

SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ADULT POPULATION WHO DRIVE A MOTOR VEHICLE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL IN AUTONOMOUS PROVINCE OF VOJVODINA (APV), SERBIA

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Background: Driving under the influence of alcohol (DUIA) increases the risk of road traffic crashes that result in serious injuries or death. This work aimed to examine the prevalence of DUIA and the differences in relation to the sociodemographic characteristics of the respondents.

Methods and Objectives: This research is part of the Special Public Health Program planned by the Provincial Secretariat for Health Care APV in 2023: Surveillance of behavioral risk factors for noncommunicable diseases in the adult population in APV. The research was performed as a cross-sectional study on a sample of 3,910 respondents aged 18 and older. A personal interview was conducted. The research instrument was a specially designed questionnaire based on a questionnaire from the BRFSS (Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, CDC). Pearson chi-square test and Confidence Interval (95%CI) was used to compare differences between sociodemographic categories of respondents who drive under the influence of alcohol.

Results: Out of a total of 1,488 respondents who consumed alcohol in the last 30 days, 225 (15.1%) reported to have been driving a car or other motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol, significantly more often males (19.9%; 95%CI 17.4-22.6 vs. 6.4% females; 95%CI 4.5-8.9), divorced persons (24.1%; 95%CI 16.4-33.6) and employed respondents (17.4%; 95%CI 15.2-19.8). The highest percentage of drink-drivers was in the Northbacka district (22.6%; 95%CI 15.3-31.3). There were no significant differences in DUIA regarding other sociodemographic characteristics. On average, the respondents drove under the influence of alcohol 3.3 times in the last months, with no significant differences in the observed characteristics.

Conclusions: The number of drivers under the influence of alcohol is significant in Vojvodina. The results indicate the necessity of holistic public health action aimed at road safety. This requires involvement from multiple sectors, such as traffic law enforcement, transport, police, health, and education.

Keywords: alcohol drinking, driving under the influence, safety, sociodemographic factors, risk factors