Amphetamine, cocaine and cannabinoids use among truck drivers on the roads in the State of Sao Paulo, Brazil

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Roads extension

Brazil
1.7 million Km

Southeast
500,000 Km

Sao Paulo
200,000 Km

1 mile = 1.6 Km
Roads extension

- 2,143,467 TRUCKS in Brazil

- The truck drivers in Brazil often report the drug use to keep the state of alertness and to be able to accomplish their extensively long journeys

Drugs and driving

- The more commonly used by truck drivers are:

  * Amphetamines
  * Cocaine
  * Cannabis
Drugs and driving

DRIVING \( \rightarrow \) involves multiple procedures that are coordinated by our Central Nervous System

Increase the risk of traffic accidents

Traffic accidents - per year

DEATHS

1.3 million

INJURIES

20-50 million

\( \uparrow \) 43,000

160,000
The purpose of this study was to demonstrate the prevalence of drug use (amphetamines, cocaine, cannabinoids) by truck drivers on the roads of Sao Paulo State, during 2009.
Drivers approach
Activities

Samples collection

Truck drivers who participated of our study:

* They were informed about the aim of the study;

* Signed the consent term;

* Answered to questionnaire informing about their health and work conditions and drug use;

* Provided an urine sample.
Casuistic

Drivers approach:
- 488 drivers were approached
- 456 provided urine samples

Sample collection
Toxicological analysis

a) SCREENING
Multidrogas One Step Teste - INLAB

Examples of positive samples
Toxicological analysis

b) CONFIRMATION
Gas chromatography - mass spectrometry (GC-MS)

Results

- All of the drivers were male;

- The mean age was 40 ± 10.8 years;
  Positive samples: 42.86% between 25-34 years

- Health: 29.3% reported having at least one health problem: diabetes, high blood pressure and/or stress.
Results

When asked about the use of amphetamines:

* 7.5% reported regular consumption (1 to 5 times per week)

* 16.6% reported they had already used (at least once during their lifetime)

When asked about the purpose of using:

* 70% reported “to stay awake”

Drug use

Results of drug detection analysis on truck drivers’ urine samples and distribution of positive cases according to drug groups (n= 456).
Health problems and drug/medicine use reported by truck drivers (n=456).

Purpose

* Produce scientific knowledge about drug use by Brazilian drivers;

* Reduce accidents;

* Offer public policies related issues for traffic safety.
Final thoughts

* Driving under influence of drugs is as harmful as drunk driving;

* In Brazil people know a lot about drunk driving but not about other drugs;

* Urgent need to regulate which drugs should be investigated;

* Training officers on how to detect impaired drivers.

Contact

Thank you for your attention!

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