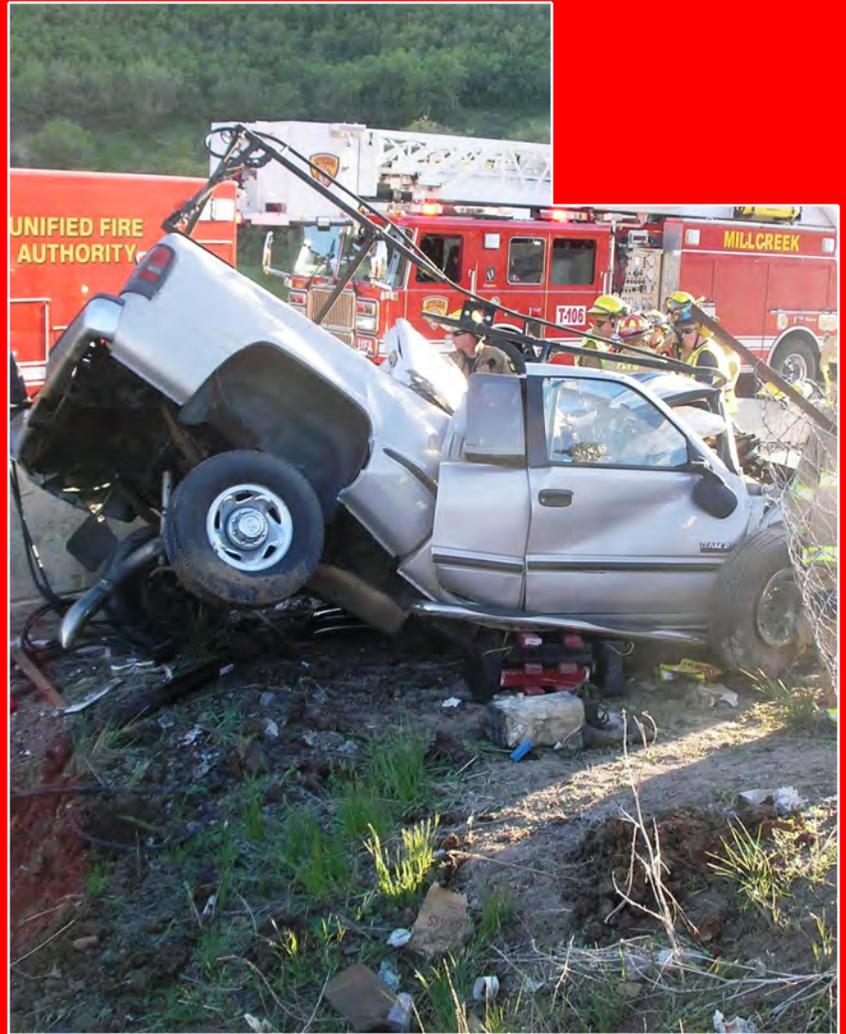


# Utah 2013 Crash Summary



State of Utah

Department of Public Safety

# Utah Crash Summary 2013



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## 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.

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**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](http://highwaysafety.utah.gov).

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## 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 2013 as 1973 there would have been 1,120 additional deaths in 2013. 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 2013, there were 55,637 reported traffic crashes on public roadways in Utah. These crashes involved 134,964 people, with 22,740 injured and 220 people killed. Traffic deaths were the second lowest total in Utah since 1959, trailing only 2012.

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;
- Traffic deaths have shown a decreasing trend since 2000;
- Restraint use in crashes in 2013 was the highest it has ever been;
- The number of deaths to unrestrained occupants decreased for the fourth straight year;
- The percent of crashes involving a teen driver decreased for the 17th straight year;
- The percent of crashes involving an alcohol-impaired driver has shown a decreasing trend since 2006;
- The rate of motorcyclists in crashes per registered motorcycle has shown a decreasing trend since 2004;
- The number of bicyclists in crashes in 2013 decreased for the first time since 2009.

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

- The traffic crash rate per mile traveled has shown an increasing trend since 2010;
- The number of injured persons in crashes increased for the third straight year;
- The percent of crashes involving an older driver increased for the sixth straight year;
- Speed remains the leading contributing factor in deaths;
- Speed-related crashes increased for the third straight year;
- The number of crashes in 2013 involving a distracted-driver increased to the highest amount since 2007;
- The pedestrian crash rate per population has shown an increasing trend since 2005.

The *Utah Crash Summary 2013* 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.

# 2013 Utah Crash Synopsis

## All Crashes

Category	#	% of Total*
<b>Total Crashes</b>	<b>55,637</b>	
Urban	46,581	84%
Property Damage Only	39,301	71%
Injury	16,134	29%
Inclement Weather	13,581	24%
Speed	11,231	20%
Followed Too Closely	11,211	20%
Teenage Driver	10,852	20%
Failed to Yield	9,749	18%
Rural	9,056	16%
Older (Age 65+) Driver	6,855	12%
Distracted Driving	5,013	9%
Heavy Truck	3,196	6%
Animal-Related	2,910	6%
Disregard Traffic Signal/Sign	2,891	5%
Alcohol-Impaired Driver	1,736	3%
Motorcycle	1,069	2%
Drowsy Driving	1,015	2%
Pedestrian-Motor Vehicle	817	1%
Bicycle-Motor Vehicle	766	1%
Fatal	202	<1%
<b>Total Persons in Crashes</b>	<b>134,964</b>	
Drivers	96,623	72%
Followed Too Closely Crash	34,468	26%
Inclement Weather Crash	30,707	23%
Teenage Driver Crash	30,275	22%
Failed to Yield Crash	28,096	21%
Speed Crash	25,787	19%
Injured Persons	22,740	17%
Older (Age 65+) Driver Crash	18,312	14%
Children (Ages 0-14 Years)	13,742	10%
Distracted Driving Crash	13,537	10%
Disregard Traffic Signal/Sign Crash	8,699	6%
Heavy Truck Crash	7,388	5%
Animal-Related Crash	4,431	4%
Alcohol-Impaired Driver Crash	3,496	3%
Unrestrained Occupants	2,759	2%
Drowsy Driving Crash	1,852	1%
Motorcyclists	1,186	1%
Pedestrians	903	1%
Bicyclists	777	1%
Deaths	220	<1%

## Fatal Crashes

Category	#	% of Total*
<b>Fatal Crashes</b>	<b>202</b>	
Urban	123	61%
Speed	81	40%
Rural	79	39%
Older (Age 65+) Driver	46	23%
Motorcycle	30	15%
Pedestrian-Motor Vehicle	30	15%
Alcohol-Impaired Driver	23	11%
Failed to Yield	23	11%
Teenage Driver	23	11%
Heavy Truck	20	10%
Inclement Weather	18	9%
Distracted Driving	17	8%
Red Light/Stop Sign Running	16	8%
Drowsy Driving	11	5%
Followed Too Closely	9	4%
Bicycle-Motor Vehicle	6	3%
Animal-Related	2	1%
<b>Deaths</b>	<b>220</b>	
Drivers	135	61%
Speed Crash	87	40%
Unrestrained Occupants	61	28%
Older (Age 65+) Driver Crash	54	25%
Motorcyclists	31	14%
Pedestrians	30	14%
Teenage Driver Crash	26	12%
Alcohol-Impaired Driver Crash	23	10%
Failed to Yield Crash	23	10%
Heavy Truck Crash	22	10%
Inclement Weather Crash	21	10%
Distracted Driving Crash	17	8%
Red Light/Stop Sign Running Crash	16	7%
Drowsy Driving Crash	14	6%
Followed Too Closely Crash	9	4%
Children (Ages 0-14 Years)	8	4%
Bicyclists	6	3%
Animal-Related Crash	3	1%

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

## 2013 Utah Crash Facts

- In an average day in Utah, there were 152 motor vehicle crashes involving 370 people with 62 people injured.
- First motor vehicle crash occurred January 1, 2013 at 12:25 a.m. and the last crash occurred December 31, 2013 at 11:40 p.m.
- First fatal motor vehicle crash occurred January 19, 2013 at 8:37 a.m. and the last fatal crash occurred December 30, 2013 at 5:54 p.m.
- Tuesday, December 3, 2013 had the most crashes with 837 crashes and Sunday, February 17, 2013 had the fewest crashes with 47.
- 72 lives were estimated to be saved at current seat belt use rates. (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 2012)
- It is estimated that 37 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 23 minutes.
- A speed-related crash occurred every 46 minutes.
- A teenage-driver crash occurred every 48 minutes.
- A driver age 65 years or older was in a crash every 76 minutes.
- A distracted driver crash occurred every 104 minutes.
- A heavy truck was in a crash every 2.5 hours.
- An animal-motor vehicle crash occurred every 3 hours.
- An alcohol-impaired driver crash occurred every 5 hours.
- A motorcyclist was in a crash every 7 hours.
- A pedestrian was hit by a motor vehicle every 9.5 hours.
- A bicyclist was hit by a motor vehicle every 11 hours.
- A person died in a crash every 39.5 hours.
- The youngest person in a motor vehicle crash was less than a week old and the oldest person was 99 years-old.
- The youngest person killed in a motor vehicle crash was 3 months-old and the oldest person killed was 92 years-old.
- The estimated statewide economic loss due to motor vehicle crashes in Utah was \$1.54 billion. (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration)
- Hospital and emergency department charges for the treatment of injuries in motor vehicle crashes were \$163 million. [Utah Department of Health (UDOH), 2012]
- 5.1% of licensed drivers were in a crash.
- 4.7% of Utah residents were in a crash.
- 4.7% of registered vehicles were in a crash.
- 1.4% of deaths in Utah involved a motor vehicle crash. (UDOH, 2012)
- 0.2% of people in a crash died.
- A person was in a crash every 200,000 miles driven in Utah.

