



# Program Analysis **Drive** Without Alcohol

Secretariat of  
Citizen Security of  
Mexico City

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Globally, alcohol consumption is a determining factor in a high proportion of traffic , a fatalities pattern that is also reflected in Mexico City.

- According to the UN, alcohol-related traffic events cause **1.3 million deaths per year and result in around 50 million people injured seriously.**
- Between 1997 and 2003, were recorded in **6,029 alcohol-related traffic incidents Mexico City.**
  - o **Annual average of 831.**
  - o **Approximately two per.**
  - o The city ranked 23rd nationally, yet it **was sixth in fatality rate.**

In this context, in 2003, acronym the **Secretariat of Citizen Security (SSC, by its Spanish acronym) of Mexico City (CDMX) implemented the Drive Without Alcohol Program**, “Programa Conduce Sin Alcohol” (PCSA) in Spanish, which seeks to prevent traffic , events mainly through the installation and operation of inspection points where the blood alcohol level of person driving a motor vehicle is assessed.

## 1. Mexico City’s Department of Public Safety PCSA

The **PCSA** of the SSC of the CDMX is a public policy whose main objective is to prevent traffic events related to alcohol consumption.

- The Program has three principles that guide its operation:
- 1) **Saving lives** by preventing alcohol-related traffic events.
  - 2) To guarantee a **transparent and legal operation.**
  - 3) **To provide fair treatment** without any distinction what so ever to the people served by the PCSA.

## 2. Institutional arrangement

The PCSA is based on effective collaboration between various institutions of the Government of the CDMX.

**Figure 1. Institutions participating in the Program**



**Source:** Prepared by LAB-CO with information from the *Police Action Protocol* of the Public Safety Secretariat of Mexico City for the application of the “Programa Conduce Sin Alcohol”.

### 3. Operation

The program operates through the **installation and operation of inspection points** strategically on located the city's public roads where the authorities **perform breathalyzer tests on drivers of motor vehicles**.

At these points, people who exceed the legal limits are identified alcohol (**0.40 mg/L in exhaled**) air and from prevented continuing to drive due to the risk they pose to themselves and others, thus preventing possible traffic events.

The operates every day of the year, the day both during and at night. During daytime, the PCSA prioritizes the inspection of public transportation and cargo vehicles. During night time, the program prioritizes the inspection of private vehicles.

**Figure 2. Steps in the operation of PCSA inspection points**



**Source:** Prepared by LAB-CO with information from interviews with operational personnel and from the *Police Action Protocol* of the Public Safety Secretariat of Mexico City for the application of the PCSA.

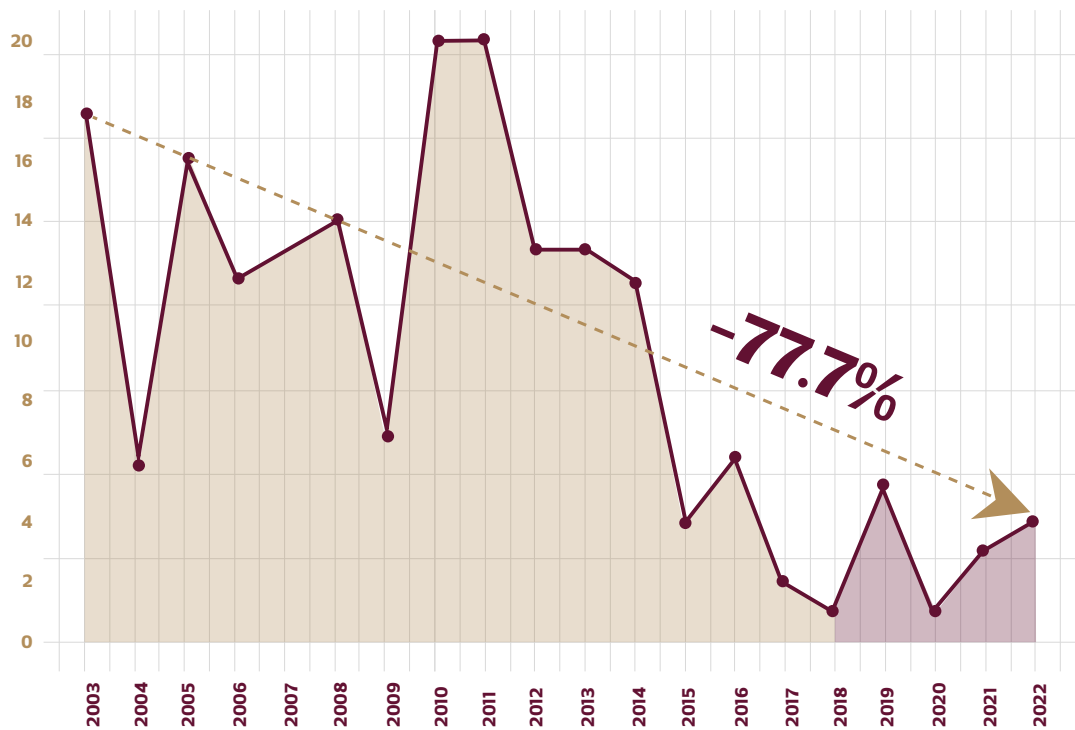
<sup>1</sup> The AlcoStop detects and measures the concentration of alcohol vapors in exhaled breath and the amount of alcohol found in the in approximately 8 seconds.

## 4. Results

### 4.1 Reduction of traffic events

Based on the analysis of INEGI's Administrative Records of Statistics on Land Traffic Accidents in Urban and Suburban Areas databases since the implementation of the PCSA in 2003 until 2022, fatal traffic related to alcohol consumption have decreased by 77.7%.<sup>2</sup>

Fatal traffic events with alcohol breath from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. in Mexico City 2000-2022



**Source:** Prepared by LAB-CO with data from of Statistics on Land Traffic Accidents INEGI's Administrative Records Suburban database 2022 in Urban Areas and.

Between 2019 and 2023, a **20% decrease in fatal traffic events related to alcohol**, consumption is observed despite a **17% increase in the opening of nightclubs, bars, and cantinas in Mexico City**<sup>3</sup>. These results reflect the good performance of the PCSA, which has managed to reduce the incidence of traffic accidents, given the increase in the supply of entertainment nightlife, consolidating its effectiveness as key policy for prevention and road safety.

<sup>2</sup> Although it is not possible to attribute this decrease to the PCSA due to various factors, this reduction suggests that the program has played a key role in improving road safety in Mexico City.

<sup>3</sup> National Statistical Directory of Economic Units 2023, September 2024 *Information for the updating and incorporation of economic units into the consultation: DENU* INEGI. Date of .

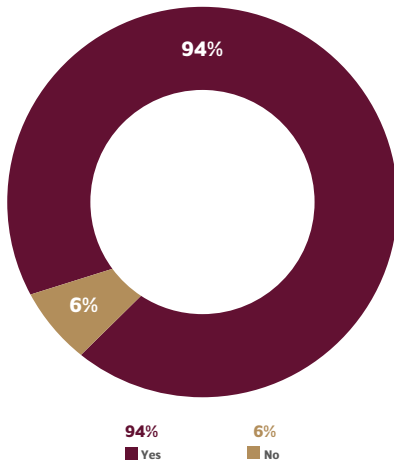
#### 4.2 Citizen perception

The Mexico City Government conducted a survey in July 2023 to learn about the population's perception of the PCSA.

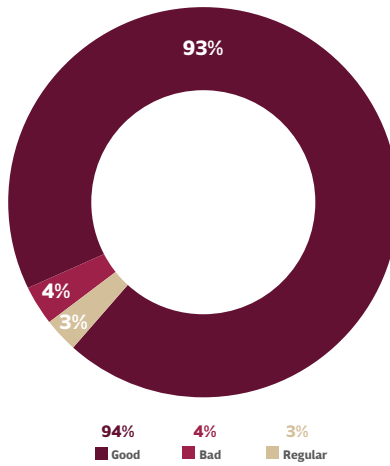
Citizen perception of the PCSA shows **that citizens are aware of the program and consider it effective in preventing traffic events alcohol-related.**

### Citizen perception of the PCSA 2023

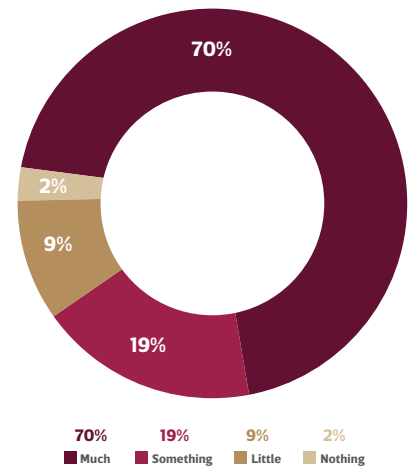
Have you heard of Mexico City's "Conduce Sin Alcohol" Program or "Alcoholímetro"?



What is your opinion of the City's Program Mexico?



How much do you think the breathalyzer program will help reduce/prevent events?



Source: Prepared by LAB-CO with data from the PCSA 2023 citizen perception survey.

## 5. Key factors

### A. Preventive approach

**The PCSA is distinguished by its preventive approach,** prioritizing the reduction of traffic events over the increase in the number of offenders. To achieve this, strategically located inspection points, whose points are implemented **effectiveness is measured by the number of people identified and also by the reduction of traffic events.**

This preventive approach is based on the premise that road **safety should not depend on the collection of fines,** but on deterrence. Thus, awareness-raising is favored over economic sanctions as a control tool, emphasizing that the main objective of **the program is to protect lives and prevent traffic events,** not to generate revenue for the government.

### B. Legality, transparency and fair treatment

The SSC has implemented different actions to guarantee a legal operation and transparent and fair treatment of the people benefited by the Program.

- **Sound regulatory framework.** All PCSA actions are regulated under a public regulatory framework that seeks to reinforce that procedures are carried out in strict compliance with the law.

- **Adequate training.** The success of the PCSA depends to a large extent on the proper training and education of its elements. All members of the program receive specific and continuous training to carry out their functions efficiently. This training, which is updated every six months, is adjusted

to the needs of the PCSA, ensuring that personnel are always prepared to face the challenges associated with the implementation of the program and maintain quality and legality standards.

- **Incorporation of technology in the operation.** The use of technology such as body cameras and monitoring equipment by the C5 reinforces surveillance to guarantee the legality and transparency of the Program.

- **Invitation of observers.** The inclusion of civilian and human rights observers in operations helps to strengthen the fair treatment of all persons involved.

### C. Inter-institutional coordination and policy strengthening

The PCSA is based on effective collaboration among various institutions. This collaborative approach is complemented by an ongoing effort to strengthen program's policy framework **constantly adapting it to new city realities and lessons learned during more than two decades of operation.**

One of the most solid pillars of the PCSA is the **clarity and precision with which the responsibilities of each institution involved in its execution have been delimited.** This approach has allowed all parties to work in a coordinated and efficient manner, following a well-defined protocol that assigns specific roles to each entity.

