



# DRINK-DRIVING FACT FILE

November 2021

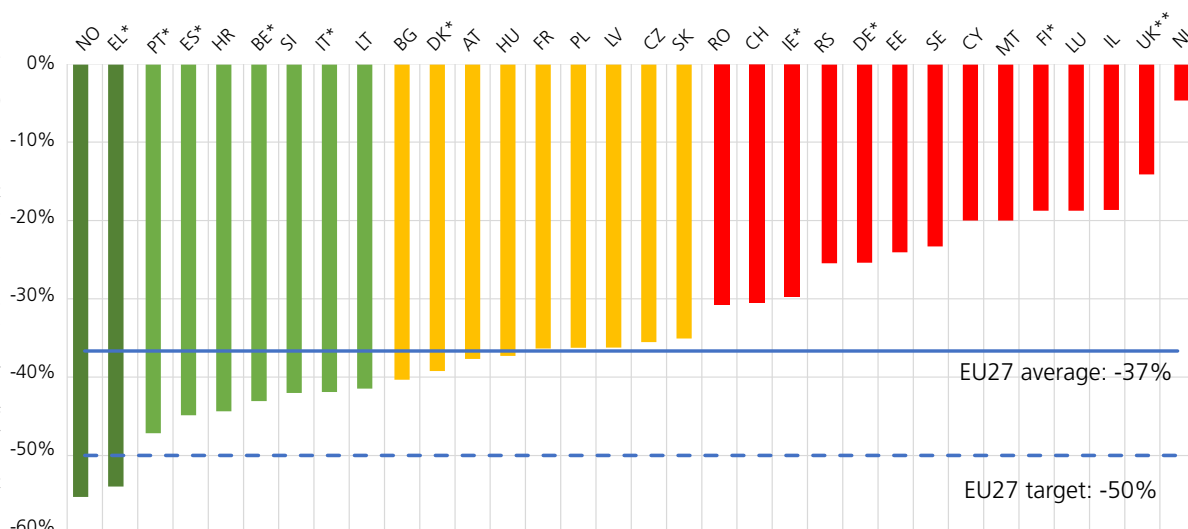


## INTRODUCTION

Road deaths in Slovenia were reduced by 42% between 2010 and 2020, decreasing from 138 deaths to 80. A significant reduction of 22% occurred in the pandemic year 2020 compared to 2019. With 38 deaths per million inhabitants, Slovenia ranks among the well performing countries in terms of road mortality, above the EU average.

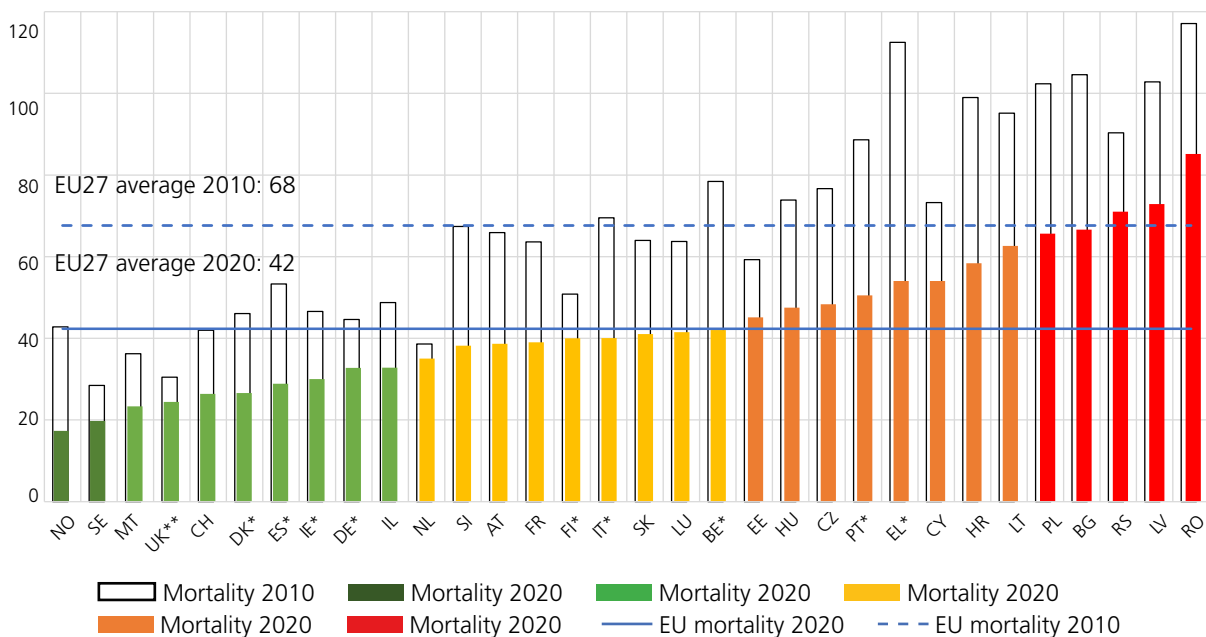
**Figure 1. Relative change in road deaths between 2010 and 2020.** \*National provisional estimates used for 2020, as final figures for 2020 are not yet available at the time this report went to print.

\*\*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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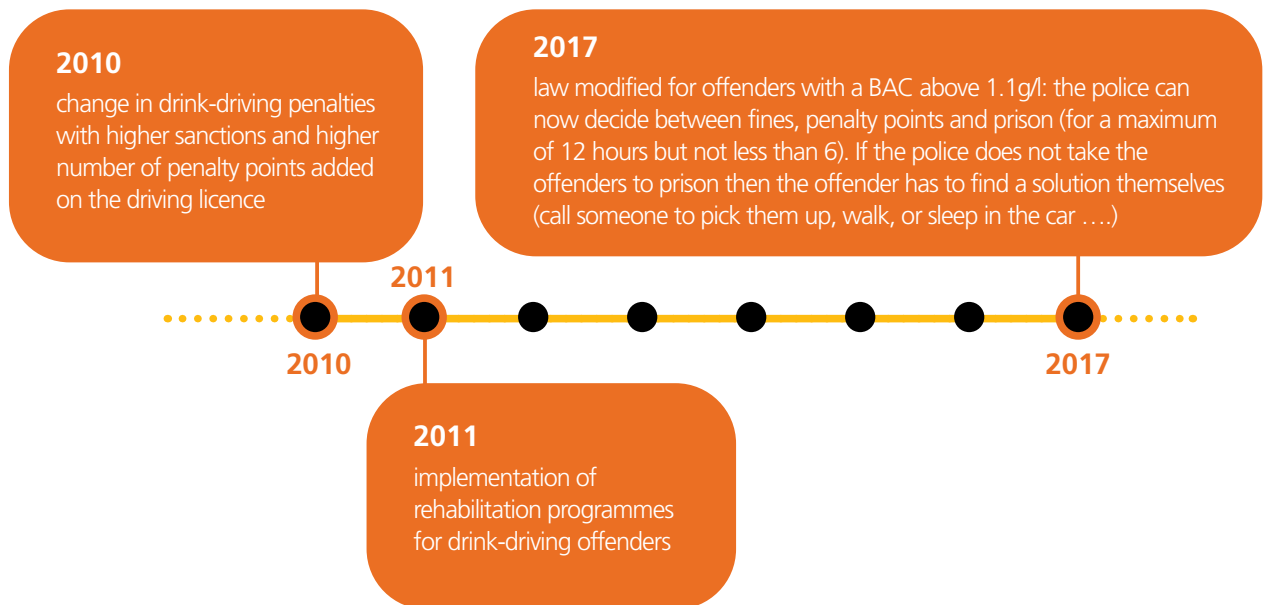
The share of drink-driving deaths in overall road deaths decreased from 37% in 2006 to 31% in 2019. However, the year 2020 saw an increase in the percentage of alcohol-related deaths, accounting for 37% of all road deaths. Alcohol-related deaths moved from 37 in 2015 (out of 120 road deaths) to 27 (out of 80) in 2020, according to official data. 122 people involved in a crash due to an intoxicated driver were seriously injured in 2020 (see table below).

YEAR	Alcohol-related deaths	Seriously injured
2015	37	134
2016	41	175
2017	32	140
2018	22	151
2019	33	140
2020	27	122



## NATIONAL POLICIES

Timeline of national measures to tackle drink-driving:



To decrease the number of deaths due to drink-driving, the government used a combination of different measures, such as increased police checks and stricter penalties. Drivers who committed a major offence while intoxicated face having their motor vehicle seized and their driving licence suspended. Repeat offenders have to follow rehabilitation programmes, divided into educational and psychosocial workshops. In 2019, around 4357 drivers took part in the educational workshops and 406 in the psychosocial ones. All these measures were complemented by mass media prevention campaigns. In 2016 the Drivers Act was modified, to make the use of alcohol interlocks possible, as allowed by the EU Directive on Driving Licences. So far though, no major changes have been adopted concerning the use of alcohol interlocks and discussions are still ongoing.

The current National Road Safety Programme 2013-2022 sets targets to halve the number of road deaths and serious injuries as well as specific indicator targets, such as reducing alcohol-related deaths by 50% by 2022 and limiting the share of road crashes due to alcohol or drugs out of overall road deaths to no more than 30%. Other measures include:

- Organising preventive campaigns with the clear message that driving under the influence of alcohol or other illicit drugs and other psychoactive substances is not acceptable;
- Implementing preventive programs in schools;
- Carrying out regular random checks for alcohol and illicit drug use or other psychoactive substances;
- Implementing target-oriented and coordinated police action to enforce drink and drug driving checks, especially during high risk periods;
- Informing on the possibilities of receiving health checks and support as defined within the new traffic legislation for drivers who are sanctioned for the first time due to drink-driving (from 0.5g/l up to 0.8g/l).



## BAC LIMITS AND SANCTIONS

The legal limit for **standard drivers** is:

**0.5 g/l**



The legal limit for **novice drivers, (up to 24 years old) professional drivers, is:**

**0.0 g/l**

Detailed sanctions are included in the table below:



BAC level (g/L)



Fines in €



Penalty points



Secondary sanction

<0,5 g/l	300 €	4**	-
0,5 - 0,8 g/l	600 €	8**	Possible medical examination with advice from the personal doctor – instead of four penalty points
0,8 - 1,1 BAC	900 €	16**	Voluntary participation in the rehabilitation program
>1,1 BAC	1.200 €	18**	Possibility of imprisonment, revoking the driver's licence or, as an alternative, a medical check-up and participation in an appropriate rehabilitation program (educational, psychosocial workshops or treatment)
<b>** At 18 penalty points the drivers licence is withdraw (seven for novice drivers).</b>			



## ENFORCEMENT

The number of checks is also high in Slovenia compared to other EU countries, but at the same time, a high proportion of drivers are above the legal limit (see table below).

TYPE OF MEASURE	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>Alcohol test ordered</b>	377,507	321,885	293,822	394,971	352,119	423,247	361,220
<b>Positive results</b>	13,875	11,645	10,869	13,850	11,809	12,994	11,674
<b>Share of positive results</b>	3.68%	3.62%	3.70%	3.51%	3.35%	3.07%	3.23%

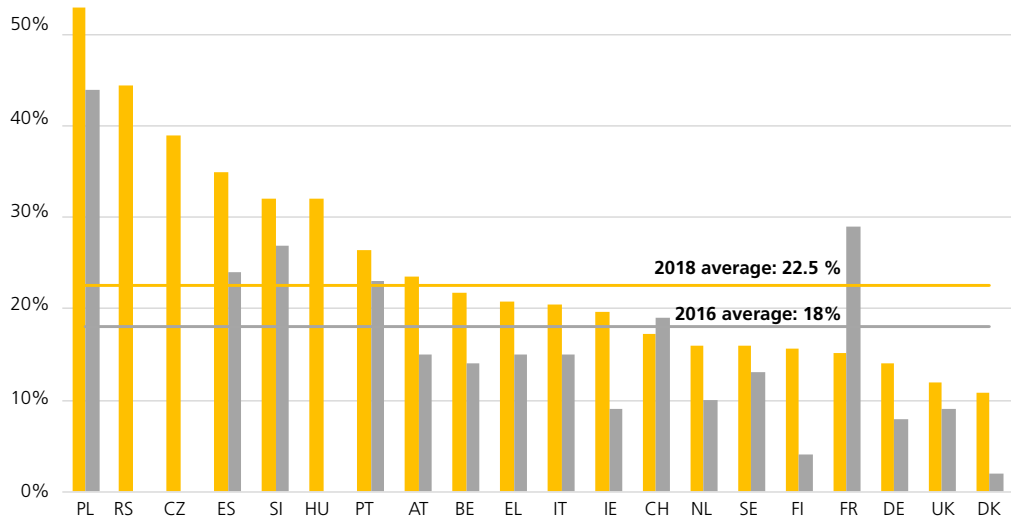


## DRIVERS' PERCEPTION

The E-Survey on Road Attitudes published in 2019 showed that the perceived likelihood of a police drink-driving check was one of the highest in Slovenia, with 32% of drivers considering themselves likely to be checked, compared to the EU average of 22.5%.

**Figure 4. Proportion (%) of car drivers who considered themselves likely to be checked by the police for drink-driving.**

Source: ESRA survey (2015 and 2018)



In the same survey, it appeared that 25% of drivers confirmed having been checked by the police in the last 12 months, compared to the EU average of 18%. High levels of enforcement are one of the main measures taken by the Slovenian government to tackle drink-driving and can help explain these results.



## REHABILITATION AND ALCOHOL INTERLOCK PROGRAMMES

Since 2011 rehabilitation courses have been provided to drink-driving offenders. It is up to the court to order an examination by a doctor. The doctor then decides if the offender must attend educational or psychosocial workshops. Recidivist offenders have to follow rehabilitation programs, divided into educational and psychosocial workshops. In 2016, around 3300 drivers took part in the educational workshops and 480 in the psychosocial ones.

No alcohol interlock programme is in place so far in Slovenia, although the measure was under consideration in 2016. Discussions are still ongoing on the potential adoption of the technology to fight against drink-driving.



# CAMPAIGNS

Based on the National Road Safety Programme 2013 – 2022, a national campaign on drink-driving is organised every year. The campaign is carried out in June, November and December. Preventative campaigns are managed and coordinated by the Ministry of Health and the Slovenian Traffic Safety Agency. The purpose of these campaigns is preventing drink-driving, reducing road crashes indirectly caused by alcohol abuse, and promoting an integrated approach to the problem of hazardous and harmful drinking. A few preventative events were organised with the cooperation of police and NGOs (near popular pubs and clubs) where young drivers were able to test their driving skills on demo equipment and try breath tests. Short videos to raise awareness on drink-driving were also promoted. Below is one of the latest, from 2018.



Source: <https://youtu.be/PJ4K-ipZKPk>

The 2020 campaign was entitled "Slovenia is blowing 0" and took place during the Christmas holidays. Drivers tested by the police that were shown to be sober received tickets for the traditional annual concert of the Police orchestra.



Source: <https://www.facebook.com/slovenijapiha00/videos/486861025365509/>



## SOURCES

### Figures:

<https://bit.ly/2XDYZ8A>

### Sanctions:

<https://bit.ly/3vfj8hA>

### National Road Safety Strategy:

<https://bit.ly/3IL8Lzi>

<https://bit.ly/3FQaFX9>

**ETSC, 15<sup>th</sup> 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>

**ESRA survey 2018** <https://bit.ly/2Z0Wgqt>

### Campaigns:

<https://bit.ly/2Z1sbqK>

<https://bit.ly/3p1rLLP>

<https://bit.ly/3mTV00p>

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

<https://bit.ly/3IL7JTU>

<https://bit.ly/30kAhuW>