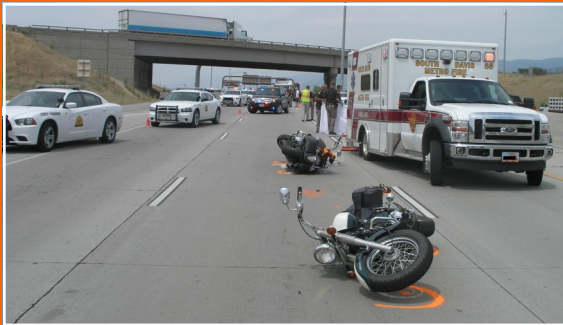


Utah Crash Summary 2012



State of Utah
Department of Public Safety

Utah Crash Summary 2012



Keith D. Squires, Commissioner
Utah Department of Public Safety

David A. Beach, Director
Highway Safety Office
Utah Department of Public Safety

Gary D. Mower, Research Analyst
Highway Safety Office
Utah Department of Public Safety

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	3
Executive Summary	4
2012 Utah Crash Synopsis.....	5
2012 Utah Crash Facts.....	6
Fact Sheets	7
Section 1: Overview	27
Section 2: Occupant Protection	53
Section 3: Alcohol-Impaired Drivers	61
Section 4: Speed	69
Section 5: Distracted Drivers	79
Section 6: Teenage Drivers	85
Section 7: Older (Age 65+) Drivers.....	95
Section 8: Motorcycles	103
Section 9: Pedestrians	115
Section 10: Bicyclists.....	125
Appendix	135

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, Research Analyst • 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 www.highwaysafety.utah.gov.

Suggested Citation: Utah Department of Public Safety, Highway Safety Office. *Utah Crash Summary 2012*. Salt Lake City, UT: Utah Department of Public Safety, 2013.

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 2012 as 1972 there would have been 1,243 additional deaths in 2012. 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 2012, there were 50,600 reported traffic crashes on public roadways in Utah. These crashes involved 125,709 people, with 22,336 injured and 217 people killed. Traffic deaths were the lowest total in Utah since 1959.

Utah made progress in the following areas in 2012 when compared to 2011:

- The Utah death rate per vehicle miles traveled is still below the overall U.S. rate;
- Traffic deaths decreased from 243 in 2011 to 217 in 2012;
- Reported traffic crashes decreased from 52,287 in 2011 to 50,600 in 2012;
- The teenage driver crash rate per licensed driver decreased for the fifth straight year;
- The number of deaths involving an alcohol-impaired driver decreased 49%;
- The crash rate per miles traveled decreased 4% from 2011;
- The number of unrestrained occupant deaths decreased 4%.

As improvements are made and progress continues, traffic safety needs to remain a top priority. Some areas of concern in Utah during 2012 include:

- 20-24 year-old drivers replaced 15-19 year-old drivers for having the highest crash rate per licensed driver;
- The number of deaths decreased in every category except motorcyclists and drowsy driving;
- Child safety seat use among ages 0-8 years decreased for the first time in ten years;
- The percent of crashes involving an older driver increased for the fifth straight year;
- Speed was a factor in 41% of fatal crashes;
- The number of motorcyclists killed increased 14%;
- The number of bicyclists and pedestrians in crashes increased 6%;
- The number of speed-related crashes increased 6%.

The *Utah Crash Summary 2012* contains further details regarding Utah motor vehicle crashes.

The Utah Department of Public Safety, Highway Safety Office invites users of this Crash Summary to help promote motor vehicle safety in Utah. The numbers in the Crash Summary represent lost lives, injured people, and lives changed. Utah has set a goal of zero fatalities because the loss of even one life is too many. This is a goal we can all live with.

2012 Utah Crash Synopsis

All Crashes

Category	#	% of Total*
Total Crashes	50,600	
Urban	41,527	82%
Property Damage Only	34,635	68%
Injury	15,765	31%
Followed Too Closely	11,353	22%
Teenage Driver	10,132	20%
Speed	9,187	18%
Failed to Yield	9,094	18%
Rural	9,073	18%
Inclement Weather	8,679	17%
Older (Age 65+) Driver	6,149	12%
Distracted Driving	4,806	9%
Heavy Truck	3,441	7%
Animal-Related	2,976	6%
Disregard Traffic Signal/Sign	2,582	5%
Alcohol-Impaired Driver	1,727	3%
Motorcycle	1,229	2%
Drowsy Driving	1,024	2%
Bicycle-Motor Vehicle	895	2%
Pedestrian-Motor Vehicle	853	2%
Fatal	200	<1%
Total Persons in Crashes	125,709	
Drivers	88,881	71%
Followed Too Closely Crash	35,559	28%
Teenage Driver Crash	28,792	23%
Failed to Yield Crash	26,357	21%
Injured Persons	22,336	18%
Speed Crash	21,629	17%
Inclement Weather Crash	19,486	16%
Older (Age 65+) Driver Crash	16,650	13%
Children (Ages 0-14 Years)	13,234	11%
Distracted Driving Crash	13,156	10%
Heavy Truck Crash	8,948	7%
Disregard Traffic Signal/Sign Crash	7,879	6%
Animal-Related Crash	4,434	4%
Alcohol-Impaired Driver Crash	3,465	3%
Unrestrained Occupants	3,437	3%
Drowsy Driving Crash	1,818	1%
Motorcyclists	1,368	1%
Pedestrians	922	1%
Bicyclists	903	1%
Deaths	217	<1%

Fatal Crashes

Category	#	% of Total*
Fatal Crashes	200	
Urban	119	60%
Speed	82	41%
Rural	81	40%
Motorcycle	30	15%
Pedestrian-Motor Vehicle	30	15%
Teenage Driver	27	14%
Older (Age 65+) Driver	26	13%
Failed to Yield	25	13%
Alcohol-Impaired Driver	19	10%
Distracted Driving	19	10%
Inclement Weather	18	9%
Heavy Truck	18	9%
Drowsy Driving	14	7%
Red Light/Stop Sign Running	14	7%
Followed Too Closely	10	5%
Bicycle-Motor Vehicle	3	2%
Animal-Related	1	1%
Deaths	217	
Drivers	133	61%
Speed Crash	91	42%
Unrestrained Occupants	79	36%
Motorcyclists	32	15%
Pedestrians	31	14%
Teenage Driver Crash	29	13%
Failed to Yield Crash	27	12%
Older (Age 65+) Driver Crash	27	12%
Alcohol-Impaired Driver Crash	20	9%
Distracted Driving Crash	20	9%
Inclement Weather Crash	20	9%
Heavy Truck Crash	20	9%
Drowsy Driving Crash	15	7%
Red Light/Stop Sign Running Crash	14	6%
Children (Ages 0-14 Years)	13	6%
Followed Too Closely Crash	11	5%
Bicyclists	3	1%
Animal-Related Crash	1	<1%

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

2012 Utah Crash Facts

- In an average day in Utah, there were 138 motor vehicle crashes involving 343 people with 61 people injured and 1 person killed.
- First motor vehicle crash occurred January 1, 2012 at 12:34 a.m. and the last crash occurred December 31, 2012 at 11:48 p.m.
- First fatal motor vehicle crash occurred January 5, 2012 at 4:58 p.m. and the last fatal crash occurred December 26, 2012 at 1:00 9.m.
- Wednesday, December 26, 2012 had the most crashes with 403 crashes and both Sunday, January 8, 2012 and Sunday, January 29, 2012 had the fewest crashes with 51.
- 102 lives were estimated to be saved at current seat belt use rates. (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 2011)
- It is estimated that 46 additional lives would have been saved if everyone had been wearing seat belts.
- A motor vehicle crash occurred every 10 minutes.
- A person was injured in a crash every 23 minutes.
- A teenage-driver crash occurred every 52 minutes.
- A speed-related crash occurred every 57 minutes.
- A driver age 65 years or older was in a crash every 85 minutes.
- A distracted driver crash occurred every 109 minutes.
- A heavy truck was in a crash every 2 hours.
- An animal-motor vehicle crash occurred every 2 hours.
- An alcohol-impaired driver crash occurred every 5 hours.
- A motorcyclist was in a crash every 6 hours.
- A pedestrian was hit by a motor vehicle every 9 hours.
- A bicyclist was hit by a motor vehicle every 9 hours.
- A person died in a crash every 40 hours.
- The youngest person in a motor vehicle crash was four days-old and the oldest person was 103 years-old.
- The youngest person killed in a motor vehicle crash was 1 year-old and the oldest person killed was 92 years-old.
- The estimated statewide economic loss due to motor vehicle crashes in Utah was \$1.44 billion. (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration)
- Hospital and emergency department charges for the treatment of Utah residents in motor vehicle crashes were \$121 million. (Utah Department of Health, 2011)
- 4.4% of licensed drivers were in a crash.
- 4.4% of Utah residents were in a crash.
- 4.0% of registered vehicles were in a crash.
- 1.4% of deaths in Utah involved a motor vehicle crash.
- 0.2% of people in a crash died.
- A person was in a crash every 212,000 miles driven in Utah.

