

Tackling Alcohol and Drug Impaired Driving in Canada

(from Policies to Technologies)

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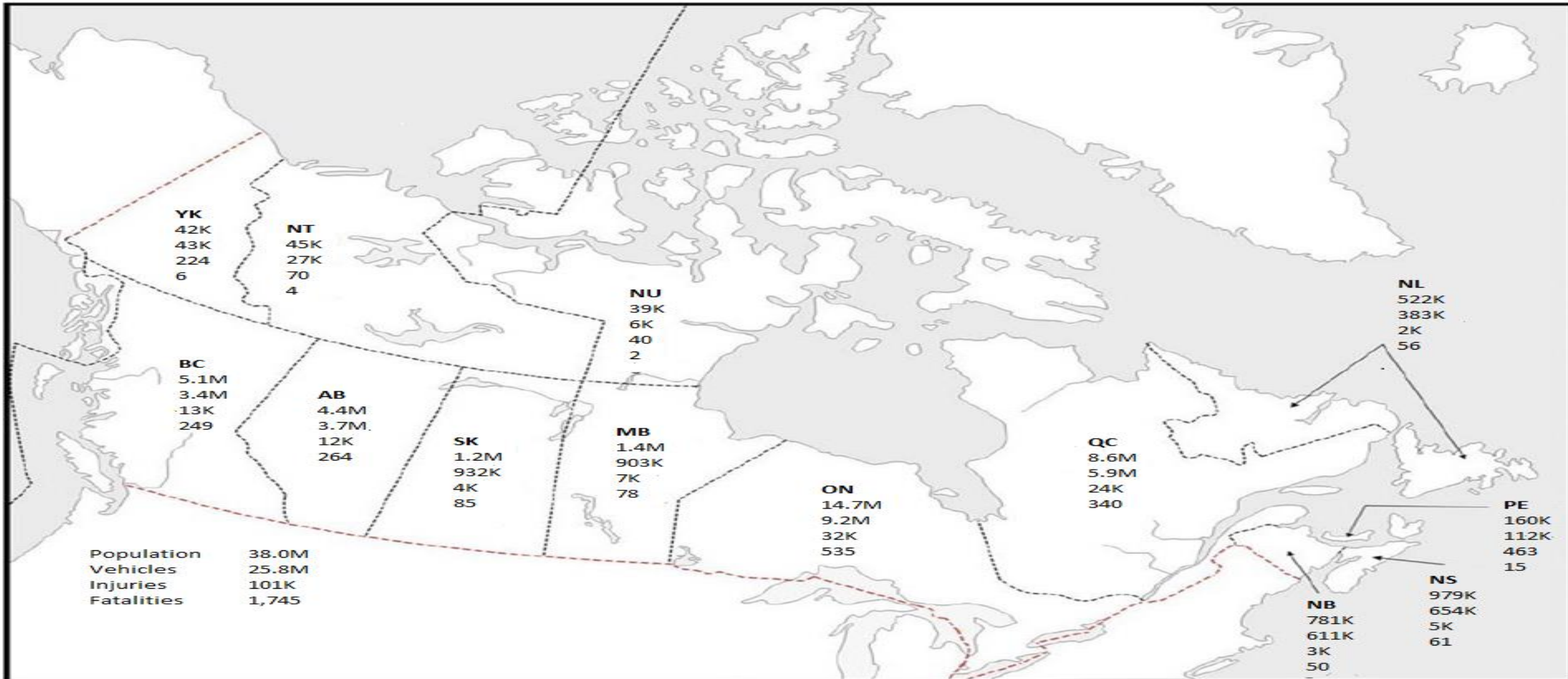
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Geneva - March 08, 2022

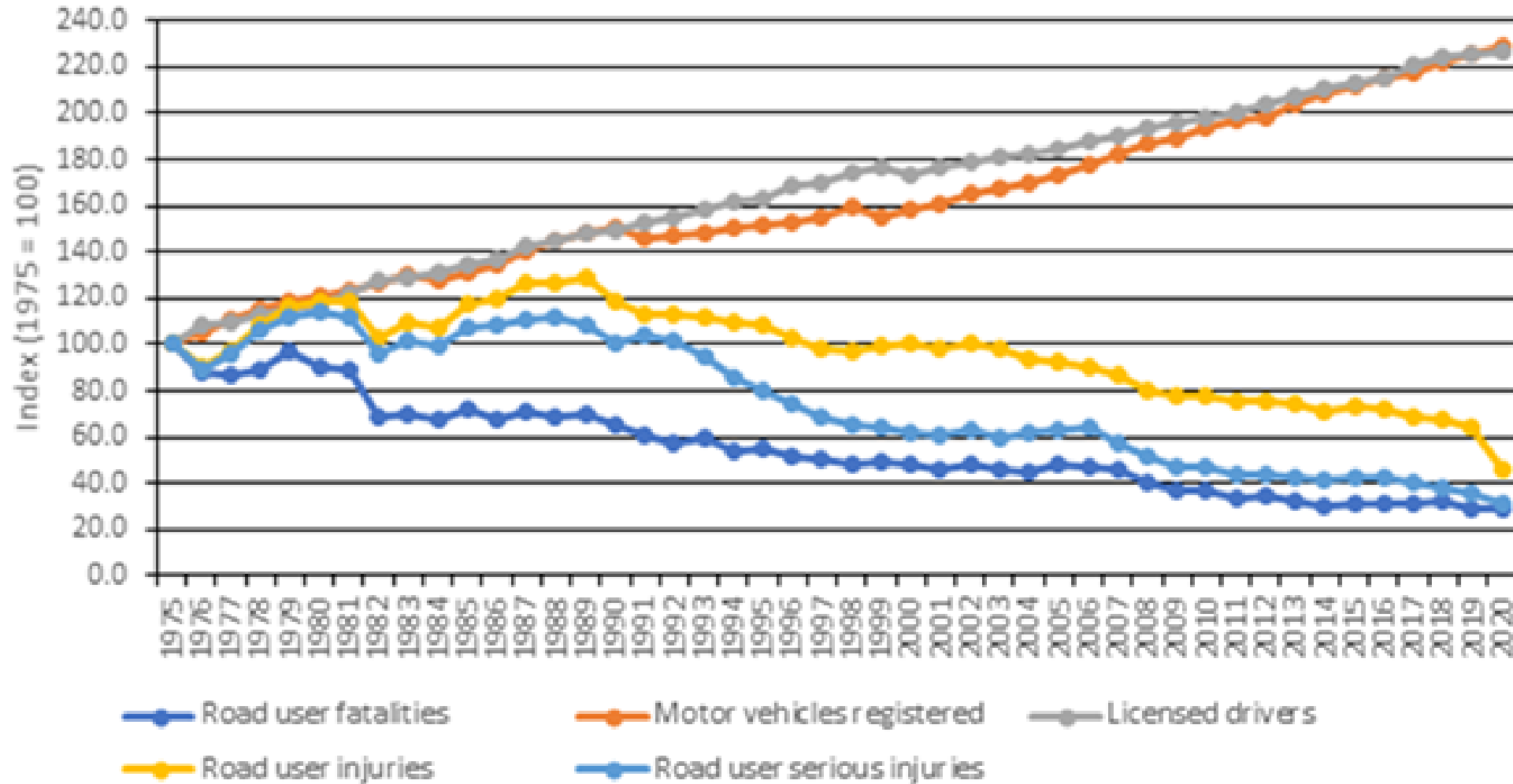
Global Forum for Road Traffic Safety – WP.1



Canada 2020



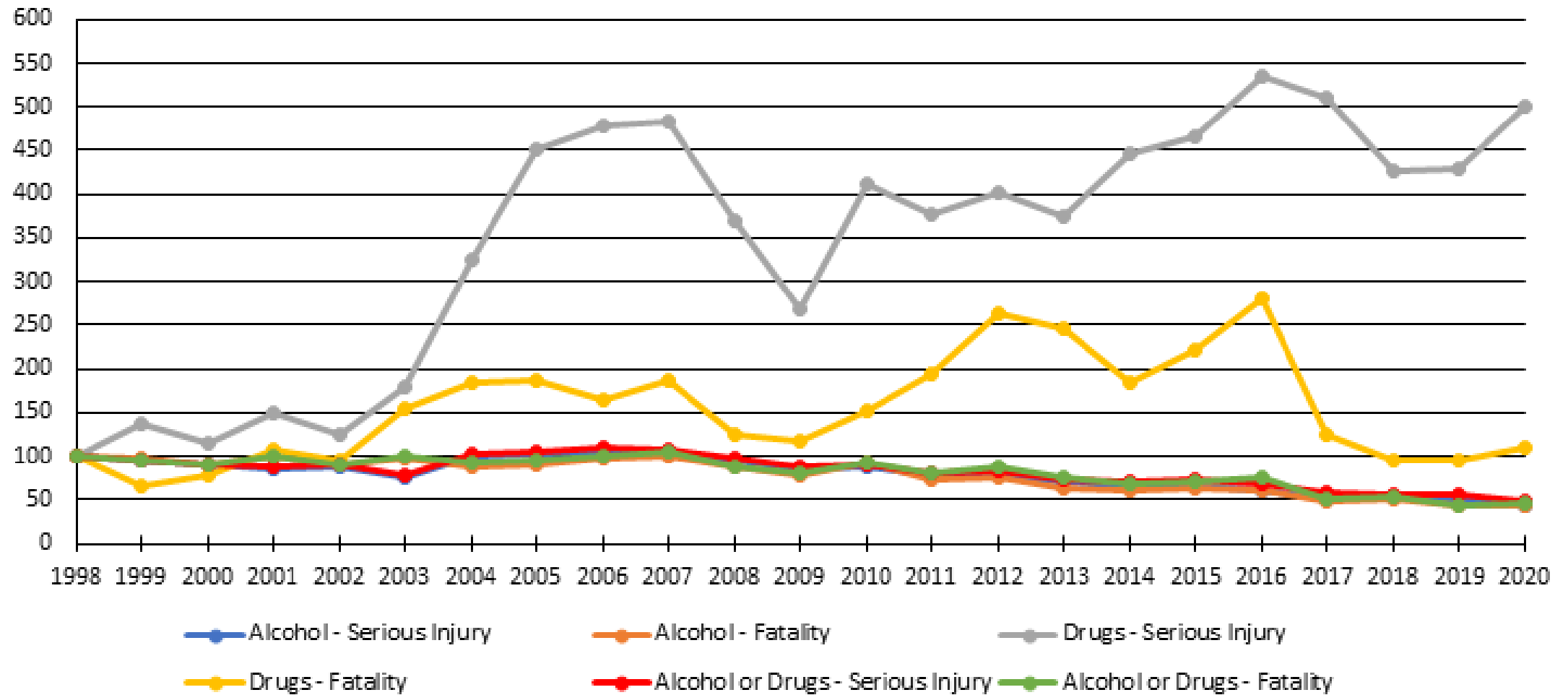
Number of registered motor vehicles, licensed drivers, road user injuries serious injuries and fatalities by year, from 1975 to 2020



Source: Transport Canada National Collision Database



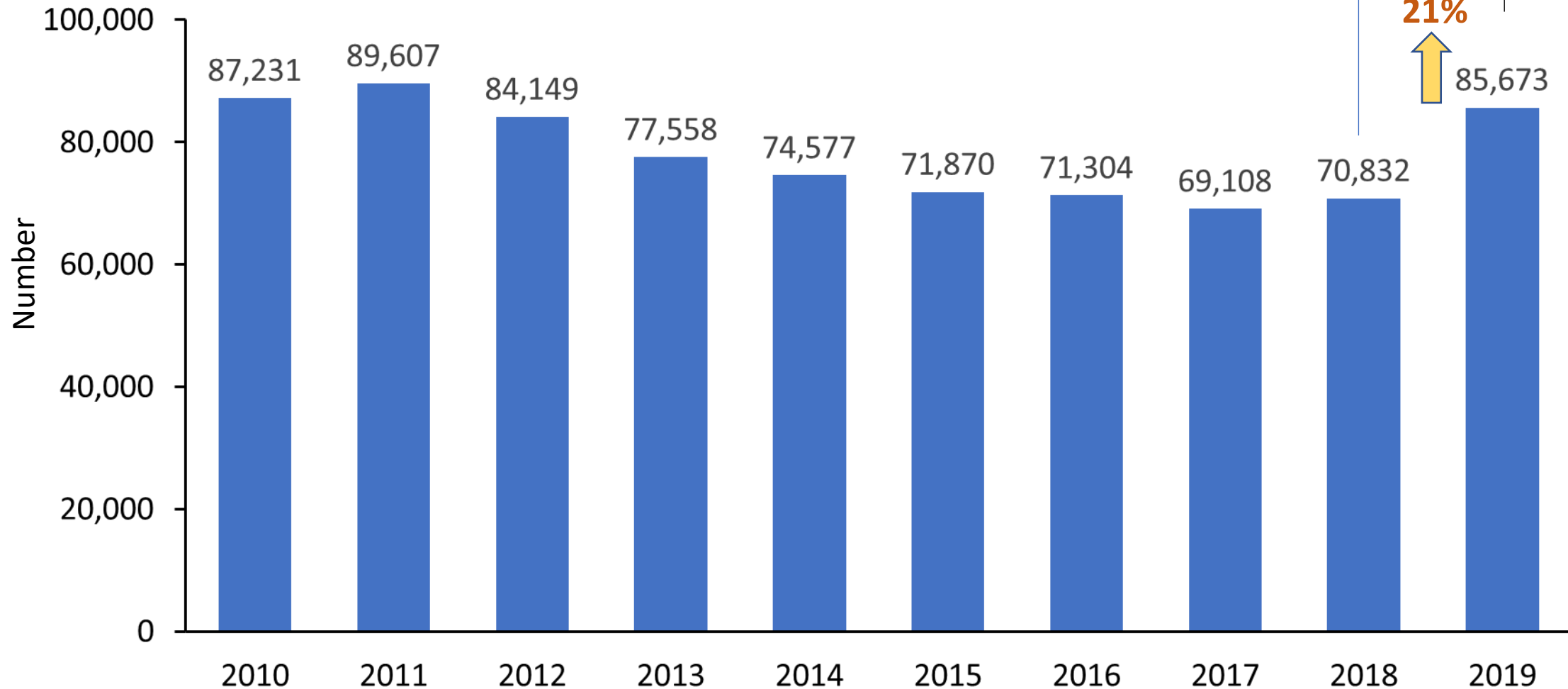
Index of Fatalities and Serious Injuries in Collisions where Alcohol and/or Drugs are Present (1998-2020) (1998=100)



Source: Transport Canada National Collision Database



Number of Police-reported Impaired Driving Incidents (Canada 2010-2019)



Roadside Surveys Examples

British Columbia

	<u>Alcohol</u>	<u>THC</u>	<u>OTHER DRUGS</u>
2012	6.5%	3.2%	5.7%
2018	4.9%	7.0%	4.3%

Ontario

	<u>Alcohol</u>	<u>THC</u>	<u>OTHER DRUGS</u>
2014	4.0%	7.6%	5.1%
2018	4.4%	10.5%	6.6%



Impaired Driving Laws

- Criminal BAC limit 80 mg/dL (National)
 - 50 mg/dL (most provinces – immediate licence suspension, fine)
 - Zero limit for new drivers and those under 22 years of age (provincial)
- Offence to refuse to provide breath or bodily fluid sample
- Offence to have care and control of vehicle while ability impaired by alcohol and/or drug
- Offence to refuse to perform tests of impairment
 - Standardized Field Sobriety Test (horizontal gaze nystagmus, walk and turn, one leg stand)
 - Drug Evaluation and Classification Program (DECP – 12-step evaluation)



Recent Changes to Impaired Driving Laws in Canada

- Legalization of cannabis for non-medical purposes
- Introduction of *per se* limits for cannabis and 9 other substances
- 3 limits for cannabis related offences
 - 2 ng/mL
 - 5 ng/mL
 - 2.5 ng/mL THC and BAC of 50 mg/dL or greater
- Zero limits for 8 other substances
- Introduction of approved drug screening equipment (ADSE)
- Offence to refuse to perform behavioural tests or to provide a sample of bodily fluid for analysis
- Mandatory Alcohol Screening (MAS)



Approved Drug Screening Equipment (ADSE)

- Roadside oral fluid screening for drugs
- To ascertain the presence of a drug in a person's body
- Drugs and Driving Committee of the Canadian Society of Forensic Science
- Established standards for oral fluid drug screening equipment as well as evaluation criteria
- Manufacturers invited to submit equipment for evaluation
- Could only screen for THC, cocaine, methamphetamine



Approved Equipment

- Dräger DrugTest® 5000 used with a Dräger DrugTest® STK-CA
 - Tests for THC and cocaine
- Abbott SoToxa™ when used together with an Abbott SoToxa™ Test Cartridge and Abbott SoToxa™ Oral Fluid Collection Device
 - Tests for THC



Detecting Cannabis Impairment

- Challenges to detecting cannabis impairment at roadside
- Standardized Field Sobriety Test not sensitive to cannabis impairment
- Need for an equivalent of the Standardized Field Sobriety Test for cannabis
- Preliminary research indicates that adding the Finger-to-Nose test to the Standardized Field Sobriety Test can enhance sensitivity to cannabis impairment
- Currently conducting a study to confirm and validate this approach
- Simple, easy to administer, requires no new equipment, many officers already trained in Standardized Field Sobriety Test, test is already part of the Drug Evaluation and Classification Program



Way Forward

- Continue the important work at Federal / Provincial / Territorial level for national consistency through the Canadian Council of Motor Transport Administrators (e.g. improving administrative sanctions for impaired driving, reviewing the Cannabis Act, etc.)
- Continue the program of alcohol/drug checkpoints (randomly stopping drivers at pre-determined locations to screen for alcohol and/or drug impairment)
- Enhanced training of officers in the Standardized Field Sobriety Test and Drug Evaluation and Classification Program
- Continue the roadside surveys with several Provinces and Territories planned this year and continue/improve data collection on fatalities and seriously injured drivers with respect to impaired driving.
- Media awareness campaigns, with a focus on cannabis impaired driving
- Zero tolerance for alcohol and drugs for young and new drivers



Thank You!

