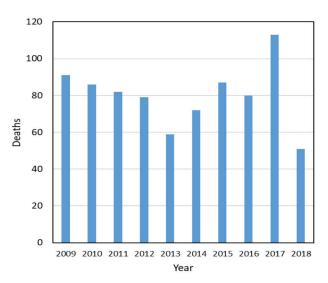
Utah Department of Public Safety Highway Safety Office

Occupant Protection

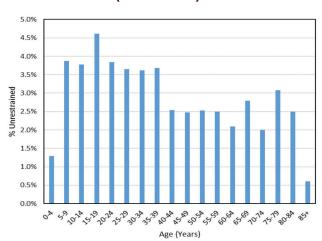
Wearing a seat belt is one of the best ways to decrease injuries and deaths in motor vehicle crashes.

- Unrestrained crash occupants were 3.9 times more likely to be injured in a crash than restrained crash occupants.
- Also, unrestrained crash occupants were 14 times more likely to die in a crash than restrained injured occupants.

Unrestrained Occupant Deaths by Year (Utah 2009-2018)

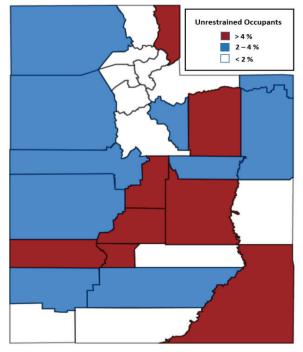


 2018 had the lowest number of unrestrained occupant deaths over the last 10 years.



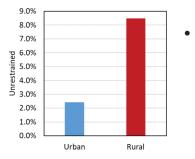
Unrestrained Injured Crash Occupants by Age (Utah 2018)

Unrestrained Crash Occupants by County (Utah 2018)



• Urban counties had lower percent of unrestrained occupants in crashes compared to rural counties.

Unrestrained Injured Crash Occupants by Rural vs. Urban (Utah 2018)



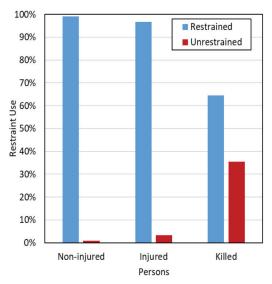
Occupants in rural crashes were 3.4 times more likely to be unrestrained than urban occupants.

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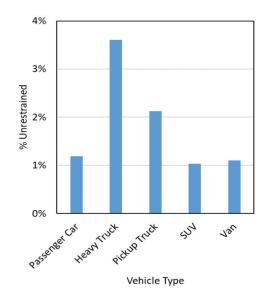
Occupant Protection

Restraint Use by Injury Severity (Utah 2018)



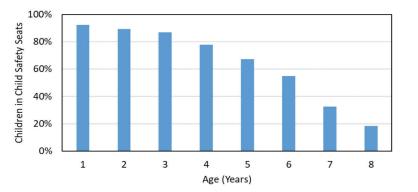
99% of persons who survived a crash were restrained compared to about 65% of the persons killed.

Restraint Use by Vehicle Type (Utah 2018)



• Occupants in heavy trucks and pickup trucks were the most likely to be unrestrained in a crash.

Percent of Children Aged 1-8 Years in crashes Using Child safety Seats (Utah 2018)



- The older the child, the less likely they were using a child safety seat.
- While 92% of 1-year-olds in a crash were in a child safety seat, only 78% of 4-year-olds, 67% of 5-year-olds, 55% of 6-year-olds, and 33% 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.

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.

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.

