Drink driving enforcement in Finland - Best practices

Building Capacity For Action - European Alcohol Policy Conference
3.-5 April 2008, Barcelona
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Content of this presentation

• General information about road safety in Finland

• Drink drive legislation and enforcement equipment

• Best practises

• Future visions
KILLED IN ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS BY ROAD USER GROUP AND SAFETY TARGET


Government target: No more than 250 road traffic fatalities in year by 2010.

379 killed in 2007
Drunken driving legislation

- According the Penal Code, the driver of a motor vehicle is guilty
  - of drunken driving if he/she has a minimum of 50 mg of alcohol per 100 mg of blood (0.5 %), or a minimum of 0.22 mg per litre of exhaled air.
  - of aggravated drunken driving if there is 120 mg of alcohol per 100 mg of blood, (1.2 %) and 0.53 mg (exhaled air).
  - A driver can also be guilty of drunken driving or aggravated drunken driving when he/she is under the influence of other intoxicants than alcohol
    - Zero-tolerance related for drugs
  - Random breath testing
    - Breath tests are conducted every time police officer stops a driver (no matter what was the reason for stopping)
    - According to Coercive Act police can force suspect driver to breath, blood and urine tests
Number of breath tests carried out by the Finnish police

Breath tests

2003: 1621076
2004: 1909121
2005: 1979065
2006: 1746505
2007: 1914821
Sartre research 2004: tested drivers during past three years

Picture source: http://sartre.inrets.fr/
Equipment

- **Efficient** and quick equipment provides for a large number of checks
  - Police conducts breath test for every driver stopped
- Reliability of equipment
- Every National Traffic Police officer has her/his own breath analyser as personal equipment
- Evidential breath testers are to come in 2008 into the police cars
  - Now those are located in the police stations
Number of drink drivers during last 12 months in Finland
(polic report)

Source: Police
R-study in cooperation with National Public Health Institute (www.ktl.fi/portal/english/)

- Annual roadside surveys since 1978
- Annually more than 100,000 drivers are breath tested during this study
- Comparability assured
- Survey gives valuable information for drunken driving enforcement
- Appr. every 600-650th driver in traffic low is drunk over 0,5 %

Picture source: ETSC Pin Flash 5 www.etsc.be
Summary: Best practises for drink driving enforcement

• Clear and solid legislation
  – Random breath testing and powers to conduct tests
• Efficient enforcement strategies (political and citizens’ support)
  – National Traffic Police customer satisfaction survey: 95% demands more drunken driving enforcement
  – Police barometer survey 2005 indicates that 91% of respondents are afraid of drunk drivers
• Efficient equipment with motivated and skilful police officers
• Scientific research
• Comprehensive statistics
• Visible publicity campaigns joined to the enforcement actions
Future

- Still increase subjective / objective risk of detection
  - analysed information as a basis of targeted enforcement actions
  - high number of tests
- Effective and practical equipment
  - Alcohol interlocks for drink drivers
  - Evidential breath testers and efficient screening devices on the roadside
- Cooperation with other stakeholders
  - Most of drunken drivers have a drinking problem - more efficient cooperation with social and health care and other stakeholders
    - Attention to be paid for alcohol consuming before driving license
    - test period with social care authorities where drink driver meet social worker in 24 h after detection
    - Improvement to refer drink driver to get help for problems
  - learning from other countries
Future

- Adequate sanction system
  - Impoundment of drink drivers vehicle
  - Immobilisation of drink drivers vehicle
- Visible enforcement actions and publicity campaigns must be continued
Thank you for your attention