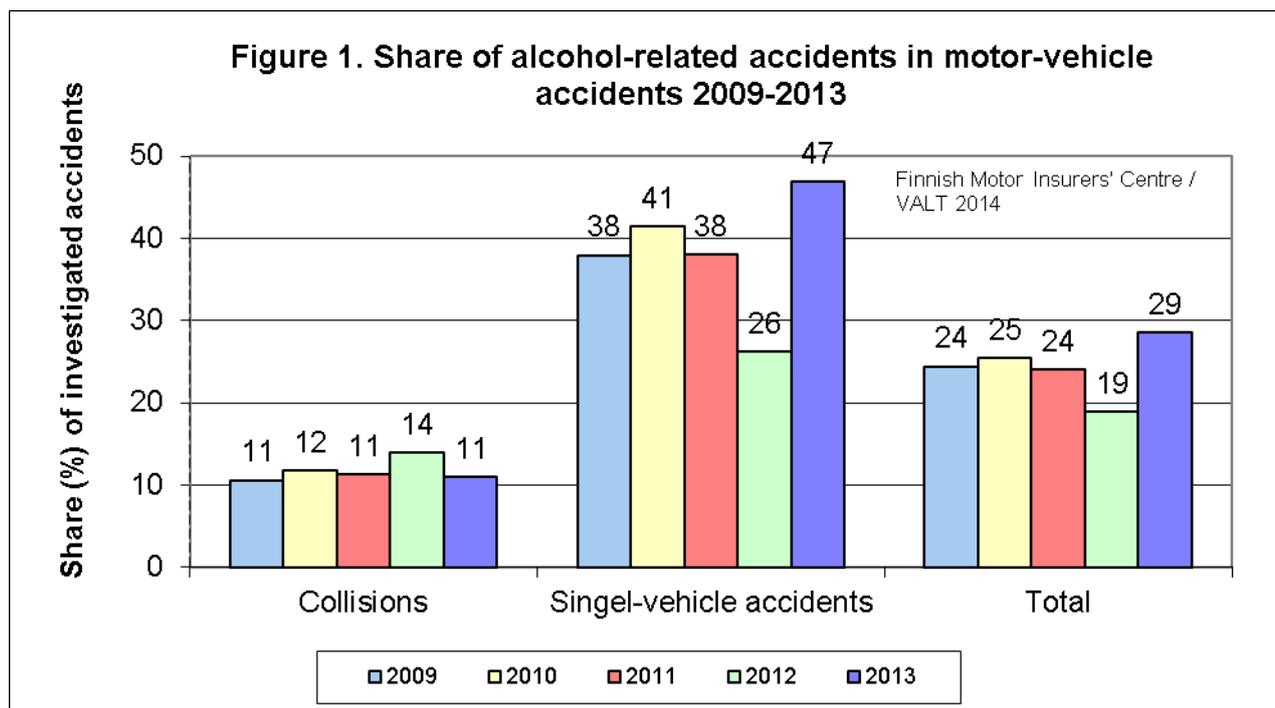




VALT – PRELIMINARY INFORMATION ON ALCOHOL-RELATED ACCIDENTS 2013 Accidents investigated by Finnish road accident investigation teams

Material

The material of this report comprises preliminary information on fatal road accidents investigated by the road accident investigation teams in 2013 where the blood alcohol content of the party involved has exceeded the drink driving limit 0.5 ‰. The 2013 data has been compared with accidents from four previous years, the data on which is final. The report contains data both on motor vehicle accidents and pedestrian/cyclist accidents.



Fatal motor vehicle accidents

In 2013, the road accident investigation teams investigated a total of 195 fatal motor vehicle accidents of which in 56 (29%) a party involved had a blood alcohol content of at least 0.5 ‰ (Figure 1, table 1). The relative proportion of fatal alcohol-related accidents out of all the motor vehicle accidents remained almost unchanged at about 25 % until year 2011. However, in 2012 recorded lowest percentage in the history of road accident investigation. In 2013 the relative proportion of fatal alcohol-related accidents in all motor vehicle accidents rose to a higher level than average.

Traditionally, the majority of alcohol-related accidents have been single-vehicle accidents. This was also the case in 2013, when 80 % of these accidents involved a single vehicle. (Table 1 and figure 1).

Table 1. Fatal motor accidents in which the motor vehicle driver was under influence of alcohol in 2009–2013 and distribution alcohol-related accidents.

Alcohol-related accidents	2009		2010		2011		2012		2013		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Collisions	12	21	13	25	14	25	17	44	11	20	67	26
Single-vehicle accidents	44	79	39	75	43	75	22	56	45	80	193	74
Total	56	100	52	100	57	100	39	100	56	100	260	100

VALT PRELIMINARY DATA ON ALCOHOL-RELATED ROAD ACCIDENTS 2013
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Driver's blood alcohol content and previous convictions for driving under influence

It is typical of fatal alcohol-related accidents that the driver of the motor vehicle has been strongly under the influence of alcohol. In 2013, the blood alcohol content of 88 % of drunk drivers exceeded the limit of aggravated drunk driving of 1.2‰ (table 2). Approximately 40% drivers driving under the influence of alcohol had previous convictions for driving under influence (of cases known at the time of the writing of the report) and heavy alcohol use was daily for many of them. According to preliminary data, 3 drivers with blood alcohol content of less than 0.5‰ were involved in accidents (none in 2012).

Table 2. Blood alcohol content 2009–2013, fatal motor vehicle accidents.

Alcohol content	2009		2010		2011		2012		2013		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
0.50-1.19	6	11	11	21	10	18	12	31	7	13	46	18
1.20-1.99	29	52	19	37	23	40	13	33	28	50	112	43
2.00 and over	21	38	22	42	24	42	14	36	21	38	102	39
Total	56	100	52	100	57	100	39	100	56	100	260	100

Drivers' use of other intoxicants while driving

Six of drivers who had consumed alcohol were suspected of having drugs or intoxicating medication in their blood. In addition, 11 drivers were suspected of having driven under the influence of drugs (no alcohol or less than 0.5‰). Consequently, in total 17 drivers were suspected under the influence of drugs or intoxicating medication (16 drivers in 2012). There was no sufficient data about medication affecting drivers' driving ability at the time of writing the report. In 2012, 12 drivers (6% of all drivers) had driven under medication affecting their driving ability.

Age of driver

Typically, the relative proportion of young people in fatal alcohol-related accidents has been considerable. In 2013, the proportion of over 25-year-old drivers increased (table 3).

Table 3. Age of drunk drivers 2009–2013, fatal motor vehicle accidents

Driver's age	2009		2010		2011		2012		2013		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
20 or below	13	23	9	17	10	18	9	23	8	14	49	19
21-25 yrs	10	18	8	15	13	23	7	18	9	16	47	18
26-40 yrs	18	32	12	23	16	28	5	13	15	27	66	25
41-60 yrs	12	21	20	38	13	23	14	36	18	32	77	30
61 or over	3	5	3	6	5	9	4	10	6	11	21	8
Total	56	100	52	100	57	100	39	100	56	100	260	100

Drivers' vehicle

The majority of drivers under the influence (84%) were driving passenger cars during the fatal road accident (table 4). The next largest group was driving motorcycles (9 %).

Table 4. Vehicle of drunk drivers 2009–2013, fatal motor vehicle accidents.

Vehicle type	2009		2010		2011		2012		2013		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Passenger cars	44	79	41	79	47	82	34	87	47	84	213	82
Vans	1	2	2	4	3	5	0	0	0	0	6	2
Heavy vehicles	1	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	1
Motorcycles	6	11	1	2	3	5	2	5	5	9	17	7
Mopeds	1	2	3	6	0	0	1	3	1	2	6	2
Other	3	5	4	8	4	7	2	5	2	4	15	6
Total	56	100	52	100	57	100	39	100	56	100	260	100

*In 2013, the class "others" comprised of 1 quad bikes and 1 snowmobile. Correspondingly, in 2012 class "others" comprised 2 quad bikes, in 2011 3 quad bikes and 1 tractor, in 2010 3 quad bikes and 1 tractor and in 2009 only quad bikes.

VALT PRELIMINARY DATA ON ALCOHOL-RELATED ROAD ACCIDENTS 2013
Accidents investigated by Finnish road accident investigation teams

Time of the accident

Fatal alcohol-related accidents are centred especially around the summertime (April–September), weekends and nights. However, typically more collisions caused by drunk drivers occurred during the winter than is the case with single-vehicle accidents. As in previous years, in 2013, the majority (78%) of alcohol-related accidents occurred during summer (table 5) and 70 % between Friday and Sunday, between 8 pm and 6 am.

Table 5. Time of the year 2013, fatal motor vehicle accidents, alcohol-related accidents.

Months	Collisioner		Single-vehicle accidents		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
April-September (summer season)	5	45	35	78	40	71
October-March (winter season)	6	55	10	22	16	29
Total	11	100	45	100	56	100

Accident location

In recent years, an increasing number of alcohol-related accidents have occurred on the main roads class 1. However, a greater part of the alcohol-related accidents still occur on roads classified lower than main roads class I (59 %). On the main roads the number of single-vehicle accidents was almost the same as the number of multiple-vehicle accidents. By contrast, on roads classified lower than main roads class 1 only single-vehicle accidents occurred. (Table 6)

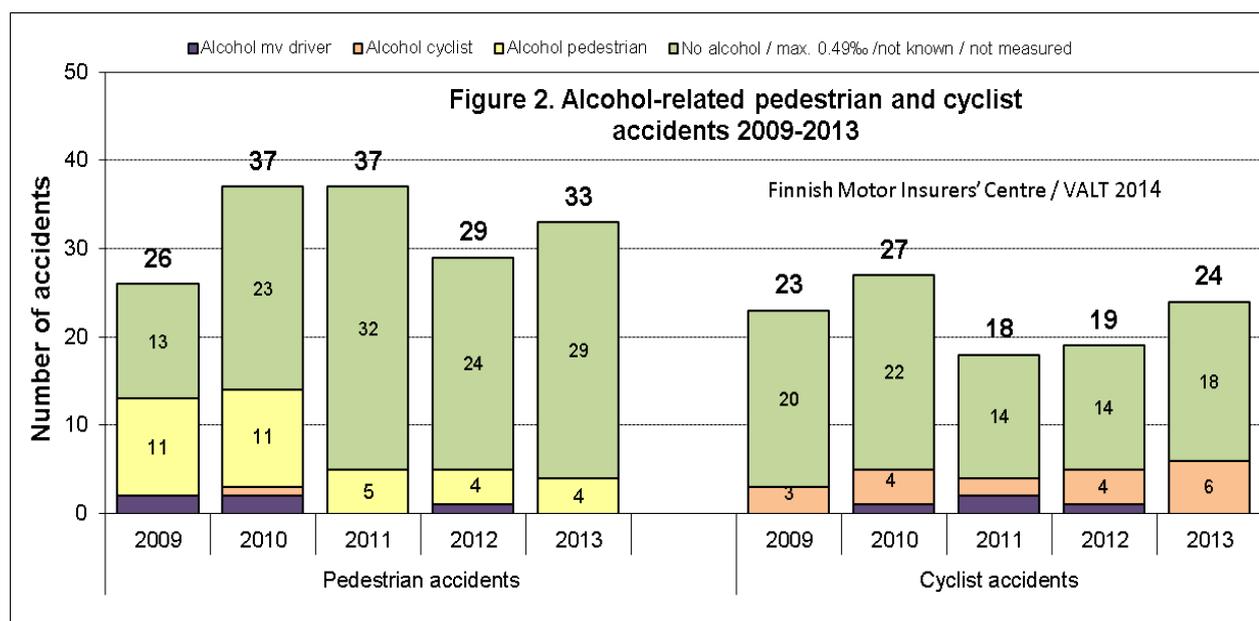
Table 6. Road type and accident type 2013, fatal motor vehicle accidents, alcohol-related accidents.

Accident type	Main road		Other road		Street		Private road		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Opposite directions	11	48	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	20
Running-off-the-road accidents*	12	52	15	100	9	90	7	88	43	77
Other*	0	0	0	0	1	10	1	13	2	4
Total	23	100	15	100	10	100	8	100	56	100

*Single-vehicle accidents

Alcohol-related fatal accidents in pedestrian/cyclist traffic

In 2013, road accident investigation teams studied in all 33 fatal pedestrian and 24 fatal cyclist accidents. In 10 (17%) of these accidents some party involved was under the influence of alcohol: 4 pedestrians and 6 cyclists. Two of the cycling accidents under the influence of alcohol were single-vehicle accidents. Exceptionally, more cyclists died under the influence of alcohol than pedestrians.



VALT PRELIMINARY DATA ON ALCOHOL-RELATED ROAD ACCIDENTS 2013
Accidents investigated by Finnish road accident investigation teams

Personal injuries

Table 7. Personal injuries in alcohol-related accidents in 2013

Degree of injury	Dead	Injured	Uninjured	Total
Driver of a motor-driven vehicle under the influence of alcohol				
In drink driver's vehicle	60	23	10	93
In collision partner's vehicle (sober driver)	0	7	10	17
Pedestrian	0	0	0	0
Cyclist	0	0	0	0
Total	60	30	20	110
Distribution of the degree of severity %	55	27	18	100
Pedestrian or cyclist party involved under the influence of alcohol				
Cyclist	6	0	0	6
Pedestrian	4	0	0	4
In a motor-driven vehicle (sober driver)	0	0	9	9
Total	10	0	9	19
Distribution of the degree of severity %	52	0	47	100
In all accidents in total	70	30	29	129
Distribution of the degree of severity %	54	23	23	100

In 2013 no accidents in which both parties were under the influence of alcohol occurred.

In motor vehicle accidents in which one of the motor vehicle drivers was under the influence of alcohol, the victim or someone travelling in his/her vehicle had usually consumed alcohol. In 2013, all 60 who lost their lives in alcohol-related accidents were travelling in the vehicle of the driver under the influence of alcohol. In 90% of those fatalities, was the driver him or herself. In multiple-vehicle accidents, 7 occupants of the other party vehicles were injured and 10 escaped without injury. (Table 7.)

In pedestrian/cyclist accidents, 6 cyclists and 4 pedestrians under the influence of alcohol died.

Definitions:

Party involved: road user involved in an accident (motor vehicle driver [or motor vehicle], cyclist or pedestrian)

Alcohol-related accident: Fatal road accident, in which one of the parties involved had blood alcohol content of 0.50‰ or more

Collision partner: Party involved with whom the driver under the influence of alcohol collided

Pedestrian/cyclist accident: collision in road traffic as a result of which a pedestrian or cyclist has died, or a fatal single-vehicle cyclist accident

Motor vehicle accident: fatal multiple- or single-vehicle accident in which a person travelling in/on motor vehicle has died

Further information:

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