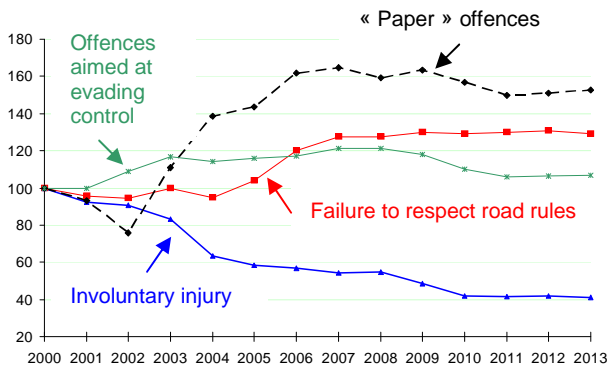


# Convictions for traffic offences

**Offences road safety progress (index 100 in 2000)**



According to preliminary estimates by the Ministry of Justice for 2013, there were 290,000 convictions and criminal compositions sanctioned for 361,500 road safety offences representing more than 43 % of all convictions and 37 % of all crimes and offences of the fifth class sanctioned by a conviction or a criminal composition.

## Failure to respect the rules of the road

There have been 173,000 convictions (60 % of the total) handed down, corresponding to 187,000 offences sanctioned:

- 137,000 convictions for **driving under the influence of alcohol**: after a 39 % increase between 2000 and 2007, their number declined by 12 % since then. There were 21,600 convictions, or 15.8 %, repeat offences, as stable figure these last five years;
- 21,800 convictions for **driving under the influence of drugs**, or two times more than in 2009;
- 14,300 convictions for **serious exceeding the speed limit** (50 km/h or more), equivalent compared to last year, the highest rate for six year but half the rate for 2000.

## Absence of the proper papers

There were 90,800 convictions (31 % of the total) handed down for 134,500 offences sanctioned and related to driving without a licence, driving when banned, driving with no insurance or number plates; it has fallen by 4.7 % since 2007. Often recorded due to other offences, half of these are linked to others within the same conviction. The offence for driving when banned was up 21 % since 2007.

## Hindrance to controls by enforcement agencies

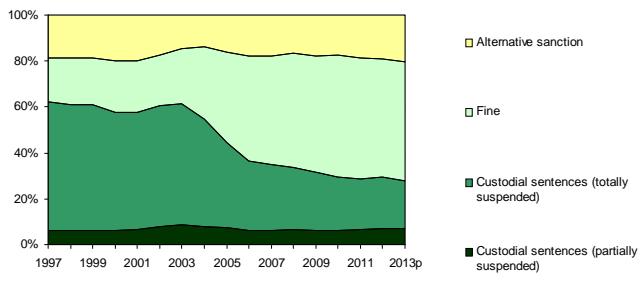
There were 15,300 convictions (5 % of the total) dispensed for 27,300 offences sanctioned for leaving the scene of an accident, refusing to comply, failing to provide a sample for alcohol analysis and using devices interfering with police instruments; it fell by 12.3 % compared to 2007. Custodial sentences were handed down in 47.6 % of cases, half of which were fixed in whole or in part.

## Involuntary physical injury

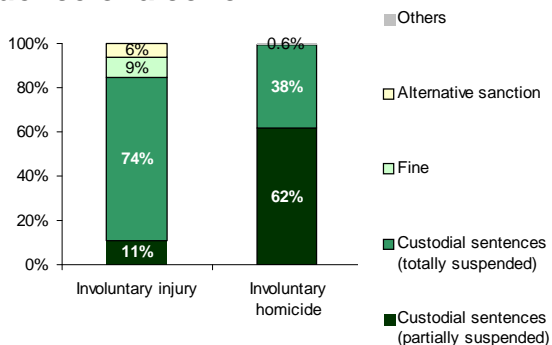
There were 8,700 convictions (3 % of the total) handed down for 9,800 convictions sanctioned :

- 7,800 convictions for involuntary injuries, 1,900 of which for drivers under the influence of alcohol. A custodial sentence was handed down twice as often if the driver was under the influence of alcohol (84 % of the penalties compared to 41 % if alcohol was not a factor);
- 900 convictions for involuntary homicide, 161 of which for drivers under the influence of alcohol.

**Nature of convictions for driving under the influence of alcohol**



**Nature of convictions for involuntary physical injury while driving under the influence of alcohol**





## Age

Excluding minors as they are little concerned with traffic offences, persons convicted of road safety offences are older than all other convicted persons: there are roughly half as many 18-19 year olds and almost one in three convicted persons is at least 40 years old compared to a little more than one in four for all adults convicted.

This distribution by age however differs according to the nature of the offence sanctioned:

- drivers convicted of **driving without a licence** are very young (37 % are between 18 and 24 years) and sometimes include minors (3.3 %). 18-24 years old drivers are also often convicted of **driving without insurance** (31 %). On the other hand, those convicted of **driving when banned** are older; their average age is 35.4 years (compared to 30 years for driving without a licence). It seems logical as this offence involves those having already been sentenced to a driving ban previously;

- those convicted of **driving under the influence of alcohol** are clearly older (38 years on average), only 17 % are under 25 years of age while people aged 40 years and over represent 44 % of those convicted. The drivers sanctioned for **driving under the influence of drugs** are very young, 47 % are under 25 years:

- for the purpose of involuntary physical injury to persons, distinction is made between the drivers under the influence of alcohol guilty of involuntary homicide of whom 48 % are under 30 years of age (compared to 45 % without alcohol), and the drivers having caused an injury without testing positive for alcohol whom 40 % are 40 years of age and 14 % are at least 60 years of age.

## Gender

Women account for 10.6 % of all crimes. This rate is only 9.4 % for crimes linked to road safety but varies from one offence to the other. This low rate of female involvement is marked in situations of driving during a ban (6 %) or driving under the influence of drugs (4.5 %).

The share of women is higher with respect to involuntary physical injury not aggravated by alcohol (23 % in case of injuries, 18 % in case of manslaughter). The rate of female involvement has increased in recent years as regards driving under the influence of alcohol, which has progressed from 6 % in 2000 to 10 % in 2013.

### Details of convictions for "paper" offences in 2013

	Driving without a licence		Driving when banned	
	Number	%	Number	%
<b>All</b>	<b>37 844</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>22 016</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Men	34 708	91.7	20 672	93.9
Women	3 136	8.3	1 344	6.1
Minors	1 240	3.3	0	
18-19 years	4 698	12.4	234	1.1
20-24 years	9 253	24.5	3 874	17.6
25-29 years	6 960	18.4	4 504	20.5
30-39 years	8 488	22.4	6 215	28.2
40-59 years	6 418	17.0	6 356	28.9
60 years +	787	2.1	833	3.8
<b>Average age</b>	<b>30,0 years</b>		<b>35,4 years</b>	

Source : Statistical us of criminal records – SDSE – Ministry of Justice

### Details of convictions for driving under the influence of alcohol in 2013

	Convictions for driving under the influence of alcohol	
	Number	%
<b>All</b>	<b>137 356</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Men	123 193	89.7
Women	14 163	10.3
Minors	196	0.1
18-19 years	3 500	2.5
20-24 years	19 608	14.3
25-29 years	19 936	14.5
30-39 years	33 109	24.1
40-59 years	52 372	38.1
60 years +	8 635	6.3
<b>Average age</b>	<b>38,3 years</b>	

Source : Statistical us of criminal records – SDSE – Ministry of Justice