April 2012 Hot Topic

Subject: Where are the Worst Drivers in Utah?

You have probably had the experience of talking about driving among a group of people and someone will make the comment that drivers in Salt Lake or drivers in rural Utah are the worst drivers they have ever seen. How do the drivers in urban areas compare with rural areas? This edition of the Highway Safety Hot Topic will compare counties and cities in Utah.

Data Limitations
Due to the fact that counties have different amounts of miles traveled, the rate of crashes per vehicle miles traveled was used. For pedestrian, bicyclist, and city comparisons the rate of crashes per population was used.

To do a comparison among the counties, nine highway safety areas were evaluated to rank the counties from worst to best. Keep in mind that the numbers used are for people driving in the county not just residents of the county.

Overall
In 2010, drivers in Duchesne County were the worst in Utah. Following Duchesne County were two counties from the Wasatch Front—Salt Lake and Weber.

Drivers in Piute County can lay claim to being the best drivers in Utah. Trailing Piute County as best drivers were other rural counties—Millard, Box Elder, and San Juan. See page 3 for a complete ranking of counties.

What makes the drivers in some counties worse than others? Below are several highway safety topics and how Utah counties compare.

Fatal Crashes
Rural Counties had the highest fatal crash rates per miles traveled. Rich, Duchesne, Sanpete, Daggett, and Grand Counties had the highest rates. The counties with the lowest fatal crash rates were Wayne, Piute, Morgan, Wasatch, and Carbon.

All Crashes
Urban Counties had the highest overall crash rates per miles traveled. Salt Lake, Weber, Cache, Utah, and Duchesne Counties had the highest rates. The counties with the lowest overall crash rates were Grand, San Juan, Daggett, Tooele, and Millard.

Occupant Protection
Wayne, Sevier, Sanpete, Garfield, and Duchesne Counties were the worst counties for people not using seat belts and child safety seats in crashes. Davis, Cache, Salt Lake, Utah, and Summit were the best counties for occupant protection.

Drunk Driving
Uintah County lays claim to having the worst drivers in regards to drunk driving. Counties in the eastern part of Utah make up many of the worst counties. Uintah was followed by Salt Lake, Daggett, Duchesne, and San Juan. Piute County has the best drivers in regards to not drinking
and driving. Counties in the central part of Utah make up many of the best counties. Piute was followed by Sevier, Box Elder, Millard, and Iron.

**Speed**
Morgan, Rich, Wasatch, Beaver, and Duchesne Counties had the highest rates of crashes by lead-footed drivers. Daggett, Grand, Washington, San Juan, and Kane Counties had the lowest rates of crashes by speeding vehicles.

**Teen Drivers**
This category includes drivers age 15-19 years in a crash. Urban counties had the worst teen drivers. Cache, Weber, Salt Lake, Utah, and Rich Counties had the highest rates. San Juan, Grand, Daggett, Millard, and Emery Counties had the lowest crash rates for teen drivers.

**Motorcycles**
Rich County has the worst drivers in regards to motorcycle crashes per miles traveled. Trailing Rich are Wayne, Morgan, Garfield, and Kane. The best counties for motorcyclists were Beaver, Emery, Millard, Box Elder, and Juab.

**Pedestrians**
Drivers may need additional training on how to drive around pedestrians in Juab, Wasatch, Salt Lake, Weber, and Summit Counties as they ranked the worst for pedestrian crashes per population. In Daggett, Kane, Piute, Rich, San Juan, and Wayne no pedestrians were struck by motor vehicles.

**Bicyclists**
Drivers may need additional training on how to drive around bicyclists in Salt Lake, Cache, Utah, Wasatch, and Weber Counties as they ranked the worst for bicyclist crashes per population. In Beaver, Daggett, Duchesne, Grand, Juab, Kane, Millard, Morgan, Piute, Rich, San Juan, and Wayne no bicyclists were struck by motor vehicles.

**County Comparison Conclusion**
While some people may claim that drivers in one area of Utah are the worst, the data shows which counties in Utah are the worst. Drivers in Duchesne County were the worst, ranking above the state average in six of the nine categories examined. Drivers in Piute County were the best, ranking below the state average in every category but one.

**City Comparison**
All cities that had a population of 5,000+ or 50+ crashes were compared. The largest cities in Utah had the highest number of crashes as would be expected. Comparing crashes per population shows that the cities with the highest rates were Marriot-Slaterville, Uintah, Willard, Park City, and Riverdale. The cities with the lowest rates were Ephraim, Cedar Hills, Enoch, Alpine, and Ivins. For cities with 20,000+ population, South Salt Lake had the highest rate while Eagle Mountain had the lowest rate. For a complete listing of cities see page 4.
This is a comparison developed to evaluate the different counties using a County Highway Safety Ranking. Each County is ranked with 1 being the lowest (or worst) ranking and 29 being the highest (or best) ranking on various categories. The bottom row shows what counties ranked above the state average for that category. Counties above the state average are marked in gray for that category. To arrive at an overall ranking, the rankings within the nine different categories were added together and divided by nine.

- Duchesne, Salt Lake, and Weber Counties were the worst overall counties. Duchesne County was among the worst ten counties for six of the nine categories.
- Piute, Millard, and Box Elder Counties were the best overall counties. Piute County was below the state average in every category except one.

Utah Crash Summary 2010
## Crashes by City (Utah 2010)

The above table only includes cities with a population of 5,000+ or 50+ crashes. The ten cities with the highest rates of total crashes per population were Marriot-Slaterville, Uintah, Willard, Park City, Riverdale, South Salt Lake, Murray, Taylorsville, Midvale, and Lindon. The ten cities with the highest total number of crashes were Salt Lake City, Sandy, West Valley City, Taylorsville, Murray, Provo, West Jordan, Ogden, Orem, and Logan.