Forensic toxicology in DUI drivers in Norway 2014-2023

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Introduction and Aim:

Since 2016, the forensic toxicology laboratory at Oslo University Hospital has reported toxicological results from DUI drivers. The annual reports focus on the previous 10 years. The aim of this abstract is to present trend lines of different drugs and drug classes found in breath and blood from Norwegian DUI drivers.

Methods:

We use quantitative LC-MS/MS methods to analyse for ethanol and nearly 60 other drugs. Forensic principles are used. In addition to the annual number of cases, the 20 most frequently detected drugs are presented. Chapters on ethanol, cannabis, amphetamines, cocaine, benzodiazepines, opioids, MDMA, and GHB, are also included. The findings in the report are compared to data from the Norwegian Criminal Investigation Service (Kripos).

Results:

We analyse roughly 10000 cases every year. The number of blood samples from drivers suspected for DUI in Norway has increased during the last two years of the last decade, and during this decade we have seen significant increase or decrease for some of the drugs. Major findings are the decrease of Clonazepam and Methamphetamine and increase of Cocaine and Alprazolam.[1]

Conclusion:

When we compare the results to trend lines from the seizures by Kripos, they correlate frequently.

[1] Based on annual publication: rusmiddelstatistikk-bilforere---funn-i-blodprover-hos-bilforere-mistenkt-for-ruspavirket-kjoring-2022_-rev-sept23.pdf (oslo-universitetssykehus.no)