

Utah Fatal Crash Summary 2015



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

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Preliminary Totals as of 1/26/2016

Summary

Utah saw an increase in motor vehicle traffic crash deaths in 2015 to the highest number in seven years with 275 people killed, an increase of 19 deaths from 2014.

Some areas of concern in Utah during 2015:

- Traffic deaths increased from 256 in 2014 to 275 in 2015, the third year in a row of an increase;
- Speed was once again the leading contributing factor in deaths accounting for 38% 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 13 more unrestrained occupant deaths than in 2014;
- Pedestrians had an increase of 11 deaths compared to 2014 for the highest total since 1987;
- There were 15 more deaths that occurred during Inclement Weather than in 2014;
- Marijuana is increasingly becoming a bigger issue with 31 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:

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

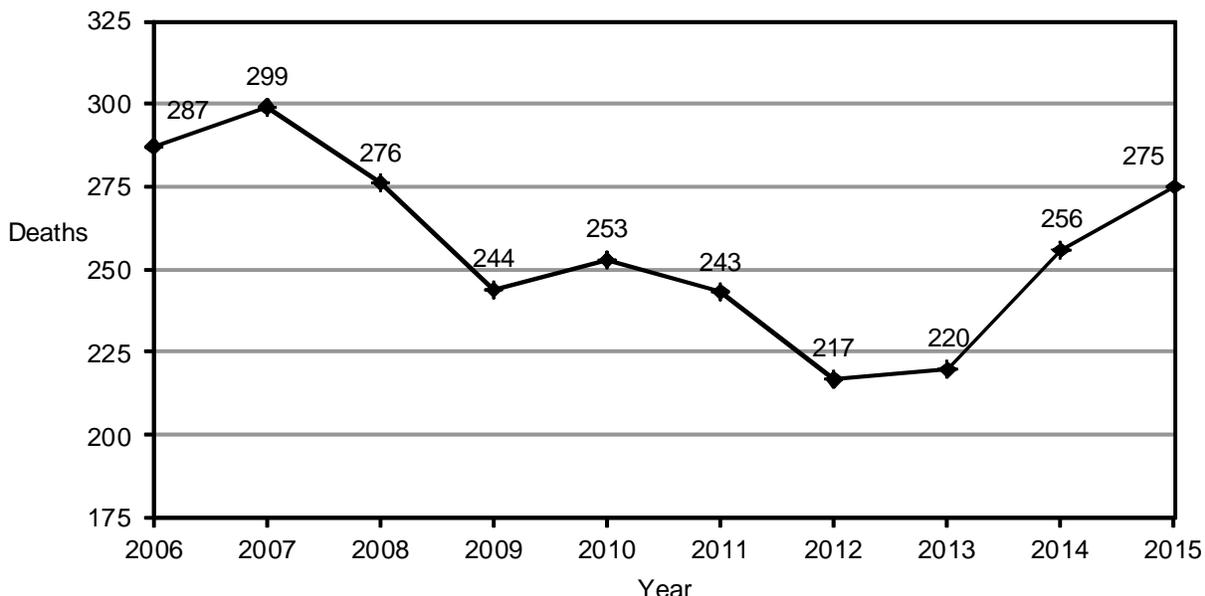
All totals are based on preliminary data and may change slightly.

2015 Utah Fatal Crash Synopsis

Category	#	% of Total*
Deaths	275	
Speed Crash	104	38%
Unrestrained Occupants	85	31%
Older (Age 65+) Driver Crash	56	20%
Pedestrians	48	17%
Failed to Yield Crash	40	15%
Inclement Weather Crash	40	15%
Heavy Truck Crash	40	15%
Motorcyclists	37	13%
Drunk Driver Crash	33	12%
Teenage Driver Crash	30	11%
Distracted Driving Crash	27	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	255	
Urban	156	62%
Rural	99	38%
Speed	95	37%
Older (Age 65+) Driver	54	21%
Pedestrian-Motor Vehicle	48	19%
Inclement Weather	39	15%
Failed to Yield	37	15%
Motorcycle	37	15%
Heavy Truck	33	13%
Drunk Driver	28	11%
Teenage Driver	27	11%
Distracted Driving	26	10%
Red Light/Stop Sign Running	19	7%
Drowsy Driving	14	5%
Followed Too Closely	8	4%
Bicycle-Motor Vehicle	5	3%
Improper Passing	2	1%
Animal-Related	1	<1%

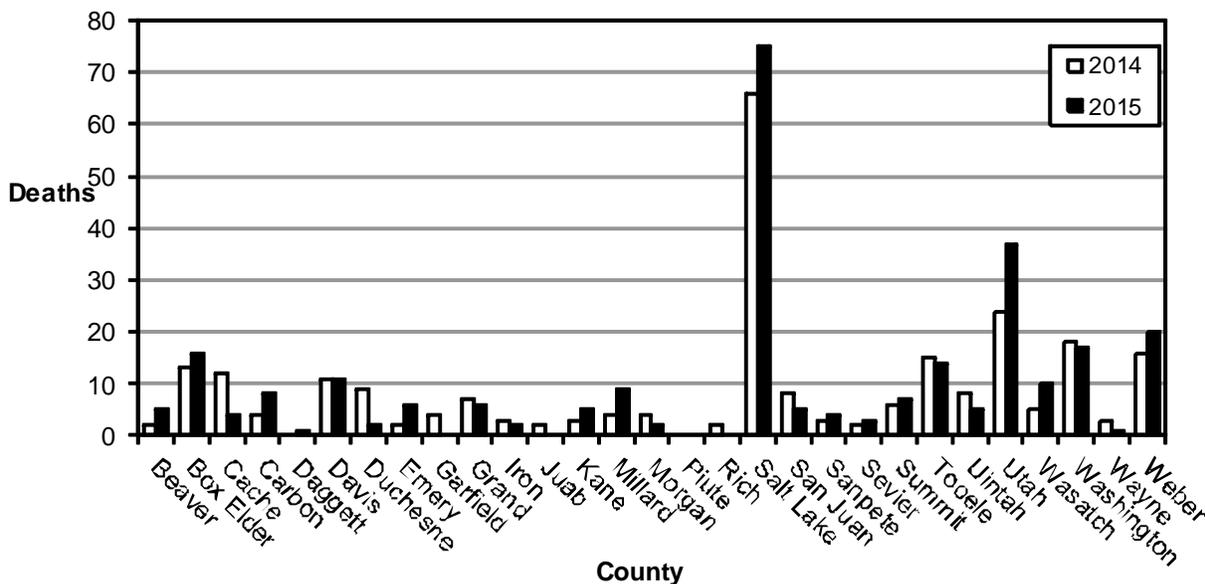
* NOTE: Groups overlap and do not total 100%.

Deaths by Year (Utah 2006-2015)



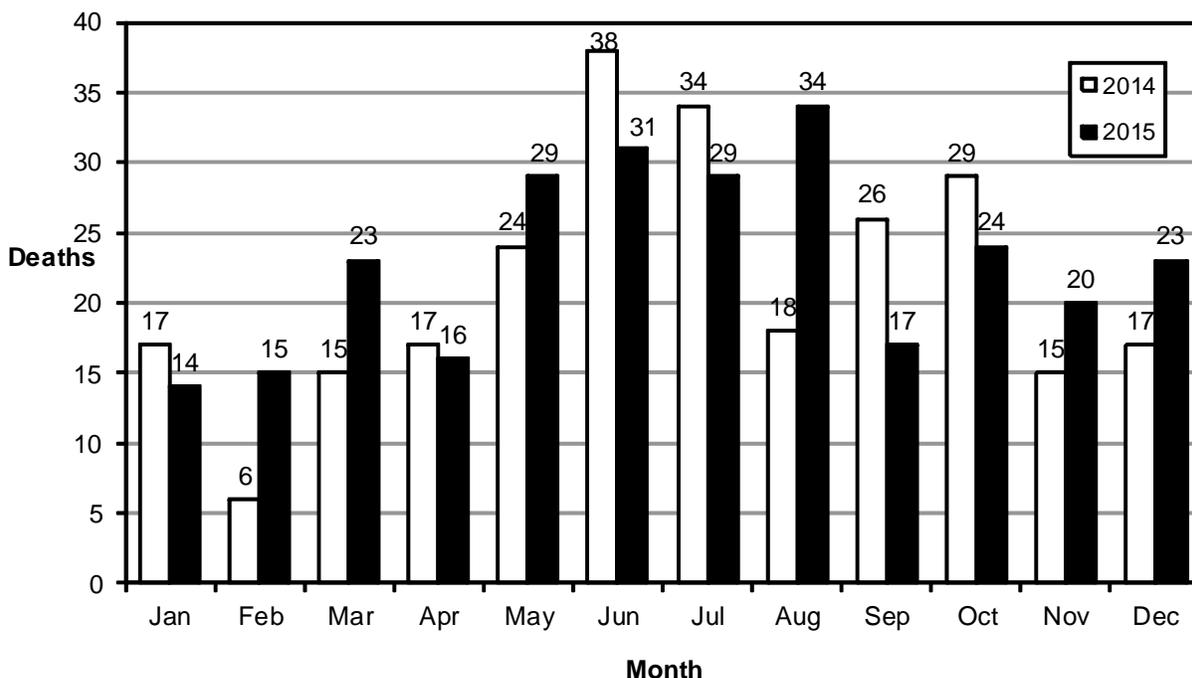
- Deaths increased in 2015 to the highest total in seven years.
- After seeing record lows in 2012 and 2013, deaths increased 25% from 2013.

Deaths by County (Utah 2014-2015)



- Salt Lake (75) and Utah (37) 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 (13 more) and Salt Lake (9 more) Counties had the biggest increases in deaths.

Deaths by Month (Utah 2014-2015)



- August (34), June (31), May (29), and July (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

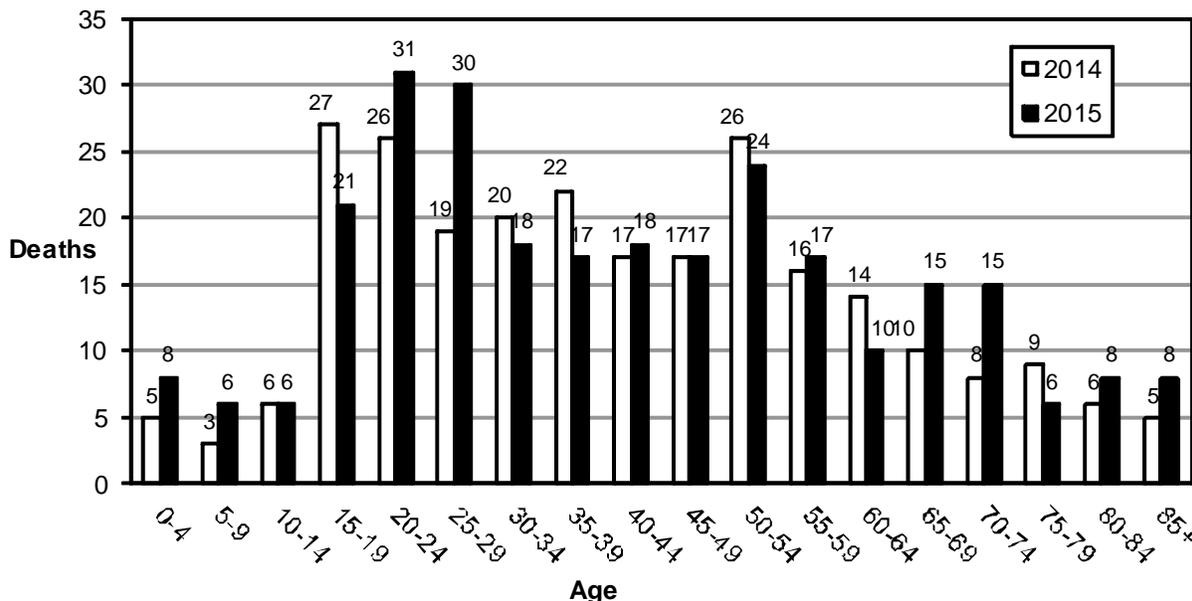
Lowest Overall Months

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

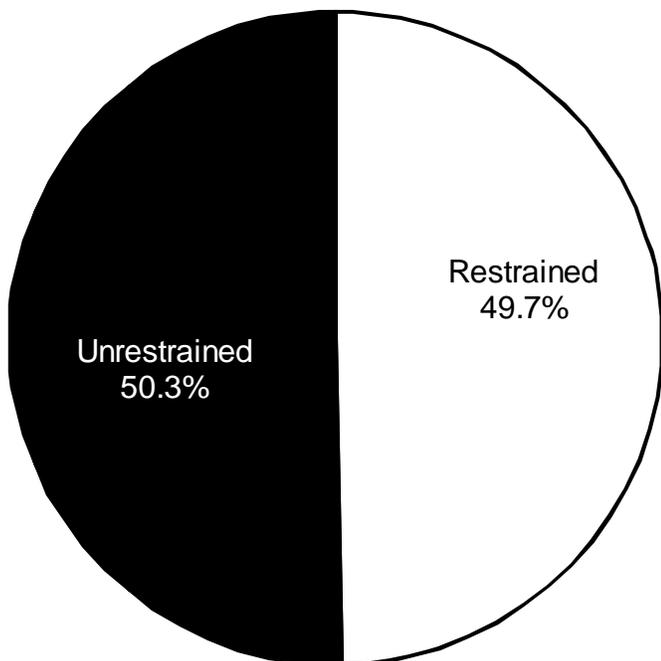
1. July 1978 - 58
2. August 1995 - 50
2. July 2000 - 50
4. July 1973 - 49
4. July 1988 - 49
6. August 1978 - 48
7. July 1977 - 47
7. August 1977 - 47
9. August 1989 - 46
9. August 1991 - 46
9. July 1999 - 46

Deaths by Age (Utah 2014-2015)



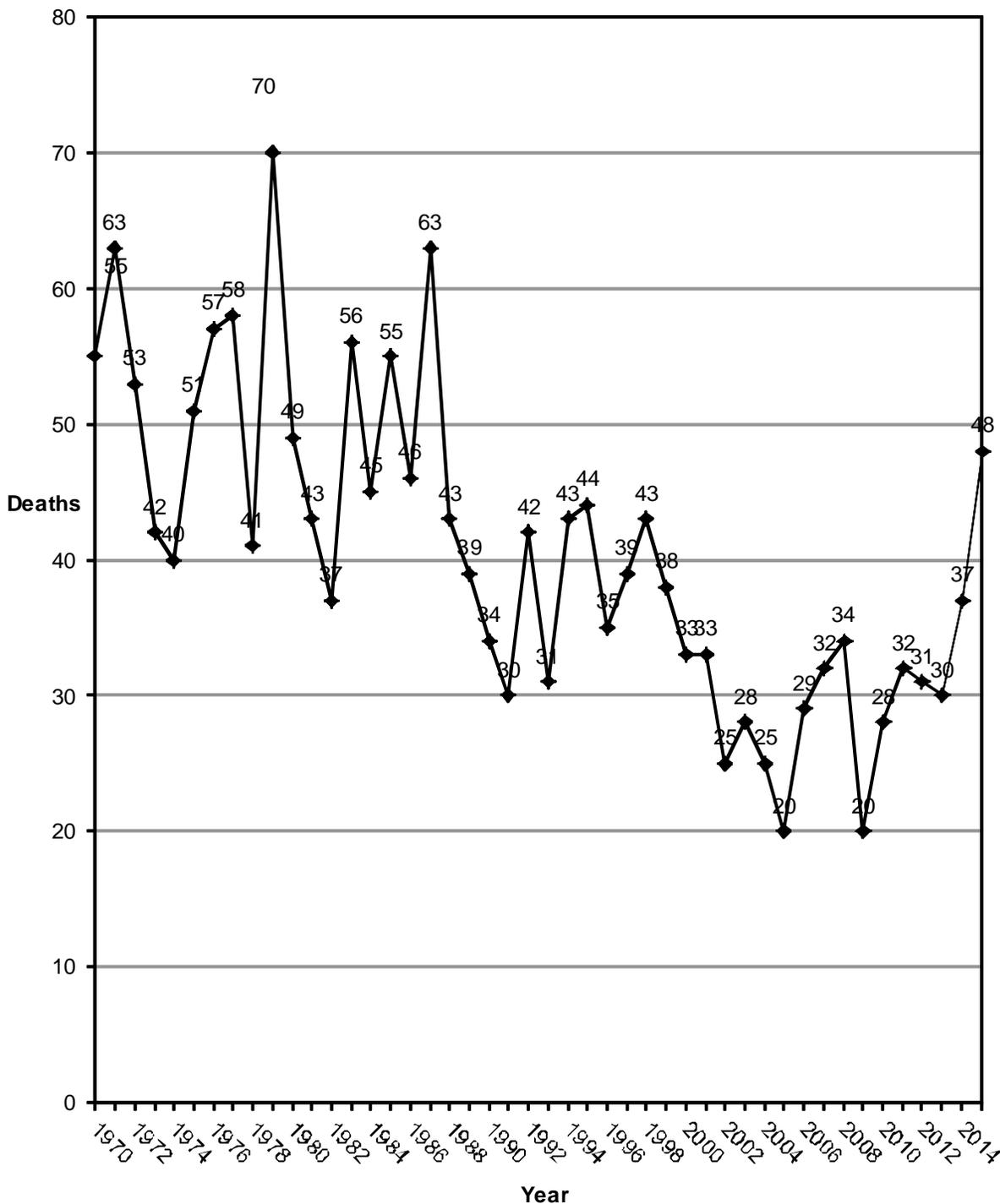
- 22% of persons killed in 2015 were aged 20-29 years.
- Compared to 2014, the 15-19 age group had the biggest decreases in deaths with 6 fewer while the 25-29 (11 more) and 70-74 (7 more) age groups had the biggest increases in deaths.

Restraint Use of Occupants Killed (Utah 2015)



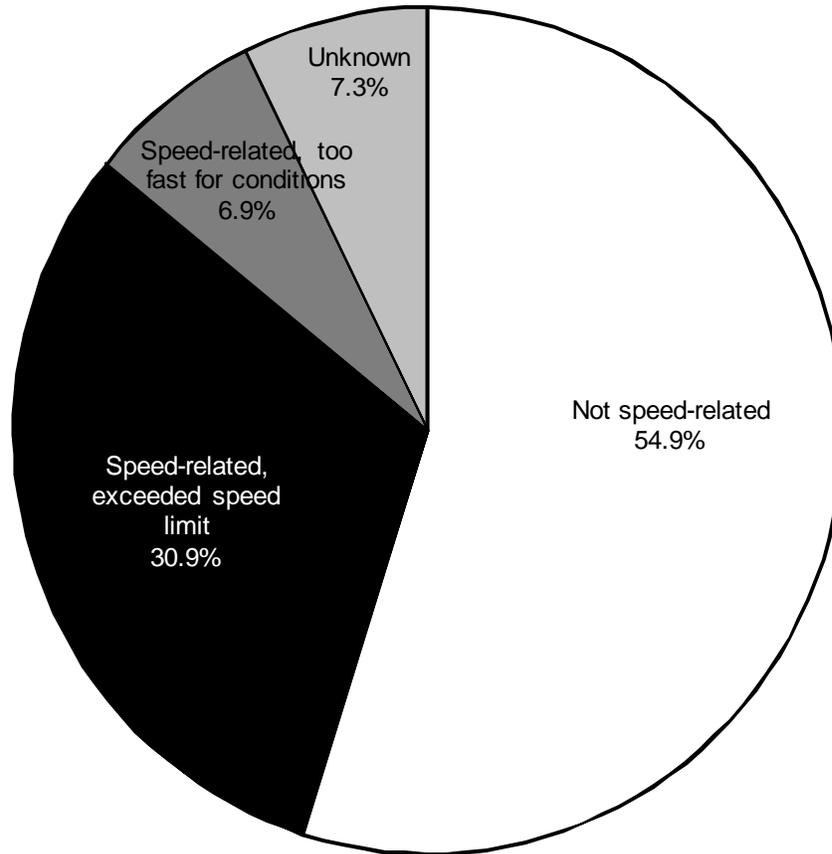
- There were 85 deaths to unrestrained occupants.
- It is estimated that 43 of these deaths would have been prevented had the occupant been restrained.

Pedestrian Deaths (Utah 1970-2015)



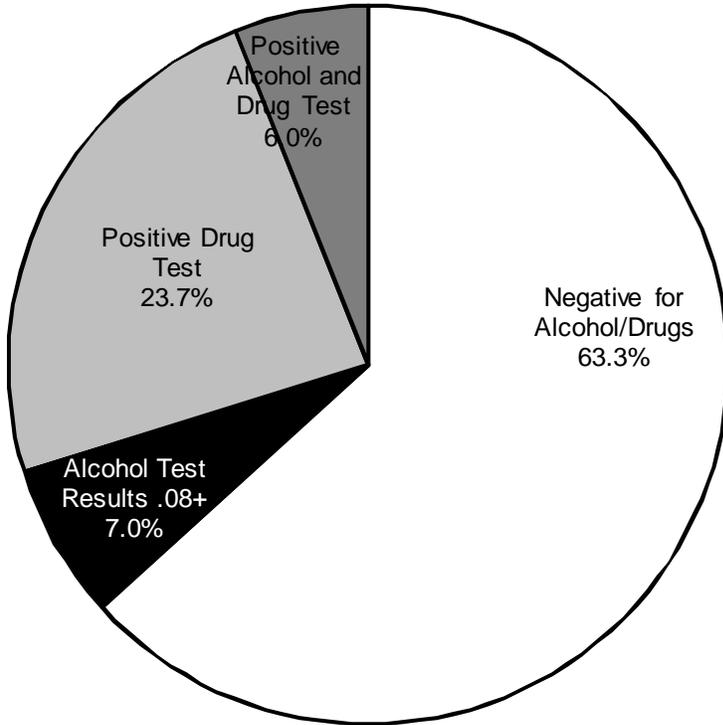
- The 48 pedestrian deaths in 2015 were the highest total since 63 pedestrians were killed in 1987.
- In the last two years pedestrian deaths increased 60%.

Speed-Related Deaths (Utah 2015)



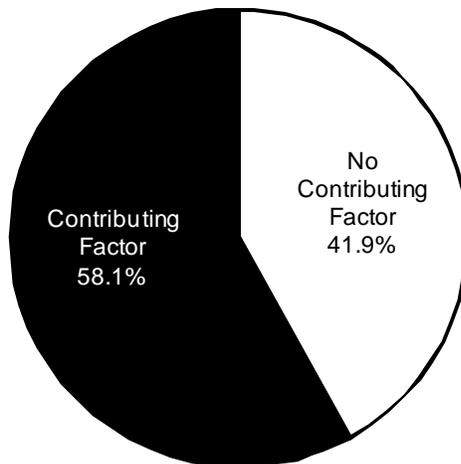
- The speed-related category includes crashes when the driver was exceeding the speed limit and when the driver was traveling too fast for conditions.
- Of the 275 deaths, 151 (55%) speed was not known to contribute to the crash, 85 (31%) were attributed to exceeding the speed limit, 20 (7%) the role of speed was unknown, and 19 (7%) were attributed to traveling too fast for conditions.
- In 24 of the deaths the driver was traveling 20 miles per hour (mph) or more above the posted speed limit. In 13 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 255 fatal crashes there were 406 drivers, of which 53% were tested for alcohol and/or drugs with results available.
- Of the 215 drivers in fatal crashes tested for alcohol and/or drugs, 63% were negative for alcohol/drugs, 24% were positive for drugs only, 7% were positive for alcohol only, and 6% were positive for both alcohol and drugs.
- 31 drivers tested positive for marijuana in 2015 compared to 21 in 2014.
- 12 drivers tested positive for methamphetamine in 2015 compared to 5 in 2014.
- A positive drug test does not necessarily imply impairment.

Drivers in Fatal Crashes with a Contributing Factor (Utah 2015)



- 58% of the drivers in fatal crashes had a contributing factor.

First Harmful Event (Utah 2015)

First Harmful Event	# of Deaths
Collision with other motor vehicle	114
Collision with pedestrian	46
Rollover/Overturn	34
Collision with post/pole/support	14
Collision with guardrail	9
Collision with concrete traffic barrier	7
Collision with fence	6
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