

# **The contribution of the APCAP network to road safety in Portugal;**

**by José Rosário (LUSOPONTE)**





**In 2001, Portugal was one of the countries with the worst accident level among the 15 EU member states.**

**The main problems were:**

- # Improper driver behaviour;**
- # National and municipal roads with safety defects on design and operation;**
- # Insufficient knowledge about the causes of the accidents;**
- # Insufficient driver awareness campaigns.**



**The European policy on road transportation safety and its corresponding goal stated in the EU White Paper to reduce the number of people killed on roads by 50% by 2010 led Portugal to adopt steps to improve this situation and approximate its accident levels to the European average.**

**In this context, APCAP is a privileged partner of the Central Administration in discussing safety issues taking into account the knowledge and expertise of its members.**



**The good practices and the control and knowledge of its own network enables APCAP:**

- # To be a good observatory for the recording and treatment of road accident data;**
- # To have a better knowledge of the characteristic of accidents and incidents;**
- # To have trustable safety indicators and levels based on accidents and circulation;**
- # To quickly carry out new and more adequate safety measures;**



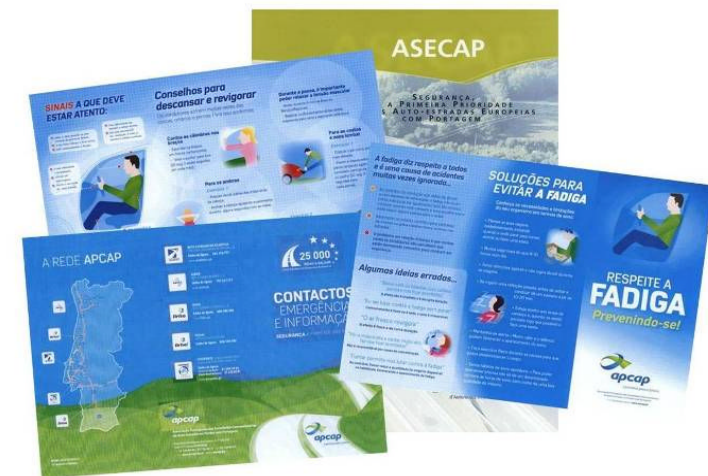
**The portuguese motorways are pioneering the application of new legislation:**

- # Road safety audits during both design and construction phases;**
- # Definition of minimum conditions to carry out temporary works on motorways;**
- # Drivers protection on recovering of toll taxes during temporary works;**
- # Implementation of innovate safety measures, such safety barriers for motorcyclists.**



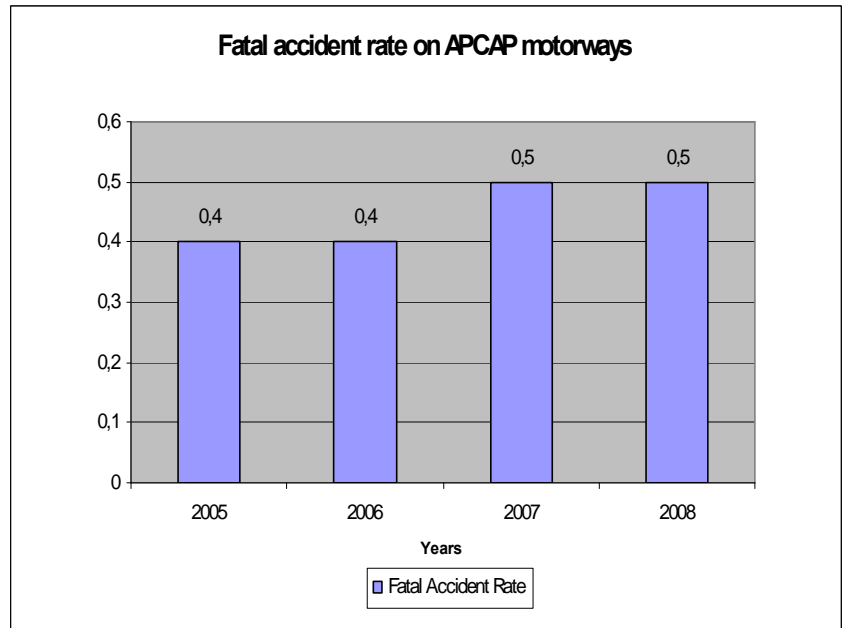
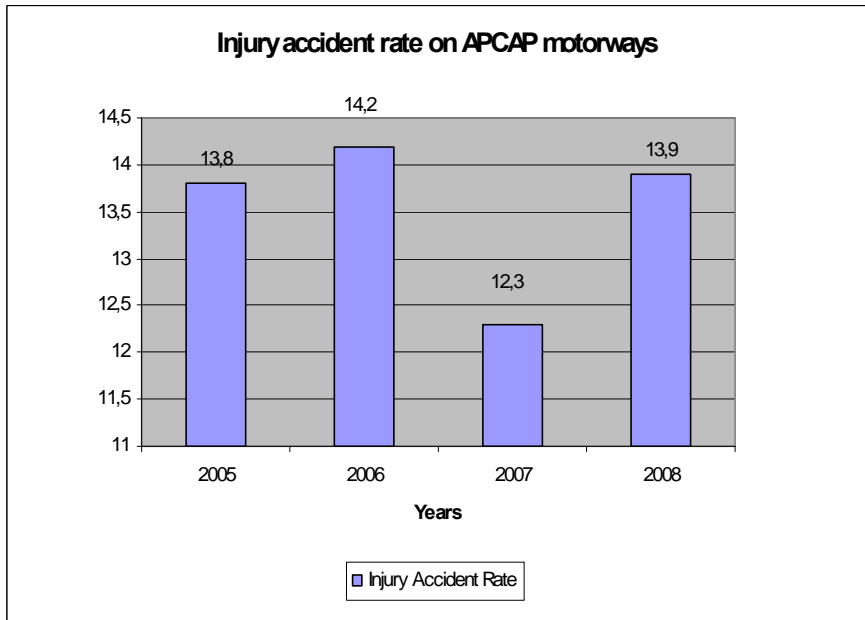


- **Variable Message Signs – VMS, are extensively used to display messages for information on accidents and alternative roads, better assistance to road accident victims of, speed limits, etc.**
- **With regard to driver training and education, APCAP has published documentation on motorway safety, accident levels, quality of life and combating fatigue, in addition to the usual annual statistics.**



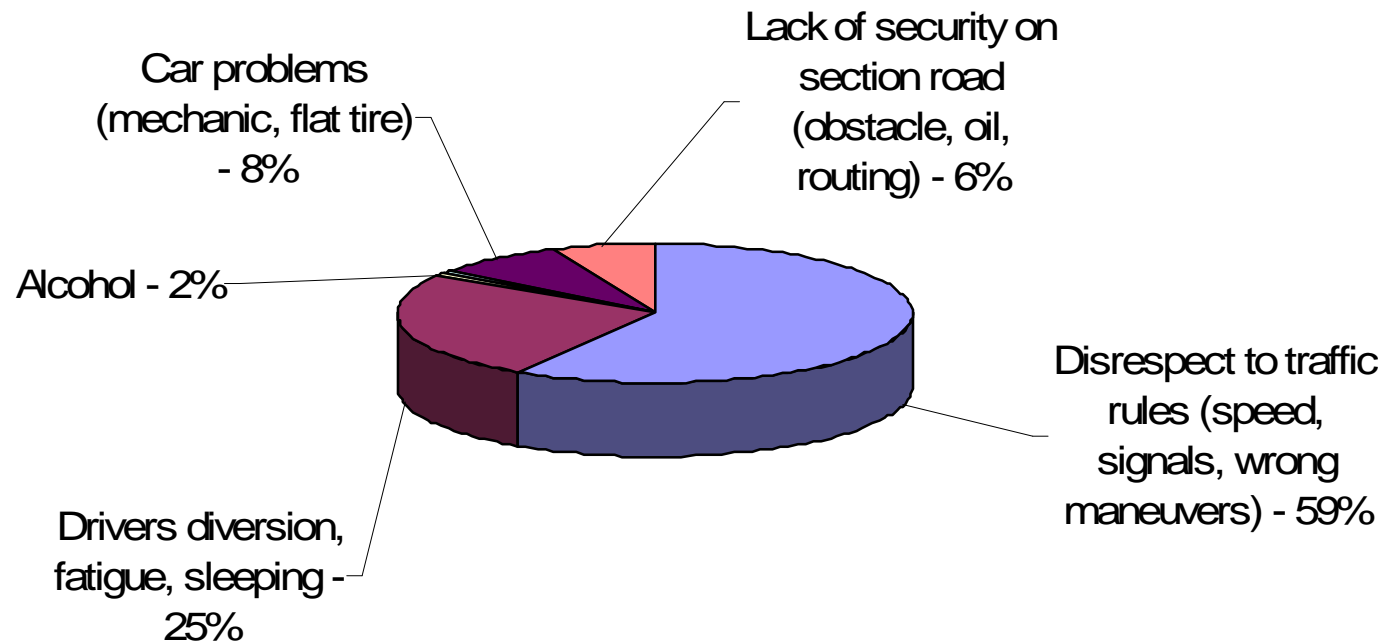


- **The APCAP network is 1,556 km long. In 2007, it represented a total of 12,300x10<sup>6</sup> km travelled and an AADT of 22,658 vehicles.**





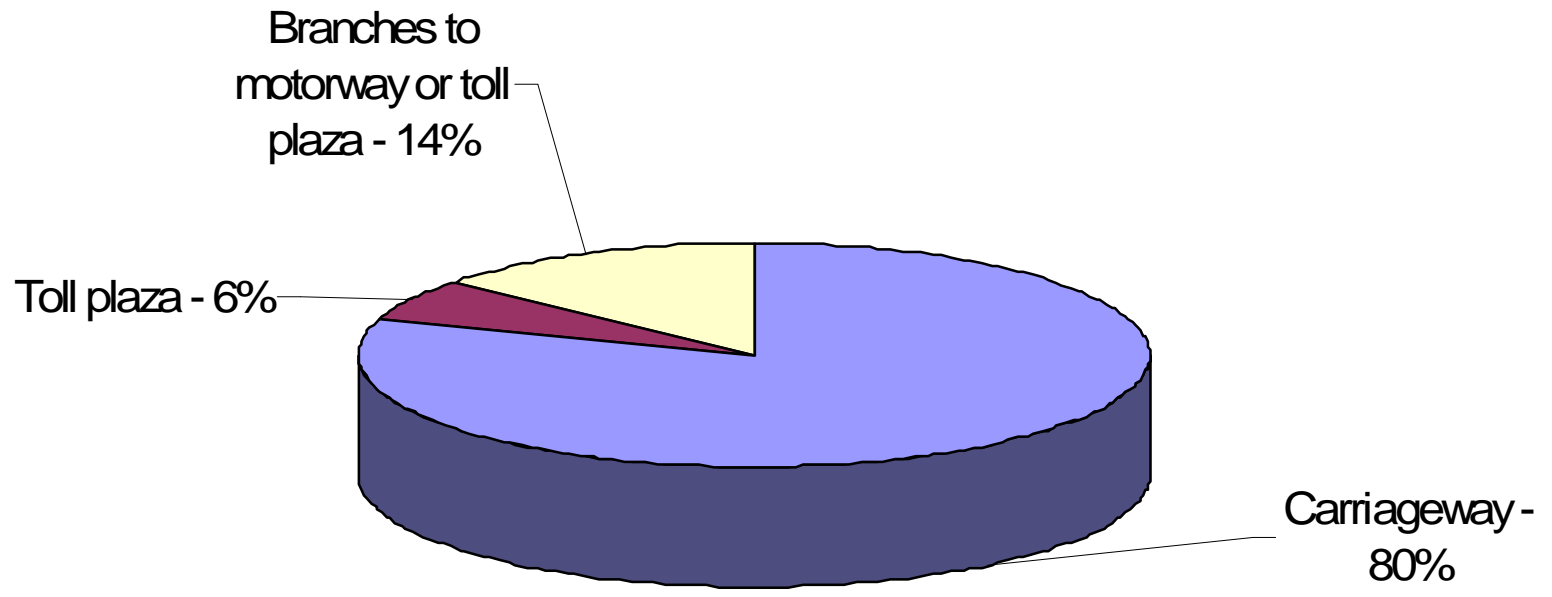
## Main reasons for accidents



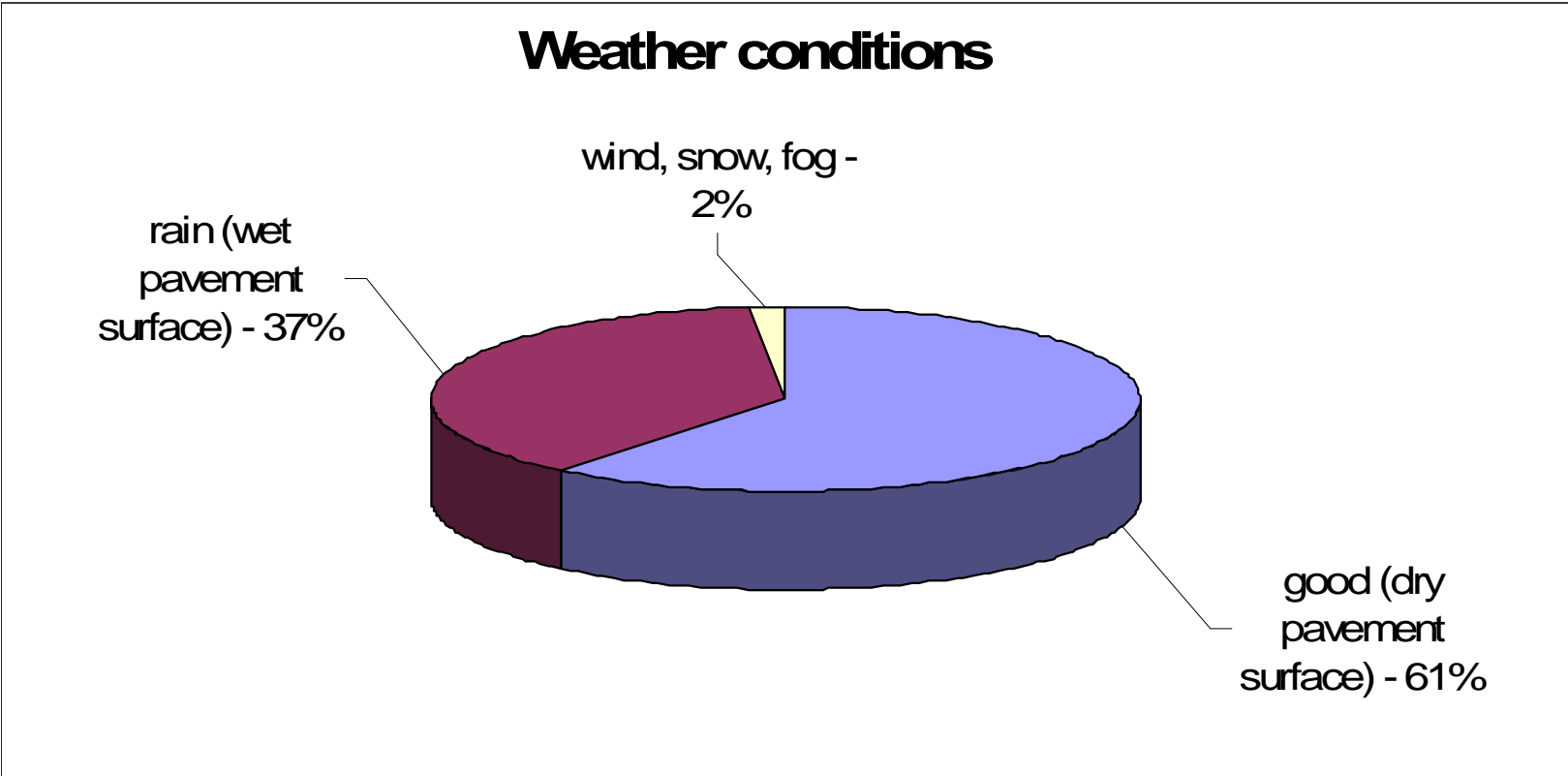
Main reasons for accidents on APCAP network



## Accidents location



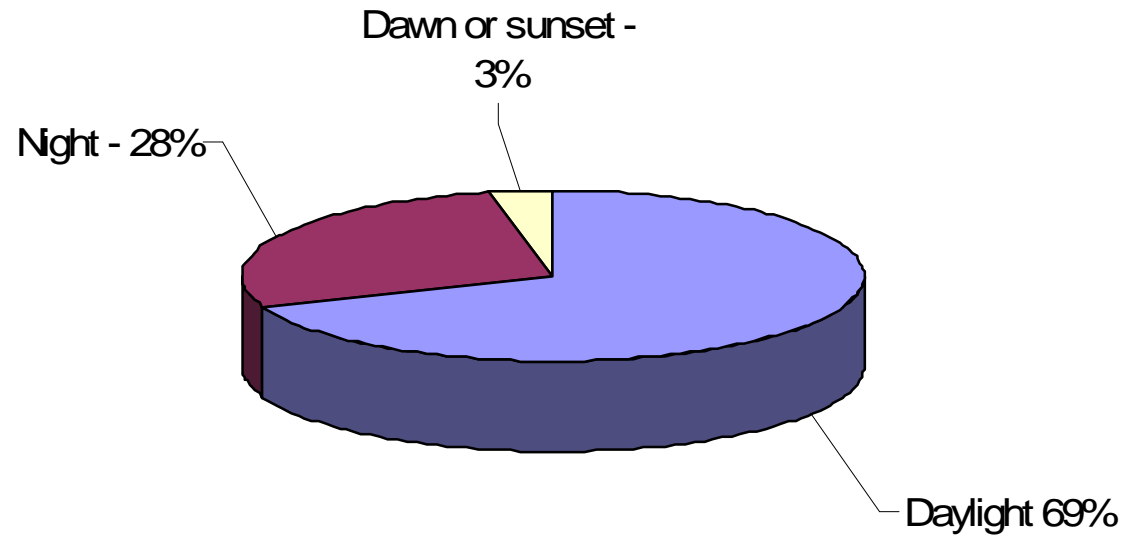
Accidents location on APCAP network



**Weather conditions related to accidents on APCAP**



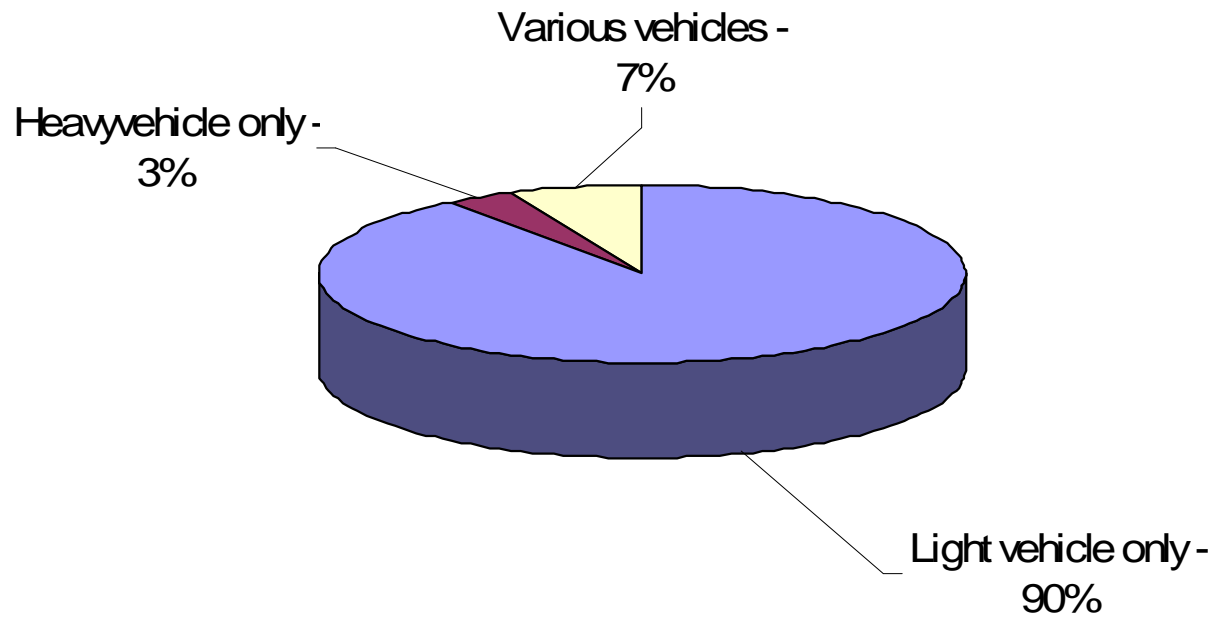
## Luminosity



**Luminosity related to accidents on APCAP network**



## Type of vehicle



Type of vehicle on APCAP network's accidents



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