

# Utah Fatal Crash Summary 2016



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

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**Preliminary Totals as of 4/10/2017**

## Summary

Utah saw an increase in motor vehicle traffic crash deaths in 2016 to the highest number in nine years with 281 people killed, an increase of 30 deaths from the three year average (2013-2015).

Some areas of concern in Utah during 2016:

- Traffic deaths increased from 220 in 2013 to 281 in 2016, the fourth 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 29% of deaths. There were 7 more unrestrained occupant deaths than the three year average, although they decreased 7 from 2015;
- Teen drivers were involved in 13 more deaths than the three year average for the highest total since 2009 (47);
- Drowsy driving was a factor in 9 more deaths than the three year average for the highest total since 2009 (23);
- Urban Counties had 24 more crashes than the three year average.

Utah made progress in decreasing fatalities in only a few areas in 2016 when compared to the three year average. The only categories that saw major decreases in deaths were:

- 4 fewer deaths involving older drivers;
- 2 fewer deaths involving heavy trucks, bicyclists, and improper passing;
- Although pedestrian deaths were the same in 2016 as the three year average it was a decrease in 10 deaths from 2015.

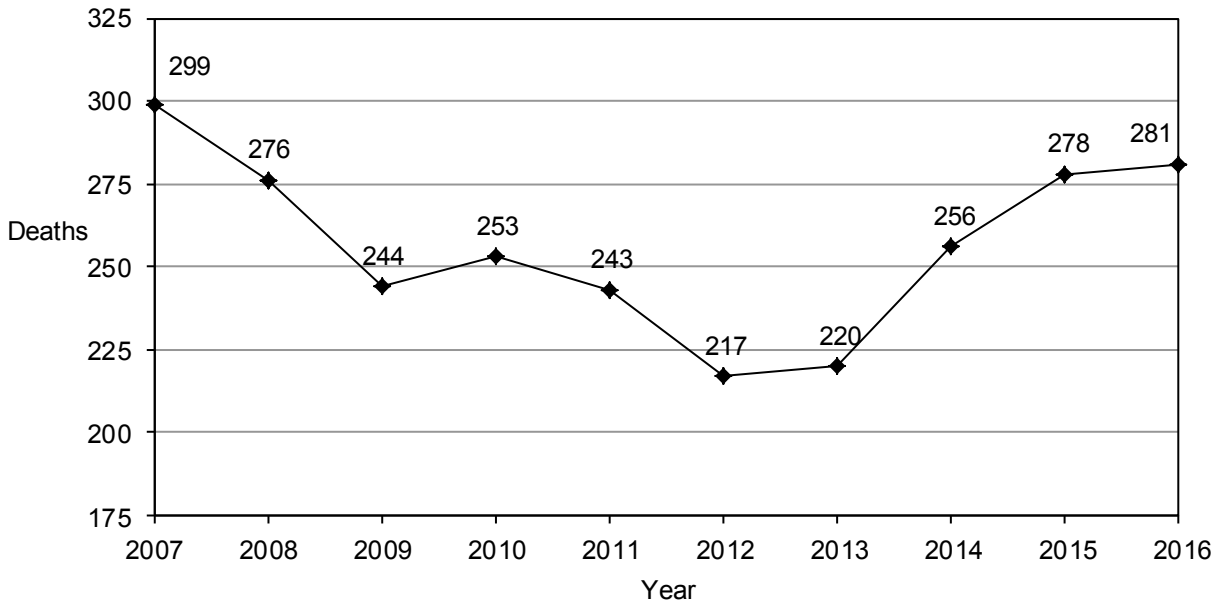
All totals are based on preliminary data and may change slightly.

## 2016 Utah Fatal Crash Synopsis

Category	2016	% of 2016 Total*	2015	2016 % Change from 2015	3 Year Avg (2013-2015)	2016 % Change from 3 Year Avg
<b>Deaths</b>	<b>281</b>		<b>278</b>	<b>1.1%</b>	<b>251.3</b>	<b>11.8%</b>
Speed Crash	106	37.7%	104	1.9%	100.3	5.6%
Unrestrained Occupants	80	28.5%	87	-8.0%	73.3	9.1%
Older (Age 65+) Driver Crash	50	17.8%	59	-15.3%	53.7	-6.8%
Failed to Yield Crash	45	16.0%	30	50.0%	27.7	62.7%
Teenage Driver Crash	43	15.3%	30	43.3%	29.7	44.9%
Motorcyclists	42	14.9%	36	16.7%	37.3	12.5%
Pedestrians	39	13.9%	49	-20.4%	38.7	0.9%
Drunk Driver Crash	36	12.8%	37	-2.7%	35.0	2.9%
Inclement Weather Crash	27	9.6%	35	-22.9%	27.0	0.0%
Heavy Truck Crash	25	8.9%	40	-37.5%	27.3	-8.5%
Distracted Driving Crash	21	7.5%	28	-25.0%	22.3	-6.0%
Drowsy Driving Crash	21	7.5%	15	40.0%	11.7	80.0%
Red Light/Stop Sign Running	18	6.4%	19	-5.3%	17.7	1.9%
Followed Too Closely Crash	9	3.2%	10	-10.0%	9.3	-3.6%
Bicyclists	5	1.8%	5	0.0%	6.7	-25.0%
Improper Passing Crash	3	1.1%	2	50.0%	5.3	-43.8%
Animal-Related Crash	1	0.4%	1	0.0%	2.0	-50.0%
<b>Fatal Crashes</b>	<b>259</b>		<b>258</b>	<b>0.4%</b>	<b>227.3</b>	<b>13.9%</b>
Urban	162	62.5%	160	1.3%	138.3	17.1%
Speed	99	38.2%	95	4.2%	90.0	10.0%
Rural	97	37.5%	98	-1.0%	89.0	9.0%
Older (Age 65+) Driver	48	18.5%	57	-15.8%	49.0	-2.0%
Failed to Yield	43	16.6%	27	59.3%	25.7	67.5%
Motorcycle	41	15.8%	36	13.9%	37.0	10.8%
Teenage Driver	40	15.4%	27	48.1%	26.7	50.0%
Pedestrian-Motor Vehicle	38	14.7%	49	-22.4%	38.3	-0.9%
Drunk Driver	32	12.4%	31	3.2%	30.3	5.5%
Inclement Weather	26	10.0%	34	-23.5%	24.7	5.4%
Heavy Truck	23	8.9%	33	-30.3%	24.0	-4.2%
Distracted Driving	19	7.3%	27	-29.6%	20.3	-6.6%
Red Light/Stop Sign Running	16	6.2%	19	-15.8%	17.0	-5.9%
Drowsy Driving	15	5.8%	14	7.1%	10.3	45.2%
Followed Too Closely	9	3.5%	8	12.5%	8.7	3.8%
Bicycle-Motor Vehicle	5	1.9%	5	0.0%	6.3	-21.1%
Improper Passing	3	1.2%	2	50.0%	3.0	0.0%
Animal-Related	1	0.4%	1	0.0%	1.7	-40.0%

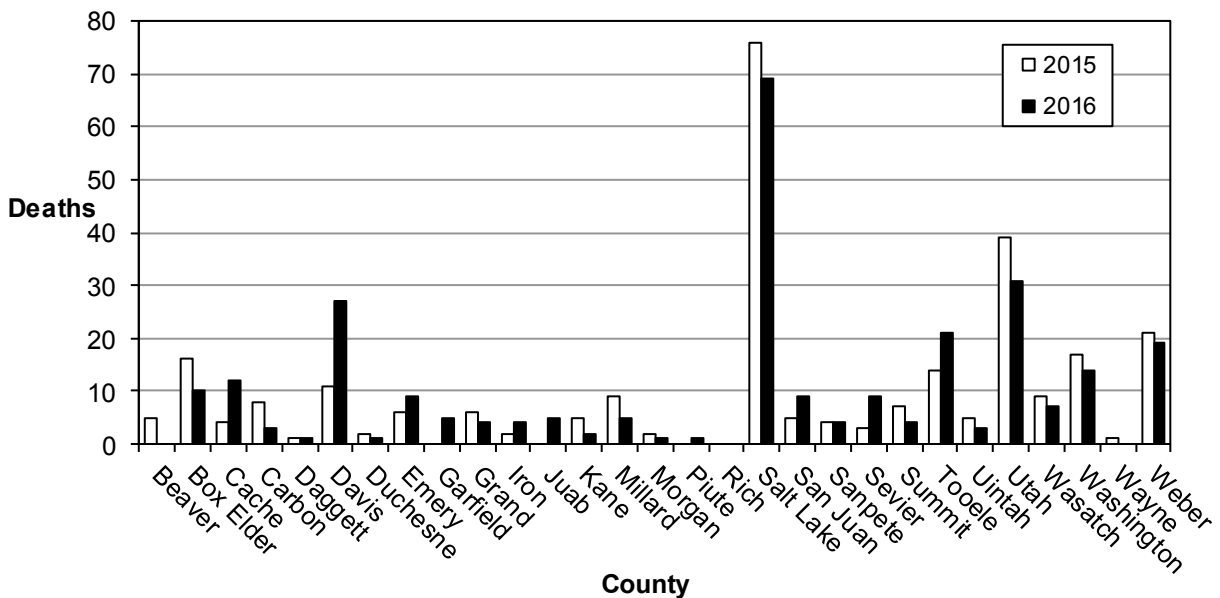
\* NOTE: Groups overlap and do not total 100%.

## Deaths by Year (Utah 2007-2016)



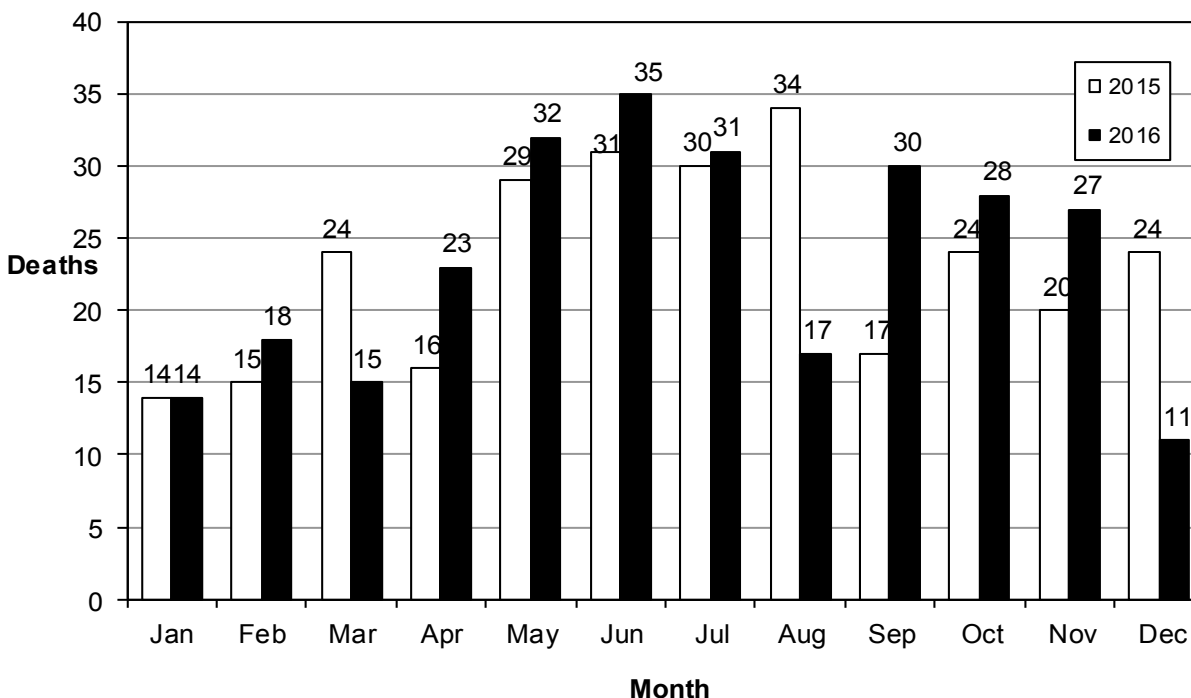
- Deaths increased in 2016 to the highest total in nine years.
- After seeing record lows in 2012 and 2013, deaths increased 28% from 2013.

## Deaths by County (Utah 2015-2016)



- Salt Lake (69) and Utah (31) Counties had the highest number of deaths.
- Beaver, Rich, and Wayne Counties had zero deaths.
- Compared to 2015, Utah (8 fewer) and Salt Lake (7 fewer) Counties had the biggest decreases in deaths while Davis (16 more) and Cache (8 more) Counties had the biggest increases in deaths.

## Deaths by Month (Utah 2015-2016)



- June (35), May (32), and July (31) had the highest number of deaths.
- December (11), January (14), and March (15) had the lowest number of deaths.
- Compared to 2015, August had the biggest decrease in deaths with 17 fewer while September had the biggest increase in deaths with 13 more.

## Deaths by Month (Utah 1972-2016)

### Lowest Totals for December

1. **December 2016** - 11
2. December 2013 - 12
3. 1974, 2009 - 13
5. 1983, 2012 - 15

### Lowest Totals for August

1. August 1974 - 16
2. **August 2016** - 17
3. August 2014 - 18
4. August 1987 - 20
5. August 1976 - 21

- December 2016 had the lowest number of deaths in December on record (since 1972).

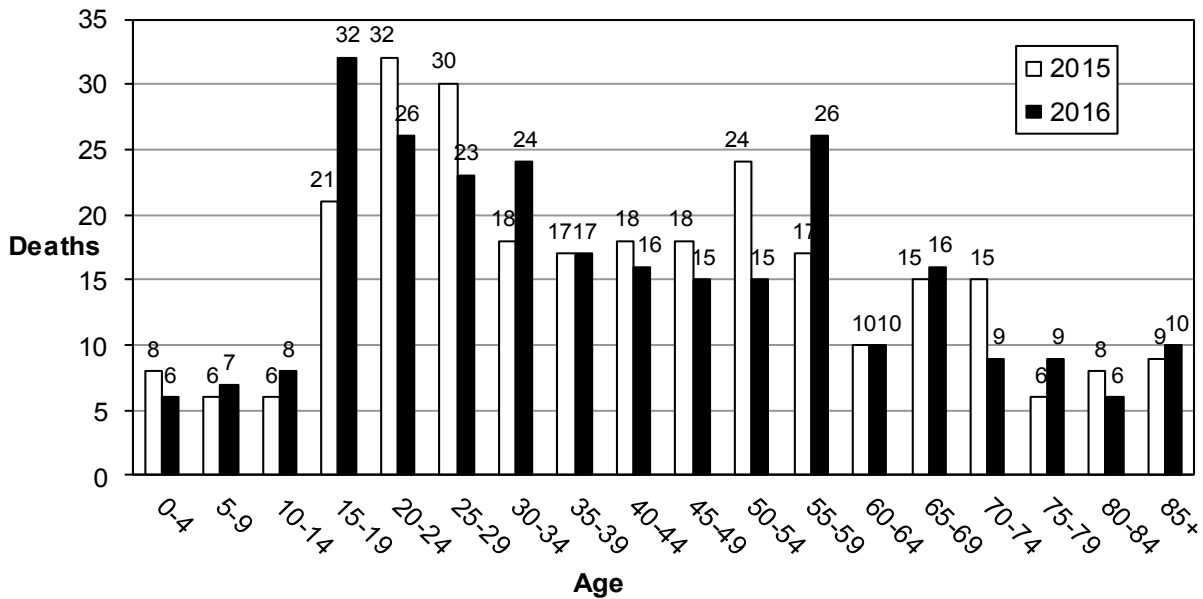
### Lowest Overall Months

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

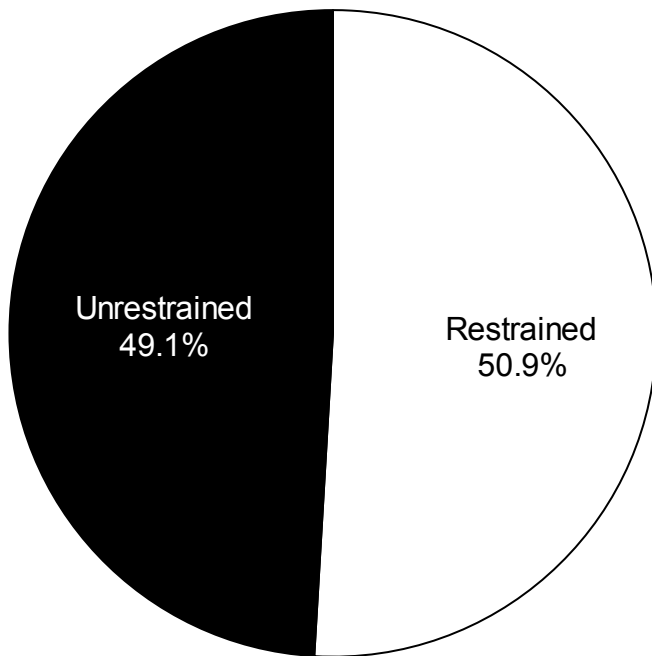
1. July 1978 - 58
2. August 1995 - 50
2. July 2000 - 50
4. July 1973 - 49
4. July 1988 - 49
6. August 1978 - 48
7. July 1977 - 47
7. August 1977 - 47
9. August 1989 - 46
9. August 1991 - 46
9. July 1999 - 46

## Deaths by Age (Utah 2015-2016)



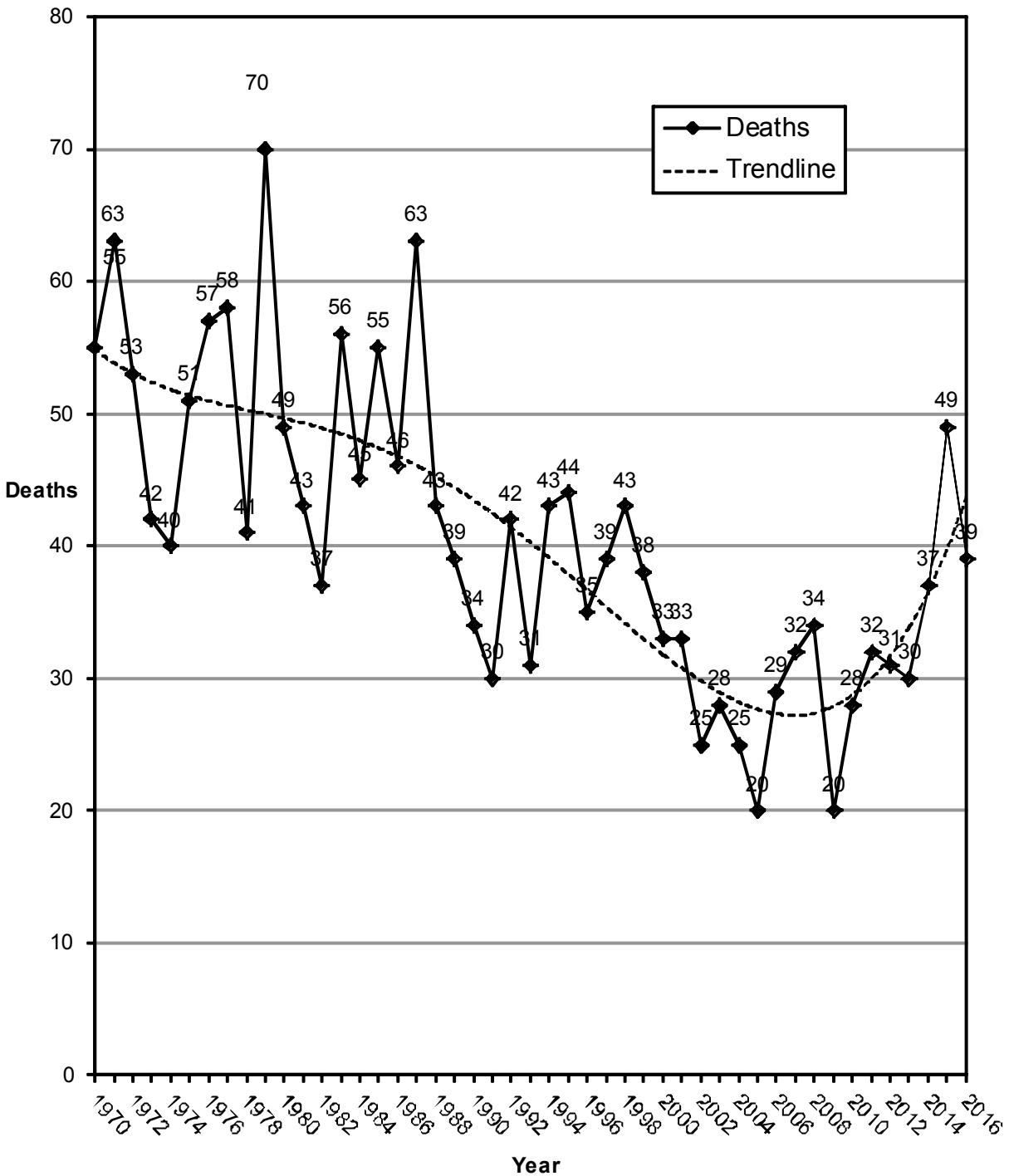
- 21% of persons killed in 2016 were aged 15-24 years.
- Compared to 2015, the 50-54 age group had the biggest decreases in deaths with 9 fewer while the 15-19 (11 more) and 55-59 (9 more) age groups had the biggest increases in deaths.

## Restraint Use of Occupants Killed (Utah 2016)



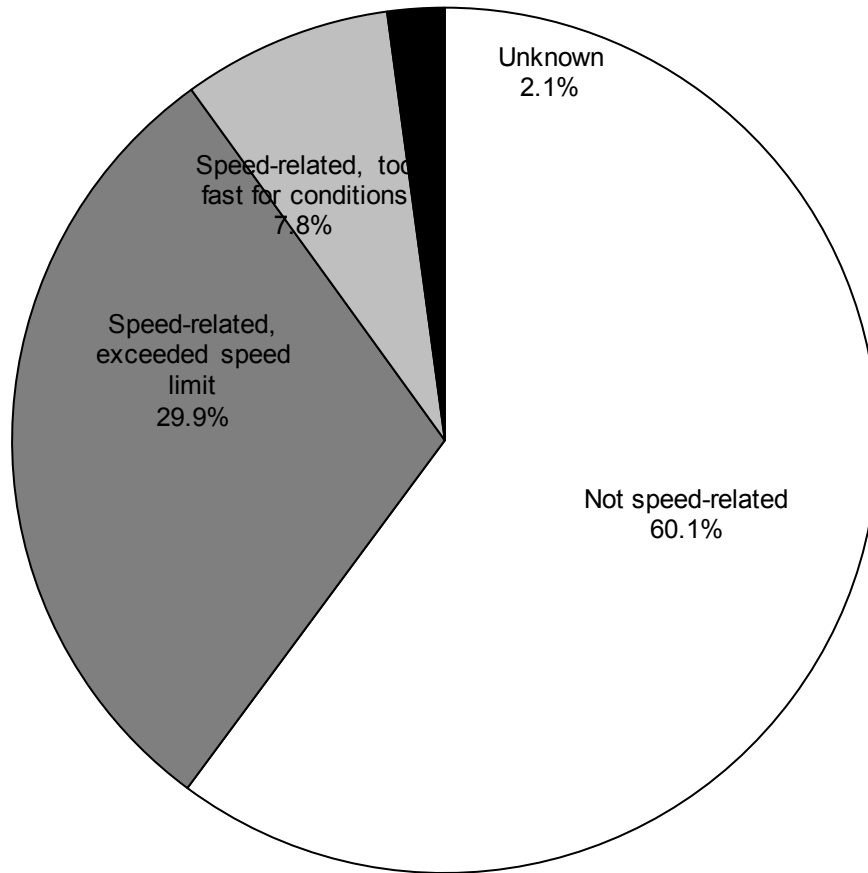
- There were 80 deaths to unrestrained occupants.
- It is estimated that 40 of these deaths would have been prevented had the occupant been restrained.

## Pedestrian Deaths (Utah 1970-2016)



- The 49 pedestrian deaths in 2015 were the highest total since 63 pedestrians were killed in 1987.
- The last three years have seen pedestrian deaths increase to totals not seen since the 1990s.

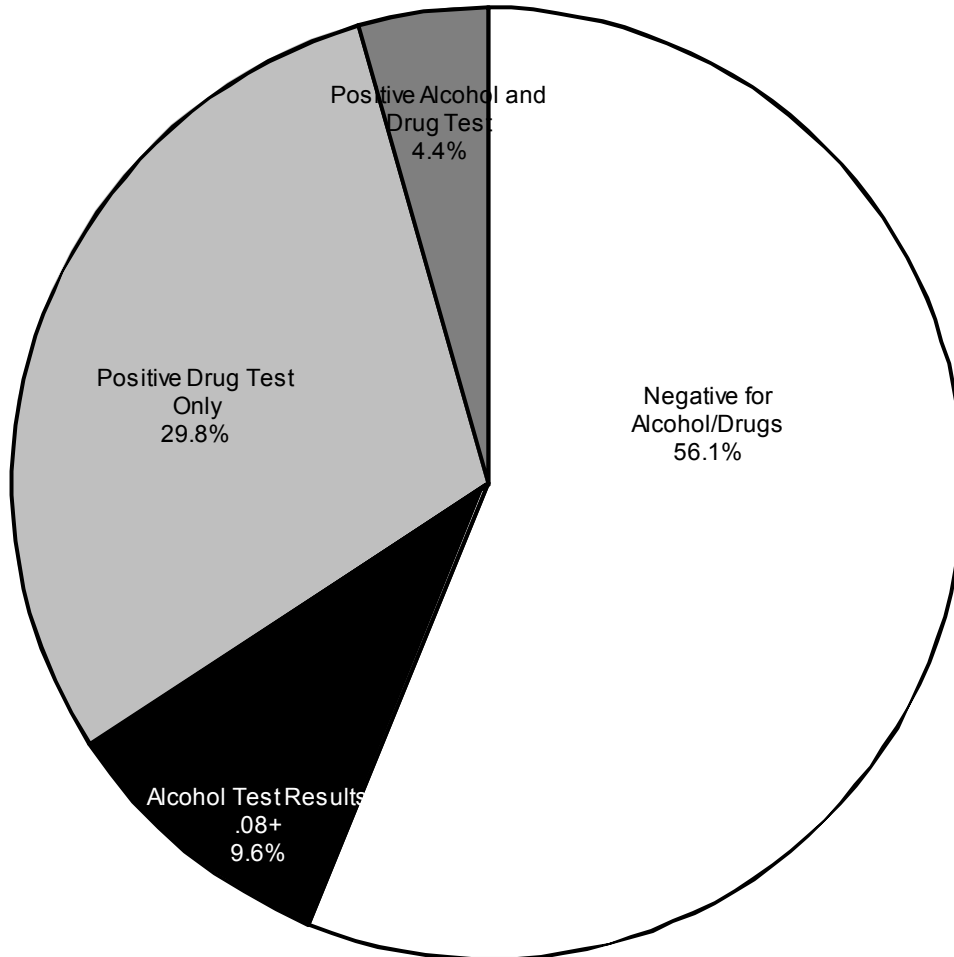
## Speed-Related Deaths (Utah 2016)



- 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 281 deaths, 169 (60%) speed was not known to contribute to the crash, 84 (30%) were attributed to exceeding the speed limit, 22 (8%) were attributed to traveling too fast for conditions, and 6 (2%) the role of speed was unknown.
- In 29 of the deaths the driver was traveling 20 miles per hour (mph) or more above the posted speed limit. In 11 of these deaths the driver was traveling 30 mph or more above the posted speed limit.
- In 12 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 2016)



- In the 259 fatal crashes there were 402 drivers, of which 57% were tested for alcohol and/or drugs with results available.
- Of the 228 drivers in fatal crashes tested for alcohol and/or drugs, 56% were negative for alcohol/drugs, 30% were positive for drugs only, 10% were positive for alcohol only, and 4% were positive for both alcohol and drugs.
- 26 drivers tested positive for marijuana in 2016 compared to 38 in 2015.
- 14 drivers tested positive for methamphetamine in 2016 compared to 17 in 2015.
- A positive drug test does not necessarily imply impairment.