

The Behaviour of Road Users under the Influence of Alcohol



ŠUCHA, M.¹, ŠŤASTNÁ, L.²

¹Department of Psychology, Faculty of Arts, Palacky University Olomouc, Czech Republic

²Department of Addictology, 1st Faculty of Medicine, Charles University in Prague, and the General University Hospital in Prague, Czech Republic

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SUMMARY: *The paper deals with the behaviour of different road users under the influence of alcohol. Special attention is focused on cognition-related changes and their effects on behaviour. In terms of its theoretical background, the paper follows the hierarchical approach to drivers' behaviour, which describes risky and safe behaviour on four levels, starting from vehicle manoeuvring skills to a more general level associated with norms, beliefs, and lifestyle. Adaptable and non-adaptable (risky) traffic behaviour is described with respect to different categories of road users. Cognition-related changes concerning risk assessment and their influence on behaviour were looked for. It is pointed out that even very small amounts of alcohol may have a significant influence on the decision making of drivers, particularly young ones. The authors recommend focusing on those traffic safety measures which are aimed at protecting society as a whole rather than those aimed at individual drivers. All measures should be evidently beneficial to public health. The authors highlight the absence of evidence of the effectiveness of preventive campaigns dealing with traffic safety. It is a review article summarising the state-of-the-art knowledge in the field.*

KEY WORDS: TRAFFIC SAFETY – DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS (DUI/DWI) – BEHAVIOUR OF ROAD USERS – GADGET MATRIX

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Address for correspondence: Matúš Šucha, PhD. / matus.sucha@upol.cz / Department of Psychology, Faculty of Arts, Palacky University Olomouc, Křížkovského 10, 771 80 Olomouc, Czech Republic