

111 convictions — 81% excludes thousands of

THE latest research shows that drunk drivers remain a leading cause of death on our roads.

A Medical Research Council survey, based on data from mortuaries throughout South Africa, shows 50.1% of people who died in road accidents were three times over the legal alcohol limit, and 59.8% of all pedestrians who died were four to five times over the legal limit. This limit is a blood-alcohol content of more than 0.05g per 100ml, or a breath-alcohol content of more than 0.24mg per 1,000ml. Generally this means that two drinks in one hour will put you over the limit. Drivers transporting passengers face a tougher limit of 0.02g per

## Booze major killer on South African roads

100ml in a blood test and 0.1mg per 1,000ml when breathalysed.

Minister of Health Aaron Motsoaledi said three years ago the government spent "an estimated R17-billion" to tackle the results of alcohol abuse. This included vehicle injuries and accidents. One of South Africa's leading authorities on alcohol abuse, Charles Parry of the Medical Research Council, found that:

- Six out of 10 drivers who died in

road accidents had dangerously high blood-alcohol levels.

- One out of every seven drivers driving at night was drunk and
- One drink doubled your chances of causing an accident.

Statistics released on Tuesday by the Road Traffic Management Corporation showed that 1,184 people were killed in 987 road accidents from December 1 to 30. At least half were killed because they were over the legal limit. Kwazulu-Natal had the most



**WAITING TO EXHALE:** A policeman administers a breathalyser test at a roadblock

recorded accidents, at 205, followed by Gauteng with 156 and the Eastern Cape with 136. — Pearlle Joubert

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