

## Drink and Drive?

I first stumbled across this in conversation with a magistrate in England early last year. It was so peculiar that I searched out a couple of others and asked them directly.

In the Spring I had the opportunity to speak with several public prosecutors and defenders in America and brought up the same topic. They reported the same also.

It seems that all these people above have for years and years dealt with petty offences in the lower courts. Their combined experience totals almost 300 man years. They all stated that, on average, just under 80% of their workload was all the same type of offence. But there's a twist.....

Curious?

Well, for what it's worth, here it is.

It seems that every day, day after day, one "drunk" driver after another was brought before them. Of all the thousands of cases which they had handled, however, not one of them had ever had a case where the drunk driver had actually been involved in an "accident"! Never!! Not one!!!

"Curiouser and curiouser", said Alice. So how was it that all these people were being detected but not causing any problems? So I asked, "How can it be that all these people are spotted as drunk drivers without them causing any danger to other?" The answer is most interesting.

You see, the most common way in which a lightly inebriated driver calls attention to him/herself is either by driver unusually skilfully or by following speed limits and other ordinances very precisely. Something a sober driver does not do.

Digging a little further one is confronted with the curious fact that road statistics show that driving in a slightly "relaxed" state is a little less likely to be involved in an "accident", i.e. it is safer to drive slightly drunk than to drive completely sober. This is what we spend millions each year punishing people for.

Isn't the World a fascinating place?

Cheers

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