

A photograph of a severely damaged silver car, likely a hatchback, with its roof and rear section crushed and twisted. The car is positioned on the left side of the slide, against a white background.

# Fit to drive problems in Finnish in-depth investigated accident data

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A photograph showing a close-up of a car's front wheel and suspension system. The wheel is a multi-spoke alloy design, and the suspension components, including the control arm and steering knuckle, are visible. The background is white.

# All fatal road accidents are investigated in Finland

- In-depth investigation, independent teams
- Deaths by natural causes and suicides are included
- 100% autopsy rate (when traumatic cause of death)
- Right to have medical information and postmortem examination documents
- There are three major groups of diseases in fatal motor vehicle accidents
  - Cardiovascular diseases (elderly drivers)
  - Mental illnesses
  - Substance addiction

# Medical condition as a risk factor (2014-18), at-fault drivers

## IMMEDIATE RISK FACTOR

- **16%** of all fatal motor vehicle road accidents were caused by an illness attack suffered by the driver
  - Mostly sudden illness attacks leading to death while driving, epilepsy
  - 88% the at-fault driver was a male with a median age of 66 years
  - 75% single vehicle accident
  - 87% car or van driver

## BACKGROUND RISK FACTOR

- **33%** of all fatal motor vehicle road accidents involved a medical condition as a **background risk factor**
  - 90% were male with a median age of 40 years
  - Vehicle control errors
  - Deliberately caused accidents



Immediate risk factors 16%  
+  
Background risk factors 33%

= Medical condition problems  
influenced in **49%** of fatal motor  
vehicle accidents

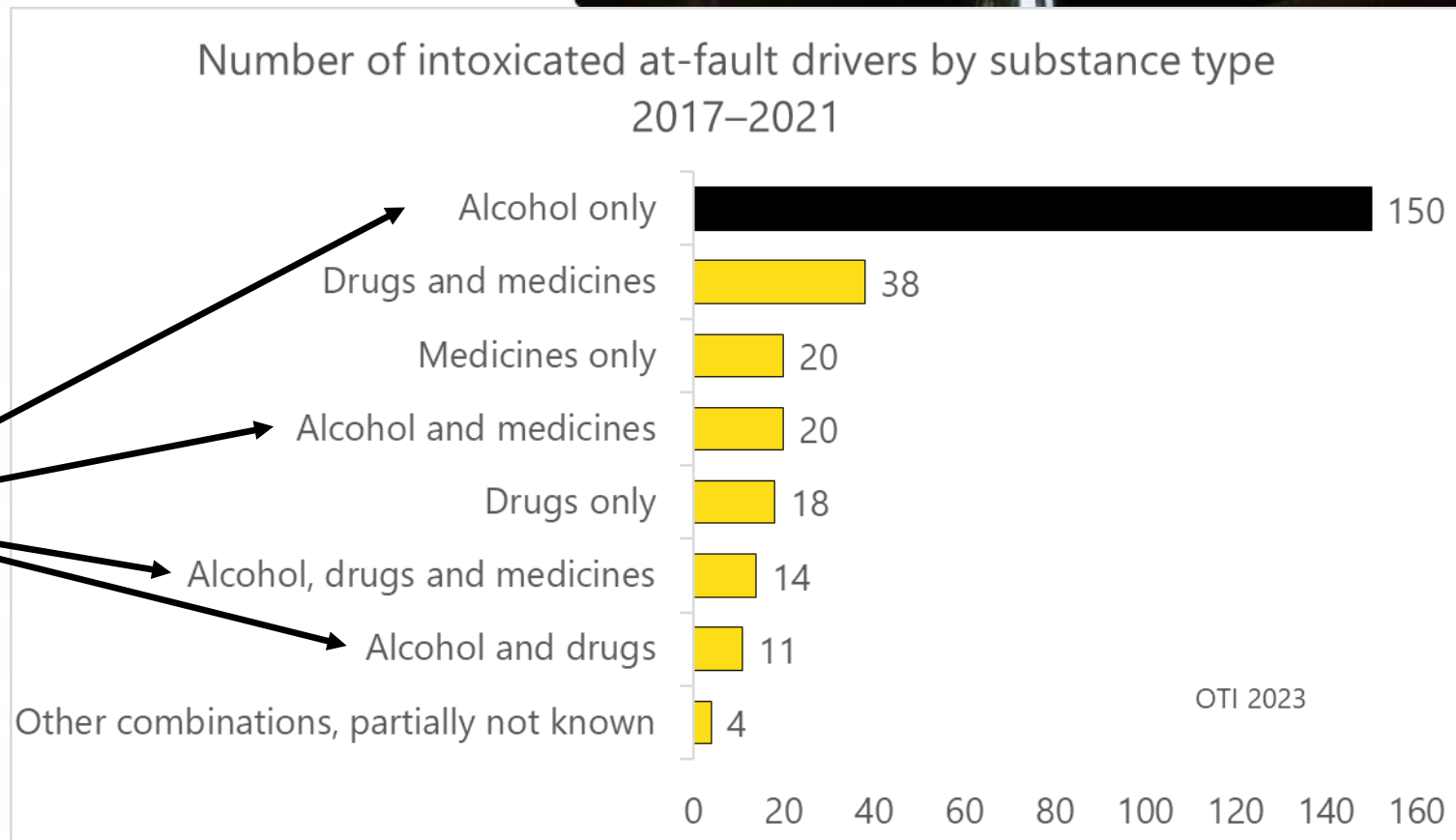




## OTI DUI Report 2023

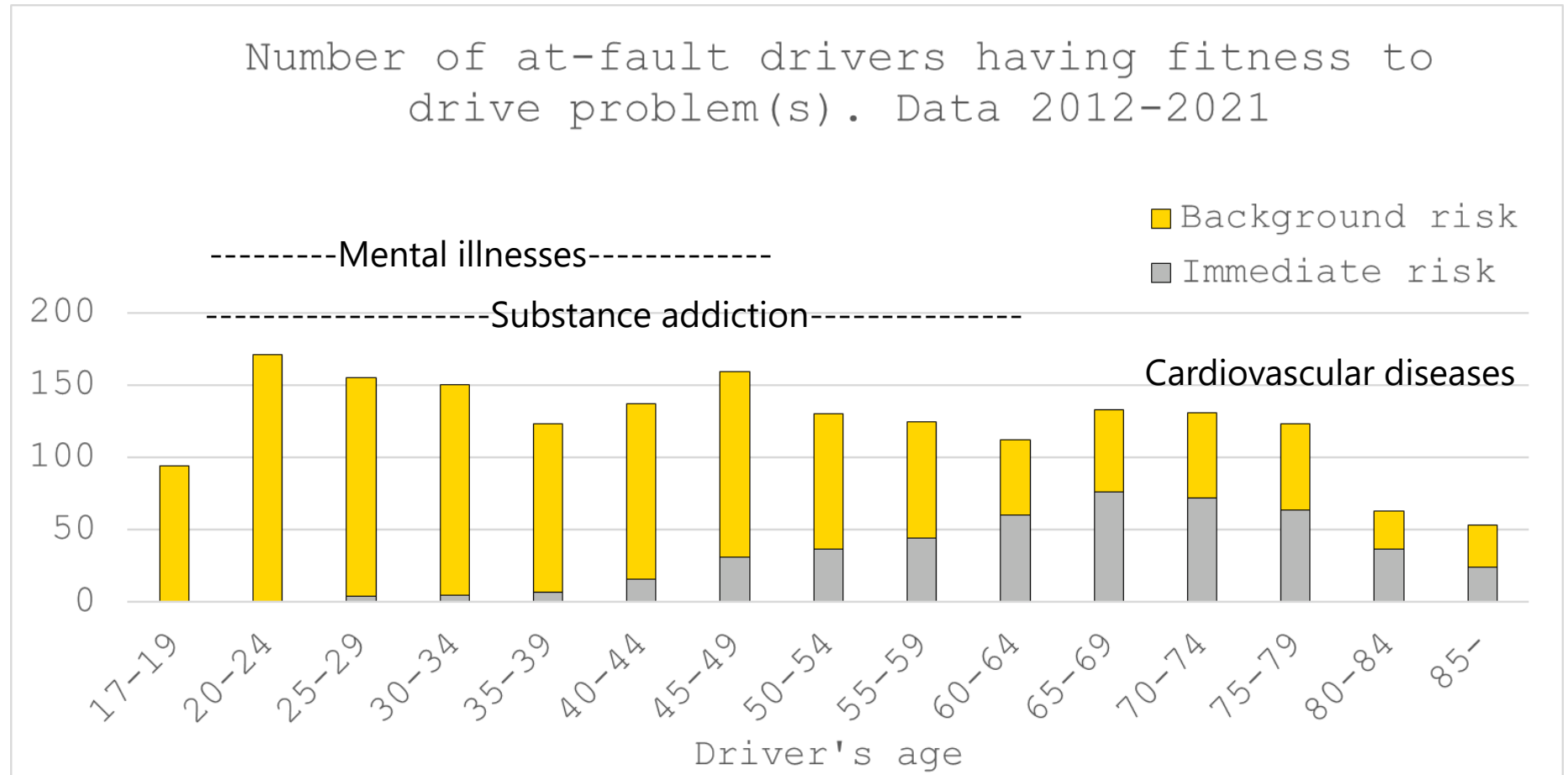
Approx. 65% of DUI at-fault drivers are substance addicts.

Alcohol is still the most typical substance in fatal accidents.



# Fatal motor vehicle accidents 2012-2021.


## Car and van at-fault drivers



# What to do?

SOME KIND OF MEDICAL SCREENING IS NEEDED

1. Assessment of medical fitness to drive during every medical examination.  
**How does this medical condition and medication affect driving?**
  - Has the patient a driving license and which is the category of it
  - Information exchange between different healthcare units and between police and healthcare should be improved
2. Current situation regarding driver health monitoring reflects the available data
  - On European level, the problem is the lack of data – sudden illness attacks and suicides are ruled out from the official statistics => **no data, no problem!**
  - In addition, the asymmetry of data may lead to asymmetry in legislation and monitoring driver fitness (e.g., easily measurable vision requirements outweigh driving risks such as substance addiction)
3. Alcolock
4. More information on medication is needed → DRUID update?

A close-up photograph of the front left side of a white car. The hood is severely damaged and crumpled, with large sections missing, revealing the engine compartment and internal mechanical parts. The car is set against a solid yellow background.

Download OTI's Fit to Drive  
Report 2021 [here](#)

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