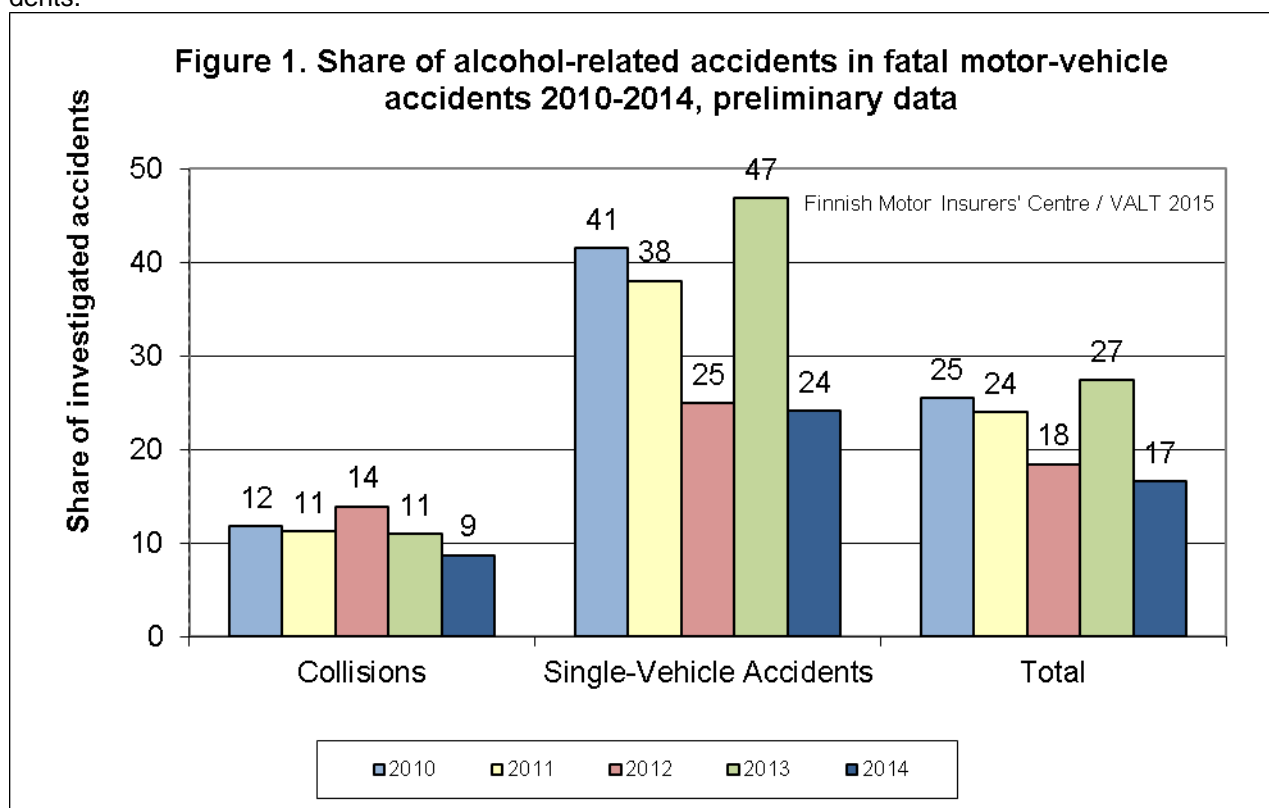




VALT – PRELIMINARY INFORMATION ON ALCOHOL-RELATED ACCIDENTS 2014 Accidents investigated by Finnish road accident investigation teams

Material

The material of this report comprises preliminary information on fatal road accidents investigated by the road accident investigation teams in 2014 where the blood alcohol content of the party involved exceeded the drink driving limit of 0.5 ‰. The 2014 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 2014, the road accident investigation teams investigated a total of 163 fatal motor vehicle accidents of which in 27 (17 %) 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 in 2012 the proportion began to fluctuate. In 2014 both the absolute number and relative proportion of fatal alcohol-related accidents in all motor vehicle accidents was the lowest since road accident investigation teams were first established.

Traditionally, the majority of alcohol-related accidents have been single-vehicle accidents. This was also the case in 2014, when 74 % 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 2009–2014 and distribution alcohol-related accidents.

Alcohol-related accidents	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		Yhteensä	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Collisions	13	25	14	25	17	45	11	20	7	26	62	27
Single-vehicle accidents	39	75	43	75	22	55	42	80	20	74	166	73
Total	52	100	57	100	38	100	53	100	27	100	227	100

VALT PRELIMINARY DATA ON ALCOHOL-RELATED ROAD ACCIDENTS 2014
Accidents investigated by Finnish road accident investigation teams

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 2014, the blood alcohol content of 70 % 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 the 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, 2 drivers with blood alcohol content of less than 0.5‰ were involved in accidents (1 driver in 2013).

Table 2. Blood alcohol content 2009–2014, fatal motor vehicle accidents.

Alcohol content	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
0.50-1.19	11	21	10	17	12	31	10	19	8	30	51	22
1.20-1.99	19	36	25	42	13	33	20	38	15	56	92	40
2.00 and over	23	43	24	41	14	36	23	43	4	15	88	38
Total	53	100	59	100	39	100	53	100	27	100	231	100

Drivers' use of other intoxicants while driving

Five of drivers who had consumed alcohol were suspected of having drugs or intoxicating medication in their blood. In addition, 8 drivers were suspected of having driven under the influence of drugs (no alcohol or less than 0.5‰). Consequently, in total 13 drivers were suspected of being under the influence of drugs or intoxicating medication (13 drivers in 2013). At the time of writing the report there was insufficient data about the effect of medication on the drivers' driving ability. In 2013, 23 drivers (14 % 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. This was the case also in 2014. (table 3).

Table 3. Age of drunk drivers 2009–2014, fatal motor vehicle accidents.

Driver's age	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
20 or below	9	17	10	18	9	23	8	15	4	15	40	18
21-25 yrs	8	15	13	23	7	18	10	19	6	22	44	19
26-40 yrs	12	23	16	28	5	13	13	25	10	37	56	25
41-60 yrs	20	38	13	23	14	36	15	28	7	26	69	30
61 or over	3	6	5	9	4	10	7	13	0	0	19	8
Total	52	100	57	100	39	100	53	100	27	100	228	100

Drivers' vehicle

The majority of drivers under the influence (84%) were driving passenger cars at the time of the fatal road accident (table 4). The next largest group was driving motorcycles (19 %). Please note: cross-country accidents not included.

Table 4. Vehicle of drunk drivers 2009–2014, fatal motor vehicle accidents.

Vehicle type	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Passenger cars	41	79	47	82	34	87	45	84	18	67	185	81
Vans	2	4	3	5	0	0	0	0	1	4	6	3
Heavy vehicles	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	1,8	0	0	1	0
Motorcycles	1	2	3	5	2	5	5	8,9	5	19	16	7
Mopeds	3	6	0	0	1	3	1	2	0	0	5	2
Other	4	8	4	7	2	5	2	4	3	11	15	7
Total	52	100	57	100	39	100	53	100	27	100	228	100

*In 2014, the class "others" comprised of 1 quad bike and 2 snowmobiles. Correspondingly, in 2013 class "others" comprised 2 quad bikes, in 2012 2 quad bikes, in 2011 3 quad bikes and 1 tractor and in 2010 3 quad bikes and 1 tractor.

VALT PRELIMINARY DATA ON ALCOHOL-RELATED ROAD ACCIDENTS 2014
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 2014, the majority (63%) of alcohol-related accidents occurred during summer (table 5) and 79 % between Friday and Sunday, between 8 pm and 6 am.

Table 5. Time of the year 2014, fatal motor vehicle accidents, alcohol-related accidents.

Months	Collisionner		Single-vehicle accidents		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
April-September (summer season)	4	57	13	65	17	63
October-March (winter season)	3	43	7	35	10	37
Total	7	100	20	100	27	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 (67 % 2014). (Table 6)

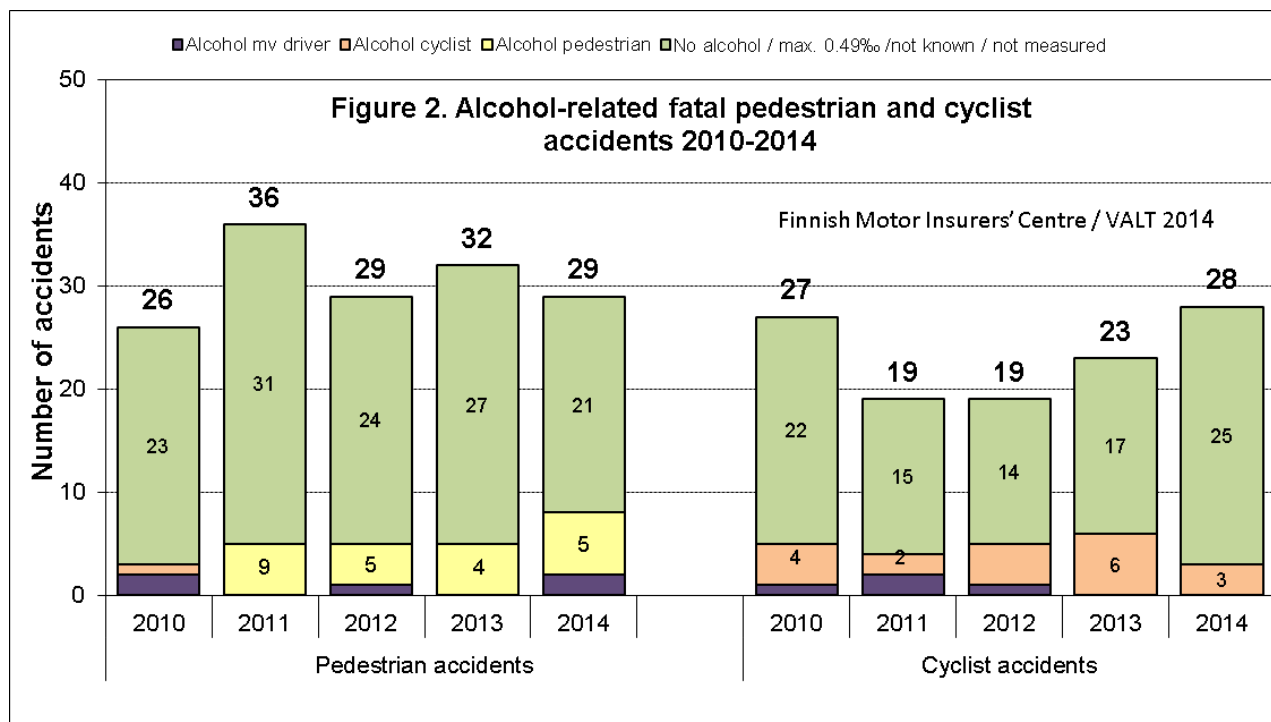
Table 6. Road type and accident type 2014, fatal motor vehicle accidents, alcohol-related accidents.

Accident type	Main road		Other road		Street		Private road		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Collisionner	4	17	2	13	1	10	0	0	7	26
Running-off-the-road accidents	5	22	8	53	1	10	4	50	18	67
Other*	0	0	0	0	1	10	1	13	2	7
Total	9	39	10	67	3	30	5	63	27	100

*Single-vehicle accidents

Alcohol-related fatal accidents in pedestrian/cyclist traffic

In 2014, road accident investigation teams studied in total 29 fatal pedestrian and 28 fatal cyclist accidents in which 30 pedestrians and 28 cyclists died respectively. In 11 (19%) of these accidents some party involved was under the influence of alcohol: 6 pedestrians, 3 cyclists and 2 drivers. All cycling accidents in which the cyclist was under the influence of alcohol were single-vehicle accidents.



VALT PRELIMINARY DATA ON ALCOHOL-RELATED ROAD ACCIDENTS 2014
Accidents investigated by Finnish road accident investigation teams

Personal injuries

Table 7. Personal injuries in alcohol-related accidents in 2014

Degree of injury	Dead	Injured	Uninjured	Total
Driver of a motor-driven vehicle under the influence of alcohol				
In drink driver's vehicle	31	3	8	42
In collision partner's vehicle (sober driver)	2	5	2	9
Pedestrian	2	1	0	3
Cyclist	0	0	0	0
Total	35	9	10	54
Distribution of the degree of severity %	65	17	18	100
Pedestrian or cyclist party involved under the influence of alcohol				
Cyclist	3	0	0	3
Pedestrian	6	0	0	6
In a motor-driven vehicle (sober driver)	0	0	11	11
Total	9	0	11	20
Distribution of the degree of severity %	45	0	55	100
In all accidents in total				
	44	9	21	74
Distribution of the degree of severity %	60	12	28	100

In 2014 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 2014, 31 (93 %) of the 33 people who lost their lives in alcohol related accidents were travelling in the vehicle of the driver under influence of alcohol (table 7). In 78 % of those fatalities, the driver him/herself was under the influence. In multiple-vehicle accidents, 2 people in collision vehicle died.

In pedestrian/cyclist accidents, 6 cyclists and 4 pedestrians under the influence of alcohol died. Moreover, two sober pedestrians died after being hit by a motor vehicle driven by a driver under influence of alcohol.

I

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:

Finnish Motor Insurers' Centre www.lvk.fi
 Traffic Safety Committee of Insurance Companies
 (VALT)
 Bulevardi 28, FI-00120 Helsinki, Finland

Arja Holopainen, Road Safety Researcher
arja.holopainen@vakuutuskeskus.fi,
 tel. +358 40 4504 531

Kalle Parkkari, Leader of Road Accident Investigation
kalle.parkkari@vakuutuskeskus.fi
 tel. +358 40 4504 627

Communications Manager Leena-Mari Tanskanen
leena-mari.tanskanen@vakuutuskeskus.fi
 tel. +358 40 450 4676