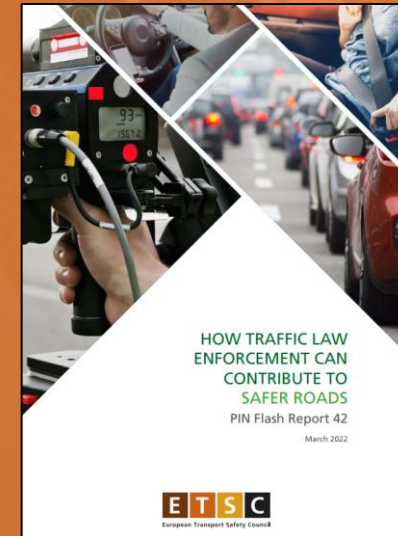
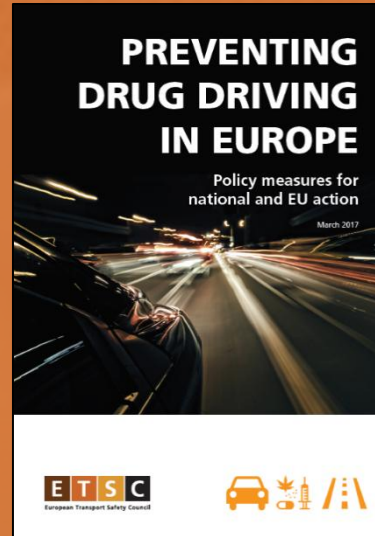
Drink driving schemes used as a basis

- reduce recidivism, restore mobility in a safe way
- Little evaluation of drug driving schemes

Healthcare strategies

- General drug use, medical professionals and licensing authorities

# THANK YOU!



27 May 2025 – Regulating  
Drug Driving to Protect All  
Road Users, Helsinki

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