Driving under the Influence of Alcohol in Israel and the Middle East

Dangers, Problems and ((hopefully) new) Solutions

Michael H. Cale’
ICAP and UNECE, Geneva, May 2013

Regional perspectives on preventing alcohol related road crashes involving VRUs

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Additional sources: General Directorate of Traffic Saudi Arabia 2013
WHO Factsheets 2012

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Drink-driving: 10 countries in the Region legally prohibit the use of alcohol; however, 18 of the 19 surveyed have a drink-driving law. Fewer than two thirds of these countries (61%) base their drink-driving laws on blood alcohol concentration (BAC). Of these, 7 countries (37%) stipulate BAC limits of 0.05 g/dl or less, which is recommended by WHO and considered to be best practice. Many countries do not know the magnitude of their drink-driving problem; fewer than third of countries test all fatally-injured drivers. Enforcement of drink-driving laws is reported as ‘good’ in only 4 countries.
“Another concern raised by health officials and the police is a rise in drink-driving. In 2011-2012, Iran’s police withdrew the driving licenses of 829 drivers, including 43 women, who had failed to pass alcohol and drug tests. Most recently, alcohol tests taken from drivers in Tehran in the period of 20 April-20 May [2012] showed that 26% of them were drunk.

A further major concern of Iranian health officials is a general unwillingness among relevant authorities to admit to such problems. "As the consumption of alcoholic drinks is haram [religiously forbidden], some officials are just trying to conceal the facts... But the lack of data on alcohol consumption and consumers is itself a serious threat," wrote a conservative news website on 15 May [2012]
Average Alcohol consumption per year in...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Average Alcohol Consumption per Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>2.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>1.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>1.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>0.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>0.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Libya</td>
<td>0.11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations), World Drink Trends 2003
My world
Comparison of the Relative Risks of being injured or killed in an alcohol related road accident in Israel

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Relative Risk</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baseline</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arab</td>
<td>400%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young</td>
<td>800%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>900%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The big unknown....
Reasons for serious and fatal accidents in Israel 2010
(Source RSA 2011)
BAC limits in Israel

Young Driver 0.00

Adult Driver 0.05
Number of drivers per 1000 in the population who were tested with a breathalyzer in Israel

(e.g. Sweden 287, France 190, Eire 128, Austria 87, Portugal 63)

Correlation of number of breathalyzer tests per 1000 drivers with number of drivers who are legally drunk is

- 0.576 !!!
- Data from ETSC (2010b)

4 / 1000 in 2006
24 / 1000 in 2007
69 / 1000 in 2008
How often did you drink and drive in the past year?
Source RSA 2012
הש党总 הלאומית
לבישות بدרכימ
אל חתה להלך ולהתער
במקומך!
To drink or not to drink, that is the question
Tastes good
Make a good impression
Guarantee a positive self esteem
Social Pressure
They will love me....
Influence of Cultural Factor(s)
(real men drink)
Enjoying taste

Making a good impression

Guarantee a positive self-esteem

Social Pressure

Having her fall in love with me

Influence of cultural factors
Sum total of positive expectancies from dangerous behavior
Being cited or punished
Looking like a fool when I throw up
You might be injured or even killed
If you are caught and have your license evoked or your parents car impounded you will definitely look like an idiot
If you are caught and have your license evoked or your parents' car impounded, you will definitely look like an idiot.
Influence of Cultural Characteristic
Possible punishment

Risk of injury or fatality

Looking like a fool when I throw up

Social punishment

Influence of cultural factors
Sum total of negative expectancies from dangerous behavior
Values and Needs
D = \sum [(P \, \text{😊} \, * \, V \, \text{😊}) - \sum (P \, \text{😢} \, * \, V \, \text{😢}) \, ]
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