

# Utah Fatal Crash Summary 2017



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

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**Preliminary Totals as of 03/27/2018**

## Summary

Utah saw a decrease in motor vehicle traffic crash deaths in 2017 with 273 people killed, 8 deaths lower than in 2016. However, this total was slightly higher than the three year average (2014-2016) of 272 deaths.

Some areas of concern in Utah during 2017:

- Unrestrained occupants accounted for 30% of deaths;
- Older drivers were involved in 9 more deaths than the three year average for the highest total in at least the last 20 years (61);
- Pedestrian deaths increased by 7 deaths over 2016, for the 2nd highest total since 1998;
- Crashes occurring during Inclement Weather saw an increase of 10 more deaths than the three year average.

Utah made progress in decreasing fatalities in 2017 when compared to the three year average in the following categories:

- Speed was no longer the leading contributing factor, and dropped dramatically in 2017.
- Traffic deaths decreased after four straight years of increasing (although it was slightly above the three year average);
- 6 fewer deaths involving drowsy drivers;
- 4 fewer deaths involving teen drivers;
- 4 fewer deaths involving drivers failing to yield;
- 2 fewer deaths involving distracted drivers.

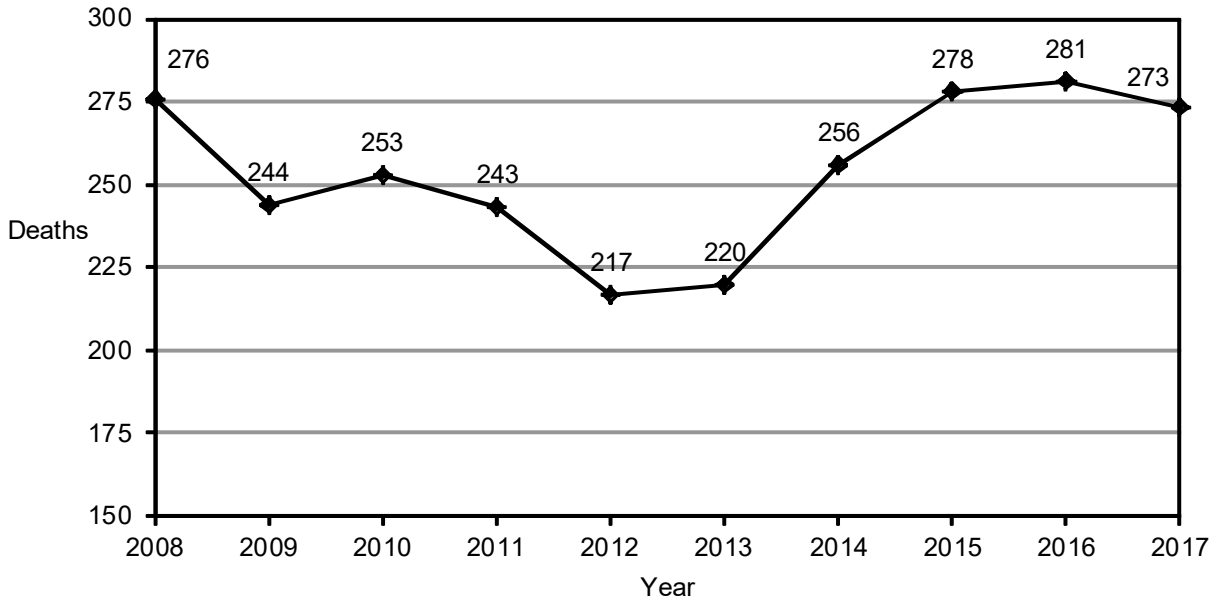
All totals are based on preliminary data and may change slightly.

## 2017 Utah Fatal Crash Synopsis

Category	2017	% of Total*	2016	2017 % Change from 2016	3 Year Avg (2014-2016)	2017 % Change from 3 Year Avg
<b>Deaths</b>	<b>273</b>		<b>281</b>	<b>-2.8%</b>	<b>271.7</b>	<b>0.5%</b>
Speed Crash	80	29.3%	106	-24.5%	106.7	-25.0%
Unrestrained Occupants	86	31.5%	80	7.5%	79.7	7.9%
Older (Age 65+) Driver Crash	61	22.3%	50	22.0%	52.3	16.6%
Pedestrians	42	15.4%	35	20.0%	40.3	4.1%
Persons on Personal Conveyance	1	0.4%	4	-75.0%	0.0	0.0%
Inclement Weather Crash	39	14.3%	27	44.4%	29.0	34.5%
Motorcyclists	39	14.3%	42	-7.1%	41.0	-4.9%
Heavy Truck Crash	38	13.9%	25	52.0%	28.3	34.1%
Drunk Driver Crash	36	13.2%	36	0.0%	39.3	-8.5%
Failed to Yield Crash	31	11.4%	45	-31.1%	35.0	-11.4%
Teenage Driver Crash	27	9.9%	43	-37.2%	35.3	-23.6%
Distracted Driving Crash	23	8.4%	21	9.5%	23.7	-2.8%
Red Light/Stop Sign Running	16	5.9%	18	-11.1%	18.3	-12.7%
Drowsy Driving Crash	8	2.9%	21	-61.9%	14.0	-42.9%
Followed Too Closely Crash	7	2.6%	9	-22.2%	9.3	-25.0%
Bicyclists	6	2.2%	5	20.0%	6.3	-5.3%
Improper Passing Crash	6	2.2%	3	100.0%	4.3	38.5%
Animal-Related Crash	3	1.1%	1	200.0%	1.3	125.0%
<b>Fatal Crashes</b>	<b>247</b>		<b>259</b>	<b>-4.6%</b>	<b>246.3</b>	<b>0.3%</b>
Urban	149	60.3%	162	-8.0%	151.3	-1.5%
Rural	98	39.7%	97	1.0%	95.0	3.2%
Speed	67	27.1%	99	-32.3%	96.0	-30.2%
Older (Age 65+) Driver	56	22.7%	48	16.7%	49.7	12.8%
Pedestrian-Motor Vehicle	42	17.0%	34	23.5%	39.7	5.9%
Person on Personal Conveyance-Motor Vehicle	1	0.4%	4	-75.0%	0.0	0.0%
Inclement Weather	38	15.4%	26	46.2%	27.3	39.0%
Motorcycle	39	15.8%	41	-4.9%	40.7	-4.1%
Heavy Truck	36	14.6%	23	56.5%	25.0	44.0%
Failed to Yield	31	12.6%	43	-27.9%	32.3	-4.1%
Drunk Driver	30	12.1%	32	-6.3%	33.3	-10.0%
Teenage Driver	18	7.3%	40	-55.0%	32.3	-44.3%
Distracted Driving	20	8.1%	19	5.3%	21.0	-4.8%
Red Light/Stop Sign Running	15	6.1%	16	-6.3%	17.0	-11.8%
Drowsy Driving	8	3.2%	15	-46.7%	11.7	-31.4%
Followed Too Closely	7	2.8%	9	-22.2%	8.7	-19.2%
Bicycle-Motor Vehicle	6	2.4%	5	20.0%	6.0	0.0%
Animal-Related	3	1.2%	1	200.0%	1.3	125.0%
Improper Passing	2	0.8%	3	-33.3%	2.7	-25.0%

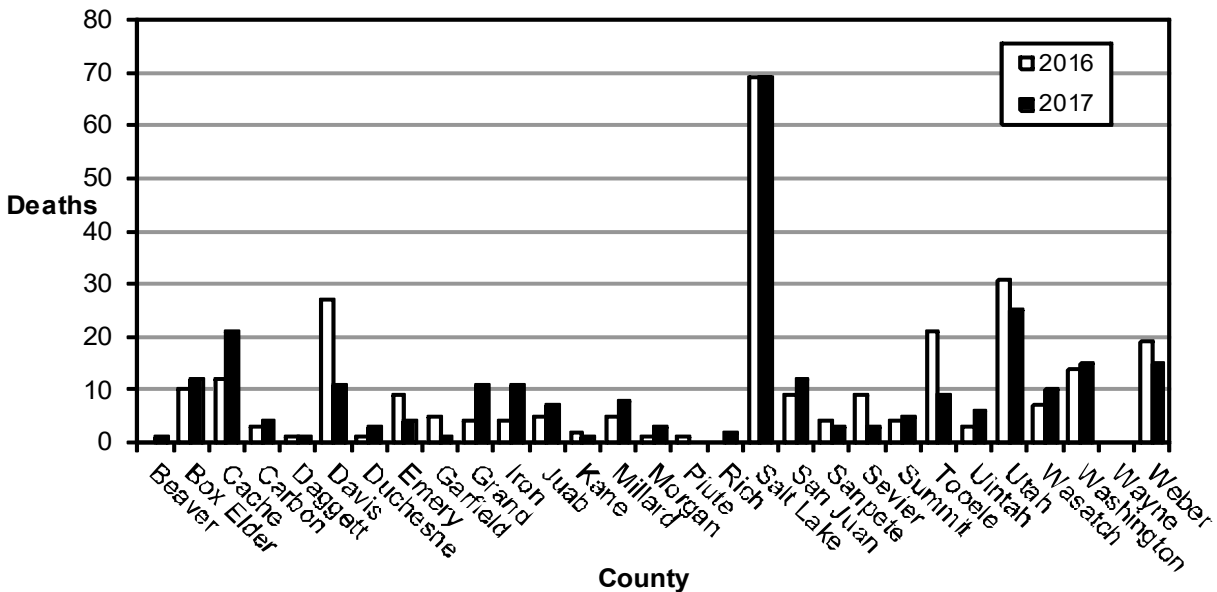
\* NOTE: Groups overlap and do not total 100%.

### Deaths by Year (Utah 2008-2017)



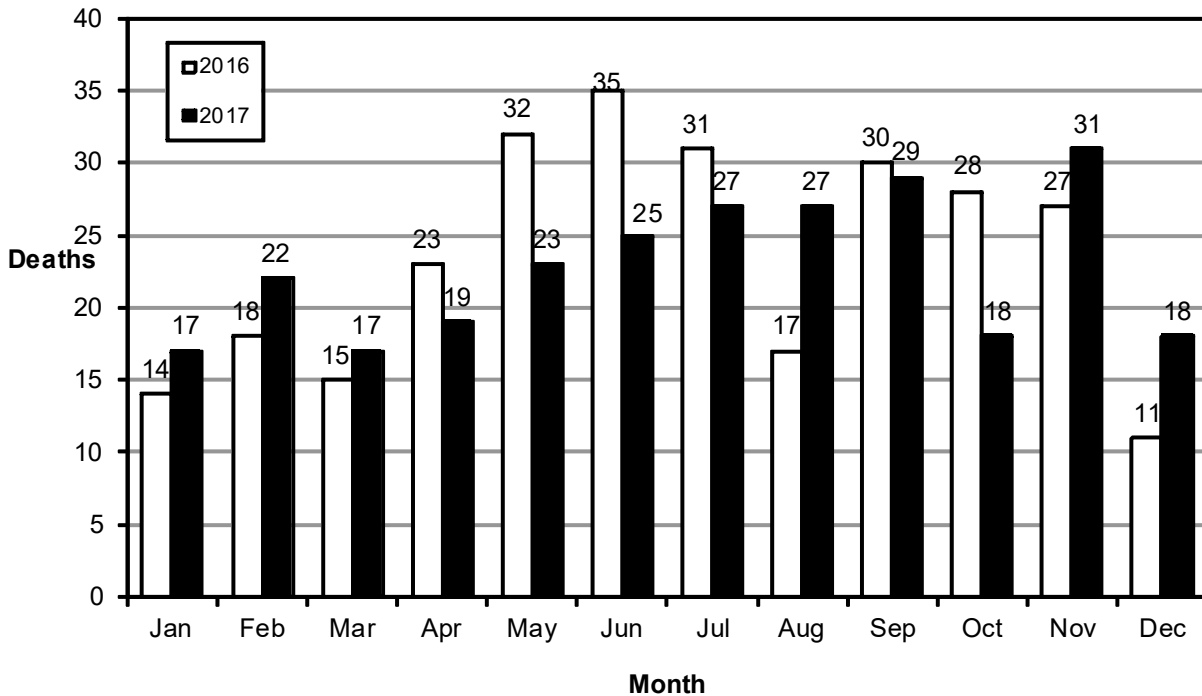
- Deaths decreased in 2017 for the first time in five years.
- After seeing record lows in 2012 and 2013, deaths have increased 24% from 2013.

### Deaths by County (Utah 2016-2017)



- Salt Lake (69) and Utah (25) Counties had the highest number of deaths.
- Piute and Wayne Counties had zero deaths.
- Compared to 2016, Davis (16 fewer) and Tooele (12 fewer) Counties had the biggest decreases in deaths while Cache (9 more), Grand (7 more), and Iron (7 more) Counties had the biggest increases in deaths.

## Deaths by Month (Utah 2016-2017)



- November (31) and September (29) had the highest number of deaths.
- January (17) and March (17) had the lowest number of deaths.
- Compared to 2016, June and October had the biggest decrease in deaths with 10 fewer while August had the biggest increase in deaths with 10 more.

## Deaths by Month (Utah 1972-2017)

### Lowest Totals for October

1. October 1982 - 15
2. October 1985 - 17
3. 2009, **2017** - 18

### Highest Totals for November

1. November 1985 - 35
2. November 1980 - 34
3. 1978, **2017** - 31
5. 1979, 1998 - 30

### Highest Totals for February

1. February 1997 - 34
2. February 1976 - 33
3. 1998, 2000 - 23
5. 1972, 1987, 2005, **2017** - 22

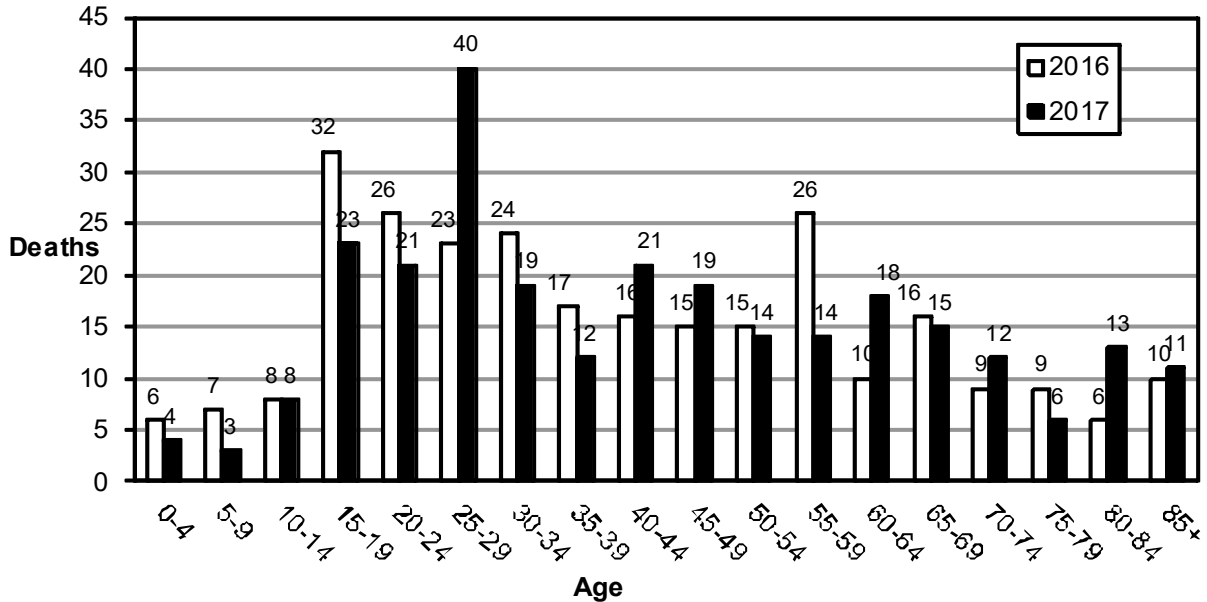
### Lowest Overall Months

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

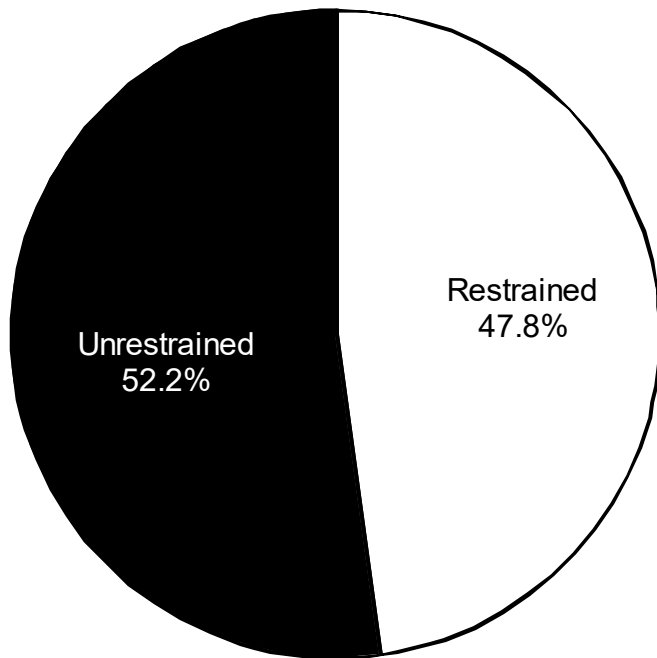
1. July 1978 - 58
2. August 1995 - 50
2. July 2000 - 50
4. July 1973 - 49
4. July 1988 - 49
6. August 1978 - 48
7. July 1977 - 47
7. August 1977 - 47
9. August 1989 - 46
9. August 1991 - 46
9. July 1999 - 46

### Deaths by Age (Utah 2016-2017)



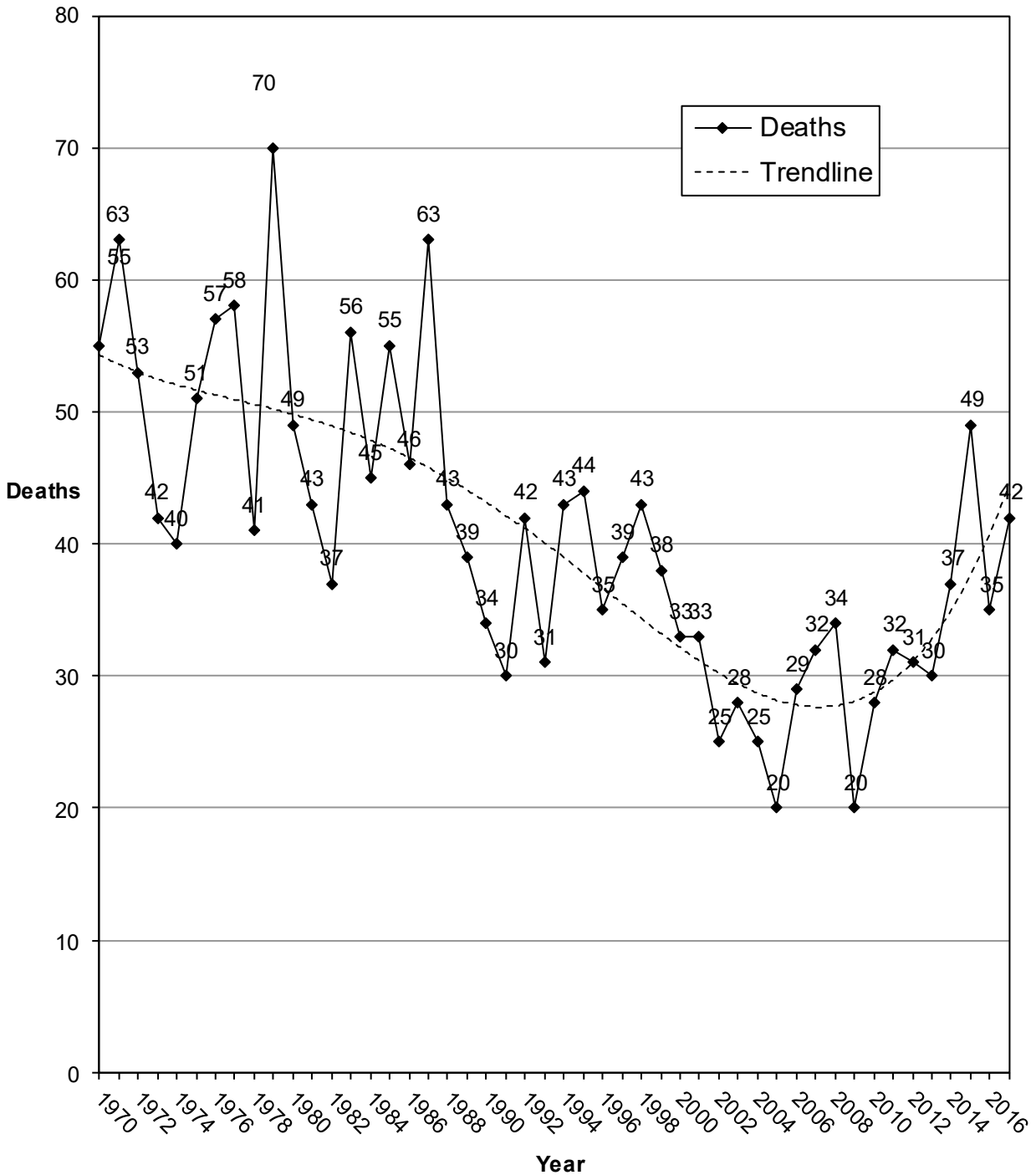
- 31% of persons killed in 2017 were aged 15-29 years.
- Compared to 2016, the 55-59 age group had the biggest decreases in deaths with 12 fewer while the 25-29 (17 more), 60-64 (8 more), and 80-84 (7 more) age groups had the biggest increases in deaths.

### Restraint Use of Occupants Killed (Utah 2017)



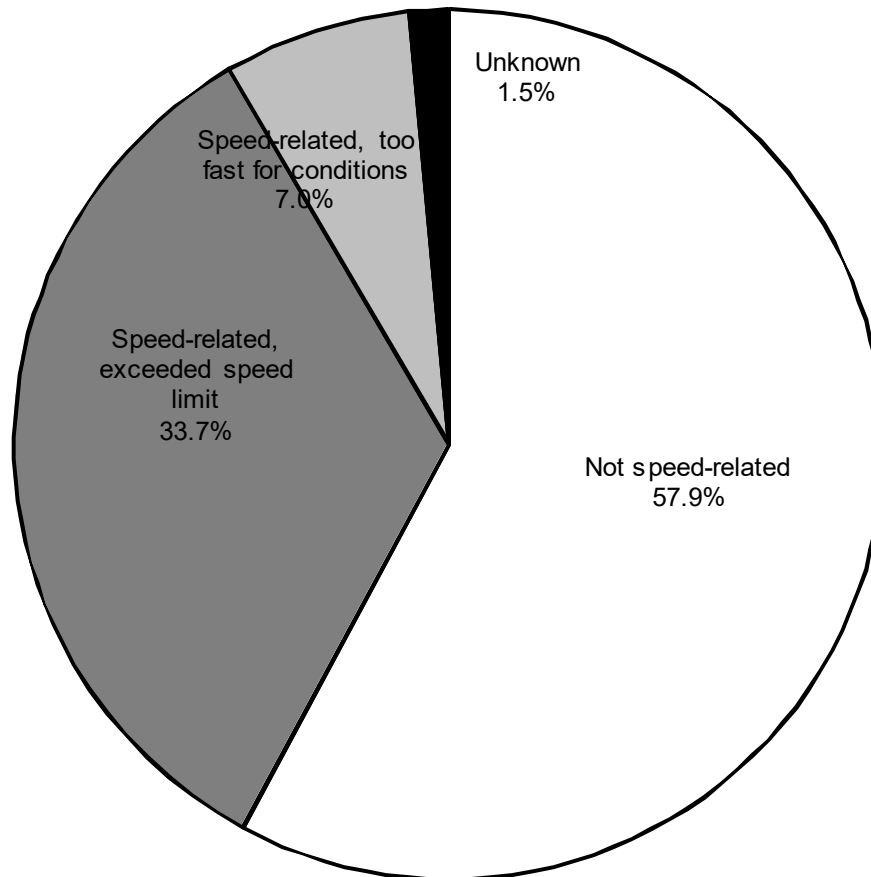
- There were 83 deaths to unrestrained occupants.
- It is estimated that 41 of these deaths would have been prevented had the occupant been restrained.

## Pedestrian Deaths (Utah 1970-2017)



- The 49 pedestrian deaths in 2015 were the highest total since 70 pedestrians were killed in 1979.
- The last four years have seen pedestrian deaths increase to totals not seen since the 1990s.

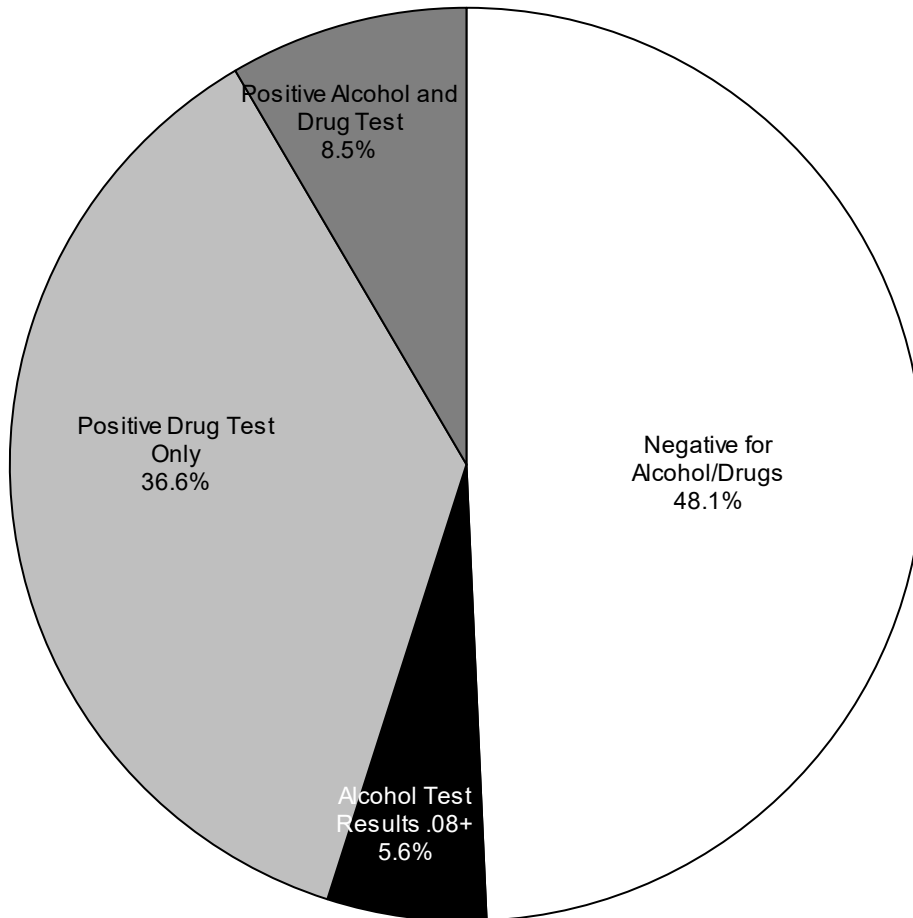
## Speed-Related Deaths (Utah 2017)



- 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 273 deaths, 158 (58%) speed was not known to contribute to the crash, 92 (34%) were attributed to exceeding the speed limit, 19 (7%) were attributed to traveling too fast for conditions, and 4 (1%) the role of speed was unknown.
- In 28 of the deaths the driver was traveling 20 miles per hour (mph) or more above the posted speed limit. In 17 of these deaths the driver was traveling 30 mph or more above the posted speed limit.
- In 11 of the deaths the driver was traveling 90 mph or more.

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## Alcohol and Drug Test Results of Drivers in Fatal Crashes (Utah 2017)



- In the 247 fatal crashes there were 395 drivers, of which 53% were tested for alcohol and/or drugs with results available.
- Of the 213 drivers in fatal crashes tested for alcohol and/or drugs, 49% were negative for alcohol/drugs, 37% were positive for drugs only, 6% were positive for alcohol only, and 8% were positive for both alcohol and drugs.
- 25 drivers tested positive for marijuana in 2017 compared to 26 in 2016.
- 24 drivers tested positive for methamphetamine in 2017 compared to 14 in 2016.
- A positive drug test does not necessarily imply impairment.
- These results are preliminary and will change as test results may take several months.