

Personality Characteristics of Drink Drivers



ŠUCHA, M.¹, ŠTASTNÁ², L., ZÁMEČNÍK, P.³

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

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

³ Transport Research Centre, Brno, Czech Republic

Citation: Šucha, M., Štastná, L., Zámečník, P. (2017). Osobnostní vlastnosti řidičů řídících pod vlivem alkoholu. *Adiktologie*, 17(1), 34–44.

BACKGROUND: The present article deals with the personality traits of drivers who had their driving licences suspended because of driving under the influence of alcohol. It explores theoretical assumptions pertaining to driving behaviour (safe and risky) and changes in the cognition of impaired drivers, as well as describing the latest socio-demographic trends. **AIMS:** To describe the demographic and personal characteristics of drivers who had their driving licences withdrawn because of their drink driving and compare these drivers with safe drivers. **DESIGN:** The data was generated by means of the psychological assessment of 662 drivers conducted in 2013 and 2014 (the assessment was due to their licences being suspended). The psychodiagnostic methods used in the analysis were SPARO, NEO-PI-3, and the Hand Test. **RESULTS:** The re-

sults suggest certain differences in personality profiles between safe drivers and those who had their licences suspended. The NEO tests showed significant differences on three aggregate scales, specifically neuroticism (with higher scores recorded for drivers who had their driving licences suspended) and agreeableness and conscientiousness (with safe drivers achieving higher scores in both cases). The SPARO tests indicated differences in six (IP, PR, UZ, FC, OI, and OR) out of 41 scales. The Hand Test showed significant differences on the CRIP, DES, BIZ, and KO scales. **CONCLUSION:** In general, we can conclude that drivers who engage in drink driving show a slightly different personality structure, which can be identified using the psychodiagnostic tools under study.

KEY WORDS: DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL – DWI – DUI – TRAFFIC PSYCHOLOGY – FITNESS TO DRIVE ASSESSMENT – DRIVER PERSONALITY – TRAFFIC SAFETY

Submitted: 21 / AUGUST / 2016

Accepted: 8 / MARCH / 2017

Grant support: Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic (Safety Research II, VG20132015121) and Progres No. Q06/LF1, an institutional research support programme.

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