



Fit to Drive

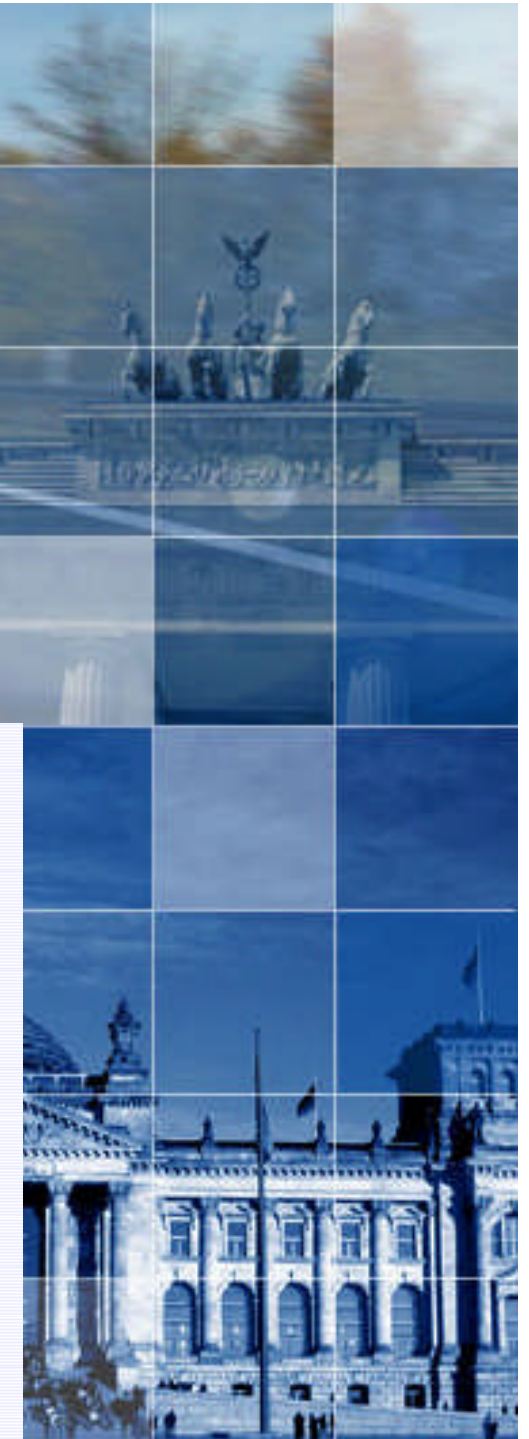
1st International Traffic Expert Congress
Berlin from May 3rd – 5th 2006



Welcome

The Medical Psychological Assessment: An Opportunity for the Individual, Safety for the General Public

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The Medical Psychological Assessment (MPA) is a cornerstone of the driving license procedure in Germany.

It was introduced more than 50 years ago and has, since then, been a successful tool for the diagnosis and advancement of the fitness to drive.



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The Medical Psychological Assessment: Opportunity and Safety

- How the MPA works
- How the MPA contributes to traffic safety
- How the MPA helps participants to attain mobility



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Definition of Fitness to Drive

“Those persons considered fit for operating a motor vehicle must meet the necessary physical and mental requirements and may not have severely or repeatedly transgressed against traffic regulations or penal law“



Important MPA causes

- MPA for drivers with a blood alcohol concentration exceeding 0.16 % or drivers that have been repeatedly caught with excessive blood alcohol levels
- MPA for drug addicts and drivers caught with drugs in the vehicle
- MPA for persons who have stood out due to the very high number of traffic violations



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MPA Question (example)

- „Can it be expected that Mr X will again operate a vehicle under the influence of alcohol in future and/or are there any impairments as a result of uncontrolled alcohol consumption, which would effect the safe handling of a motor vehicle?“



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- The MPA serves to reduce the amount of accidents: unfit drivers are identified and removed from traffic until fitness to drive has been restored
- The MPA is a decisive incentive for the affected drivers to actively engage in restoring their fitness to drive
- Unfitness is not seen as a dead-end street, instead it is seen as an opportunity to solve individual problems



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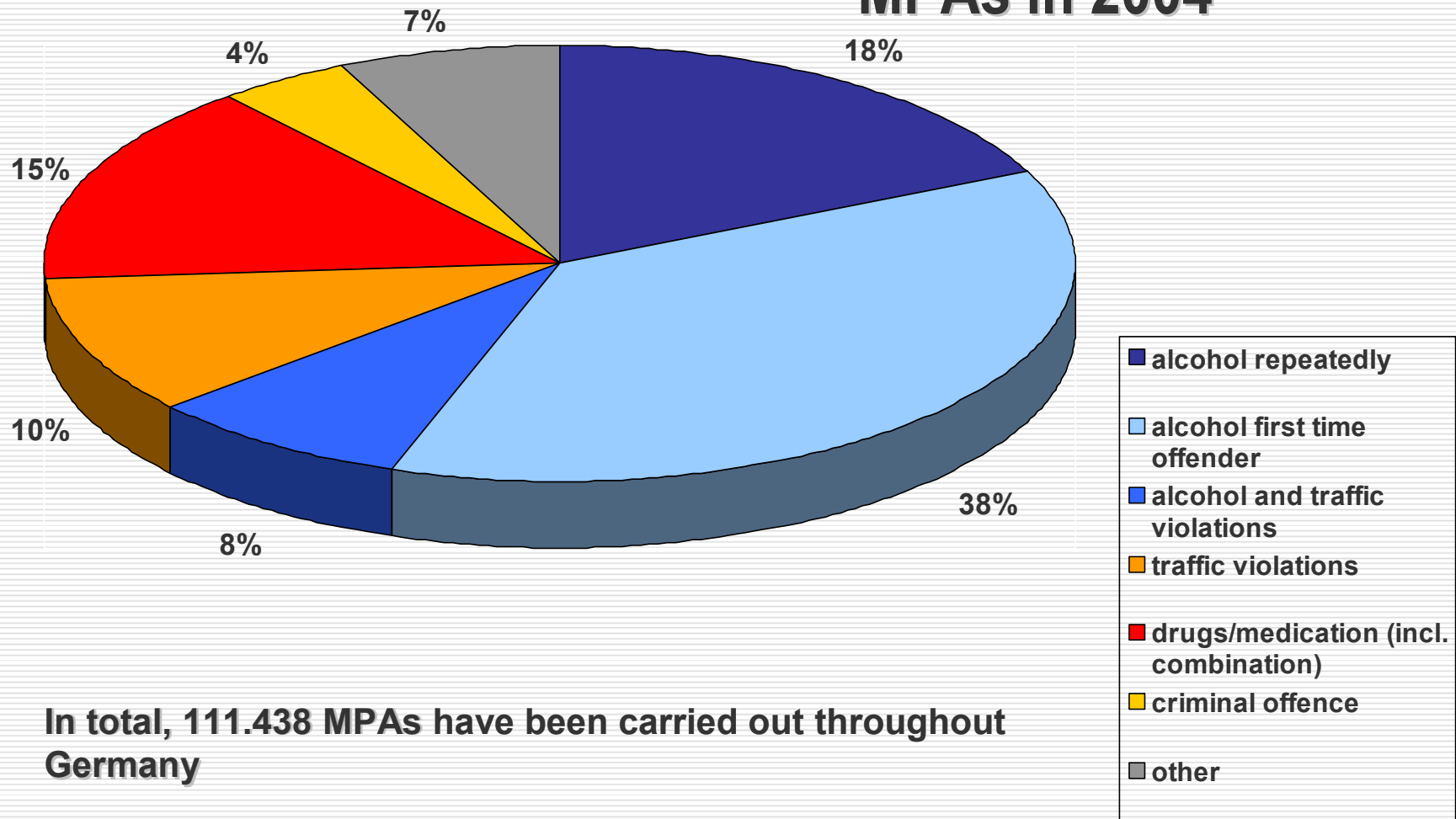


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MPAs in 2004





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The MPA segments:

- Psychological tests for determining the performance capacity
- Medical examination
- Detailed psychological discussion
- Optional: over-the-road-test



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Testing the driver-specific performance capacity



Visual perception

- visual orientation
- traffic-specific overview
- peripheral perception

Concentration/attentiveness

- concentration under monotony
- attentiveness flexibility

Reactions

- reaction capacity
- decision and reaction ability
in a dynamic environment



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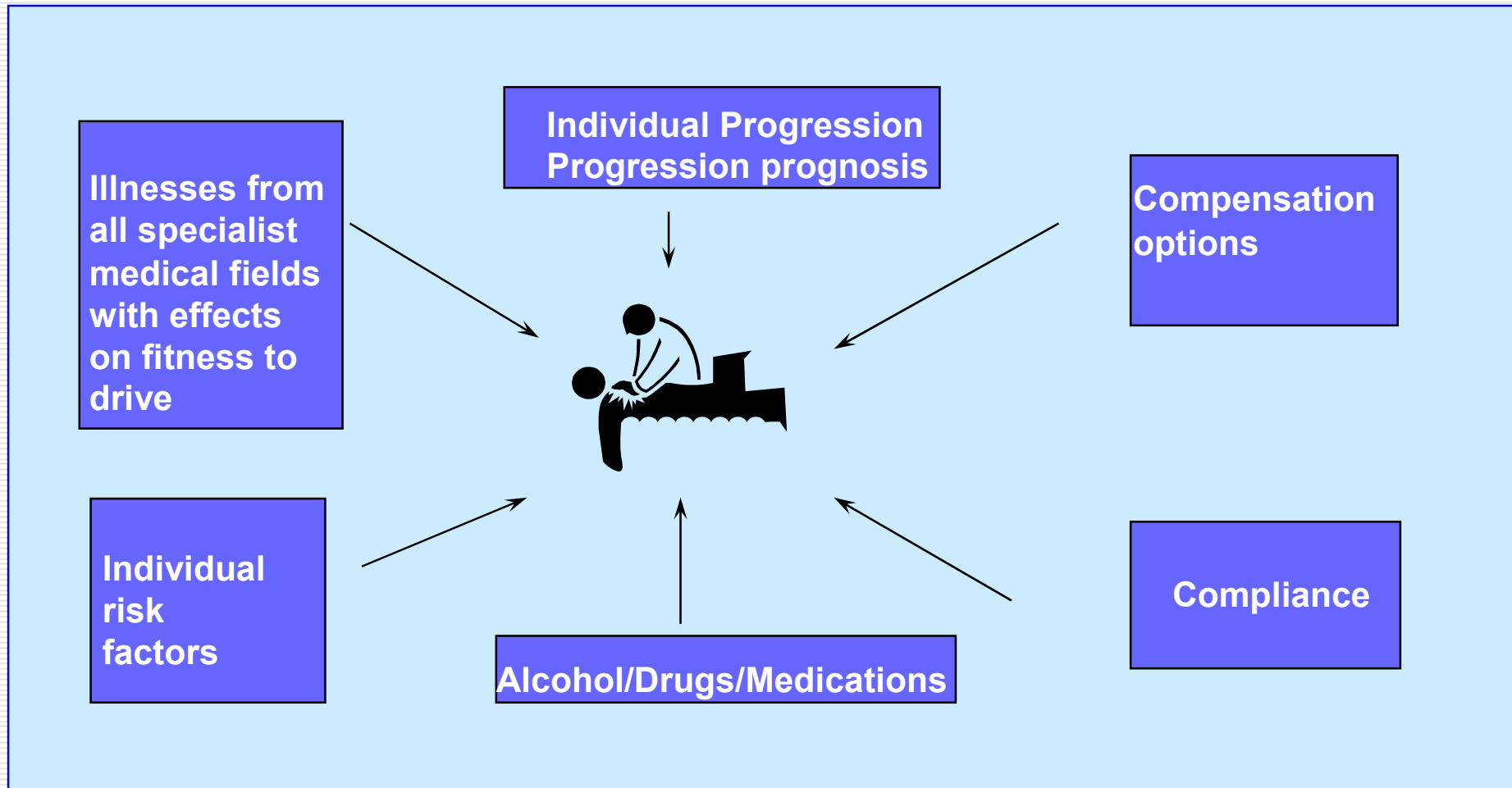


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Traffic Medicine





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Psychological discussion



10.05.2006

Gerhard Laub - Dr. Karin Müller

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The Medical Psychological Assessment on the foundation of scientifically based criteria of evaluation

- works for a prognosis of the fitness for drive in future
- has an interdisciplinary basic approach: it respects scientific criteria from medicine and psychology
- offers the chance of individual rehabilitation to the offender.



Alcohol abuse according to German driving license regulations:

- if a vehicle has been repeatedly operated whilst driver was under the influence of alcohol (without consideration of the blood alcohol concentration)
- if vehicle has been operated whilst driver was under the influence of a very high blood alcohol concentration (starting at 0.16 % blood alcohol concentration)
- if there is a documented record that, in the past, there has been excessive alcohol consumption whilst participating in road traffic



The prerequisites for operating a motor vehicle are only met again,

- once the alcohol consumption behaviour has changed appropriately
- the change in alcohol consumption behaviour has been stabilised and motivationally consolidated



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The effectiveness of the MPA

- has been proven in several research papers
- The rate of relapse could be decreased up to 6.5 %
- The incentive for behavioural change set through the MPA works in a sustained manner



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A sufficient change in alcohol consumption behaviour is attained once

- alcohol is only consumed in a controlled manner, ensuring that drinking and driving do not mix

or

- if abstinence from alcohol is adhered to



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- **Medical Psychological Assessment**



- **Concerted psychological intervention**



Safety for the general public



Opportunity for the individual