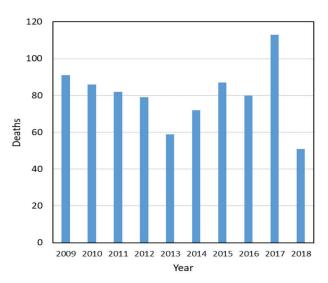
### Utah Department of Public Safety Highway Safety Office

## Occupant Protection

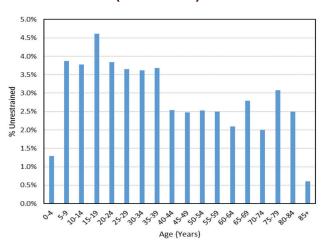
Wearing a seat belt is one of the best ways to decrease injuries and deaths in motor vehicle crashes.

- 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)

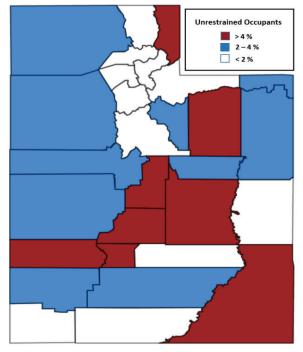


 2018 had the lowest number of unrestrained occupant deaths over the last 10 years.



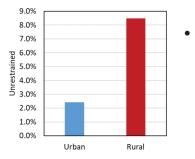
# Unrestrained Injured Crash Occupants by Age (Utah 2018)

#### 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)



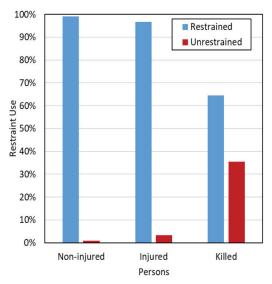
Occupants in rural crashes were 3.4 times more likely to be unrestrained than urban occupants.

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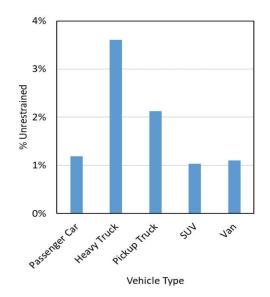
## Occupant Protection

#### Restraint Use by Injury Severity (Utah 2018)



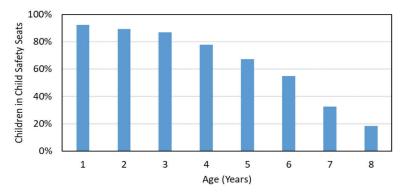
#### 99% of persons who survived a crash were restrained compared to about 65% of the persons killed.

#### 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.

