



"STOP COCAINE: a deadly addiction. Presence and influence of cocaine in traffic accidents (2013-2022)" study

13% OF THE DRIVERS KILLED IN TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS LAST YEAR HAD BEEN USING COCAINE

- **The figures are alarming: 13% of all drivers killed in traffic accidents in 2022 tested positive for cocaine. This proportion has increased by 54% over the last decade.**
- **The figures are even more worrying for positive drug tests, with 52% of tests conducted by the Civil Guard in 2023 returning positive results for drugs, with 19% being positive for cocaine.**
- **Drivers involved in accidents after taking cocaine are usually men aged 35 to 54 driving a car or riding a motorbike. Accidents usually happen at times of leisure activity, such as at night, during the summer and at the weekend. The main types of accidents are overturning, head-on collisions and hitting obstacles.**
- **2.24 million Spaniards admit to having driven after taking cocaine, which they take mainly "to have a good time" (59%). And 4.3 million motorists (16%) confess to having got into a vehicle with a driver who had been using cocaine.**
- **Around 40% of drivers who take cocaine do so in combination with other substances, mainly alcohol (74%), marijuana (26%) and hashish (19%). And 21% of motorists who consume cocaine take it every week.**
- **The Autonomous Communities (excluding the Basque Country and Catalonia) with the highest proportion of positive tests for cocaine by the Civil Guard are Galicia, the Balearic Islands and Andalusia. The smallest proportions are in La Rioja, Navarra and Aragon.**

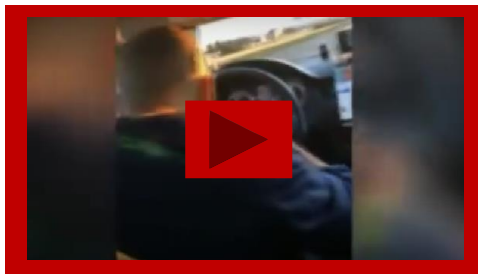
Madrid, 18 June 2024. - Coke, blow, snow, nose candy, C... The slang names for cocaine are as numerous and widespread as its consumption in Spain, which, according to the [European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction](#), is **second only to the United Kingdom for regular consumption of cocaine in Europe**. Cocaine is not just addictive and very harmful to physical and mental health, it is also one of the most dangerous substances for driving. This is so obvious it would not count as news if it were not for how widespread use of this drug is in Spain, including on the roads.

The figures are shocking: according to official figures from the **National Institute of Toxicology and Forensic Science (INTCF)**, in 2022, **13% of drivers who died in traffic accidents who were tested for drugs were found to be positive for cocaine**. This proportion has increased by **54%** over the last decade. In addition, **52% of drivers** who died on the road - i.e. more than half - **tested positive for drugs, alcohol or psychotropic drugs**. These alarming figures highlight the need

for a **zero tolerance** policy for this type of irresponsible behaviour, which has a significant impact on road fatality statistics every year.

The **type of driver who dies in traffic accidents** after taking cocaine is also a little surprising and defies the clichés. The most common cocaine users are not young people but mostly **men between 35 and 54**, mainly driving **cars or on motorbikes**. Accidents usually happen at **times of leisure activity**, such as at night, during the summer and at the weekend. **The main types of accidents are overturning, head-on collisions and hitting obstacles.**

These are some of the main conclusions of the study "**STOP COCAINE: a deadly addiction. Presence and influence of cocaine in traffic accidents (2013-2022)**", presented today by **Línea Directa Foundation** and prepared with the Spanish Road Safety Foundation (FESVIAL). The report also included a **survey of 1,700 drivers** from all over the country, in which the motorists gave their opinion on the relationship between **driving and cocaine**, revealing their drug consumption habits and suggestions for dealing with this serious problem.



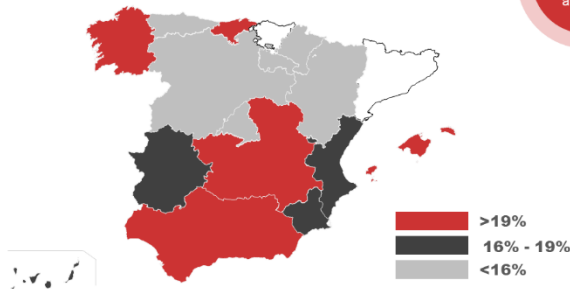
Civil Guard testing

The results of testing by the [Civil Guard's Traffic Unit](#) throughout Spain (excluding the Basque Country and Catalonia, which manage these issues themselves) are even more shocking. The figures are very worrying as **52% of the over 100,000 tests** by the Civil Guard in 2023 were **positive for drugs**, with **cocaine** being detected in **19%**. These figures are much higher than those obtained by the National Institute of Toxicology and Forensic Science.

The percentages of positive tests vary considerably depending on the context. In the case of **accidents**, **26%** tested positive for drugs, while in **traffic offences** the figure was **50%**. However, in **preventive checks 56%** tested positive. The most common drugs in these tests were **cannabis** (39%), followed by **cocaine** (19%) and **amphetamines** (8%). **Cocaine** is now the **most common drug** among drivers who die in fatal traffic accidents in Spain and the **second** most common in **Civil Guard checks**.

Positive cocaine tests by region

Positive cocaine tests by región (2023)



19%. At the other end of the spectrum, we have **La Rioja** (10%), **Navarra** (10%) and **Aragon** (14%), all of which are below the national average.

If we rank positive tests by Autonomous Community (excluding the Basque Country and Catalonia), the regions with the **highest proportion** of drivers who **take cocaine** are **Galicia** (25%), **the Balearic Islands** (22%) and **Andalusia** (21%), all of which are significantly higher than the national average of

What do Spaniards think about driving and cocaine?

Based on the official figures produced by the **National Institute of Toxicology and Forensic Science** and the **Civil Guard's Traffic Unit**, it seems that Spaniards are not as honest as they should be when asked whether they have driven after taking cocaine.

Even so, the percentage of drivers who admit to this behaviour is still considerable, with **2.24 million Spanish drivers (8%) admitting they have done this at some time**, with **21%** of these consuming it **every week**. **38%** of the drivers admit they have **mixed** cocaine with other substances, mainly **alcohol**, and **4.3 million** (almost **16%**) admit they have, at some time, **got into a car** with a driver who had taken cocaine.

Methodology

The figures for positives for cocaine and other drugs among drivers who died in traffic accidents, and the profiles of such drivers, were prepared by analysing the toxicology findings and reports of the National Institute of Toxicology and Forensic Science for the last available ten-year period (2013-2022). The figures for positive drug tests were prepared using official data from the Civil Guard's Traffic Unit (for 2023) by type of check, substance detected and geographical location, expressed as a frequency. The traffic authorities (DGT)'s ARENA database was also consulted and current research and scientific literature on cocaine consumption and addiction, and its relationship to traffic accidents, were considered.

The survey was designed by the Línea Directa Foundation and performed by the consultancy MDK. It included 1,700 interviews with quotas by gender, age and Autonomous Community, with a sampling error of +/- 2.37% ~ 3.1% and a confidence level of 95%. The fieldwork was conducted between 20 and 23 February 2024.

About Línea Directa Foundation

Línea Directa Foundation is a non-profit institution that was created in 2014 with the aim of helping to build a better and safer society by promoting various initiatives with road safety as its main area of action. The Foundation was set up by Línea Directa Aseguradora as a further show of its commitment to reduce road accidents.

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