

Utah Fatal Crash Summary 2015



**State of Utah
Department of Public Safety
Highway Safety Office**

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Preliminary Totals as of 9/12/2016

Summary

Utah saw an increase in motor vehicle traffic crash deaths in 2015 to the highest number in eight years with 278 people killed, an increase of 22 deaths from 2014.

Some areas of concern in Utah during 2015:

- Traffic deaths increased from 256 in 2014 to 278 in 2015, the third year in a row of an increase;
- Speed was once again the leading contributing factor in deaths accounting for 37% of deaths. The speed category includes crashes where the driver exceeded the speed limit or traveled too fast for conditions;
- Unrestrained occupants accounted for 31% of deaths. There were 15 more unrestrained occupant deaths than in 2014;
- Pedestrians had an increase of 12 deaths compared to 2014 for the highest total since 1987;
- Marijuana is increasingly becoming a bigger issue with 38 drivers in fatal crashes testing positive compared to 21 in 2014 and 10 in 2013.

Utah made progress in decreasing fatalities in only a few areas in 2015 when compared to 2014. The only categories that saw significant decreases in deaths were:

- 9 fewer motorcyclist deaths;
- 8 fewer deaths involving drunk drivers;
- 6 fewer speed deaths;
- 6 fewer improper passing deaths.

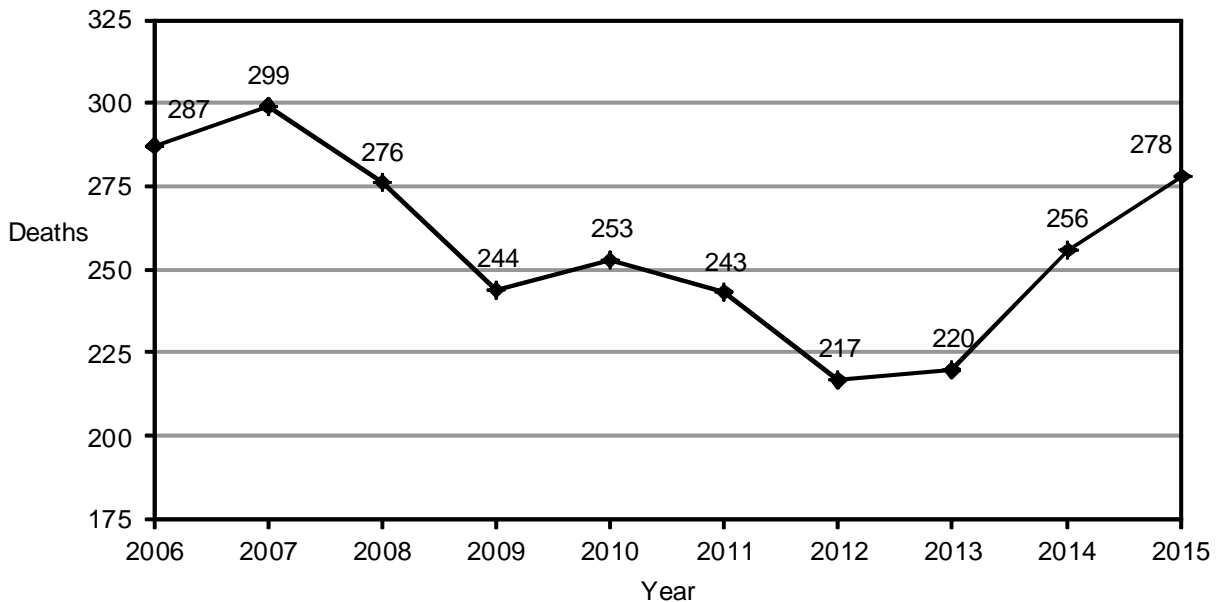
All totals are based on preliminary data and may change slightly.

2015 Utah Fatal Crash Synopsis

Category	#	% of Total*
Deaths	278	
Speed Crash	104	37%
Unrestrained Occupants	87	31%
Older (Age 65+) Driver Crash	59	21%
Pedestrians	49	18%
Heavy Truck Crash	40	14%
Drunk Driver Crash	37	13%
Motorcyclists	36	13%
Inclement Weather Crash	35	13%
Failed to Yield Crash	30	11%
Teenage Driver Crash	30	11%
Distracted Driving Crash	28	10%
Red Light/Stop Sign Running Crash	19	7%
Drowsy Driving Crash	15	5%
Followed Too Closely Crash	10	4%
Bicyclists	5	2%
Improper Passing Crash	2	1%
Animal-Related Crash	1	<1%
Fatal Crashes	258	
Urban	159	62%
Rural	99	38%
Speed	95	37%
Older (Age 65+) Driver	57	22%
Pedestrian-Motor Vehicle	49	19%
Motorcycle	36	14%
Inclement Weather	34	13%
Heavy Truck	33	13%
Drunk Driver	31	12%
Distracted Driving	27	10%
Failed to Yield	27	10%
Teenage Driver	27	10%
Red Light/Stop Sign Running	19	7%
Drowsy Driving	14	5%
Followed Too Closely	8	3%
Bicycle-Motor Vehicle	5	2%
Improper Passing	2	1%
Animal-Related	1	<1%

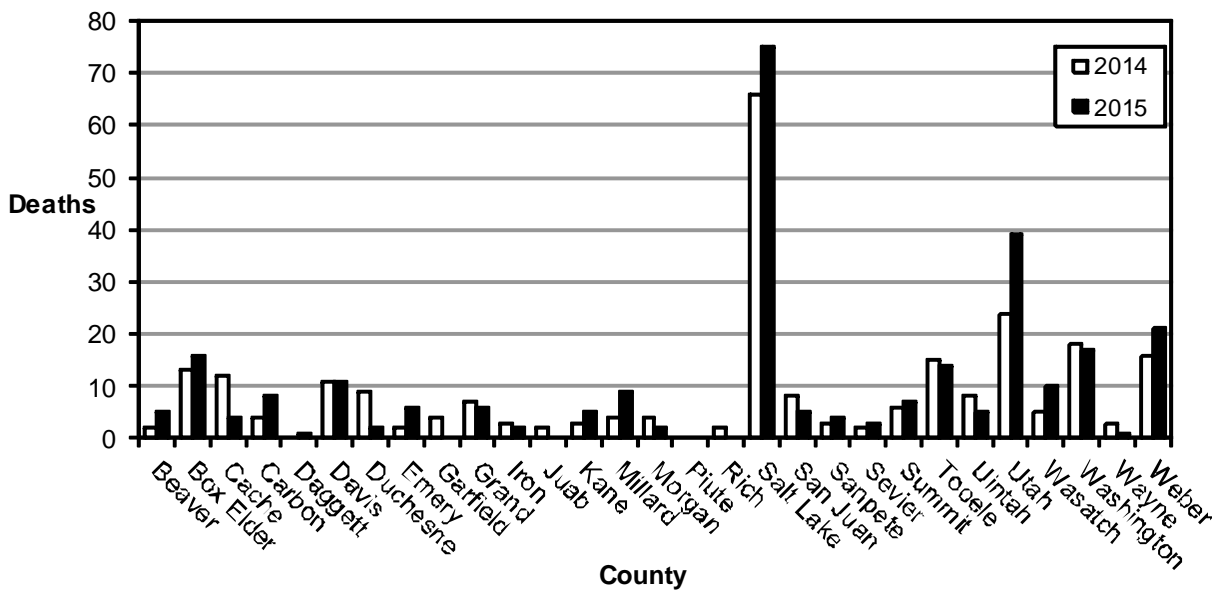
* NOTE: Groups overlap and do not total 100%.

Deaths by Year (Utah 2006-2015)



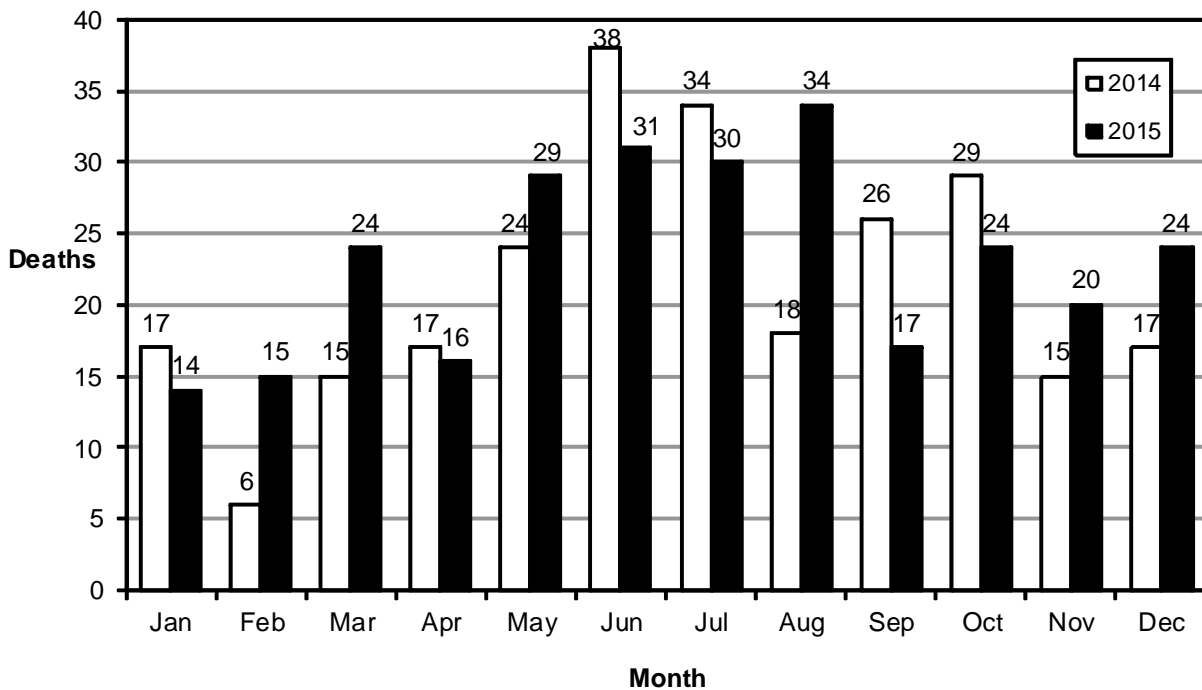
- Deaths increased in 2015 to the highest total in eight years.
- After seeing record lows in 2012 and 2013, deaths increased 26% from 2013.

Deaths by County (Utah 2014-2015)



- Salt Lake (75) and Utah (39) Counties had the highest number of deaths.
- Garfield, Juab, Piute, and Rich Counties had zero deaths.
- Compared to 2014, Cache (8 fewer) and Duchesne (7 fewer) Counties had the biggest decreases in deaths while Utah (15 more) and Salt Lake (9 more) Counties had the biggest increases in deaths.

Deaths by Month (Utah 2014-2015)



- August (34), June (31), July (30), and May (29) had the highest number of deaths.
- February (15), April (15), and September (17) had the lowest number of deaths.
- Compared to 2014, September had the biggest decrease in deaths with 9 fewer while August had the biggest increase in deaths with 16 more.

Deaths by Month (Utah 1972-2015)

Lowest Totals for April

1. April 1976 - 11
2. April 2008 - 12
3. 2001, 2011, 2012 - 14
6. 1972, 1975 - 15
8. **April 2015 - 16**

Lowest Totals for September

1. 1992, 2012, **2015** - 17
4. 1985, 2009, 2013 - 19
7. September 1991 - 20

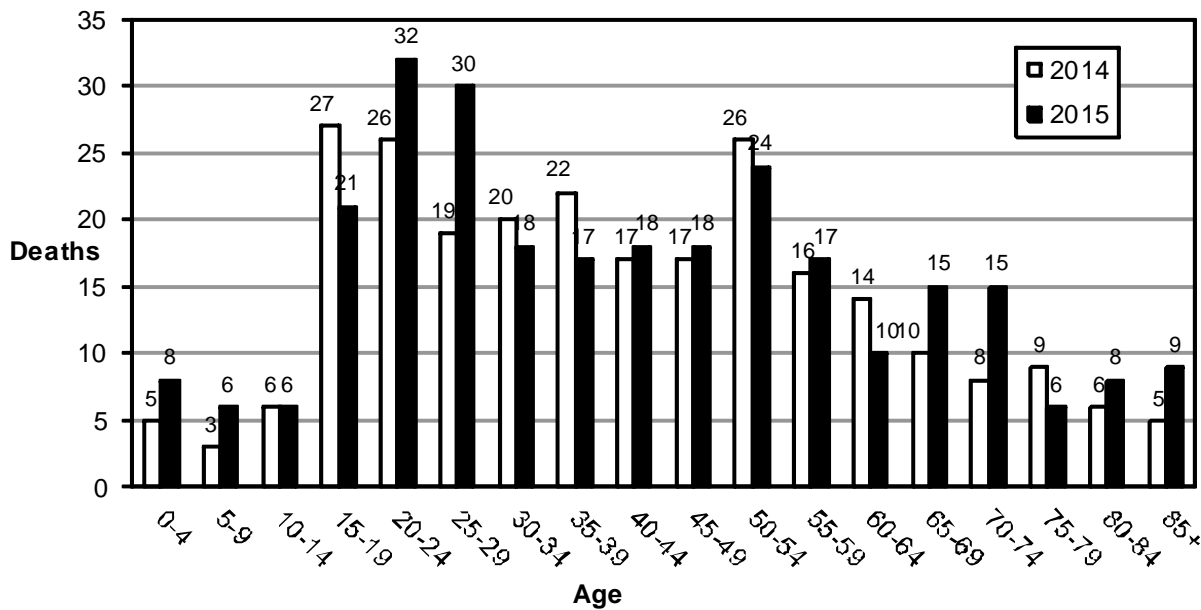
Lowest Overall Months

1. February 1974 - 3
2. January 2013 - 4
3. February 2014 - 6
3. January 1974 - 6
5. January 2012 - 7
6. February 1988 - 8
6. February 1996 - 8
6. January 2010 - 8
9. March 1974 - 9
9. February 1989 - 9
9. February 1991 - 9
9. January 2004 - 9
9. February 2008 - 9
9. February 2010 - 9
9. February 2011 - 9

Highest Overall Months

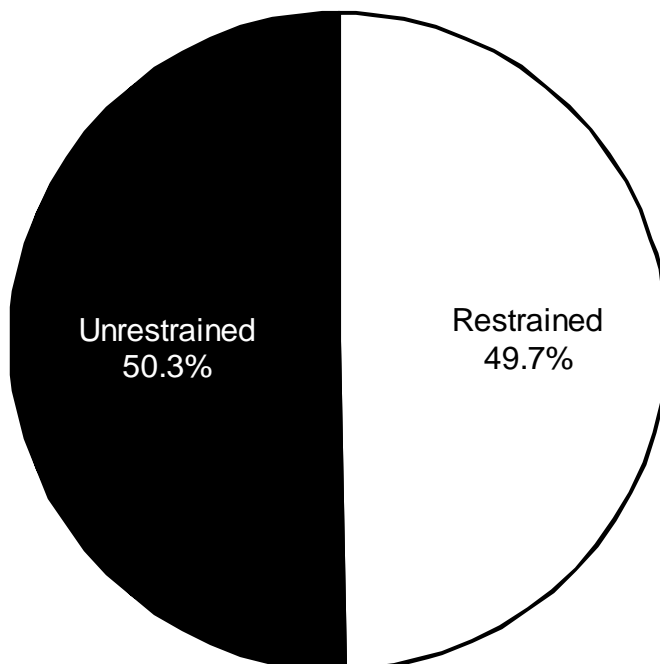
1. July 1978 - 58
2. August 1995 - 50
2. July 2000 - 50
4. July 1973 - 49
4. July 1988 - 49
6. August 1978 - 48
7. July 1977 - 47
7. August 1977 - 47
9. August 1989 - 46
9. August 1991 - 46
9. July 1999 - 46

Deaths by Age (Utah 2014-2015)



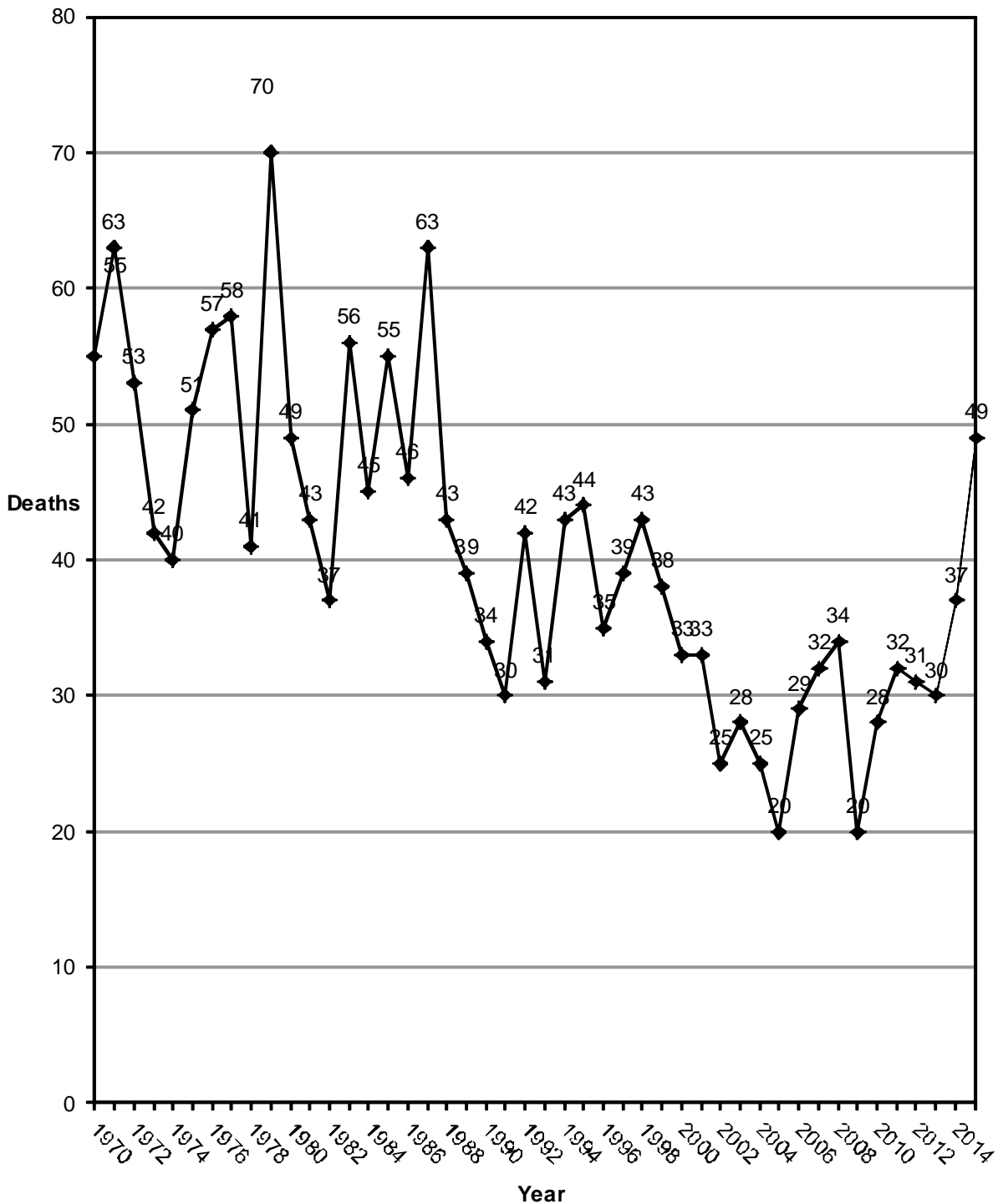
- 22% of persons killed in 2015 were aged 20-29 years.
- Compared to 2014, the 15-19 age group had the biggest decreases in deaths with 6 fewer while the 25-29 (11 more) and 70-74 (7 more) age groups had the biggest increases in deaths.

Restraint Use of Occupants Killed (Utah 2015)



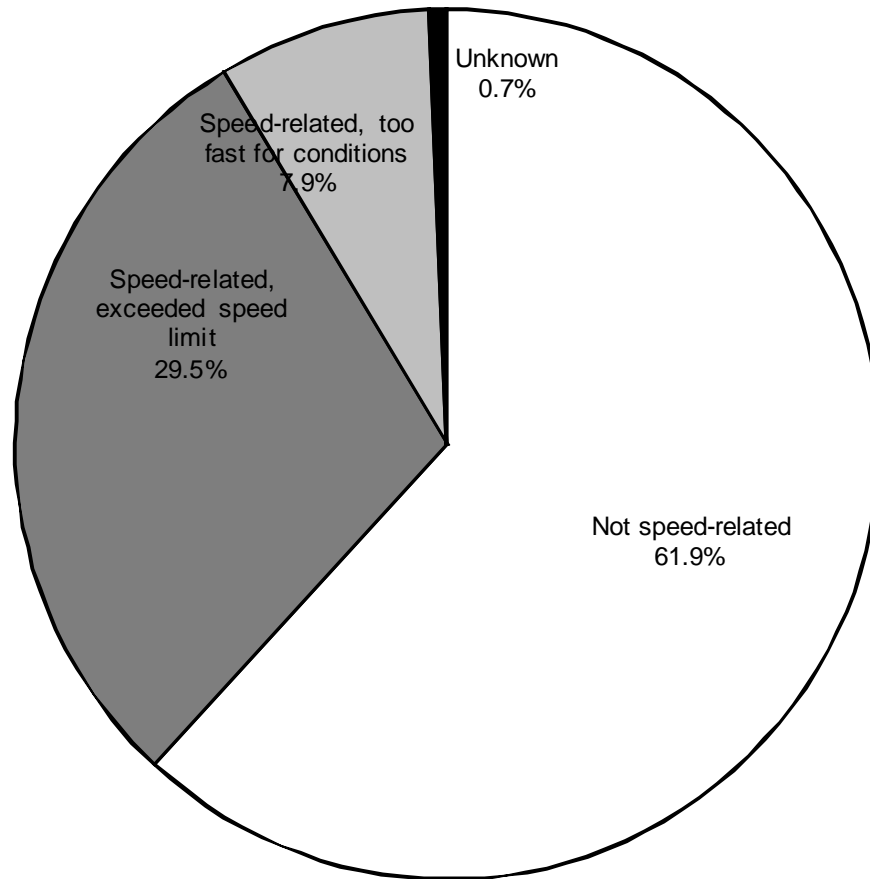
- There were 87 deaths to unrestrained occupants.
- It is estimated that 43 of these deaths would have been prevented had the occupant been restrained.

Pedestrian Deaths (Utah 1970-2015)



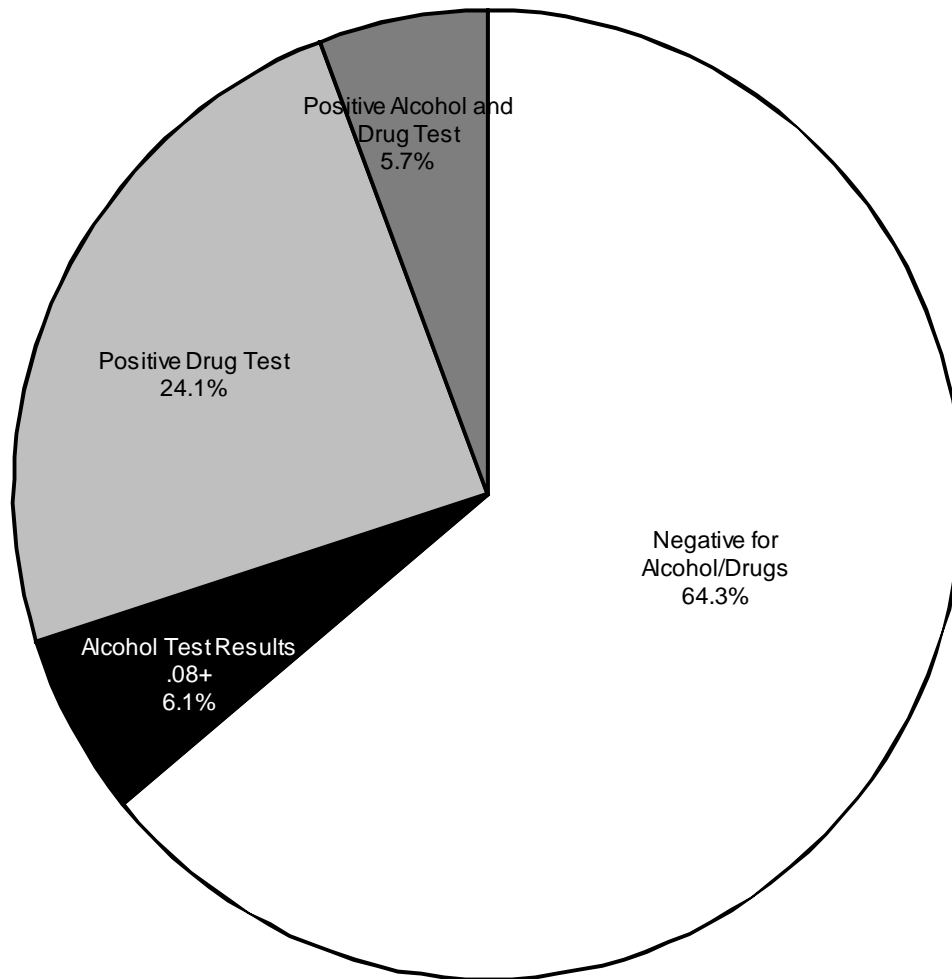
- The 49 pedestrian deaths in 2015 were the highest total since 63 pedestrians were killed in 1987.
- In the last two years pedestrian deaths increased 63%.

Speed-Related Deaths (Utah 2015)



- The speed-related category includes crashes when the driver was exceeding the speed limit and when the driver was traveling too fast for conditions.
- Of the 278 deaths, 172 (62%) speed was not known to contribute to the crash, 82 (29%) were attributed to exceeding the speed limit, 22 (8%) were attributed to traveling too fast for conditions, and 2 (1%) the role of speed was unknown.
- In 22 of the deaths the driver was traveling 20 miles per hour (mph) or more above the posted speed limit. In 12 of these deaths the driver was traveling 30 mph or more above the posted speed limit.
- In 9 of the deaths the driver was traveling 90 mph or more.

Alcohol and Drug Test Results of Drivers in Fatal Crashes (Utah 2015)



- In the 258 fatal crashes there were 419 drivers, of which 62% were tested for alcohol and/or drugs with results available.
- Of the 261 drivers in fatal crashes tested for alcohol and/or drugs, 64% were negative for alcohol/drugs, 24% were positive for drugs only, 6% were positive for alcohol only, and 6% were positive for both alcohol and drugs.
- 38 drivers tested positive for marijuana in 2015 compared to 21 in 2014.
- 17 drivers tested positive for methamphetamine in 2015 compared to 5 in 2014.
- A positive drug test does not necessarily imply impairment.

First Harmful Event (Utah 2015)

First Harmful Event	# of Deaths
Collision with other motor vehicle	115
Collision with pedestrian	47
Rollover/Overturn	33
Collision with post/pole/support	15
Collision with guardrail	9
Collision with concrete traffic barrier	7
Collision with fence	7
Collision with bicyclist	5
Collision with train	5
Collision with boulder	4
Collision with parked vehicle	4
Fell/Jumped from vehicle	4
Collision with curb	3
Collision with bridge	2
Collision with crash cushion	2
Collision with culvert	2
Collision with ditch	2
Collision with embankment	2
Collision with tree	2
Collision with wall	2
Collision with fire hydrant	1
Collision with live animal	1
Collision with mailbox	1
Collision with other fixed object	1
Collision with other non-fixed object	1
Immersion	1