

Illegal drugs

In 1 in 5 fatal accidents, a driver tests positive for illegal drugs. This share reaches 1 in 3 fatal accidents at night during weekends.

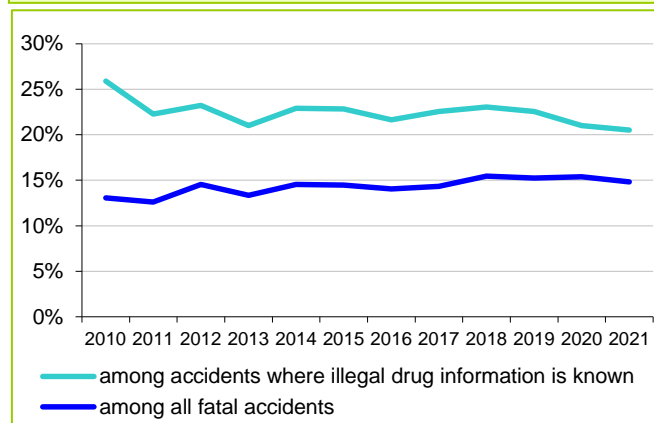
Accidents with illegal drugs	Driver positive to drugs.	Killed in acc. with drugs.	Of which Killed driver with drugs.	Injured in acc. with drugs	Of which Injured driver with drugs	K/100I
2 448	2 477	436	267	3 374	1 634	13

* Number of people killed per 100 injured (B) in accidents with illegal drugs

Average annual evolution **	2019 to 2021	2010 to 2019
Killed in acc with illegal drugs.	- 6,1 %	- 0,6 %
Killed in acc without illegal drugs.	- 0,3 %	+ 1,4 %
All killed	- 4,7 %	- 2,3 %

**Reading: between 2010 and 2019, the number of people killed in an accident with narcotics decreased by an average of 0.6 % per year.

Evolution of the proportion of people killed in an accident with illegal drugs



Number of people killed in accidents ...

	2010	2015	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
... With illegal drugs	522	501	494	502	494	391	436
... Without illegal drugs	1 494	1 694	1 694	1 675	1 697	1 469	1 687
Total info. Illegal drugs known	2 016	2 195	2 188	2 177	2 191	1 860	2 123
Whole mortality	3 992	3 461	3 448	3 248	3 244	2 541	2 944

Share of mortality in accidents with illegal drugs...

	2010	2015	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
... among accidents where illegal drugs information is known	26%	23%	23%	23%	23%	21%	21%
... among all fatal accidents	13%	14%	14%	15%	15%	15%	15%

Reading: in 2021, 2,123 people were killed in an accident where information on illegal drugs consumption was known. Among them, 436 were in an accident with the presence of illegal drugs. $436/2123 = 21\%$.

Among all the 2,944 people killed in 2021, the 436 who were killed in an accident with the presence of illegal drugs represent: $436/2944 = 15\%$.

A driver who tests positive for cannabis increases their risk of being responsible for a fatal accident by 1.65¹. Cannabis is the illicit narcotic product (excluding medical use) most often detected in people involved in fatal accidents and positive for illegal drugs. The proportion of fatal accidents that would be avoided if no driver tested positive for cannabis is estimated at 4 %.

In 2021, according to the BAAC file, 436 people were killed in an accident with illegal drugs. They represent **21 % of people killed** in fatal accidents for which the test result is known. By extrapolating this percentage to all accidents, **it is estimated that 605 people were killed in 2021 in an accident involving a driver under the influence of illegal drugs, compared to 731 in 2019.**

Alcoholic drivers testing positive for at least one narcotic product

Among the 405 drug-positive drivers involved in a fatal accident in 2021, **almost half (195) also had an alcohol level above 0.5 g/L**. A similar proportion is also found in injury accidents.

In fatal accidents, the proportion of alcohol-impaired drivers among those positive for illegal drugs achieved:

- 52 % for drivers aged 35-44;
- 58 % for drivers aged 25-34;
- 56 % for drivers of passenger cars regardless of age.

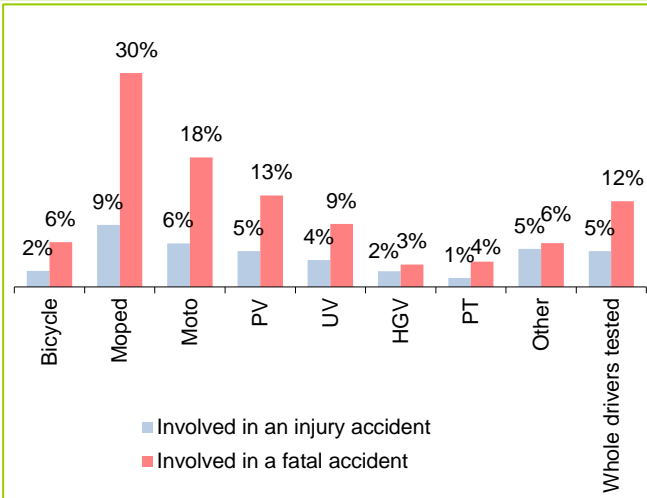
Of the 598 drink-driving drivers involved in fatal crashes whose illegal drug test results are known, a third are also positive for at least one narcotic.

In 2021, 49 % of non-fatal accidents in the BAAC file contain illegal drug information, compared to 71 % for fatal accidents (50 % in 2010). The analyses are therefore mainly carried out on fatal accidents in distinguishing:

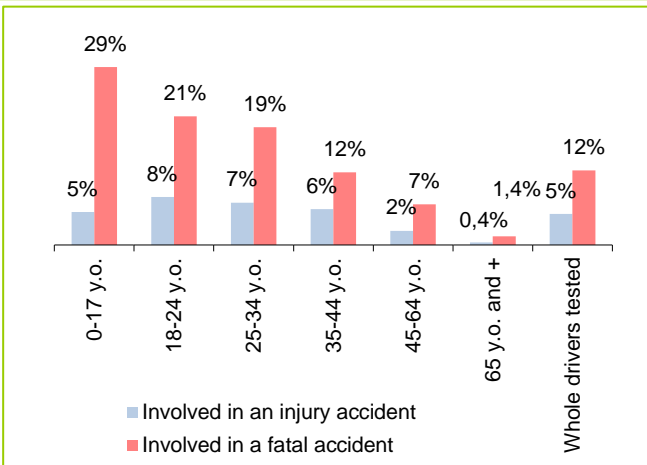
- **Accidents with illegal drugs**, i.e. those where at least one driver involved has tested positive,
- **Accidents without illegal drugs**, i.e. those where all the drivers involved tested negative for illegal drugs,
- **Accidents where the “illegal drug” information is not known**, i.e. those without a positive driver but with at least one uncontrolled driver or with an unknown test result.

¹ Jean-Louis MARTIN *et al.*, *Update of the main results of the SAM study - Narcotics and Fatal Accidents (ActuSAM)*, DSR/Ifsttar n° 2200868646, Final report, October 2016.

Proportion of drivers positive for at least one illegal drug among those checked, by user category



Proportion of drivers positive for at least one illegal drug among those checked, by age group



Example of lecture: Among drivers, aged 18 to 24 involved in a fatal accident and tested, 21 % are positive for at least one illegal drug.

Drugs and addictions, key figures 2022. OFDT May 2022

Cannabis:

18 million people between the ages of 11 and 75 have smoked it at least once in their lifetime (experimenters),
 of which 5 million smoked during the year,
 of which 1.5 million smoke it at least 10 times per month,
 of which 850,000 daily users.

Cocaine:

2.1 million Experimenters,
 Of which 600,000 users during the year.

MDMA / Ecstasy:

1.9 million Experimenters,
 Of which 400,000 users during the year.

Heroin:

500,000 Experimenters.

Positive drivers for at least one illegal drug

In fatal accidents, 12 % of drivers checked are positive for illegal drugs (almost the same proportion as in 2019). This proportion varies according to the mode of transport: it is 30 % for moped riders, 18 % for motorcyclists and 3 % for HGV drivers.

Drivers who tested positive for narcotics in fatal crashes are:

- 61 % of passenger vehicle drivers and 20 % of motorcycle drivers,
- 91 % of men,
- 31 % aged 18 to 24, 30 % aged 25 to 34 and 17 % aged 35 to 44.

Among 18-24 years old, 21 % of drivers tested in fatal accidents are positive. This proportion is equivalent for 25-34 years old (19 %) and falls sharply from the age of 45 (7 % for 45-64 years old).

An analysis¹ on fatal accidents in 2011 where information on illegal drugs was present showed that of the 12 % of users who tested positive, 80 % were on cannabis, usually alone. Half of the users who tested positive for illegal drugs were between 20 and 29 years old.

Pedestrians testing positive for at least one illegal drug product

In 2021, an illegal drug test result is provided for 44 % of pedestrians killed (181 people out of 414).

26 pedestrians killed out of the 181 checked tested positive for illegal drugs. 22 of those pedestrians killed are between the ages of 25 and 54.

Night, day and type of day

At night, 27 % of fatal accidents (for which illegal drug information is given) involve a drug-positive driver; when this share drops to 15 % during the day. They are also more often present in fatal accidents on weekends than on working days (24 % against 18 %).

Proportion of accidents with driver positive for illegal drugs among the fatal accidents reported

	Open days	Weekend	Whole
Day	14%	17%	15%
Night	24%	33%	27%
Whole	18%	24%	20%

Example of Reading: on weekends, at night, in 33 % of fatal accidents, at least one driver tested positive for illegal drugs.

¹ Analysis carried out by Cerema on the database VOIESUR.