



DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE:

BUILDING AWARENESS, SAVING LIVES, AND STRENGTHENING SUPPORT SYSTEMS

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OVERVIEW

THE HUMAN COST OF IMPAIRED DRIVING

CURRENT SITUATION IN MALTA

BUILDING AWARENESS AND SKILLS

THE LAW, ENFORCEMENT, AND DETERRENCE

STRENGTHENING SUPPORT SYSTEMS

INTERSECTORAL COLLABORATION



THE HUMAN COST

"DRIVER SIX TIMES OVER THE
LIMIT CAUSES FATAL CRASH ON
COAST ROAD"

EVERY STATISTIC HIDES A
NAME, A FAMILY, A
COMMUNITY

DRIVING UNDER THE
INFLUENCE IS A PREVENTABLE
TRAGEDY

STORIES
le Now

Three fatal traffic accidents within a few hours

Two women die in separate accidents in Fgura and Valletta and a motorcyclist dies in a crash in Pietà

National Valletta Traffic



CURRENT SITUATION IN MALTA

- Testing for alcohol on reasonable suspicion
- Low number of tests – 173 in 2024, with high positivity rate
- Selective enforcement vs systematic prevention
- Draft legislation for random alcohol and drug testing
- Public debate: deterrence vs personal freedom

RECENT HEADLINES

CURRENT AFFAIRS PULIZIJA

85 road blocks in one week has resulted in 220 drivers being fined, including five who were drunk

September 1, 2025

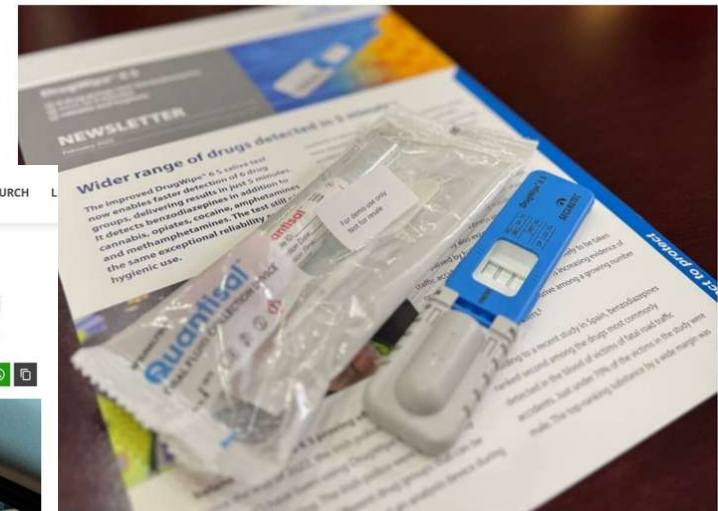


TVM NEWS EN MT

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Random roadside drug and alcohol testing to come into effect

August 26, 2025



newsbook EN MT MALTA

NEWS CHURCH

News Court Local

Appeal court overturns drunk driving conviction due to faulty breathalyser

By Jurgen Balzan - September 19, 2025 6:12 PM



WHY IT MATTERS:

PUBLIC HEALTH PERSPECTIVE

- **DUI is a global epidemic – 1 in 4 road deaths involve alcohol**
 - **Even low BAC (0.05%) doubles crash risk**
- Alcohol contributing factor in 25-30% of crashes**
 - It is not just alcohol which causes impairment – drugs both recreational and medicinal**
 - Drugs contributing factor in 15-20% of crashes**
- **High-risk groups: young male drivers, night-time driving**



BUILDING AWARENESS AND SKILLS



- **Tailored campaigns** for youths, families, professional drivers.
- **Teach practical prevention** by planning safe rides, intervening safely.
- **Empowerment** through education and community partnerships.

EFFECTIVE INTERVENTIONS

- **Random Breath Testing (RBT) proven effective internationally**
 - **Lower BAC limits save lives**
- **Visible enforcement deters offenders more than harsh penalties**



LESSONS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

- Australia:** 36% reduction in crashes after RBT introduction
 - Scotland:** Lower BAC improved public attitudes
 - Sweden:** Enforcement + rehabilitation = long-term results
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WHAT MALTA NEEDS

- **Expand RBT to high-risk localities**
Drug testing and enforcement
- **Ensure calibration and officer training**
- **Publish enforcement data quarterly**
- **Promote consistent, fair, data-driven enforcement**



STRENGTHENING SUPPORT SYSTEMS



- **Low testing and forensic capacity**
- **Few structured rehabilitation options**
- **Limited victim support services**

FIXING THE GAPS

- **Mandatory Health Assessment for DUI offenders**
 - **Calibration and Training for all equipment**
- **Integrated referral pathway and rehabilitation**
- **Victim support and late-night transport options**



INTERSECTORAL COLLABORATION



- **Shared responsibility: health, police, transport, education, media, NGOs**
- **Quarterly data monitoring and transparent reporting**



ROAD SAFETY SAVES LIVES

- **Examples from WHO and other countries**

- **Safe System Approach**

- Safer Roads**

- Safer Vehicles**

- Safer Behaviours**

- Effective Post Crash Care**

- **Evidence-based measures save thousands of lives annually**

- **Malta can achieve the same with sustained, coordinated a**





MAIN MESSAGE

- Every crash headline represents a preventable loss
 - We have the evidence, tools, and power to act
 - Let's move from outrage to prevention, from reaction to collaboration
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SUBSTANCE ABUSE IN THE WORKPLACE

- 🚨 Growing concern – Rising use of alcohol, prescription & illicit substances
- ⚙️ Impaired performance – Slower reaction, poor judgment, reduced alertness
- 🧑 Workplace safety impact – More accidents, absenteeism, and lower productivity
- 🔄 Ripple effect – Risks extend beyond work, including driving after shifts
- 👁️ Warning signs – Mood swings, lateness, unexplained absences, declining output
- 🤝 Employer role – Focus on prevention, support, and rehabilitation
- 📋 Policy alignment – Integrate workplace substance policies with road safety and occupational health
- ➡️ Impairment doesn't stop at the workplace — its effects follow onto our roads.

Thank you

The background features abstract geometric shapes. In the top right, there is a dark blue triangle pointing downwards, with a yellow triangle nested inside it. In the bottom left, there is a dark blue triangle pointing upwards, with a yellow triangle nested inside it.

PLAN THE RIDE. SAVE A LIFE.

Together we can make Malta's roads safer.