

Wearing a seat belt is one of the best ways to decrease injuries and deaths in motor vehicle crashes.

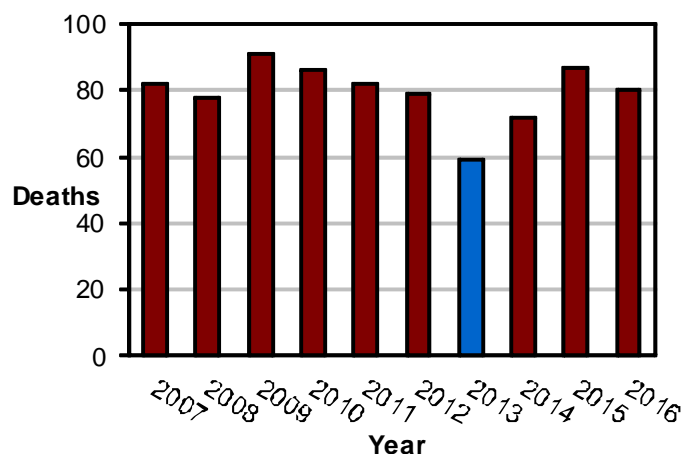
Occupant Protection



Did you know in 2016:

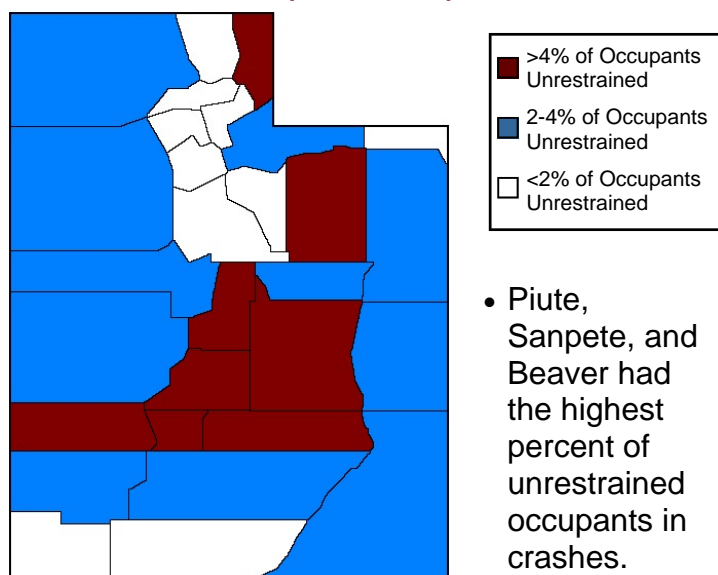
- Unrestrained crash occupants were 24 times more likely to die than restrained injured occupants.
- An estimated 107 lives were saved because of restraint use. (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration)
- An estimated 40 additional lives would have been saved if everyone had been wearing seat belts.

**Unrestrained Occupant Deaths by Year
(Utah 2007-2016)**

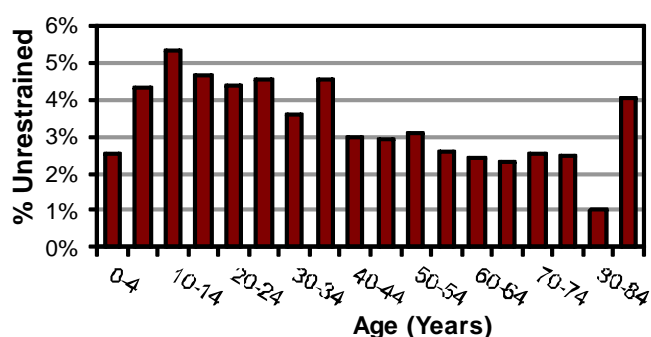


- 2013 had the lowest number of unrestrained occupant deaths over the last 10 years.

**Unrestrained Crash Occupants by County
(Utah 2016)**

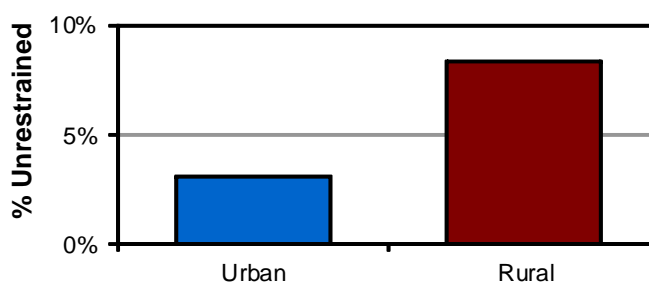


**Unrestrained Injured Crash Occupants by Age
(Utah 2016)**



- The highest percentage of unrestrained injured crash occupants were 10-14 years.

**Unrestrained Injured Crash Occupants by Rural vs. Urban
(Utah 2016)**

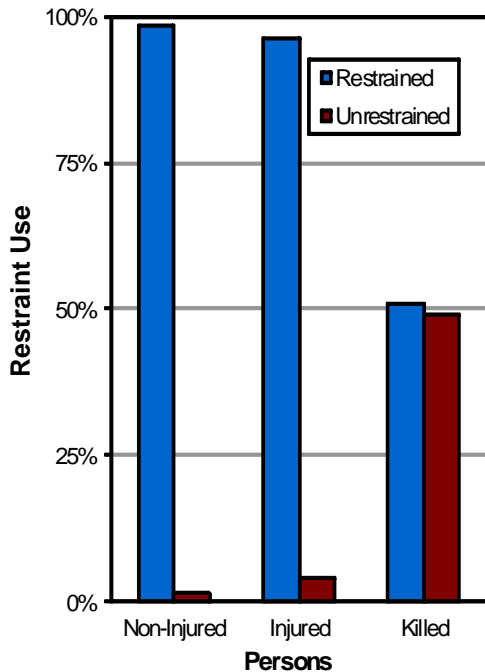


- Occupants in rural crashes were 2.3 times more likely to be unrestrained than urban occupants.

Occupant Protection

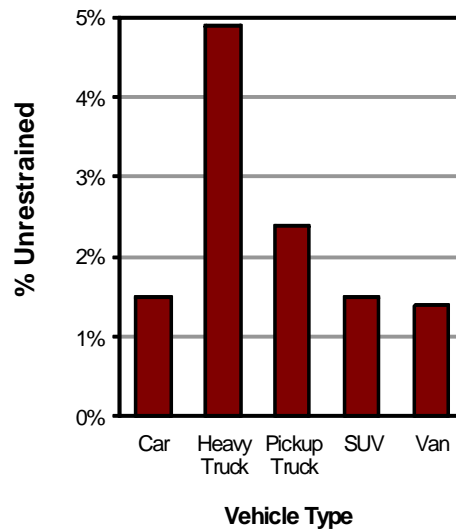


Restraint Use by Injury Severity (Utah 2016)



- 98% of persons who survived a crash were restrained compared to half (49%) of the persons killed.

Restraint Use by Vehicle Type (Utah 2016)

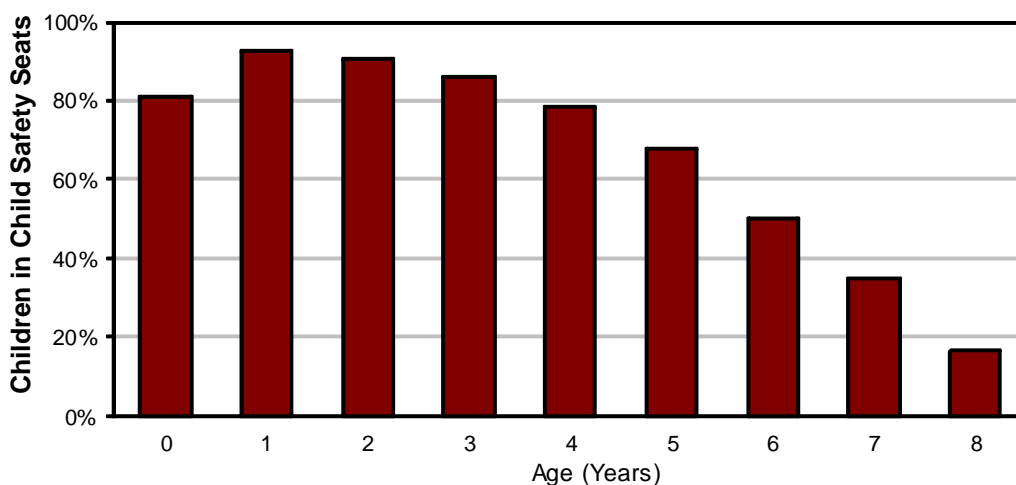


- Occupants in heavy truck and pickup truck were the most likely to be unrestrained in a crash.

Child Safety Seat Recommendations:

- Children should ride rear-facing until at least two years of age and 30 pounds.
- Children should ride forward-facing with a harness until at least four years of age and 40 pounds, or longer if the car seat allows.
- Children who are at least four years of age and 40 pounds can ride in a booster seat. Use the booster seat until the seat belt fits correctly and until the child is 4'9".
- Children under 13 years old should ride in the back seat.
- Never place a rear-facing child safety seat in the front seat of a vehicle with a passenger side air bag.

Percent of Children Aged 0-8 Years in Crashes Using Child Safety Seats (Utah 2016)



- The older the child the less likely they were using a child safety seat.
- While 93% of 1-year-olds in a crash were in a child safety seat, only 78% of 4-year-olds, 68% of 5-year-olds, 50% of 6-year-olds, and 35% of 7-year-olds were in a child safety seat.
- The decrease in child safety seat use for children aged 4-8 years is concerning and indicates that children are moving to adult-sized seat belts too early.

Seat Belt

Recommendations:

- Always use both the lap and shoulder belt. When worn properly, the shoulder belt should fit across the collar bone and the lap belt should fit low over the hips.
- Never place the shoulder strap under the arm or behind the back.
- Always buckle up to stay safe and set a good example.

Safety Restraint Laws:

- Utah law requires all motor vehicle occupants to wear a seat belt.
- Children age 7 years and under must ride in an approved child safety seat.

