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Police Department (JMPD) and AWARE.org

ROAD SAFETY PROJECT: 2023–2025 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



aware!org
association for alcohol responsibility and education





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What The Analysis Covers

JMPD DUI arrest records captured from January 2023 to December 2025

The analysis examines arrest patterns across time, driver demographics, breath alcohol levels and accidents linked to recorded arrests.

The findings describe recorded enforcement outcomes. They should not be treated as a complete measure of all DUI behaviour or all accidents in Johannesburg.



26 578

recorded DUI arrests

DATA INCLUDED

Routine policing operations, drunk-driving roadblocks and selective roadside checks.





The Headline Picture

37.2%

of all arrests occurred
in 2025

80–86%

of yearly arrests occurred
between 18:00 and 23:59

78.6%

of arrests with known age
involved drivers aged 25–44

0.59 → 0.64

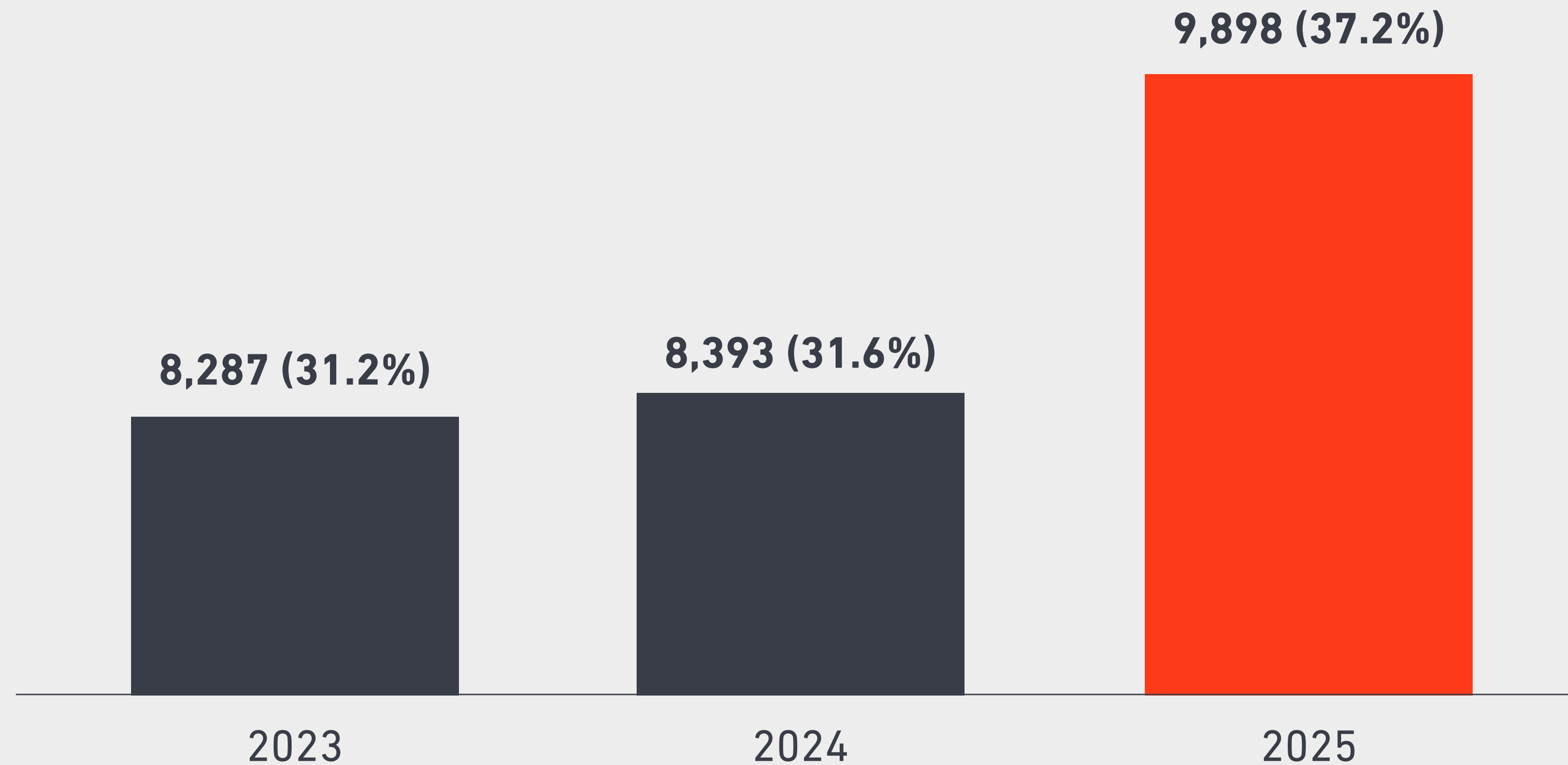
Increase in average breath alcohol level
among male drivers, from 2023 to 2025.

n = 26 578 DUI arrests

The three-year review shows that monthly arrest patterns changed: arrests peaked towards the end of 2023, earlier in 2024, and were spread more evenly across 2025. Across all three years, 80–86% of arrests occurred between 18:00 and midnight. Men accounted for more than 93% of arrests each year, and drivers aged 25–44 accounted for 78.6% of arrests where age was known.



DUI Arrests Increased In 2025



A total of 26 578 DUI arrests were recorded between 2023 and 2025. Arrest levels were similar in 2023 (31.2%) and 2024 (31.6%), but increased in 2025, which accounted for 37.2% of all arrests during the study period.



Arrest Timing Shifted Across The Three Years

2023

A strong end-of-year peak

Festive-season enforcement appears more concentrated in the final quarter.

2024

Earlier peaks in February and March

Operations shifted towards the earlier part of the year.

2025

A more even distribution

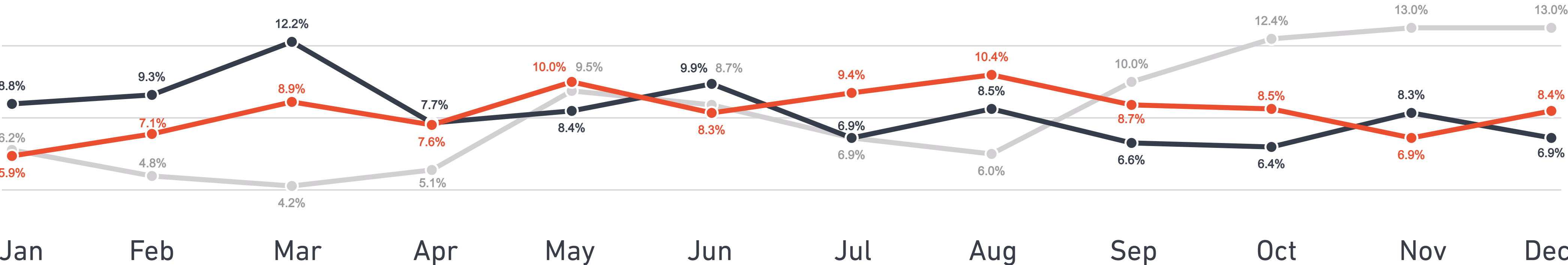
Enforcement appears more continuous across the calendar year.

Interpretation: Arrest levels closely follow operational deployment, so monthly changes do not measure behaviour independently of enforcement.

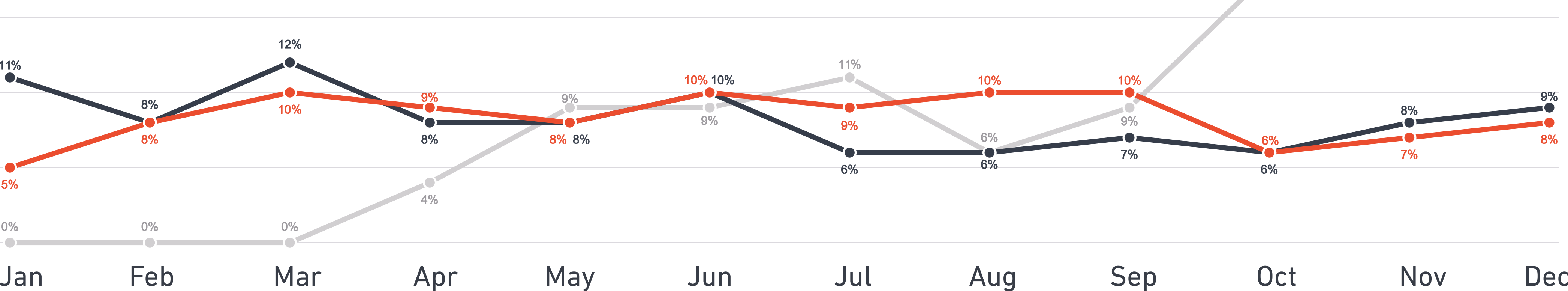


The monthly arrest pattern broadly followed the timing of operations. Arrest numbers therefore need to be read alongside when enforcement took place. They do not, on their own, show whether drink-driving increased or decreased. **Each chart shows how that year's total was spread across the months.**

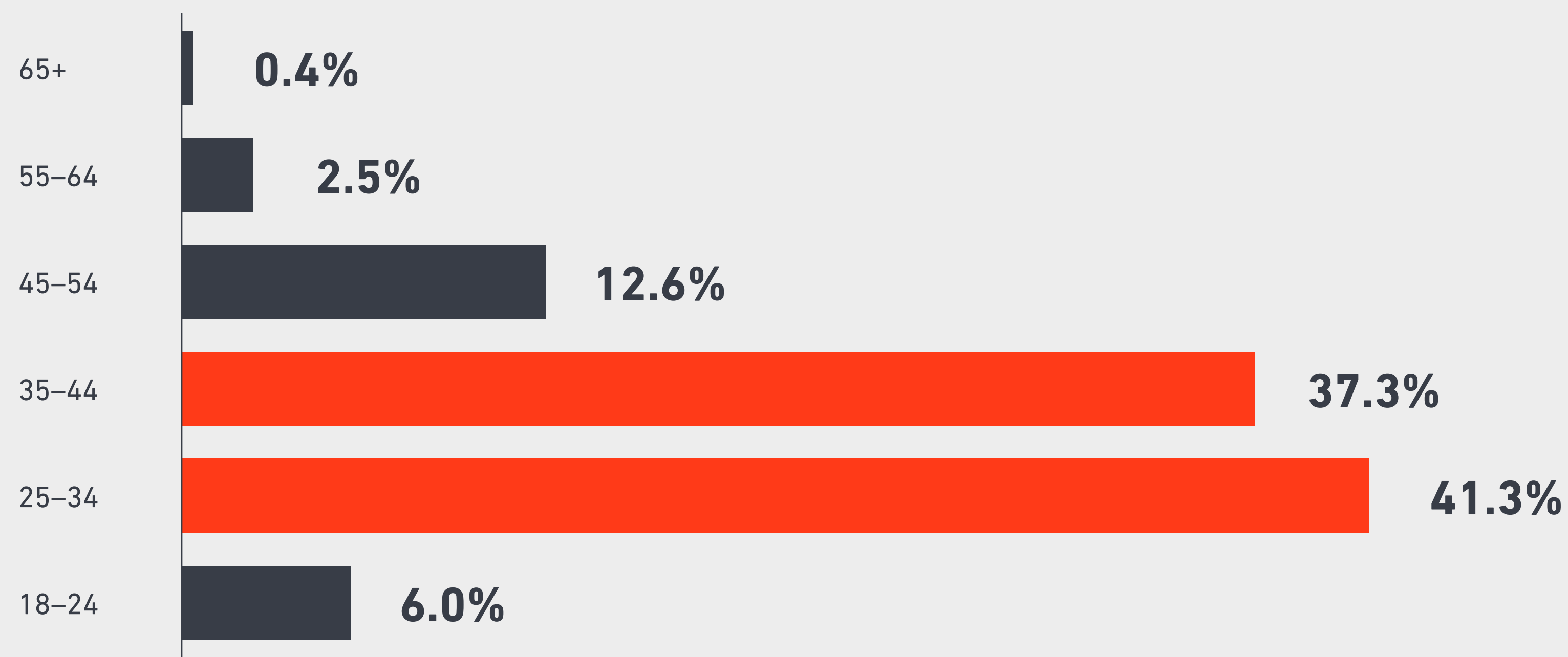
Monthly DUI Arrests by Year



Percentage of Operations per Month by Year



Drivers Aged 25–44 Account For Most Arrests



78.6%

of arrests with known
age involved drivers
aged 25–44

This is the clearest age concentration
in the dataset.

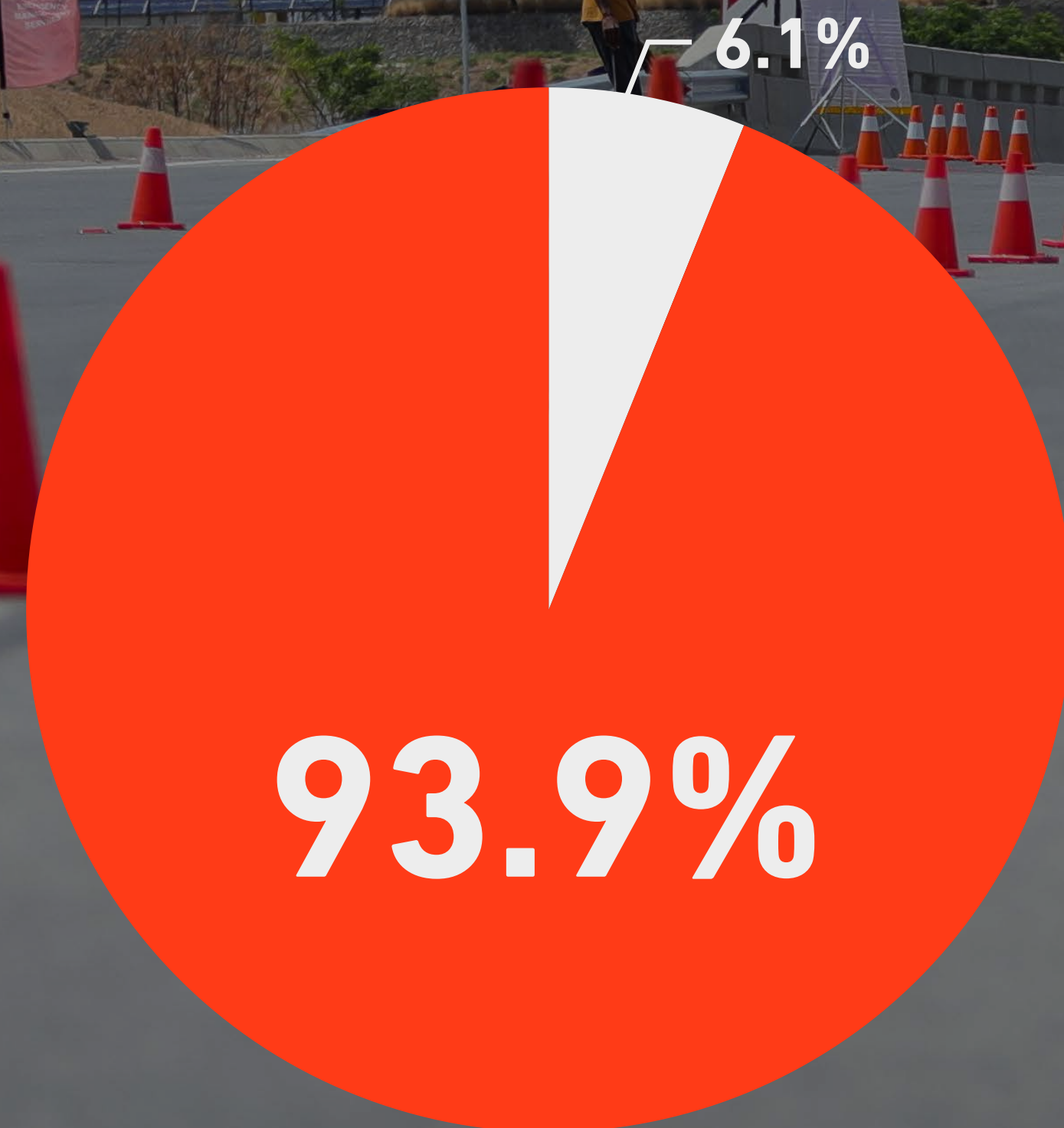
Age was available for 24 854 arrests; 6.5% of records were missing age data.



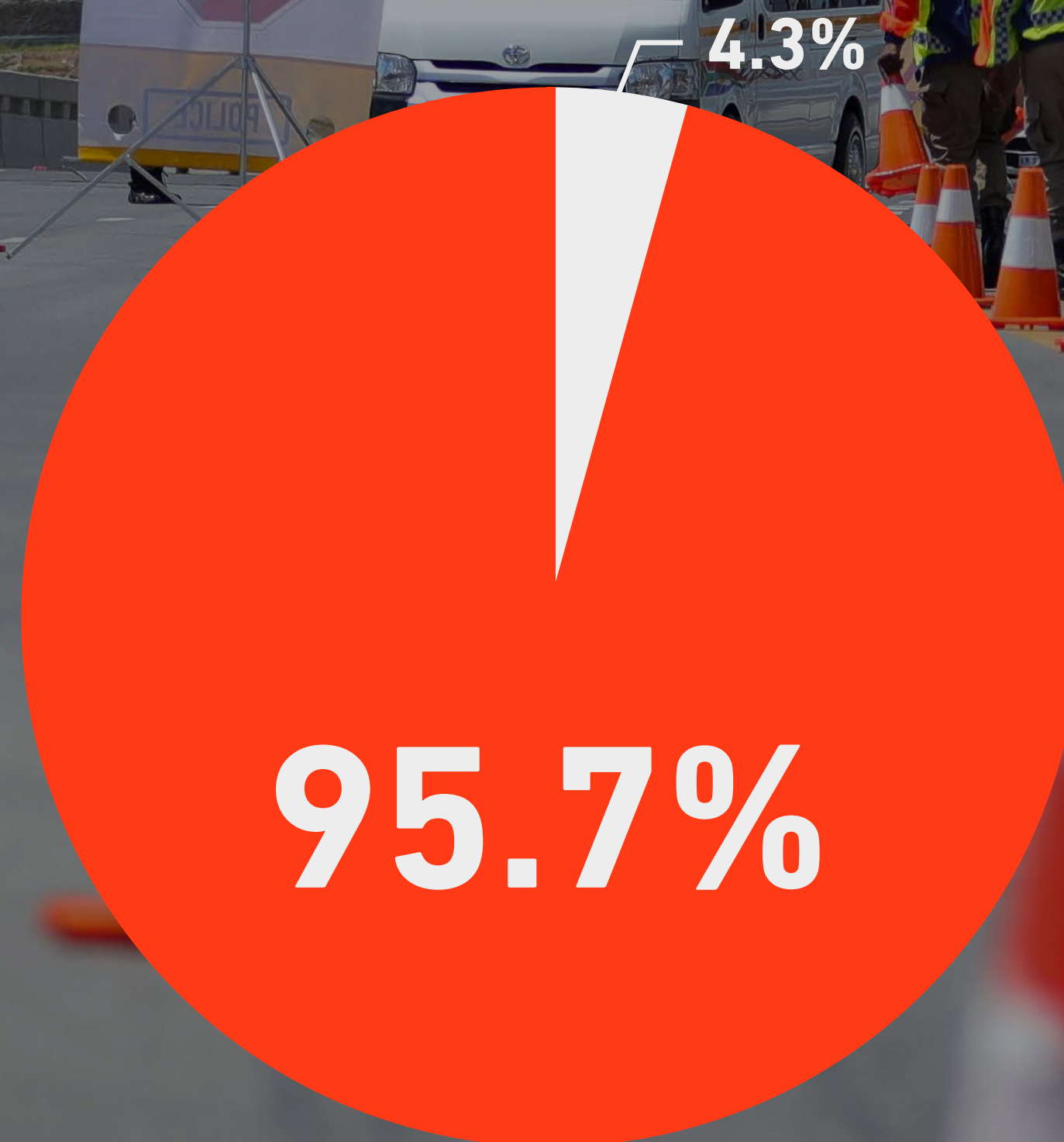
Male Drivers Represent More Than 93% Of Arrests

Gender was unknown or recorded as 'other' in 1.8% of cases.

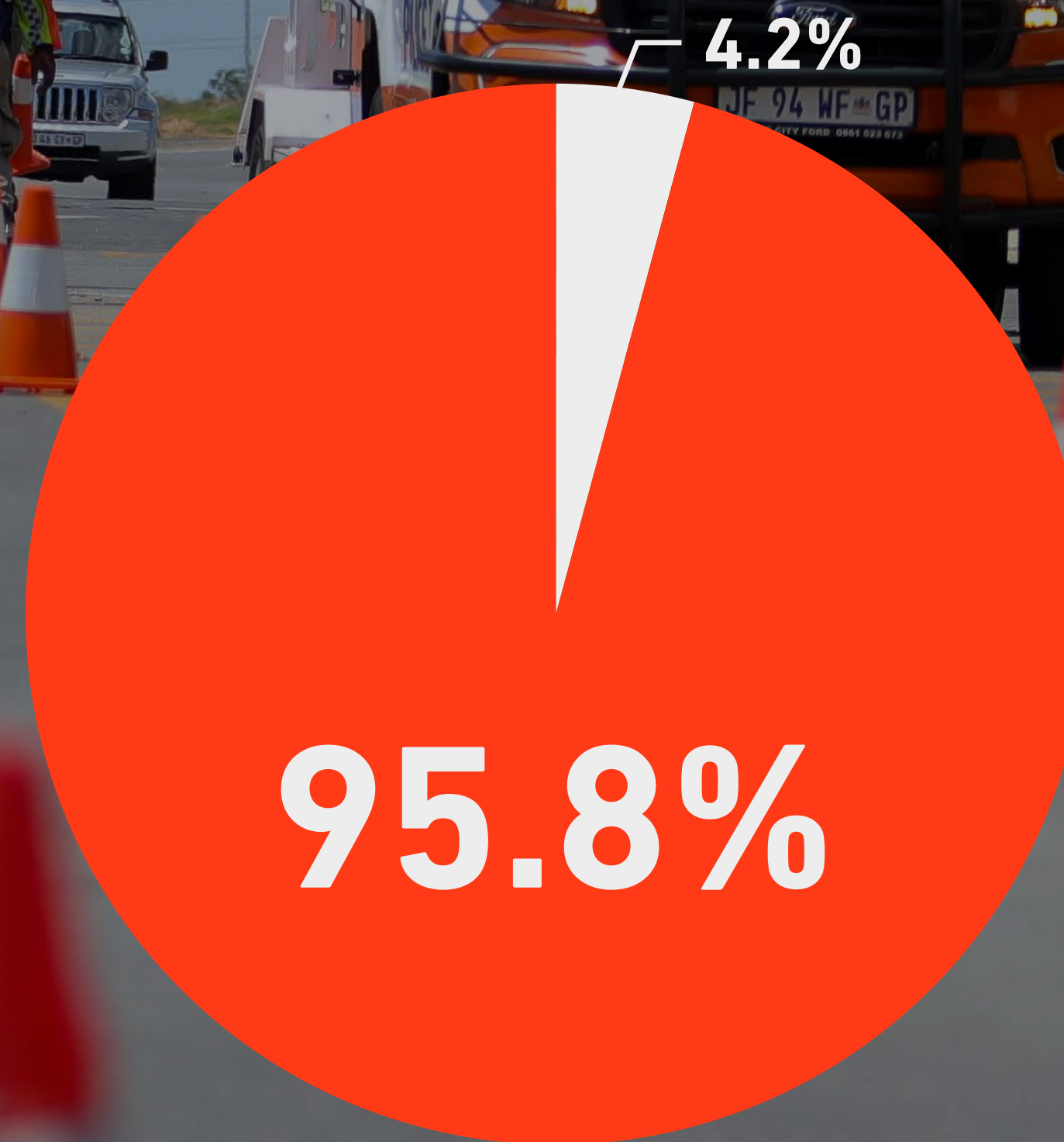
Male Female / other / unknown



2023



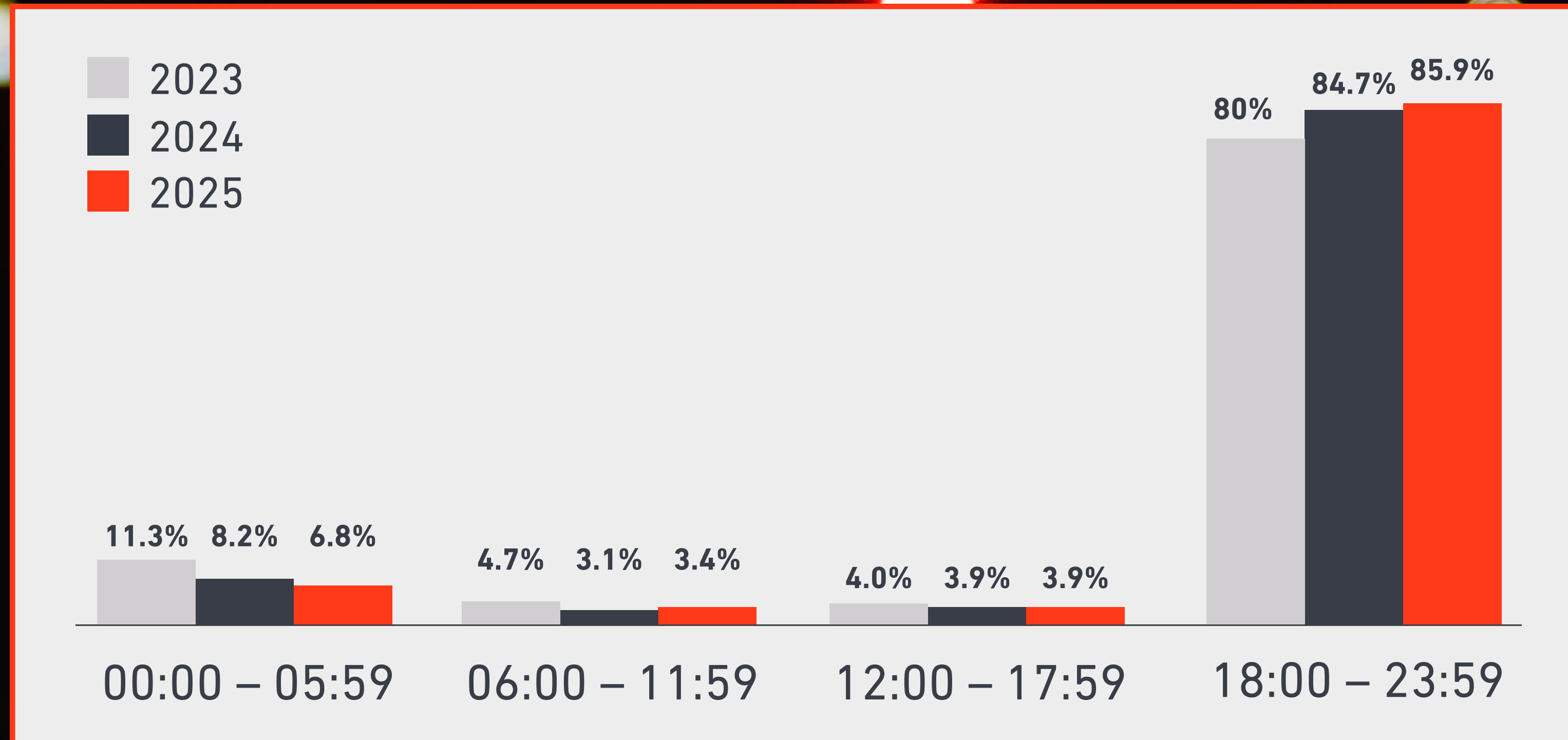
2024



2025

! Most Arrests Occur Between 18:00 and 23:59

The evening period accounts for an increasing share of yearly arrests



Enforcement timing contributes to this pattern and must be considered when interpreting risk.



JMPD Regional Coverage Map

JMPD operates across seven Johannesburg regions, allowing it to deploy resources and respond to local safety and traffic concerns.

A

Diepsloot, Kya Sands, Dainfern, Midrand,
Lanseria, Fourways

B

Randburg, Rosebank, Emmarentia, Greenside, Melville,
Mayfair, Northcliff, Parktown, Parktown North

C

Roodepoort, Constantia Kloof, Northgate,
Florida, Bram Fischerville

D

Doornkop, Soweto, Dobsonville, Protea Glen

E

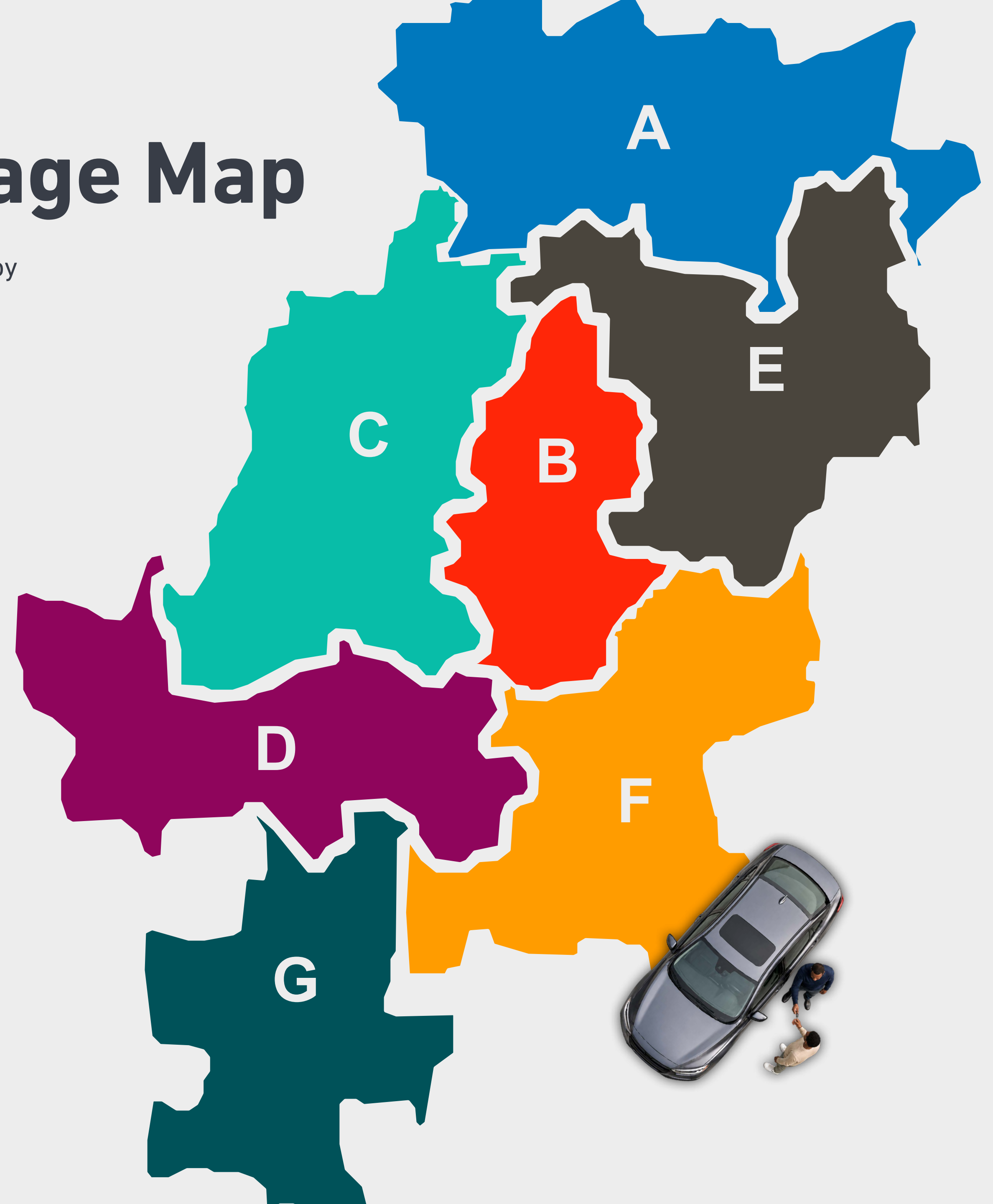
Alexandra, Wynberg, Sandton, Orange Grove, Houghton

F

Inner City, Johannesburg South

G

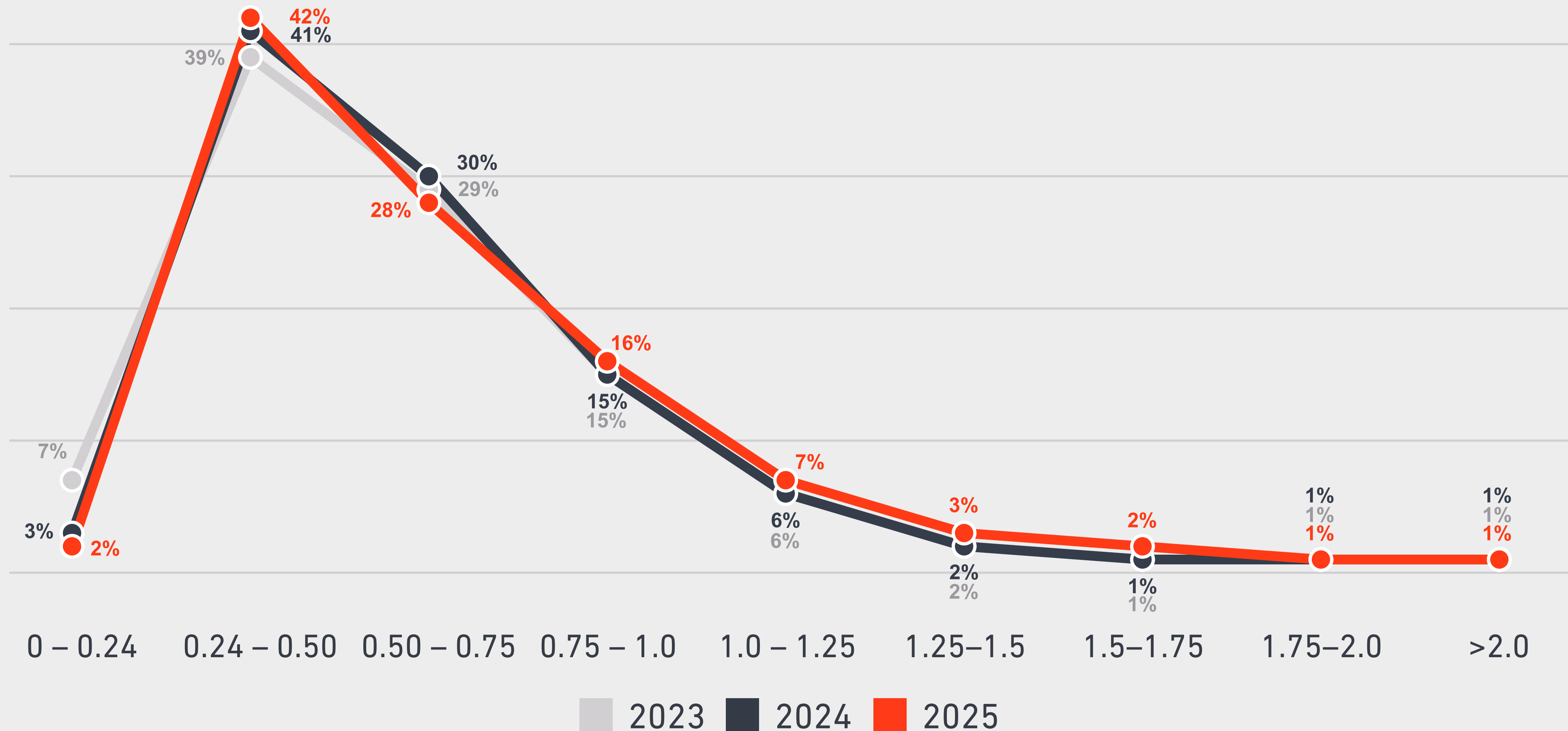
Orange Farm, Weilers Farm, Ennerdale, Lenasia,
Eldorado Park, Protea South





Alcohol Levels

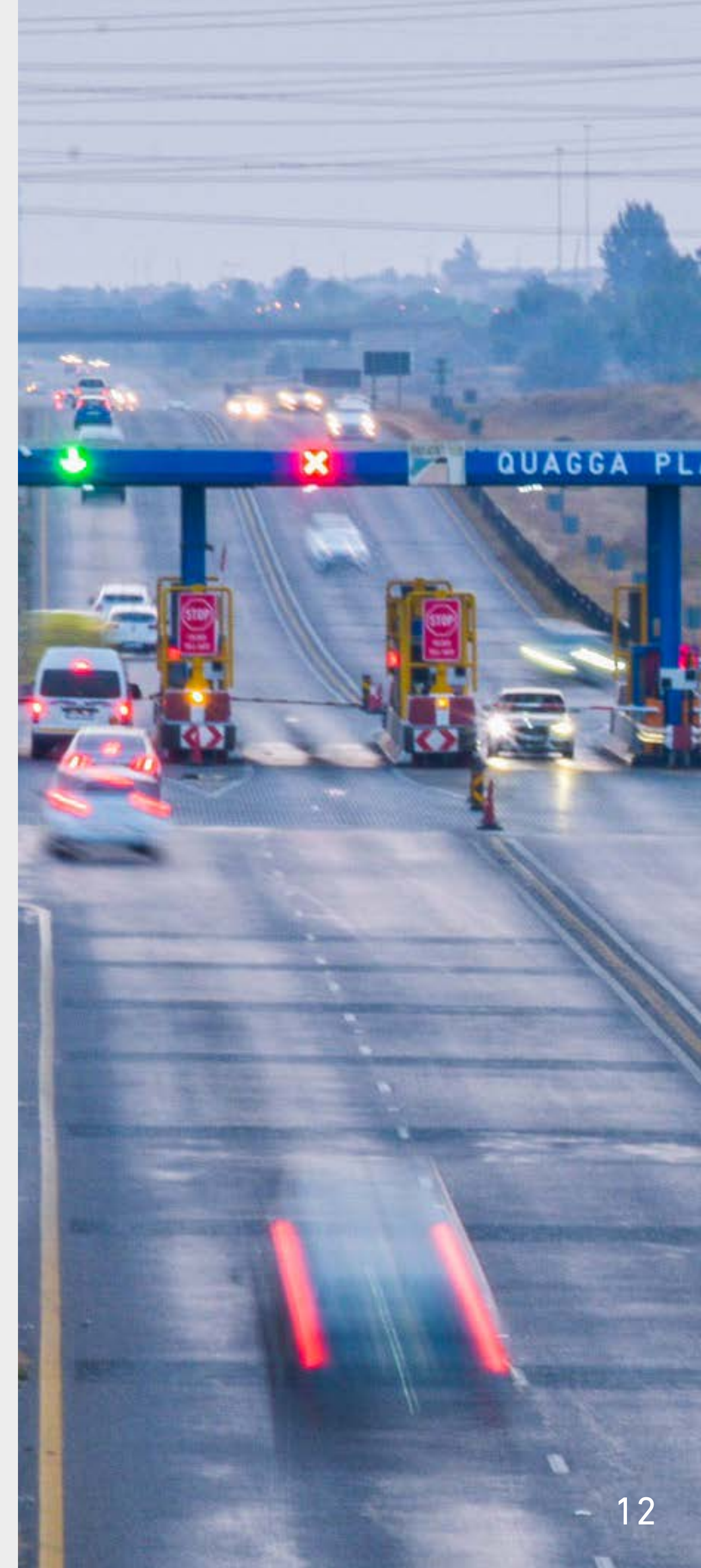
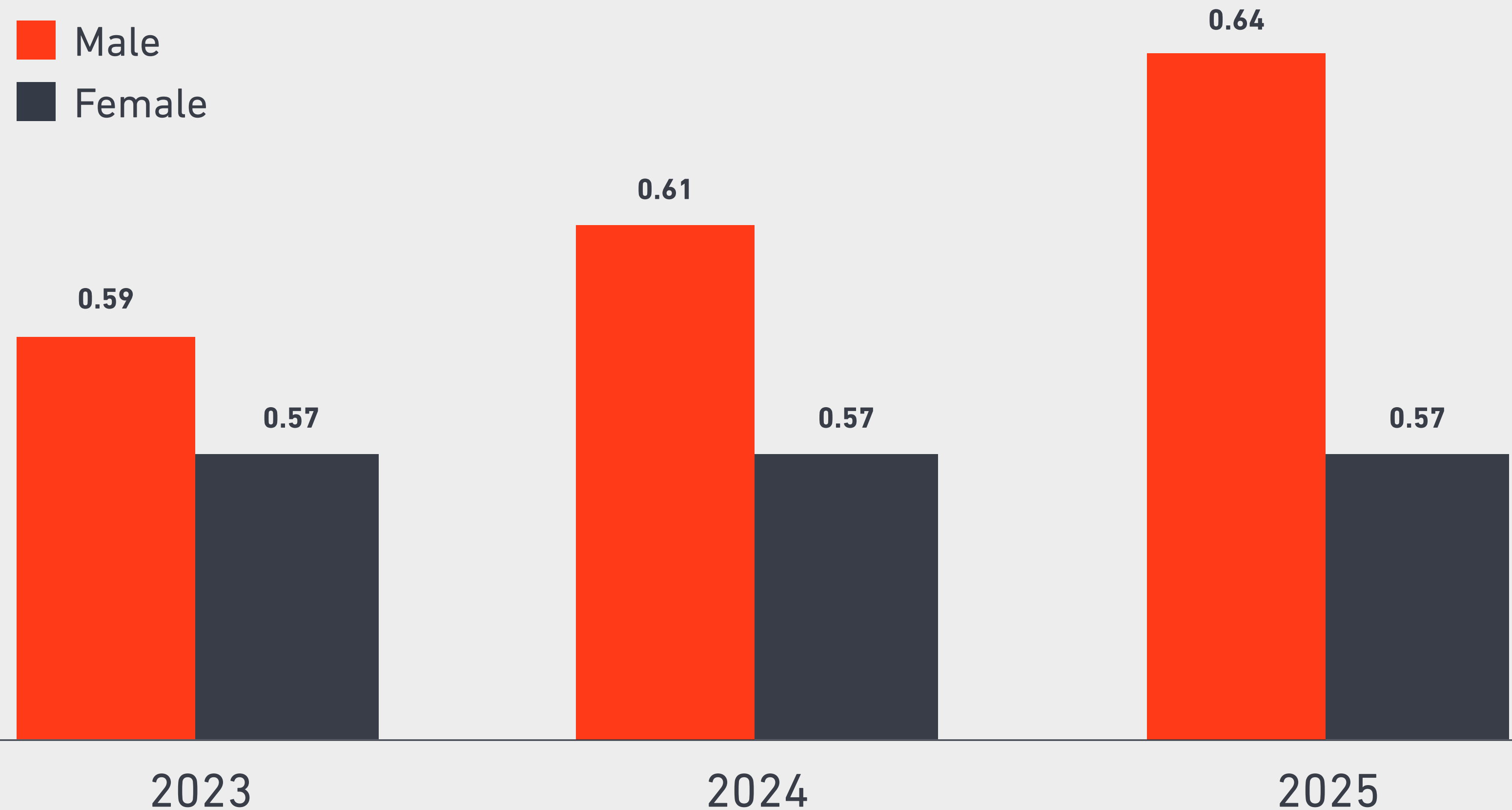
The 0.24-0.50 alcohol category represents the largest share of cases, increasing from about 39% in 2023 to around 42% in 2025. The lowest category declines from about 7% to roughly 2%, while higher categories show small increases.





Average Alcohol Levels Rose Among Male Drivers

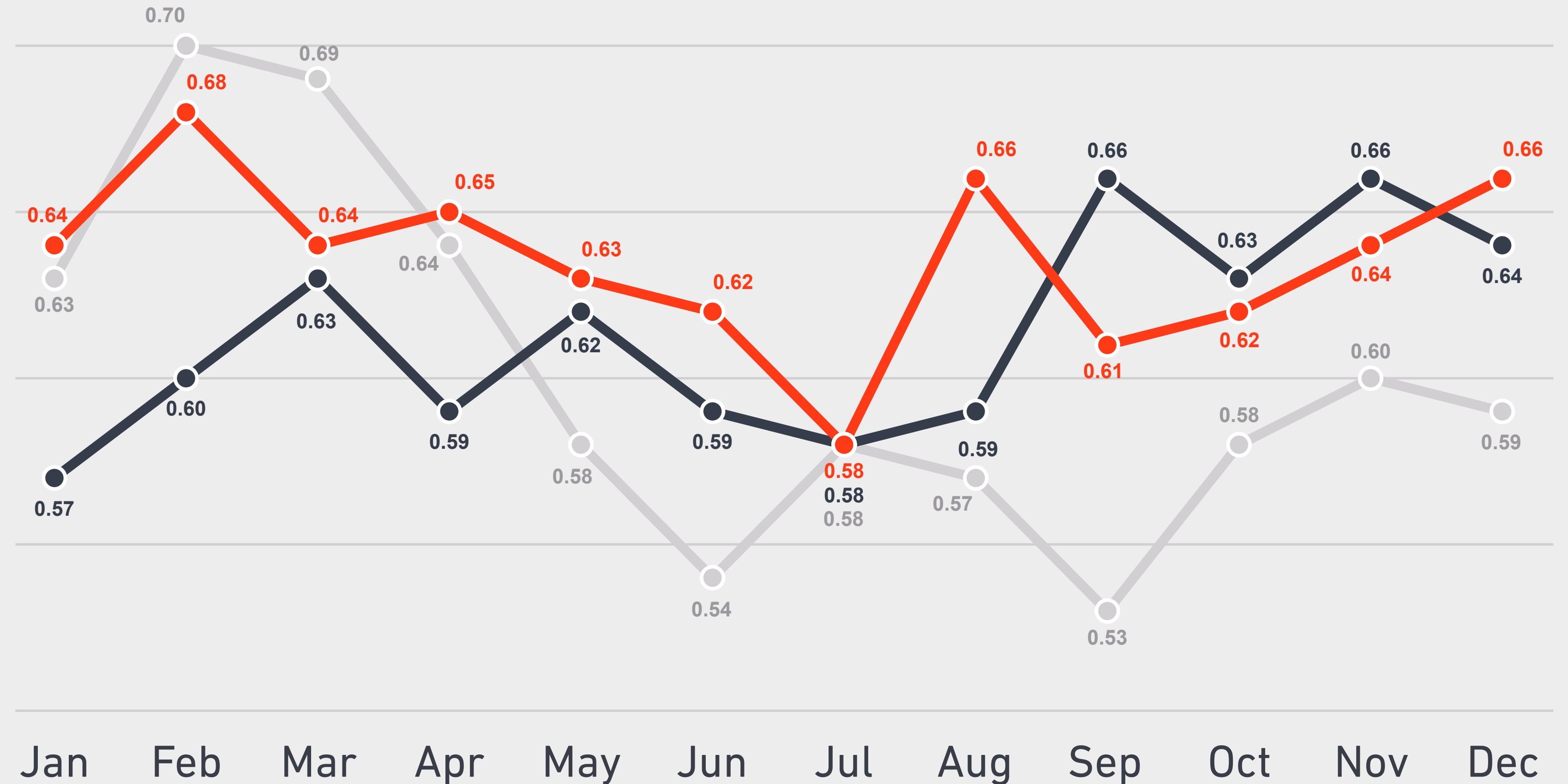
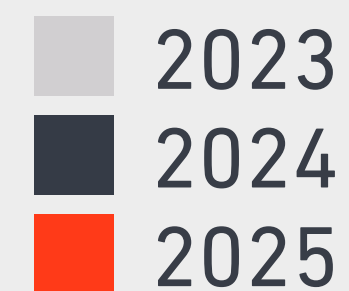
Average alcohol levels increased among male drivers, while levels among female drivers remained stable.





Peak Alcohol Levels Move Across The Calendar

The monthly pattern does not follow one consistent seasonal cycle. 2023 peaked earlier in the year. 2024 peaked later. 2025 recorded elevated levels both early and late in the year.





Accidents

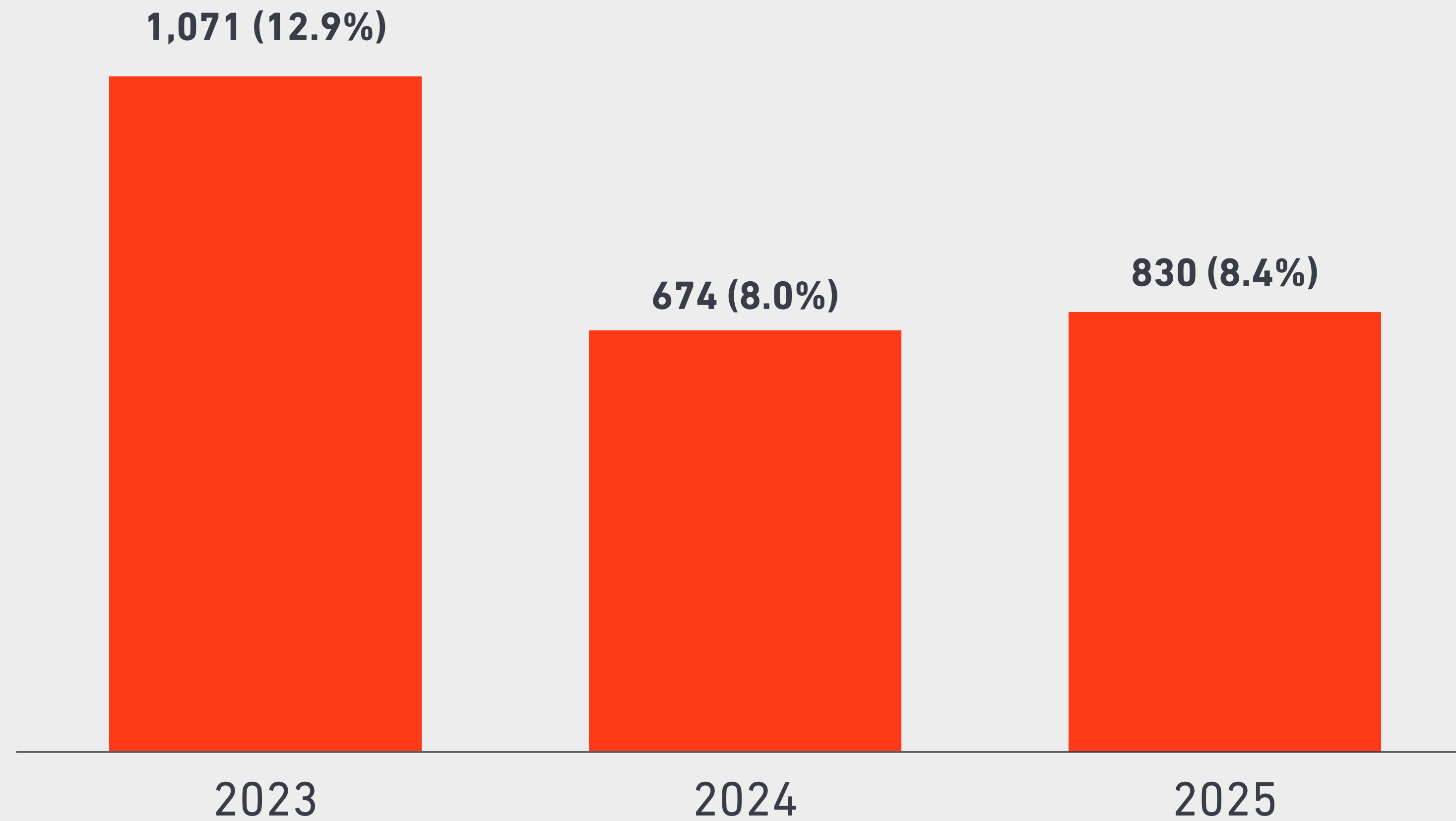
Data Limitation Disclaimer

The accident statistics presented in this report do not represent a comprehensive reflection of all accidents occurring within the city. The data set is derived from cases linked specifically to recorded arrests, and therefore only reflects incidents where enforcement action was taken and whether an accident was recorded in association with that arrest.

As a result, accidents that occurred without an associated arrest, or that were recorded through alternative reporting systems, are not included in this analysis. The findings should therefore be interpreted within the context of enforcement-linked data and not as a full representation of citywide accident trends.

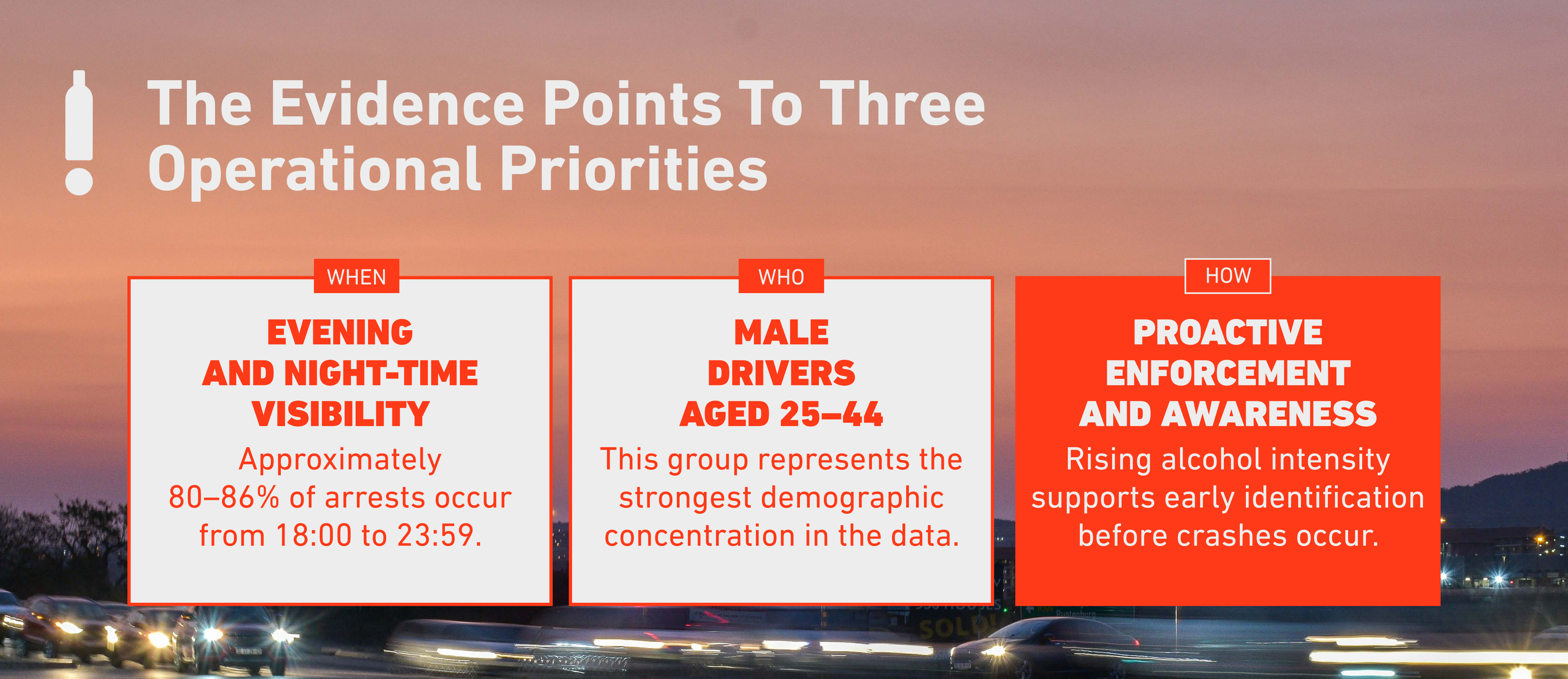


Accidents Linked To DUI



The proportion of recorded DUI arrests linked to an accident was lower in 2024 and 2025 than in 2023.





The Evidence Points To Three Operational Priorities

WHEN

EVENING AND NIGHT-TIME VISIBILITY

Approximately
80–86% of arrests occur
from 18:00 to 23:59.

WHO

MALE DRIVERS AGED 25–44

This group represents the
strongest demographic
concentration in the data.

HOW

PROACTIVE ENFORCEMENT AND AWARENESS

Rising alcohol intensity
supports early identification
before crashes occur.

These findings support AWARE.org and JMPD's ongoing year-round road-safety work. They point to the value of continued evening enforcement and prevention messages that reach men aged 25–44 before they go out. Through Shiyi'moto, AWARE.org encourages road users to plan how they will get home before drinking and to keep drinking and driving separate.



What The Data Can And Cannot Tell Us

USE THE DATA TO UNDERSTAND

Recorded DUI arrests
Timing of enforcement outcomes
Demographic patterns in arrests
Breath alcohol levels
Accidents linked to arrests

DO NOT READ IT AS

A full count of DUI behaviour
A complete record of citywide accidents
Risk independent of where and when operations took place





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