

ESRA3 results on DUI of alcohol and drugs – international comparison of 39 countries.

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Background. Driving under the influence (DUI) of alcohol and drugs is a leading cause of road accidents. The WHO estimates that 20% of drivers in fatal crashes in high-income countries exceed legal blood alcohol concentration (BAC) limits, with rates between 33% and 69% in low- and middle-income countries. About 3% of fatal accidents are linked to illicit drugs (WHO, 2023, 2016). However, comprehensive DUI data is often lacking, underestimated, and hard to compare across countries. The ESRA3 survey (E-Survey of Road Users' Attitudes) provides comparable data on DUI from 39 countries.

Objective. This presentation provides an overview of the latest ESRA3 results on DUI of alcohol and drugs, based on the 2023 survey (Meesmann et al., 2024).

Methods. Led by the Vias institute, the ESRA3 online survey collected data from over 37,000 road users across 39 countries. The survey, conducted in multiple languages, included questions on self-reported behaviors, attitudes, enforcement experiences, and support for policy measures. It covered key road safety topics, among which DUI, and targeted all road user groups.

Results. The focus of the presentation is on the latest ESRA3 results regarding DUI of alcohol and drugs among car drivers in 39 countries. Self-reported DUI of alcohol above the legal limit in the last 30 days ranged from 24.1% in Luxembourg to 1.2% in Kyrgyzstan, with regional averages of 11.6% in Europe, 14.0% in the Americas, and 10.0% in Asia-Oceania. DUI of drugs ranged from 34.8% in Thailand to 1.6% in Armenia, with regional averages of 13.4%, 16.1%, and 14.5%, respectively. Logistic regression models revealed that male gender, social acceptability of drink-driving, high confidence in driving after drinking, and low support for policy measures were common factors for DUI of alcohol. For drugs, similar factors applied, along with having experienced a drug check, which might be explained by selectivity of the police checks. A strong correlation ($r = 0.933$, $p = 0.002$) was found between observed (Baseline) and self-reported drink-driving behavior (ESRA3).

Conclusions. ESRA3 data offer valuable insights into DUI behavior, serving as a benchmark for international comparison and policy development. For more information, visit: www.esranet.eu.

References (not included in submission)

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