

# 0,5 BAC and Random Breath Testing: the Swiss Experience

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## BAC Limit in Switzerland

- 1964 to 2005: 0,8 ‰
- 2005: 0,5 ‰  
(about 40 years after the Borkenstein study was published)

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## January 1st 2005: New Legislation

- **New BAC limit: 0,5**
- **Random Breath Testing**
- Zero tolerance for all illegal drugs
- More severe sanctions for recidivists
- New licensing scheme  
(probationary period, mandatory training courses)

## Sanctions According to BAC Level

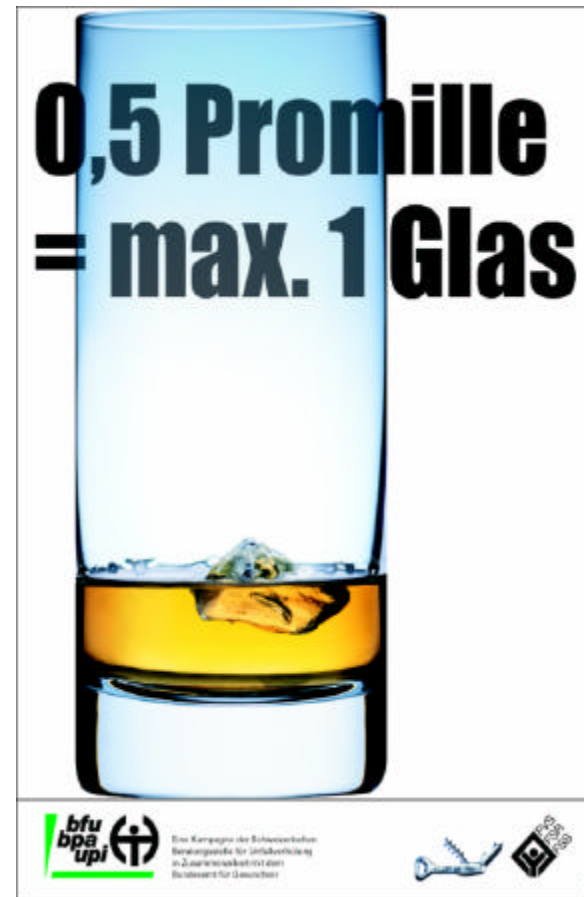
= 0,5 ‰ < 0,8 ‰ ? fine + warning letter

= 0,8 ‰ ? fine\* + licence suspension\*\*

\* in certain cases: imprisonment

\*\* at least 3 months

## Campaign + enforcement



## Campaign + Enforcement



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self-reported DUI above 0,5 ‰	36% ? 24%	2003–2007

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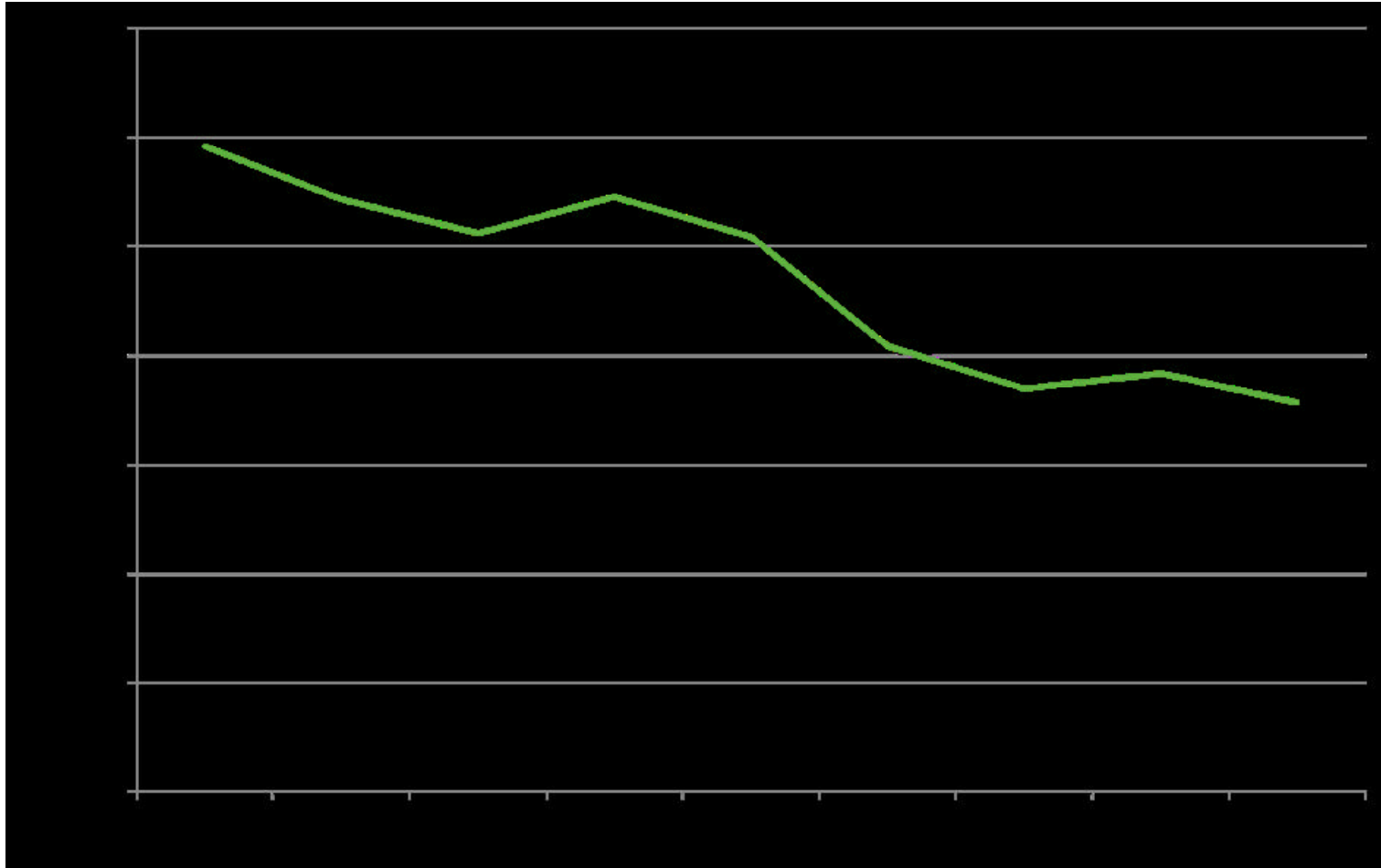
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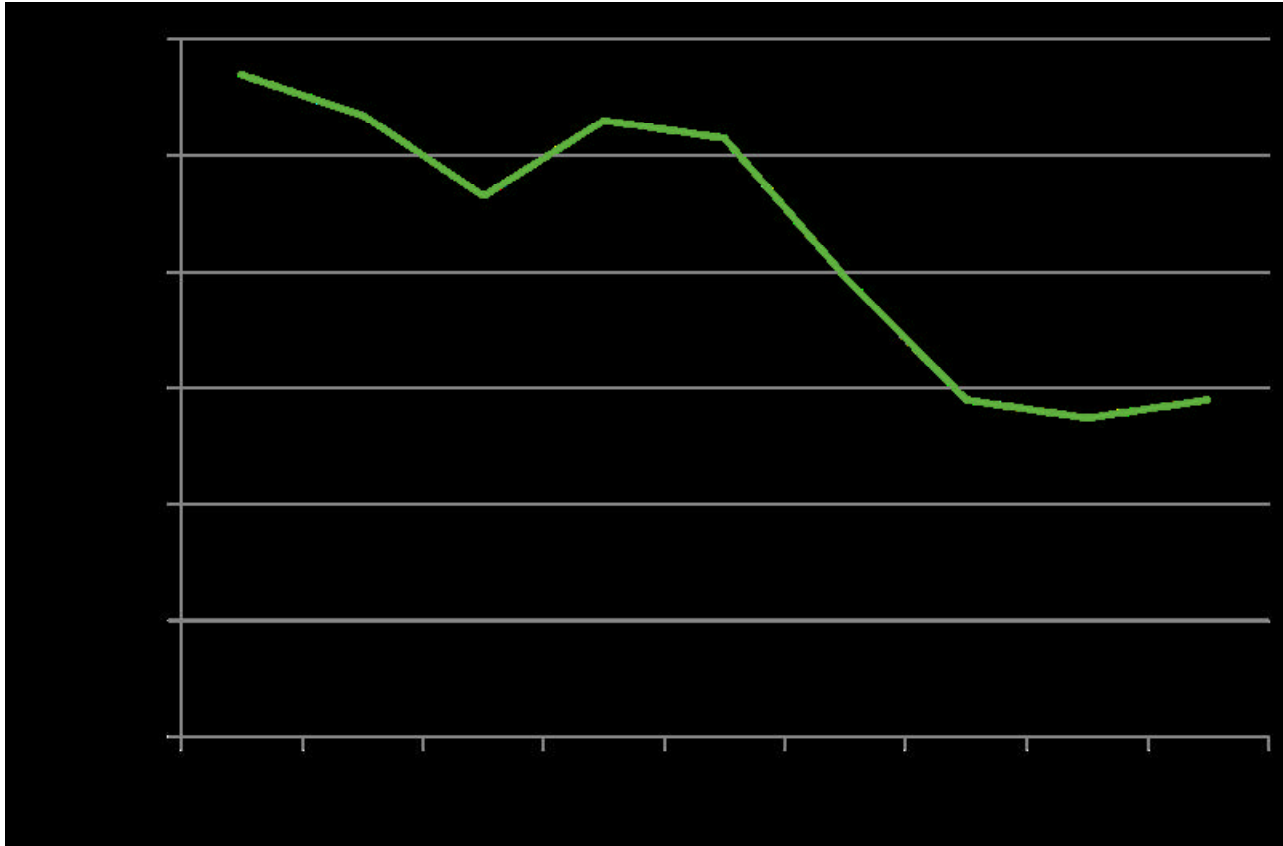
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subjective probability of being checked for alcohol (on a common trip)	51% ? 54%	2001–2008

## Fatalities 2000–2008



## Alcohol-related Fatalities 2000–2008



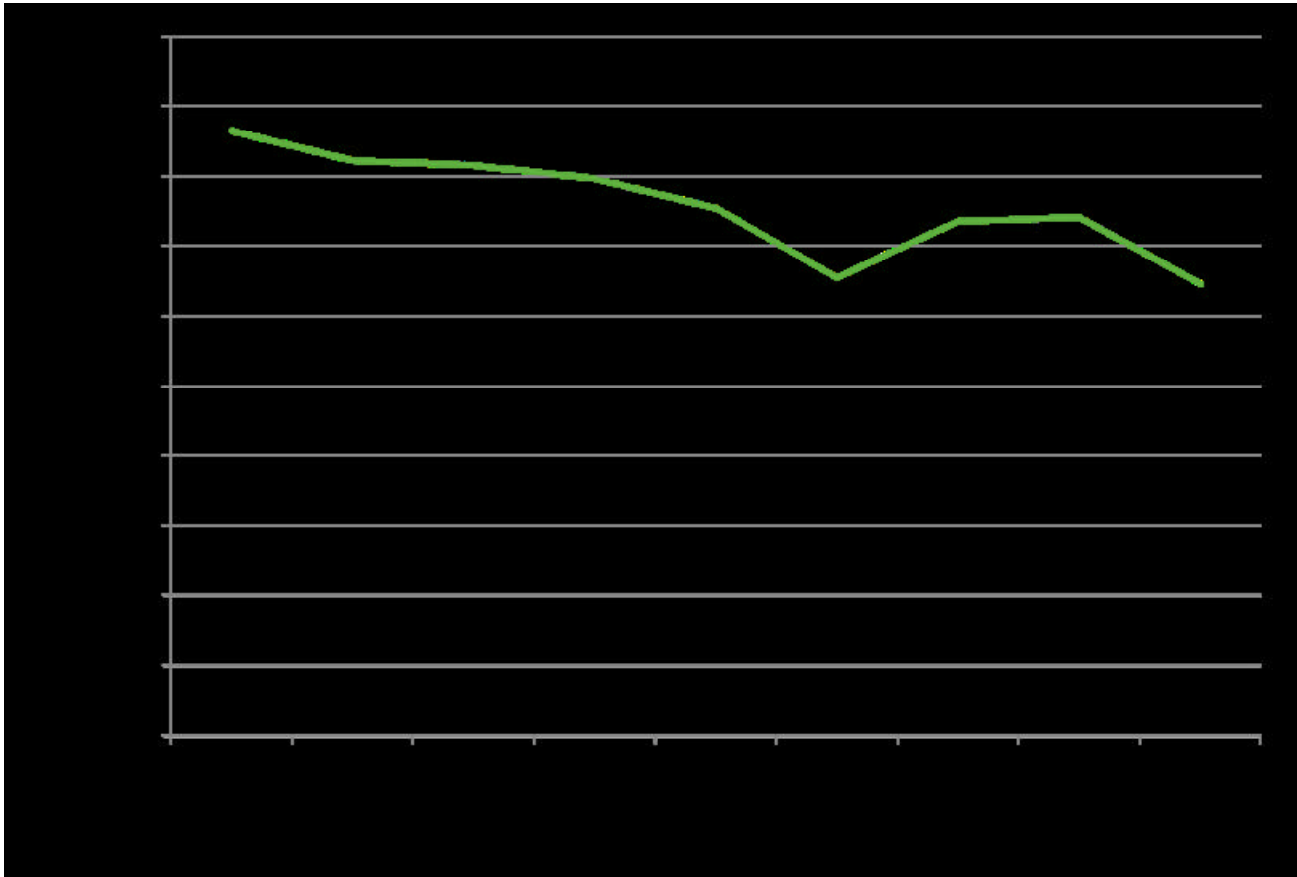
## Fatalities: Ø 2002 to 2004 vs. Ø 2006 to 2008

	Ø 2002–2004	Ø 2006–2008	% Reduction (severe Injuries)
All	523	370	- 30% (-12%)
Not alcohol-related	422	313	- 26% (-13%)
Alcohol-related	101	57	- 44% (-10%)

Estimated effect before introduction:

- ~ 50 fatalities per year (target achieved)
- ~ 300 severe injuries per year (target not achieved)

## Alcohol Related Severe Injuries 2000–2008

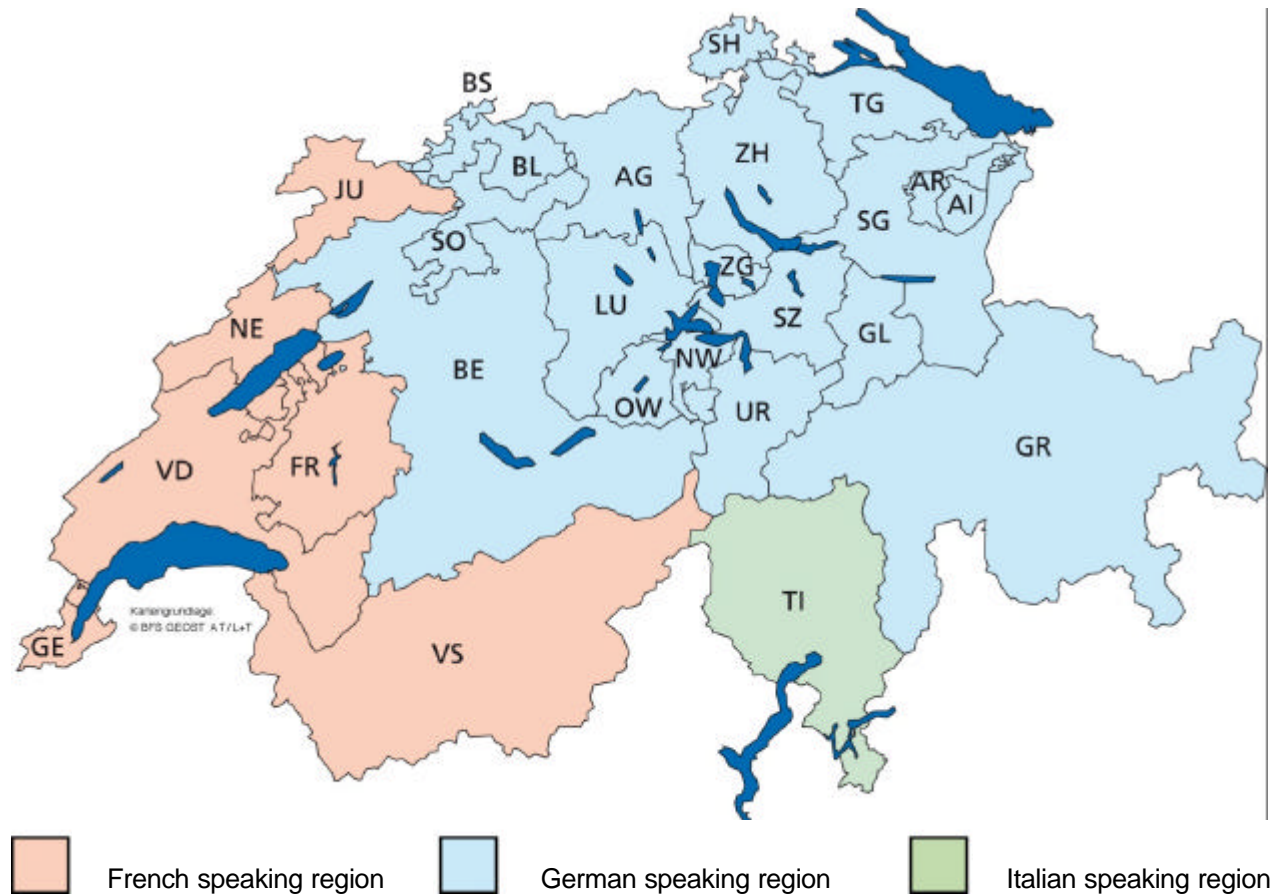


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## Conclusions

- monitor relevant indicators
- communicate public perception to decision makers
- discuss with restaurant owners (fear of income reduction)
- be aware of regional differences

## Have a Look at Regional Differences



## Average Daily Alcohol Consumption in Swiss Language Regions 2006

	<b>gram/day</b>	<b>error rate</b>
<b>French speaking region</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>±0.7</b>
<b>Italian speaking region</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>±1.2</b>
<b>German speaking region</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>±0.5</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>±0.4</b>



## Alcohol Related Severe Injuries and Fatalities, by Region

	<b>Share 2007</b>	<b>1997-2007</b>
<b>German speaking region</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>-30%</b>
<b>French speaking region</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>+7%</b>
<b>Italian speaking region</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>+32%</b>

## To do:

- Increase control density (at least 10%)
- Introduce evidential breath testing
- Introduce 0,0 BAC limit for novice and professional drivers
- More severe sanctions: longer licence suspension
- Rehabilitation courses for all delinquent drivers
- Alcohol ignition interlock for all delinquent drivers and more employees
- General alcohol prevention: increase protection of young people (control acceptance of minimal drinking age, control advertising)