



DRINK-DRIVING FACT FILE

May 2022



LITHUANIA



INTRODUCTION

There were 175 road deaths in 2020 in Lithuania, 41.5 % fewer than in 2010 when 299 people were killed. Lithuania achieved a larger decrease than the EU average, which was 37%. Consequently the country now ranks among the better performing countries.

Figure 1. Relative change in road deaths between 2010 and 2020. *National provisional estimates used for 2020, as final figures for 2020 are not yet available at the time this report went to print.

**UK data for 2020 are the provisional total for Great Britain for the year ending June 2020 combined with the total for Northern Ireland for the calendar year 2020.

The annual number of deaths in LU and MT are particularly small and, therefore, subject to substantial annual fluctuations. The annual numbers of deaths in CY and EE are also relatively small and may be subject to annual fluctuations.

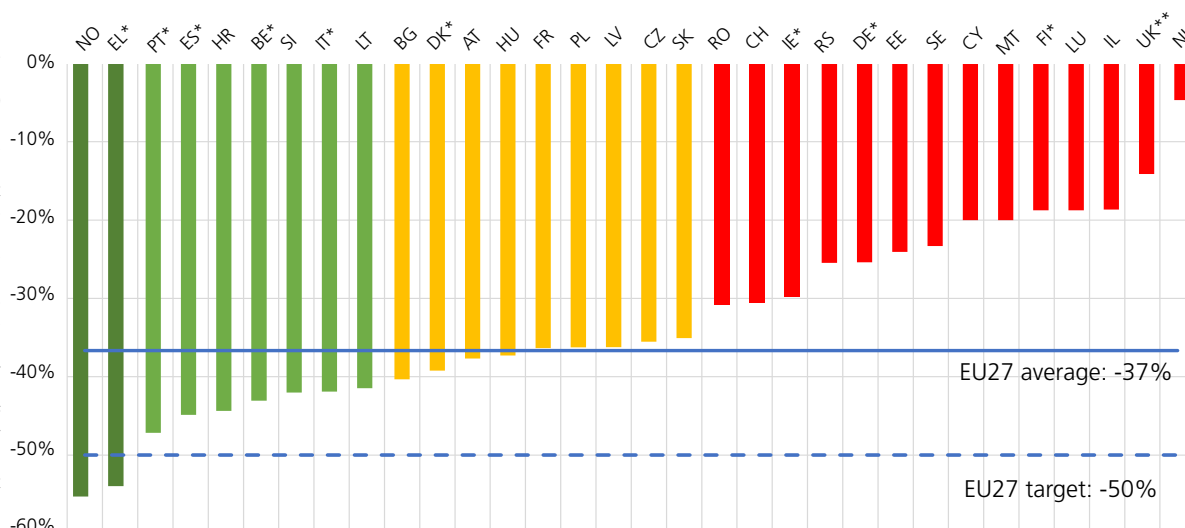
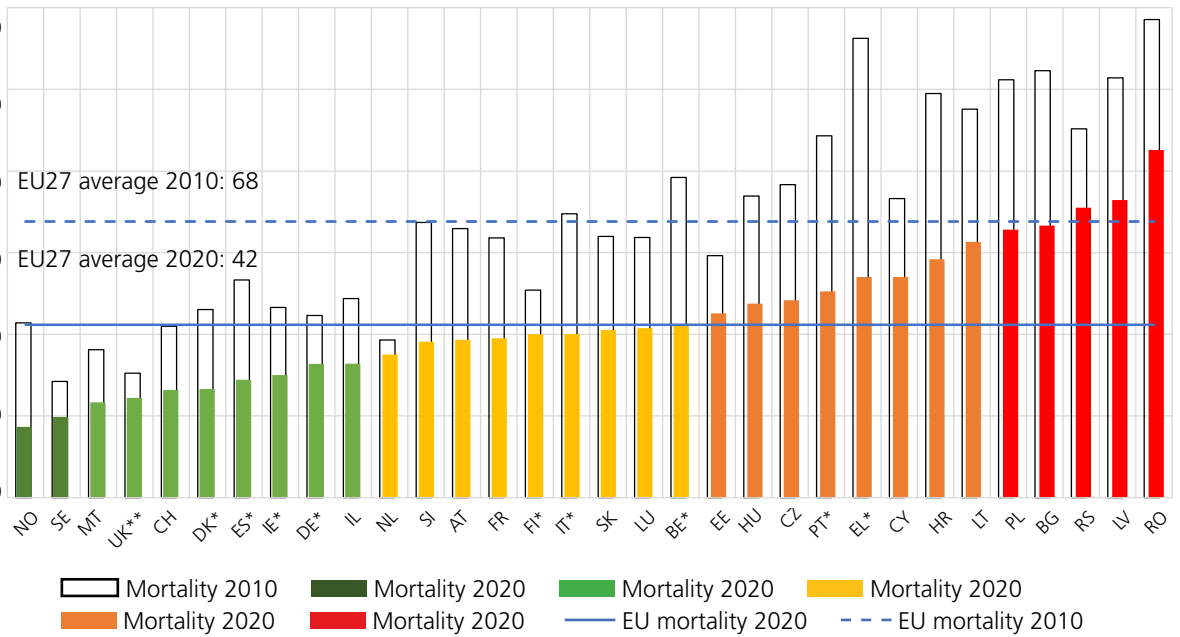


Figure 2. Mortality (road deaths per million inhabitants) in 2020 (with mortality in 2010 for comparison).

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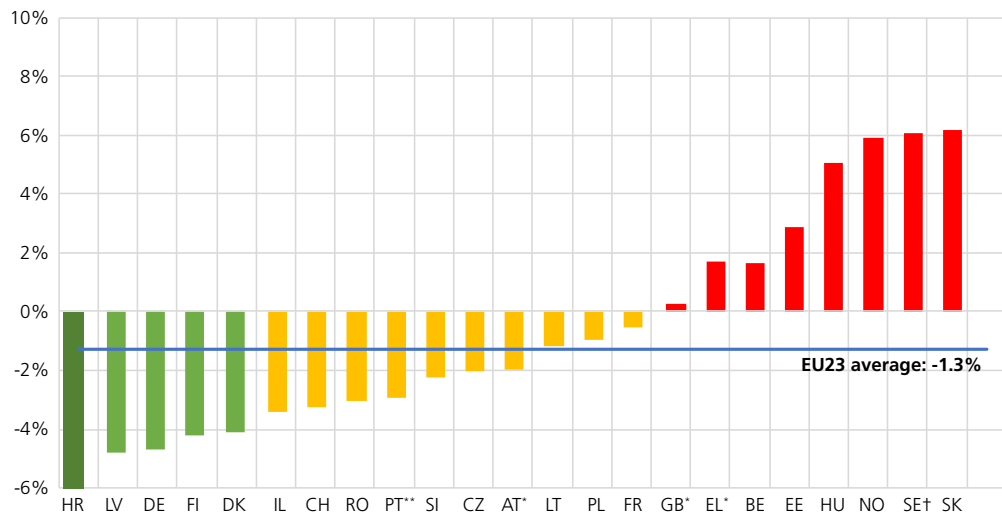


In Lithuania road deaths attributed to alcohol fell by 1.2 % a year faster than other road deaths over the period 2010-2018, close to the European average.

Although the total number of collisions in 2020 decreased by 11% compared to 2019 (3190 in 2019 to 2826 in 2020), the number of alcohol-related road crashes increased by 8% (289 in 2019 to 312 in 2020). However, the number of people killed in alcohol-related collisions went down from 32 in 2010 to 22 in 2018.

Figure 3. Difference between the average annual (%) changes in the number of road deaths attributed to alcohol and the corresponding reduction for other road deaths over the period 2010-2018

*2010-2017 **2010-2015
 SE† - driver deaths only
 BG excluded from fig.3 due to insufficient data. LU and CY excluded from fig.3 as numbers of road deaths are relatively small and are subject of substantial annual fluctuations. IE is excluded as the methodology changed in 2013. RS excluded from fig.3 as the methodology changed in 2016. But BG, LU and CY data are included in the EU23 average.
 EU23 average: EU28 average excluding ES, IT, MT and NL as data on alcohol-related road deaths were not available in these countries.
 GB data used instead of the UK.

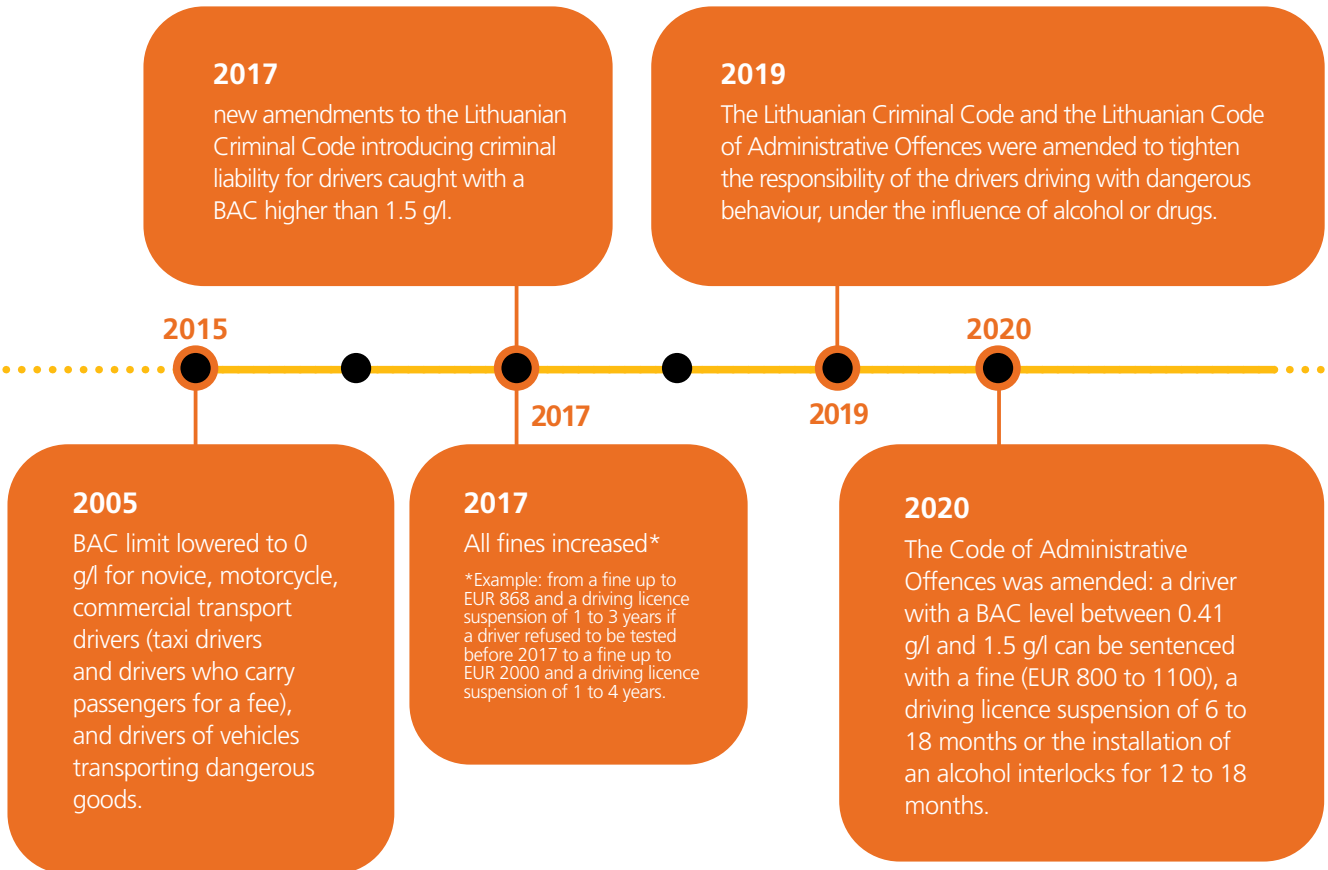


According to the Lithuanian road accident statistics data, there was a reduction of 19% of road deaths attributed to alcohol in 2020 compared to 2019: out of 312 road collisions involving at least one driver with a blood alcohol level above the legal limit, 25 people died (14% of all road deaths) and 360 were injured. In 2019, 17% of all road deaths were attributed to alcohol.



NATIONAL POLICIES

Timeline of national measures to tackle drink-driving:



In 2020 the Lithuanian Government approved the national traffic safety programme and measures to reduce drink-driving including:

- An Alcohol Interlock program for drivers who have violated the traffic rules while driving under the influence of alcohol and psychoactive substances;
- Raising awareness through social media advertisements about the risks of driving under the influence of alcohol or psychoactive substances;
- Carrying out and promoting driver sobriety campaigns.



BAC LIMITS AND SANCTIONS



BAC level (g/L)



Driver category



Fines in €



Driving ban (months)



Confiscation of the vehicle



Responsible for the investigation

For novice, motorcycle, cargo and taxi drivers

0 – 0.4	Motorcycle, cargo and taxi drivers	150 – 300		Can be confiscated	Police	
	Novice drivers	230 – 300				
	Repeat offenders	850 – 1500				
All vehicle drivers, bicyclists and riders						
0.41 – 1.5	All vehicle drivers	300 – 450	12-18	Can be confiscated	Police	
	Repeat offenders	850 – 1500	12-48			
	Dangerous driving ¹	600 – 850	24-36			
	Repeat offenders	850 – 1500	36-48	Confiscation		
	Hooligan driving ²	850 – 1200	36-60	Can be confiscated		
	Repeat offenders	850 – 1500	36-60	Confiscation		
	Practical driving training	150 – 300	11-13	Can be confiscated		
	Minor injury to health or property	1200 – 1400		Can be confiscated / driver fined, arrested, or up to 3 years in prison		Police / Court
	Repeat offenders	850 – 1500	36-48	Can be confiscated / driver fined, arrested, or up to 3 years in prison		
	Drivers without licence	1100 – 1500		Can be confiscated		Police
Bicyclists and riders	80 – 150					
>1.5	All vehicle drivers	Fined, arrested, or up to 1 year in prison			Court	
	For bicyclists and riders	150 – 200			Police	

¹ Defined in the Lithuanian Law on Administrative Offences (Lithuanian Law on Administrative Offences approved by The Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania on 2015 25th of June No XII-1869)

² Ibid.



ENFORCEMENT

In 2021, 10 764 drivers under the influence of alcohol were randomly tested by the police, of which 6 332 were found with a BAC up to 1.5 and 4 432 with a BAC above 1.5.



REHABILITATION AND ALCOHOL INTERLOCK PROGRAMMES

In 2019 the Lithuanian Parliament adopted an amendment to the law on Road Traffic Safety allowing the Ministry of Transport to launch an alcohol interlock programme as a pathway to a shorter driving ban for high-level drink-driving offenders. Since 1 January 2020, convicted drink-drivers who have lost their driving licence are, after a set period of time, able to apply for their licence to be reinstated with the provision that they only drive a vehicle fitted with an alcohol interlock.

Vehicles with alcohol interlocks have been in operation in Lithuania for some time. More than 80 new school buses equipped with the devices have been handed over to municipalities since 2016. In Vilnius and Kaunas passengers are transported by shuttle buses equipped with alcohol interlocks and some freight and passenger transport companies have voluntarily installed the devices in their vehicles.

The Ministry of Health intends to create a new rehabilitation programme, which will include offenders already included in the alcohol interlock programme, allowing a medical follow-up for drink-drivers.



CAMPAIGNS



On the occasion of the EUROBASKET2011 the Ministry of Transport and Communications developed a campaign called “We play and drive by the rules” with all the basketball teams involved and a special focus on drink-driving.

<https://sumin.lrv.lt/lt/video/ir-zaidziam-e-ir-vairuojame-pagal-taisykles-treneris-kemzura/>



In 2016, the police from the city of Vilnius initiated a campaign “Have fun and stay safe”, supported by many pubs and clubs. One of the main topics was “don’t drink and drive”, promoting use of taxis and public transport.

<http://www.aludariai.lt/lt/socialine-atsakomybe/>

In 2021 "City bee" collaborating with the Lithuanian police department displayed an open gallery "Museum of stupidity" in Vilnius Town Hall Square. There were three damaged cars with different stories. One of them "A little glass of wine" was about drink-driving, created by an unknown artist (1971-2021).

<https://www.15min.lt/gazas/naujiena/gatve/vilniuje-pristatytas-kvailumo-muziejus-eksponatai-avarijose-sumaitotos-masinos-221-1601064>





SOURCES

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<https://bit.ly/3KjDEDY>

<https://bit.ly/3LnGJnw>

Republic of Lithuania, law on alcohol control:

<https://bit.ly/3viC4xz>

ETSC, 15th PIN Annual Report (2021):

<https://bit.ly/3DD9mZD>

ETSC, Progress in Reducing Drink-Driving and other Alcohol-Related Road Deaths in Europe (2019):

<https://bit.ly/3BJJ0F4>