

Utah Crash Summary 2014



State of Utah

Department of Public Safety

Utah Crash Summary 2014



Keith D. Squires, Commissioner
Utah Department of Public Safety

Kristy Rigby, Director
Highway Safety Office
Utah Department of Public Safety

Gary D. Mower, Traffic Records Program Manager
Highway Safety Office
Utah Department of Public Safety

Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Executive Summary	4
2014 Utah Crash Synopsis	5
2014 Utah Crash Facts	6
Fact Sheets.....	7
Section 1: Overview	31
Section 2: Occupant Protection	65
Section 3: Speed	79
Section 4: Alcohol	90
Section 5: Drugs	105
Section 6: Distraction.....	116
Section 7: Drowsy Drivers	124
Section 8: Teenage Drivers	135
Section 9: Older (Age 65+) Drivers.....	146
Section 10: Motorcycles.....	156
Section 11: Pedestrians.....	172
Section 12: Bicyclists	190
Appendix.....	207

Introduction

Purpose: The annual Utah Crash Summary, as specified by Utah Code under Section 41-6a-406, describes the trends and effects of traffic crashes in Utah. The statistics within the Utah Crash Summary describe factors that contribute to the occurrence of motor vehicle deaths, injuries, and crashes. This report is designed to heighten awareness about traffic safety issues and allows interested individuals to identify areas where safety programs may be focused in an effort to reduce traffic-related injuries and deaths.

Crash Data: This crash data comes from traffic crash reports completed by law enforcement officers throughout Utah who investigate crash scenes on public roadways. Information is collected when a crash involves injuries, deaths, or at least \$1,500 property damage.

Fatal Crashes: Additional detailed information is collected on fatal crashes and compiled into the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS). FARS is a national data system collecting data on all fatal traffic crashes in the U.S. FARS was used for the data on fatal crashes.

Fact Sheets: Each section of the crash summary is accompanied by a fact sheet. The fact sheets provide an overview of the section highlighting key points.

Prepared By: The Utah Department of Public Safety, Highway Safety Office prepared this report. For more information, please contact: Gary Mower, Traffic Records Program Manager • Utah Department of Public Safety, Highway Safety Office • 5500 W Amelia Earhart Dr Suite 155 • Salt Lake City, Utah 84116 • (801) 366-6040 • gmower@utah.gov.

Available At: A limited number of printed copies of the Utah Crash Summary are available at the Utah Highway Safety Office. The summary and fact sheets are also available on the internet at highwaysafety.utah.gov.

Suggested Citation: Utah Department of Public Safety, Highway Safety Office. *Utah Crash Summary 2014*. Salt Lake City, UT: Utah Department of Public Safety, 2015.

Executive Summary

Significant progress has been made to reduce motor vehicle crashes in Utah, with a rapid decline in the injury and fatal crash rates over the last 40 years. If Utah had the same fatal crash rate in 2014 as 1974 there would have been 587 additional deaths in 2014. These reductions can be attributed to a variety of factors, including:

- Traffic safety programs that have increased public awareness of traffic safety issues;
- Aggressive media and enforcement programs targeting driver behavior;
- Legislation targeting restraint use, graduated driver licensing, and impaired driving;
- Improved safety of motor vehicles and engineering of roadways;
- Advancements in emergency response and treatment.

The personal and socioeconomic effect of motor vehicle crashes is a continuing concern in the State of Utah. In 2014, there were 54,036 reported traffic crashes on public roadways in Utah. These crashes involved 134,182 people, with 23,364 injured and 256 people killed.

Utah made progress in the following areas over the last few years:

- The Utah death rate per vehicle mile traveled has been below the U.S. rate since 2001;
- There were 1,600 fewer traffic crashes in 2014 compared to 2013;
- The number of deaths to unrestrained occupants has shown a decreasing trend;
- The number of speed-related crashes in 2014 decreased to the lowest total since 2005;
- The percent of crashes involving a teen driver has a decreasing trend for 18 years;
- Drowsy driving deaths were the lowest on record;
- The number of bicyclists in crashes in 2014 decreased for the second straight year.

As improvements are made and progress continues, traffic safety needs to remain a top priority. Some areas of concern in Utah include:

- Traffic deaths were the highest total in Utah since 2008;
- The number of injured persons in crashes increased for the fourth straight year;
- Speed remains the leading contributing factor in deaths;
- Motorcyclist deaths in 2014 were the highest on record;
- Pedestrian deaths in 2014 were the highest since 1999;
- Deaths involving a drunk driver in 2014 were the highest since 2004;
- The percent of crashes involving an older driver increased for the seventh straight year;
- The percent of crashes in 2014 involving a distracted-driver increased to the highest percent on record;
- The number of crashes involving a drug-related driver in 2014 was the highest on record.

The *Utah Crash Summary 2014* contains further details regarding Utah motor vehicle crashes.

Users of this Crash Summary are invited to help promote motor vehicle safety in Utah. The numbers represent lost lives, injured people, and lives changed. Utah has set a goal of zero deaths because the loss of even one life is too many. This is a goal we can all live with.

2014 Utah Crash Synopsis

All Crashes

Category	#	% of Total*
Total Persons in Crashes	134,182	
Drivers	94,760	71%
Passengers	37,656	28%
Followed Too Closely Crash	35,322	26%
Teenage Driver Crash	30,610	23%
Failed to Yield Crash	28,000	21%
Injured Persons	23,364	17%
Speed Crash	21,198	16%
Older (Age 65+) Driver Crash	19,685	15%
Inclement Weather Crash	19,552	15%
Distracted Driving Crash	15,638	12%
Disregard Traffic Signal/Sign Crash	8,810	7%
Heavy Truck Crash	7,165	5%
Alcohol-Related Driver Crash	4,536	3%
Animal-Related Crash	4,416	3%
Unrestrained Occupants	2,772	2%
Drowsy Driving Crash	1,944	1%
Drug-Related Driver Crash	1,878	1%
Motorcyclists	1,294	1%
Pedestrians	1,003	1%
Bicyclists	763	1%
Deaths	256	<1%
Total Crashes	54,036	
Urban	45,021	83%
Property Damage Only	37,388	69%
Injury	16,426	30%
Followed Too Closely	11,181	21%
Teenage Driver	10,719	20%
Failed to Yield	9,664	18%
Rural	9,015	17%
Inclement Weather	8,483	16%
Speed	8,027	15%
Older (Age 65+) Driver	7,254	13%
Distracted Driving	5,698	11%
Heavy Truck	3,048	6%
Animal-Related	2,931	5%
Disregard Traffic Signal/Sign	2,858	5%
Alcohol-Related Driver	2,130	4%
Motorcycle	1,179	2%
Drowsy Driving	1,041	2%
Pedestrian-Motor Vehicle	945	2%
Drug-Related Driver	880	2%
Bicycle-Motor Vehicle	752	1%
Fatal	222	<1%

Fatal Crashes

Category	#	% of Total*
Deaths	256	
Drivers	157	61%
Speed Crash	110	43%
Unrestrained Occupants	72	28%
Passengers	53	21%
Drug Positive Driver Crash	48	19%
Older (Age 65+) Driver Crash	48	19%
Drunk Driver Crash	45	18%
Motorcyclists	45	18%
Pedestrians	37	14%
Teenage Driver Crash	33	13%
Failed to Yield Crash	30	12%
Inclement Weather Crash	25	10%
Distracted Driving Crash	22	9%
Heavy Truck Crash	20	8%
Red Light/Stop Sign Running Crash	18	7%
Bicyclists	9	4%
Followed Too Closely Crash	9	4%
Drowsy Driving Crash	6	2%
Animal-Related Crash	2	1%
Fatal Crashes	222	
Urban	132	59%
Speed	94	42%
Rural	90	41%
Motorcycle	45	20%
Older (Age 65+) Driver	44	20%
Drunk Driver	37	17%
Drug Positive Driver	36	16%
Pedestrian-Motor Vehicle	36	16%
Teenage Driver	30	14%
Failed to Yield	27	12%
Inclement Weather	22	10%
Heavy Truck	19	9%
Distracted Driving	17	8%
Red Light/Stop Sign Running	16	7%
Followed Too Closely	9	4%
Bicycle-Motor Vehicle	8	4%
Drowsy Driving	6	3%
Animal-Related	2	1%

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

2014 Utah Crash Facts

- In an average day in Utah, there were 148 motor vehicle crashes involving 370 people with 64 people injured.
- First motor vehicle crash occurred January 1, 2014 at 12:21 a.m. and the last crash occurred December 31, 2014 at 11:45 p.m.
- First fatal motor vehicle crash occurred January 1, 2014 at 2:04 a.m. and the last fatal crash occurred December 31, 2014 at 1:15 a.m.
- Wednesday, January 8, 2014 had the most crashes with 398 crashes and Sunday, March 9, 2014 had the fewest crashes with 56.
- 98 lives were estimated to be saved at current seat belt use rates. (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration)
- It is estimated that 36 additional lives would have been saved if everyone had been wearing seat belts.
- A motor vehicle crash occurred every 9 minutes.
- A person was injured in a crash every 22 minutes.
- A teenage-driver crash occurred every 49 minutes.
- A speed-related crash occurred every 65 minutes.
- A driver age 65 years or older was in a crash every 72 minutes.
- A distracted driver crash occurred every 92 minutes.
- A heavy truck was in a crash every 3 hours.
- An animal-motor vehicle crash occurred every 3 hours.
- An alcohol-related driver crash occurred every 4 hours.
- A motorcyclist was in a crash every 6.5 hours.
- A drowsy driver crash occurred every 8 hours.
- A pedestrian was hit by a motor vehicle every 8.5 hours.
- A drug-related driver crash occurred every 9.5 hours.
- A bicyclist was hit by a motor vehicle every 11 hours.
- A person died in a crash every 34 hours.
- The youngest person in a motor vehicle crash was less than a week old and the oldest person was 100 years-old.
- The youngest person killed in a motor vehicle crash was 1 year-old and the oldest person killed was 93 years-old.
- The estimated statewide economic loss due to motor vehicle crashes in Utah was \$1.61 billion. (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration)
- Hospital and emergency department charges for the treatment of injuries in motor vehicle crashes were \$150 million. [Utah Department of Health (UDOH), 2013]
- 5.0% of licensed drivers were in a crash.
- 4.6% of Utah residents were in a crash.
- 4.5% of registered vehicles were in a crash.
- 1.5% of deaths in Utah involved a motor vehicle crash. (UDOH)
- 0.2% of people in a crash died.
- A person was in a crash every 205,000 miles driven in Utah.

