April 2012 Hot Topic

Subject: Where are the Worst Drivers in Utah?

You have probably had the experience of talking about driving among a group of people and someone will make the comment that drivers in Salt Lake or drivers in rural Utah are the worst drivers they have ever seen. How do the drivers in urban areas compare with rural areas? This edition of the Highway Safety Hot Topic will compare counties and cities in Utah.

Data Limitations
Due to the fact that counties have different amounts of miles traveled, the rate of crashes per vehicle miles traveled was used. For pedestrian, bicyclist, and city comparisons the rate of crashes per population was used.

To do a comparison among the counties, nine highway safety areas were evaluated to rank the counties from worst to best. Keep in mind that the numbers used are for people driving in the county not just residents of the county.

Overall
In 2010, drivers in Duchesne County were the worst in Utah. Following Duchesne County were two counties from the Wasatch Front—Salt Lake and Weber.

Drivers in Piute County can lay claim to being the best drivers in Utah. Trailing Piute County as best drivers were other rural counties—Millard, Box Elder, and San Juan. See page 3 for a complete ranking of counties.

What makes the drivers in some counties worse than others? Below are several highway safety topics and how Utah counties compare.

Fatal Crashes
Rural Counties had the highest fatal crash rates per miles traveled. Rich, Duchesne, Sanpete, Daggett, and Grand Counties had the highest rates. The counties with the lowest fatal crash rates were Wayne, Piute, Morgan, Wasatch, and Carbon.

All Crashes
Urban Counties had the highest overall crash rates per miles traveled. Salt Lake, Weber, Cache, Utah, and Duchesne Counties had the highest rates. The counties with the lowest overall crash rates were Grand, San Juan, Daggett, Tooele, and Millard.

Occupant Protection
Wayne, Sevier, Sanpete, Garfield, and Duchesne Counties were the worst counties for people not using seat belts and child safety seats in crashes. Davis, Cache, Salt Lake, Utah, and Summit were the best counties for occupant protection.

Drunk Driving
Uintah County lays claim to having the worst drivers in regards to drunk driving. Counties in the eastern part of Utah make up many of the worst counties. Uintah was followed by Salt Lake, Daggett, Duchesne, and San Juan. Piute County has the best drivers in regards to not drinking

and driving. Counties in the central part of Utah make up many of the best counties. Piute was followed by Sevier, Box Elder, Millard, and Iron.

Speed
Morgan, Rich, Wasatch, Beaver, and Duchesne Counties had the highest rates of crashes by lead-footed drivers. Daggett, Grand, Washington, San Juan, and Kane Counties had the lowest rates of crashes by speeding vehicles.

Teen Drivers
This category includes drivers age 15-19 years in a crash. Urban counties had the worst teen drivers. Cache, Weber, Salt Lake, Utah, and Rich Counties had the highest rates. San Juan, Grand, Daggett, Millard, and Emery Counties had the lowest crash rates for teen drivers.

Motorcycles
Rich County has the worst drivers in regards to motorcycle crashes per miles traveled. Trailing Rich are Wayne, Morgan, Garfield, and Kane. The best counties for motorcyclists were Beaver, Emery, Millard, Box Elder, and Juab.

Pedestrians
Drivers may need additional training on how to drive around pedestrians in Juab, Wasatch, Salt Lake, Weber, and Summit Counties as they ranked the worst for pedestrian crashes per population. In Daggett, Kane, Piute, Rich, San Juan, and Wayne no pedestrians were struck by motor vehicles.

Bicyclists
Drivers may need additional training on how to drive around bicyclists in Salt Lake, Cache, Utah, Wasatch, and Weber Counties as they ranked the worst for bicyclist crashes per population. In Beaver, Daggett, Duchesne, Grand, Juab, Kane, Millard, Morgan, Piute, Rich, San Juan, and Wayne no bicyclists were struck by motor vehicles.

County Comparison Conclusion
While some people may claim that drivers in one area of Utah are the worst, the data shows which counties in Utah are the worst. Drivers in Duchesne County were the worst, ranking above the state average in six of the nine categories examined. Drivers in Piute County were the best, ranking below the state average in every category but one.

City Comparison
All cities that had a population of 5,000+ or 50+ crashes were compared. The largest cities in Utah had the highest number of crashes as would be expected. Comparing crashes per population shows that the cities with the highest rates were Marriot-Slaterville, Uintah, Willard, Park City, and Riverdale. The cities with the lowest rates were Ephraim, Cedar Hills, Enoch, Alpine, and Ivins. For cities with 20,000+ population, South Salt Lake had the highest rate while Eagle Mountain had the lowest rate. For a complete listing of cities see page 4.

Counties

County Crash Comparison (Utah 2010)

County	Fatal Crash Rate per VMT Rank	Overall Crash Rate per VMT Rank	Percent of Crash Occupants Unrestrained Rank	Drunk Driving Crash Rate per VMT Rank	Speed Crash Rate per VMT Rank	Teen Driver Crash Rate per VMT Rank	Motorcycle Crash Rate per VMT Rank	Pedestrian Crash Rate per Pop. Rank	Bicyclist Crash Rate per Pop. Rank	Total County Highway Safety Ranking
Duchesne	2	5	5	4	5	11	6	19	18	**8.3**
Salt Lake	20	1	27	2	7	3	13	3	1	**8.6**
Weber	14	2	21	6	15	2	9	4	5	**8.7**
Garfield	6	8	4	13	16	17	4	13	8	**9.9**
Wasatch	26	6	19	15	3	8	10	2	4	**10.3**
Rich	1	7	16	20	2	5	1	24	18	**10.4**
Uintah	9	10	9	1	17	7	21	14	13	**11.2**
Utah	19	4	26	19	10	4	8	8	3	**11.2**
Cache	22	3	28	18	14	1	11	7	2	**11.8**
Summit	17	13	25	8	8	16	16	5	6	**12.7**
Sanpete	3	22	3	14	23	14	14	23	17	**14.8**
Wayne	29	14	1	7	19	19	2	24	18	**14.8**
Sevier	12	15	2	28	12	15	24	17	9	**14.9**
Carbon	25	12	14	11	18	10	15	21	12	**15.3**
Washington	15	18	24	12	27	9	12	10	11	**15.3**
Iron	16	17	17	25	6	13	20	15	10	**15.4**
Morgan	27	16	23	21	1	12	3	20	18	**15.7**
Davis	24	9	29	16	20	6	23	9	7	**15.9**
Tooele	13	26	13	9	24	21	17	11	15	**16.6**
Beaver	23	21	6	22	4	23	29	6	18	**16.9**
Juab	8	23	18	24	13	24	25	1	18	**17.1**
Kane	18	11	8	23	25	22	5	24	18	**17.1**
Grand	5	29	10	10	28	28	22	12	18	**18.0**
Daggett	4	27	15	3	29	27	19	24	18	**18.4**
Emery	7	24	7	17	22	25	28	22	14	**18.4**
San Juan	21	28	11	5	26	29	7	24	18	**18.8**
Box Elder	10	20	22	27	11	20	26	18	16	**18.9**
Millard	11	25	20	26	9	26	27	16	18	**19.8**
Piute	28	19	12	29	21	18	18	24	18	**20.8**
Note:	Rank 1-15 Above State Avg.	Rank 1-5 Above State Avg.	Rank 1-24 Above State Avg.	Rank 1-7 Above State Avg.	Rank 1-15 Above State Avg.	Rank 1-4 Above State Avg.	Rank 1-14 Above State Avg.	Rank 1-5 Above State Avg.	Rank 1-3 Above State Avg.	Total Safety Ranking Average = 14.7

This is a comparison developed to evaluate the different counties using a County Highway Safety Ranking. Each County is ranked with 1 being the lowest (or worst) ranking and 29 being the highest (or best) ranking on various categories. The bottom row shows what counties ranked above the state average for that category. Counties above the state average are marked in gray for that category. To arrive at an overall ranking, the rankings within the nine different categories were added together and divided by nine.

- Duchesne, Salt Lake, and Weber Counties were the worst overall counties. Duchesne County was among the worst ten counties for six of the nine categories.
- Piute, Millard, and Box Elder Counties were the best overall counties. Piute County was below the state average in every category except one.

Utah Crash Summary 2010

Cities

Crashes by City (Utah 2010)

Total Crash Rate for Cities With Population 5,000+ or 50+ Crashes											
Rank by Rate	Rank by Total	City	Popu-lation	Total Crashes	Rate per 10,000 Pop.	Rank by Rate	Rank by Total	City	Popu-lation	Total Crashes	Rate per 10,000 Pop.
1	49	Marriot-Slaterville	1,701	141	828.9	49	29	Cedar City	28,857	412	142.8
2	65	Uintah	1,322	94	711.0	50	14	St. George	72,897	997	136.8
3	59	Willard	1,772	115	649.0	51	55	Santaquin	9,128	124	135.8
4	33	Park City	7,547	355	470.4	52	33	Magna	26,505	355	133.9
5	30	Riverdale	8,426	387	459.3	53	28	Cottonwood Heights	33,433	444	132.8
6	12	South Salt Lake	23,617	1,068	452.2	54	17	South Jordan	50,418	658	130.5
7	5	Murray	46,746	1,809	387.0	55	39	Payson	18,294	236	129.0
8	4	Taylorsville	58,652	1,922	327.7	56	72	Harrisville	5,567	71	127.5
9	15	Midvale	27,964	909	325.1	57	64	Richfield	7,551	95	125.8
10	36	Lindon	10,070	306	303.9	58	49	Heber	11,362	141	124.1
11	11	Draper	40,532	1,141	281.5	59	67	Tremonton	7,647	91	119.0
12	26	North Salt Lake	16,322	459	281.2	60	27	Riverton	38,753	447	115.3
13	2	Sandy	87,461	2,437	278.6	61	37	Kaysville	27,300	305	111.7
14	10	Logan	48,174	1,201	249.3	62	31	Pleasant Grove	33,509	368	109.8
15	42	Vernal	9,089	222	244.3	63	75	South Weber	6,051	64	105.8
16	1	Salt Lake City	186,440	4,456	239.0	64	68	Pleasant View	7,979	83	104.0
17	52	Farr West	5,928	138	232.8	65	19	Millcreek	62,139	594	95.6
18	56	West Bountiful	5,265	122	231.7	66	82	Moab	5,046	47	93.1
19	57	Sunset	5,122	117	228.4	67	44	Washington	18,761	173	92.2
20	71	Wellsville	3,432	73	212.7	68	46	Saratoga Springs	17,781	159	89.4
21	81	Fillmore	2,435	50	205.3	69	38	Tooele	31,605	255	80.7
22	43	Price	8,715	178	204.2	70	62	Hurricane	13,748	108	78.6
23	77	Beaver	3,112	63	202.4	71	80	Providence	7,075	51	72.1
24	23	Holladay	26,472	523	197.6	72	85	Nibley	5,438	39	71.7
25	20	Springville	29,466	577	195.8	73	79	Hyrum	7,609	54	71.0
26	32	Farmington	18,275	357	195.3	74	54	Brigham City	17,899	127	71.0
27	24	American Fork	26,263	508	193.4	75	78	Mapleton	7,979	56	70.2
28	73	Morgan	3,687	70	189.9	76	75	Smithfield	9,495	64	67.4
29	8	Ogden	82,825	1,546	186.7	77	87	Plain City	5,476	35	63.9
30	35	South Ogden	16,532	307	185.7	78	61	North Ogden	17,357	110	63.4
31	69	Perry	4,512	79	175.1	79	65	Highland	15,523	94	60.6
32	63	Roosevelt	6,046	105	173.7	80	86	Salem	6,423	38	59.2
33	51	North Logan	8,269	140	169.3	81	48	Syracuse	24,331	143	58.8
34	53	Bluffdale	7,598	128	168.5	82	60	Clinton	20,426	112	54.8
35	20	Spanish Fork	34,691	577	166.3	83	40	Bountiful	42,552	228	53.6
36	18	Roy	36,884	610	165.4	84	58	Herriman	21,785	116	53.2
37	25	Clearfield	30,112	496	164.7	85	83	Grantsville	8,893	42	47.2
38	45	Woods Cross	9,761	160	163.9	86	83	Washington Terrace	9,067	42	46.3
39	9	Orem	88,328	1,410	159.6	87	87	West Point	9,511	35	36.8
40	13	Layton	67,311	1,067	158.5	88	89	Hooper	7,218	26	36.0
41	16	Lehi	47,407	741	156.3	89	74	Eagle Mountain	21,415	68	31.8
42	7	West Jordan	103,712	1,620	156.2	90	93	Santa Clara	6,003	16	26.7
43	3	West Valley City	129,480	1,977	152.7	91	92	Ivins	6,753	17	25.2
44	6	Provo	112,488	1,710	152.0	92	90	Alpine	9,555	22	23.0
45	22	Kearns	35,731	535	149.7	93	94	Enoch	5,803	13	22.4
46	40	Centerville	15,335	228	148.7	94	91	Cedar Hills	9,796	20	20.4
47	47	West Haven	10,272	152	148.0	95	95	Ephraim	6,135	6	9.8
48	70	Nephi	5,389	77	142.9			Total	2,763,885	41,264	149.3

- The above table only includes cities with a population of 5,000+ or 50+ crashes.
- The ten cities with the highest rates of total crashes per population were Marriot-Slaterville, Uintah, Willard, Park City, Riverdale, South Salt Lake, Murray, Taylorsville, Midvale, and Lindon.
- The ten cities with the highest total number of crashes were Salt Lake City, Sandy, West Valley City, Taylorsville, Murray, Provo, West Jordan, Ogden, Orem, and Logan.