







Czech
Rehabilitation
Conference
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# Driver Improvement in Germany A close look at the German Traffic Safety System

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# **Topics**

- 1. Statistics
- 2. Traffic Medicine and Psychology within German Legislation
- 3. Medical-Psychological Assessment (MPA) in Germany
- 4. Evaluation of Driver Improvement Measures
- 5. Conclusions

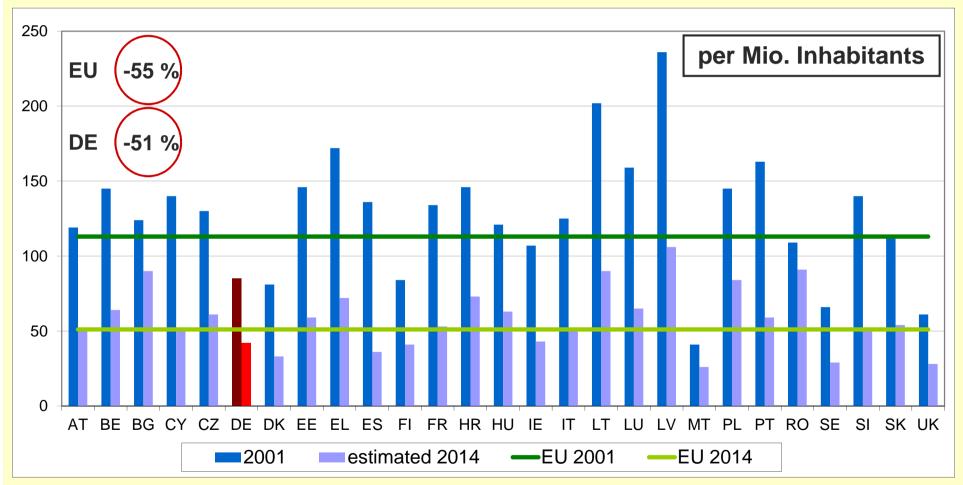








### 1. Traffic Fatalities in the EU 2001 vs. 2014



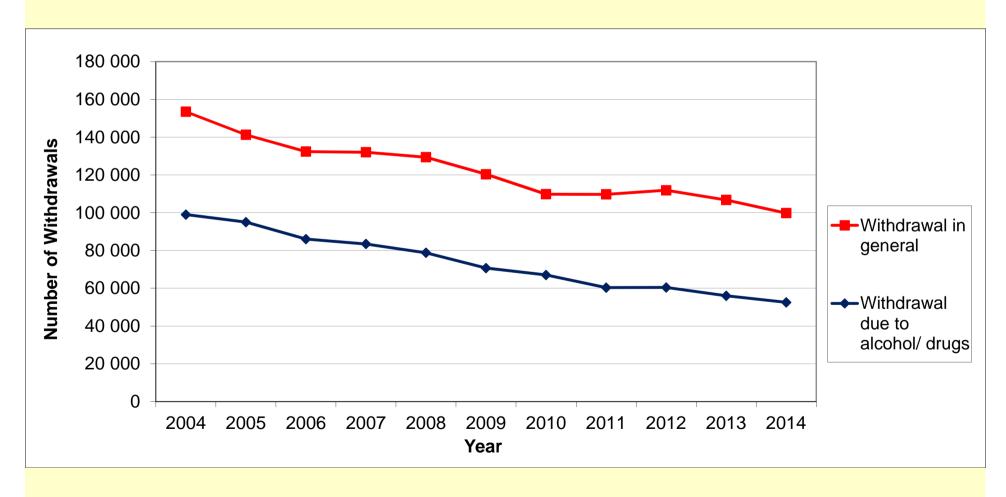








# 1. Withdrawals in Germany











# 2. Traffic Medicine and Psychology within the German Legislation

- Important regulating laws
  - Road Traffic Act Straßenverkehrsgesetz (StVG)
  - Driving License Regulation Fahrerlaubnis-Verordnung (FeV)
- Road Traffic Act Straßenverkehrsgesetz
  - § 2: Driving license
  - § 3: Withdrawal
  - § 4: Demerit point system
  - o § 21 − 30: Penalty regulations











- 2. Traffic Medicine and Psychology within German Legislation (MPA: Medical-Psychological Assessment)
  - Driving License Regulation Fahrerlaubnis-Ver
    - § 10: Exception of minimum age (MPA)
    - § 11: Driving aptitude (MPA)
    - § 12: Eyesight (medical assessment; MA)
    - § 13: Driving aptitude and alcohol offenses (MPA)
    - § 14: Driving aptitude and drug offenses (MPA)
    - § 46: Withdrawal
    - Annex 4: List of illnesses, handicaps and impairments influencing driving aptitude











# 2. Traffic Medicine and Psychology within German Legislation

### Assessment

- Bus and taxi drivers (Medical-Psychological Screening)
- Drivers under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs (MPA)
- Drivers with multiple traffic offenses (MPA)
- Handicapped drivers (MA)



### Training and rehabilitation programs

- Novice drivers with one severe traffic offense
- Drivers with multiple traffic offenses within the demerit point system
- Drivers under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs

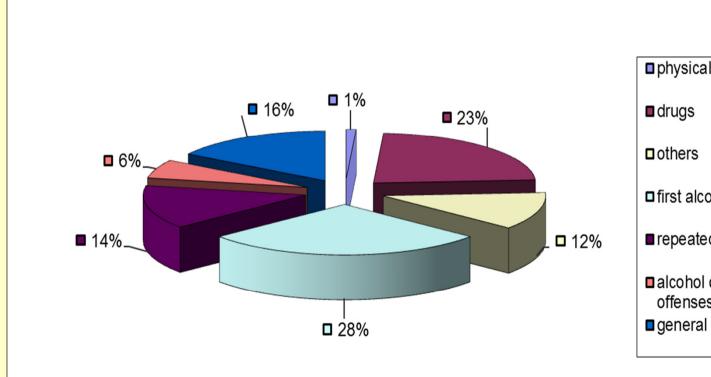








# 3. Medical-Psychological Assessment in Germany (2014: 91.536 MPA = 0,17%)



physical illness

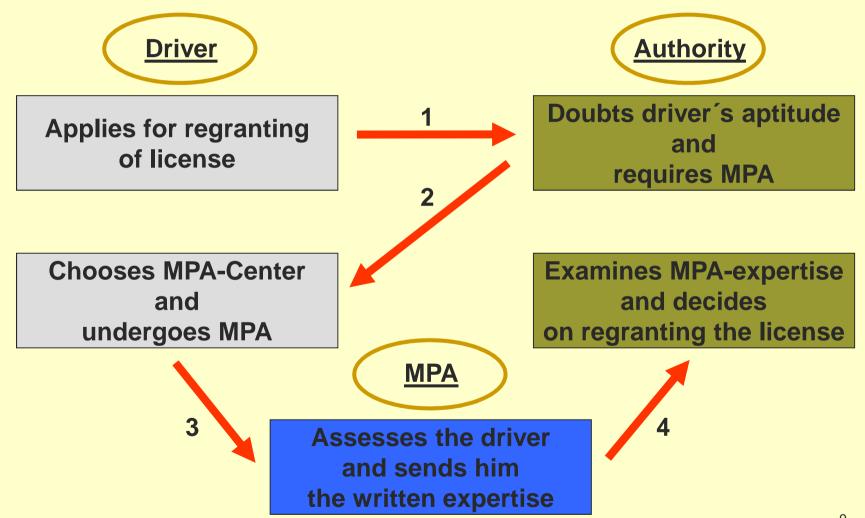
- □ first alcohol offense
- repeated alcohol offenses
- ■alcohol offenses and other offenses
- general traffic offenses





















### **MPA**

# Medical Examination

- 1. Medical history
- 2. Physical examination
- 3. Laboratory analyses

# Psychological performance test

- 1. Reaction capacity
- 2. Visual perception
- 3. Concentration

# Psychological Interview

- 1. Warming-up phase
- 2. Collection of biographical data
- 3. Report on the traffic offenses
- 4. Evaluation of offenserelevant behavior- and attitude-changes

Evaluation of the findings by the medical doctor and by the psychologist









### **MPA**

#### **Negative Outcome:**

- The driver's license <u>cannot</u> be regranted
- Recommendations are given according to the MPA-results
- The MPA must be repeated

Partially Negative Outcome:

- Participation in a driver improvement course
- Then the driver's license <u>can</u> be regranted

2014: 6 %

#### **Positive Outcome:**

The driver's license can be regranted

2014: 58 %

2014: 35 %



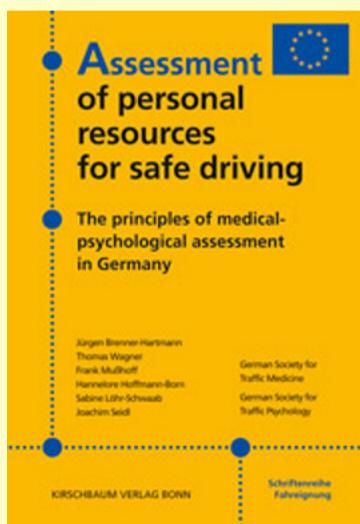














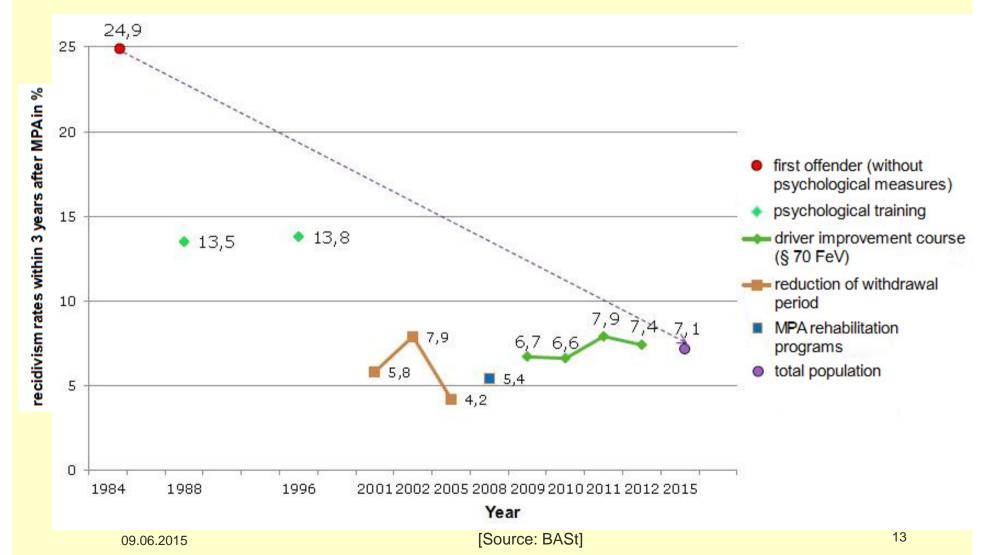








# 4. Evaluation of Traffic Psychology Measures











# 4. Driver Improvement: Evaluation

- SPEED-02: Evaluation with 500 participants (2005)
  - Driver improvement course (§ 70 FeV) for drug offenders
  - o Aims:
  - Analysis of individual causes of drug consumption
  - Change in attitudes and behavior
  - Increased knowledge of drugs (e. g. effects on driving ability)
  - Development of behavioral strategies to avoid future drug consumption
  - Framework:
  - Consists of 8 meetings (22 h in 8 weeks + 1 drug-screening)
  - Performed in groups of 4-8 drug offenders
  - License can be regranted without a new MPA



Calculated relapse probability: 8,4 %









# 4. Driver Improvement: Evaluation

- LEER: Evaluation with 600 participants (2005)
  - Driver improvement course (§ 70 FeV) for alcohol offenders
  - o Aims:
    - Analysis of causes, effects & consequences of drunk driving
    - Change in attitudes and behavior
    - Increased knowlegde of alcohol (e. g. effects on driving ability)
    - Development of behavioral strategies to reduce alcohol consumption and avoid future drunk driving

#### o Framework:

- Consists of 4 meetings (14 h in 3 weeks)
- Performed in groups of 6-11 alcohol offenders
- License can be regranted without new MPA

Calculated relapse probability: 7,3 %











### 5. Conclusions

# **Driver Improvement Courses:**

- Address effectively the high risk group of traffic offenders
- Are together with assessment an unerring preventive measure
- Reduce significantly the number of offenses
- Strengthen the drivers' self-responsibility
- Are a well-accepted and low cost option to pure punishment

### Save lives in road traffic!!









Dr. Don DeVol DGVP & TÜV Thüringen



Many thanks for your attention!