



Alcoholmonitoring & Traffic and substance use

Laura Nijkamp and Anne Hoeksema

Short introduction

In the Netherlands, there are 3 organisations responsible for probation services



Alcoholrelated crime



25-50% of violent crime is related to alcohol use

30-50% of alcohol-related violent crime results in severe physical injury

3 billion euro social damage can be related to alcohol-related crime





How does it work?



Pilot boundaries



Participants supervised by Dutch Probation Services



Two regions:
Rotterdam &
Eastern Netherlands



Each participant:
75 days continuous alcohol monitoring



Pilot results



- 24/7 Alcohol monitoring
- Insight in alcohol use
- Constant awareness: no drinking!
- No interruption of work/daytime activities for urine tests
- No travel costs
- Less shame (compared to urine tests)
- Less old network encounter

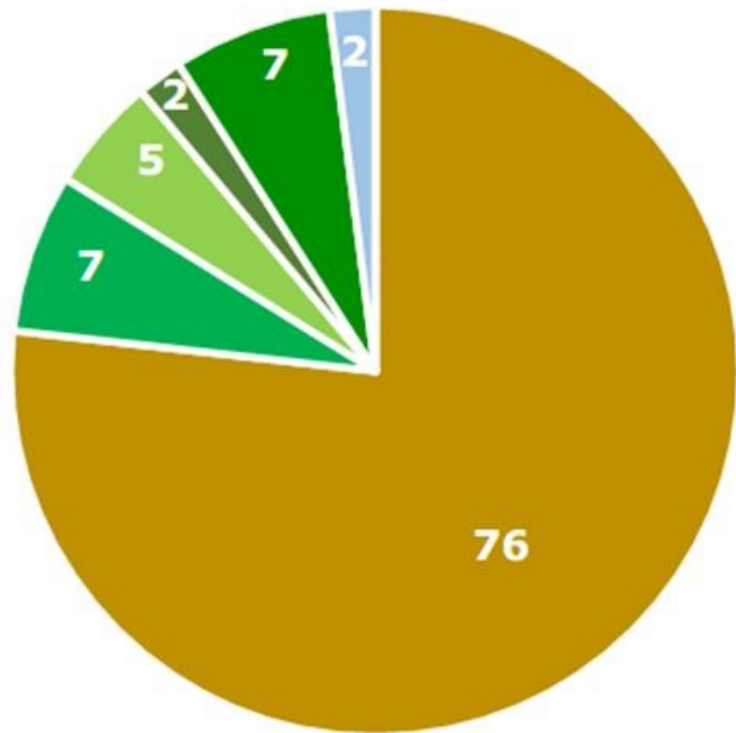


- Size & weight (comfort)
- Limitations in clothing and (working) shoes
- Side effects (e.g. irritated skin)
- Some technical problems



Pilot results

Alcohol use during 75 days in pilot in % (N=42)

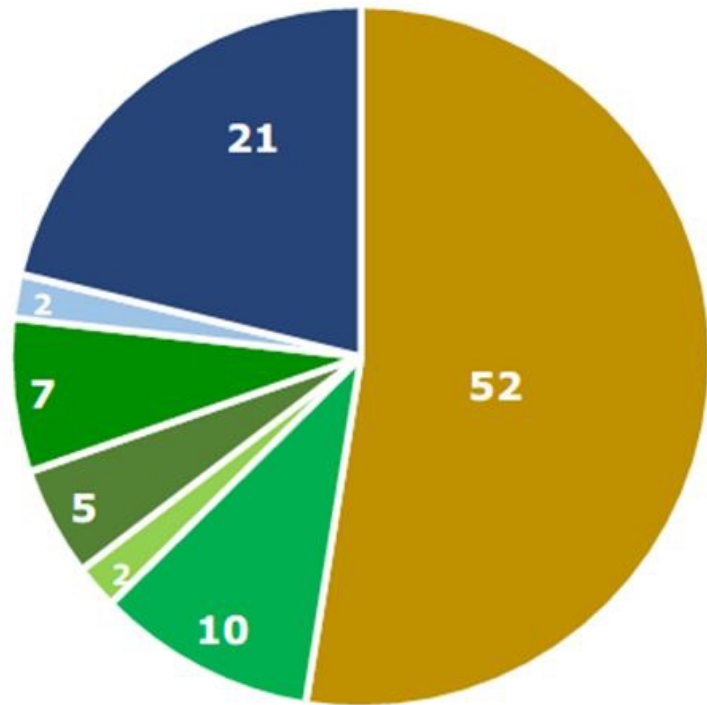


- No drinking
- Once a month or less
- 2 - 4 times a month
- 2 - 3 times a week
- 4 or more times a week
- No answer



Pilot results

Alcohol use 3 months after the pilot in % (N=42)



- No drinking
- Once a month or less
- 2 - 4 times a month
- 2 - 3 times a week
- 4 or more times a week
- No answer
- Missing (no cooperation in follow up)



Pilot results

Comparison: Alcoholmeter versus 'regular' urine control



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Pilot results

Comparison: Alcoholmeter versus 'regular' urine control



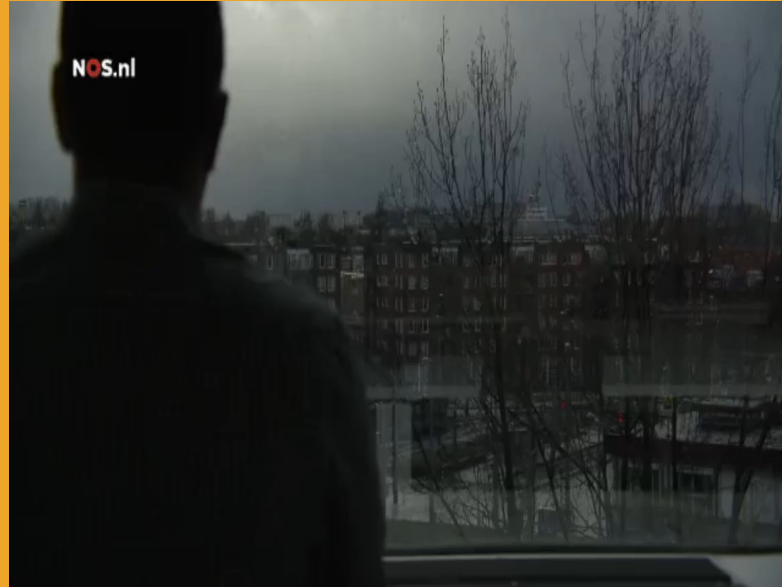
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Probation worker

"I would definitely use the Alcoholmeter again because it saves a lot of time for the client, we get a realistic idea of the alcohol use and most importantly: it motivates the client to stop drinking alcohol"





Video 'Alberto'





Legislation



Voluntary monitoring

Some figures 2019-2023

Year	Individuals monitored in the period	Monitored days	Sober days*	Average duration
2019	114	9,872	9,140 (92.6%)	87 Days
2020	168	15,935	14,283 (89.6%)	95 Days
2021	146	15,372	13,843 (90.1%)	105 Days
2022	119	9,679	9,165 (94.7%)	139 Days
2023	104	8,842	8,292 (93.8%)	122 Days



Resume alcohol monitoring

- A new way to work on behavioural change concerning alcohol consumption within criminal law
- More effective sanctions, reducing violence under the influence of alcohol



Questions?

Thank you for your attention!

Contact? a.hoeksema@svg.reclassering.nl





Participating in traffic and substance use

Laura Nijkamp, policy advisor SVG



About this presentation

- Prevalence and consequences
- How can probation services play a role?
- Materials and projects
- Road Traffic Act 1994 (WvW1994)
- Pilot project cases combination art. 8 and art. 9 WvW1994
- Results
- Ideas for future research



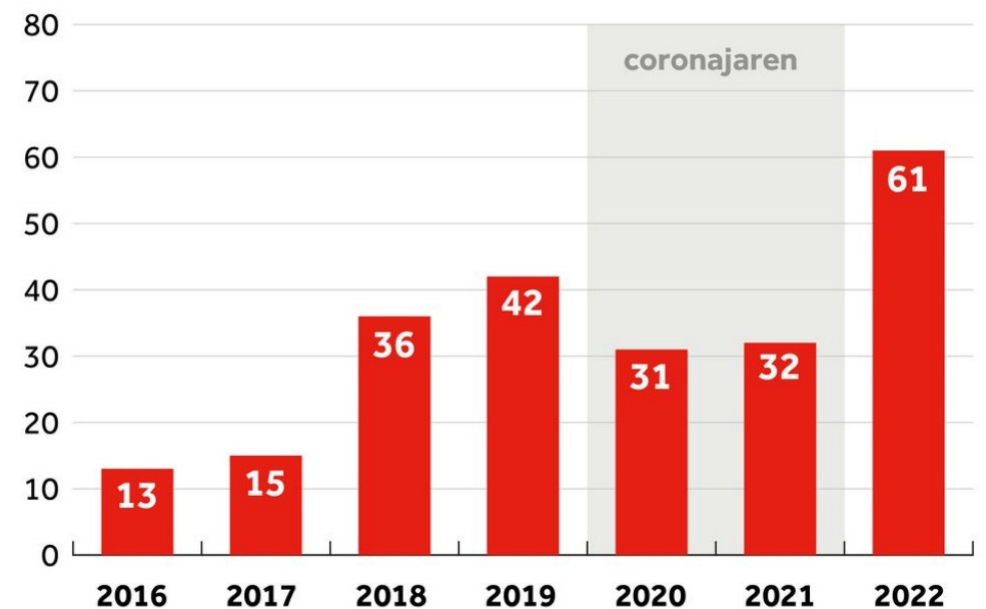
Prevalence and consequences

Research Veiligheid NL in emergency rooms (Valkenberg & Nijman, 2022)

- Estimate of 800-2000 drivers of motor vehicles involved in traffic accidents due to substance use
- More than 9 out of 10 drivers of motor vehicles involved in traffic accident
- 13% of the total group also had used drugs
- 7% only used drugs

Research Dutch police (published at NC

Verkeersdoden door bestuurder onder invloed van drank en/of drugs



bron: politie

How can probation services play a role?

- Knowledge, skills and interventions regarding working on behavioral change
- Knowledge about substance use
- Make known to partners in the field that involving probation services can be helpful in reducing re-offending
- There are many laws that include criminal offenses. Examples are the Criminal Code but also the Road Traffic Act 1994



Materials and projects

- Verkeerscheck
- Research our interventions in relation to traffic and substance use
- Pilot project cases combination art. 8 and art. 9 WvW1994

IVO Onderzoek naar wetzijn, zorg & verslaving

SVG verslavings reclassering *o.z.*

De verkeerscheck

Heb jij hem al gedaan?

Maak rijden onder invloed
bespreekbaar

The image shows the cover of a report titled 'De verkeerscheck' (The traffic check). The cover features a night-time photograph of a road with a glowing lightbulb in the distance, symbolizing an idea or a check. The IVO logo is in the top left, and the SVG logo is in the top right. Below the title, there is a graphic of a traffic sign with a red hand icon and a green car icon. The text 'Maak rijden onder invloed bespreekbaar' is at the bottom, with 'bespreekbaar' in a larger, bold blue font.

Road Traffic Act 1994 (WvW1994)



This law also contains criminal offenses. There are two I want to highlight:

- Article 8 WvV1994

It is prohibited for anyone to drive a vehicle, to have it driven as a driver or to act as an attendant, **while he is under the influence of a substance** of which he knows or should reasonably know that the use thereof - whether or not in combination with the use of another substance - the driving skills may be reduced, so that he or she should **not be considered capable of driving or guiding properly**.

- Article 9 WvW1994

Anyone who knows or reasonably should know that **he has been denied the right to drive a motor vehicle by a court ruling or criminal order is prohibited from driving** a motor vehicle on the road or having it driven as a driver during the time that he has been denied that right.

Pilot project cases combination art. 8 and art. 9 WvW1994 (1)

Why this group of suspects?

- This combination provides a strong indication of **underlying problems** with substance use.
- A driving license measure also provides an **indication of re-offending** for driving under the influence.
- In these cases, **problems** are often found **in multiple areas of life**.

Why these cases?

- Involving probation services is **proportional** due to the high probability of receiving a sentence in these cases
- Involvement of the probation service can provide a **stronger external motivation** for this group of suspects.



Pilot project cases combination art. 8 and art. 9 WvW1994 (2)

Method

- Monthly meetings with CVOM (public prosecutor's office) and probation workers
- Discussion about selected cases and whether probation advice would be needed
- Combination of art. 8 and art. 9 cases WvW1994 turned out to be a good indicator
- A large number of this group turned out to be known already at the probation services

- The other part of the group had not yet been identified by the probation service, while the file or the extract from judicial documentation (UJD) showed that there were substance problems
- In approximately 85% of the cases it was concluded that probation advice had to be requested
- During the pilot period, this amounted to a total of 90 probation recommendations
- Most recent number (end 2023): in over 270 cases so far probation recommendations have been asked



Results

- CVOM employees are **positive** about this method
- More **knowledge** about how and when probation services can be involved
- More **attention** is payed to the topic of participating in traffic and substance use
- Courts **adopt** the probation advice and integrate it in their sentencing
- **National wide working practice**



Ideas for the future and future research



- Research on implementation and execution of the method
- Research on effects of probation on preventing re-offending in cases of art. 8 and art. 9 WvWW1994
- Finding out if there are more traffic offenses that could qualify for a similar way of working
- Keeping the topic alive, in our organization and at our partners

Thank you for your attention!

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