The Drug Driving Situation
In The Netherlands

Regulating Drug Driving to Protect All Road Users
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WETENSCHAPPELIJK ONDERZOEK VERKEERSVEILIGHEID
Use of alcohol, medicines and drugs

Drivers

Drivers seriously injured in hospital

- 66.6% No substance detected

Drivers in traffic

- 94.5% No substance detected

Positive for:

- Drugs only: 4.9%
- Medicines only: 1.0%
- Alcohol only: 4.3%
- Combinations: 35.3%
HOW DANGEROUS ARE DRUGS?

[Diagram showing relative risk of different drugs]

- Alcohol, BAC: Moderate increase (2 - 10 times)
- Amphetamines: Large increase (5 - 50 times)
- Multiple drugs: Extremely high increase (> 100 times)
- Alcohol-drug combinations: Extremely high increase (> 100 times)
- Benzodiazepines, Z-drugs: Moderate increase (2 - 10 times)
- Cannabis: Small increase (less than 3 times)
- Medicinal opiates: Simply a drug
- Illegal opiates: Simply a drug
DUTCH ENFORCEMENT BEFORE 01/07/2017

Before 2012:
- Estimate drug use from outward physical signs
- Blood analysis at police station
- Results after several weeks
- Procedure not very practical in terms of time efficiency

After 2012:
- Saliva screening test
- Very low number of drug offenders detected between 2013-2015:
  - 1.100-1.200 drivers
  - 3 situations
  - ??% legally prosecuted
As of 01 July 2017: legal limits for drug

- Behaviour-related limits for single use drug
- Limit values similar to 0.5g/L limit for alcohol
  - Zero limits for combined drug use
  - No exception for medical purposes
Drug limits included for designated drugs

- Amphetamine
- Methamphetamine
  - Cocaine
  - Cannabis
  - Heroin
  - Morphine
  - MDMA (XTC)

- MDEA (3,4-Methylenedioxy-N-ethylamphetamine (MDEA, MDE; "Eve")
- MDA (3,4-methyleendioxyamphetamine; comparable to active ingredient in Ecstacy)
- GHB (Gamma-Hydroxybutyric Acid)
  - Gamma butyro-lacton
  - 1,4-butaandiol
PROCEDURE

Screening:
- Breath test (Alcohol)
- Saliva test (Once repeatable if not valid)
- Psychomotor functions, eyes, speech

Follow-Up Examination:
- Blood test
- Within 1.5 hour
- Doctor or Nurse
- NFI (Laboratory)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of drugs</th>
<th>Limit for driving under the influence of drugs (single use)</th>
<th>Limit for use combined with other drugs, alcohol, or medication</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amfetamine, methamfetamine, MDMA, MDEA en MDA</td>
<td>50 microgram per liter blood</td>
<td>25 microgram or 50 microgram by use in combination with amfetamine-like substances</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cannabis</td>
<td>3,0 microgram THC per liter blood</td>
<td>1,0 microgram THC per liter blood;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heroïne and morfine</td>
<td>20 microgram morfine per liter blood</td>
<td>10 microgram morfine per liter blood;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GHB, gamma butyrolacton and 1,4-butaandiol</td>
<td>10 milligram GHB per liter blood.</td>
<td>5,0 milligram GHB per liter blood;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cocaïne</td>
<td>50 microgram per liter blood</td>
<td>10 microgram cocaïne per liter blood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(combined with Alcohol)</td>
<td></td>
<td>0,2 milligram ethanol per milliliter blood</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## SANCTIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>First time offender</th>
<th>First time recidivist</th>
<th>Multiple recidivist (Court)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single <strong>designated</strong> drug detected</td>
<td>€ 850 sanction + 6 months driving disqualification</td>
<td>€ 950 sanction + 8 months driving disqualification</td>
<td>€ 950 sanction + 8 months driving disqualification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(amphetamine, methamphetamine, cocaine, MDMA, MDEA, MDA, cannabis, heroin, morphine, GHB)</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single <strong>non-designated</strong> drug/medicine detected (and concluded by the NFI (the Netherlands Forensic Institute) that driving ability was negatively affected)</td>
<td>€ 1000 sanction + 9 months driving disqualification</td>
<td>€ 1100 sanction + 10 months driving disqualification</td>
<td>€ 1100 sanction + 10 months driving disqualification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combination use</td>
<td>60 to 70 hours community service + 12 to 15 months driving disqualification</td>
<td>70 to 80 hours community service + 15 to 16 months driving disqualification</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drugs and drugs detected, or: Alcohol and drugs detected</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• Best strategy for combining alcohol and drug enforcement in traffic?
  • Training police officers in recognising drugs signs
  • Providing officers with a checklist for recognising drugs sign
  • Enforcing cycling under influence: consequences for driving licence!
    • Justice issue: frequent medicine users!?
CONCLUSIONS

• Drugs in traffic is a considerable problem
  • The new Dutch legislation enables far more efficient enforcement of drug driving
  • Enforcement of drugs should not be done at the cost of the enforcement of alcohol-impaired driving
    • Since new legislation is very recent there is no empirical evaluation yet
THANK YOU!

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