

Utah Crash Summary 2006

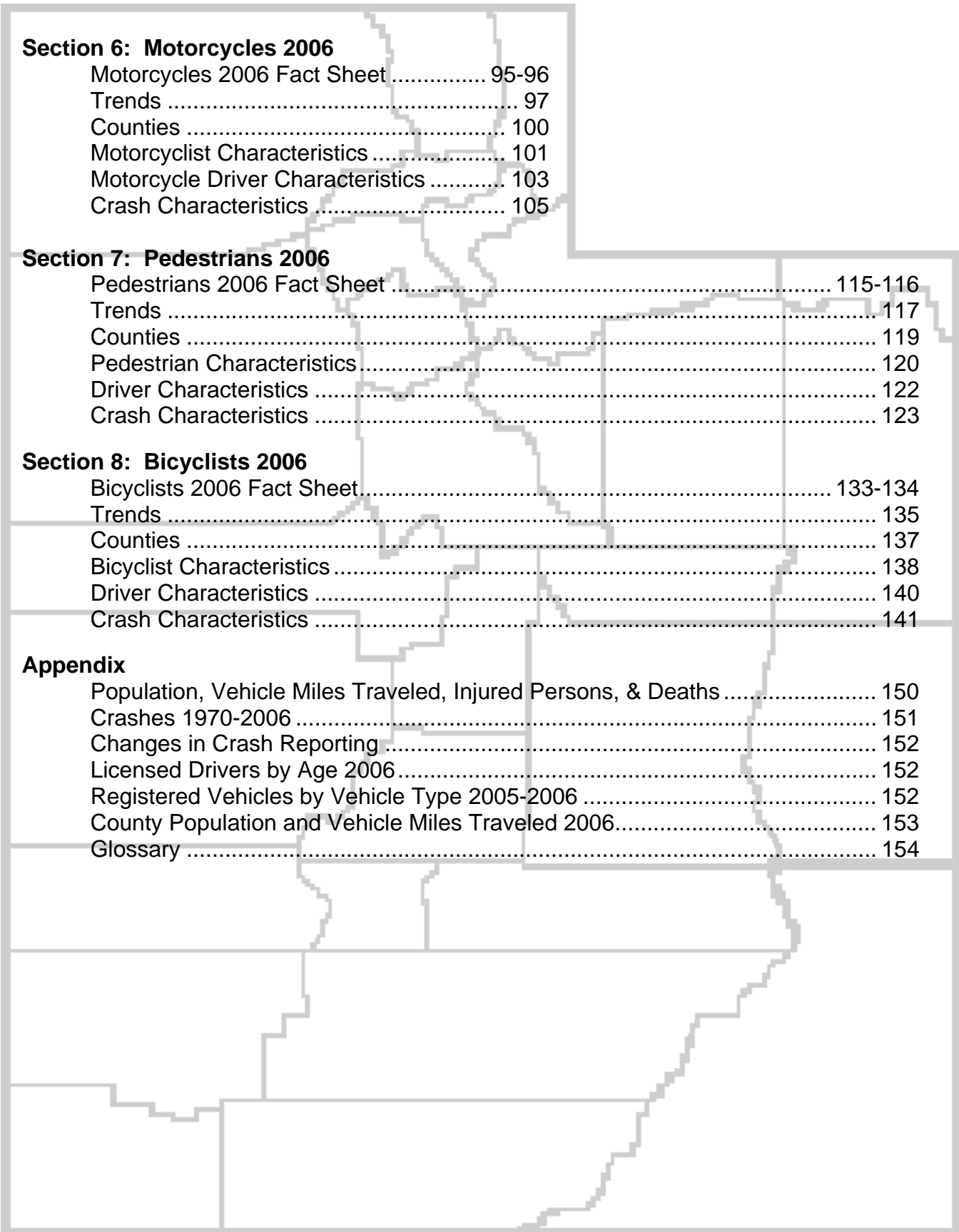


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Introduction

- Purpose:** The annual Utah Crash Summary identifies and describes the trends and effects of traffic crashes in Utah. The statistics within the Utah Crash Summary describe factors that contribute to the occurrence of deaths, injuries, and crashes. This report is designed to heighten awareness about traffic safety and allows safety program specialists, public health personnel, and other interested individuals to identify areas where programs may be focused in an effort to reduce traffic-related injuries and deaths.
- Crash Data:** The data for this summary is derived from Utah crash reports. These reports are completed by law enforcement officers throughout the state who collect data from crash scenes on public roadways. Information is collected when a crash involves injuries, deaths, or at least \$1,000 property damage; when the jurisdiction in which the crash occurs requires it; or when the responding officer determines that a report is warranted. Crash reports are forwarded to the Utah Department of Public Safety and the Utah Department of Transportation for central collection.
- Fatal Crashes:** Additional information is collected on fatal crashes and compiled into a separate database, the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS). FARS is a national data system containing data on all fatal traffic crashes in the U.S. This database was used for the reporting of fatal crashes.
- Fact Sheets:** In order to provide information at a glance, each section of the crash summary is accompanied by a Utah Crash Fact Sheet. The fact sheets provide an overview of the section highlighting key points.
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- Available At:** Printed copies of the Utah Crash Summary are available at the Utah Highway Safety Office. The summary and fact sheets are also available on the internet at www.highwaysafety.utah.gov.
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Executive Summary

Measurable progress has been made to reduce motor vehicle crashes in Utah, with a steady decline in the injury and fatal crash rates over the last 40 years. If Utah had the same fatal crash rate in 2006 as 1976 there would have been 503 additional deaths in 2006. These reductions can be attributed to a variety of factors, including:

- Traffic safety programs that have increased awareness of traffic safety issues;
- Legislation mandating seatbelt use, graduated driver licensing, and enhanced penalties for impaired driving;
- Aggressive media and enforcement programs targeting driver behavior;
- Improved engineering of roadways;
- Improved safety of motor vehicles;
- Advancements in emergency response and treatment.

The personal and socioeconomic effect of motor vehicle crashes is a continuing concern in the state of Utah, with special focus on reducing the tragedy of injury and death. In 2006, there were 56,187 traffic crashes that involved 143,907 people with 27,257 injured and 287 people killed.

Utah made progress in the following areas in 2006 when compared to 2005:

- The Utah death rate per miles traveled is still below the U.S. rate;
- The crash rate per miles traveled decreased 2%;
- The percent of crash occupants killed in a crash that were belted increased 14%;
- The percent of crashes involving a teenage driver decreased 4%;
- Speed-related fatal crashes decreased 4%;
- Motorcycle crash rates per registered motorcycles decreased 10%;
- The bicyclist crash rate per population decreased 8%.

As improvements are made and progress continues, traffic safety needs to remain a top priority in Utah. Some areas of concern in Utah during 2006:

- Traffic deaths increased from 282 in 2005 to 287 in 2006;
- Traffic crashes increased from 54,938 in 2005 to 56,187 in 2006;
- Only 20% of 5-8-year-olds were in a child safety seat at the time of the crash;
- Alcohol and other drug-related crash deaths increased 51% from 2005;
- 39% of deaths were speed-related;
- Over one-fourth (26%) of motor vehicle crashes involved a teenage driver;
- Pedestrian deaths increased 45% from 2005.

The 2006 Utah Crash Summary contains further details regarding motor vehicle crashes in Utah. In addition, each section of this Crash Summary begins with a Utah Crash Fact Sheet that quickly summarizes some of the detailed information in the section.

The Utah Department of Public Safety Highway Safety Office invites users of this Crash Summary to help promote motor vehicle safety in Utah. Utah has a goal of zero fatalities because the loss of just one life is too many. It is a goal we can all live with.

2006 Utah Crash Synopsis

Category	#	% of Total*
Total Crashes	56,187	100%
Urban Crashes	42,101	75%
Property Damage Only Crashes	37,749	67%
Injury Crashes	18,189	32%
Teenage Driver Crashes	14,398	26%
Rural Crashes	14,086	25%
Speed-Related Crashes	10,083	18%
Alcohol and Other Drug-Related Crashes	2,674	5%
Motorcycle Crashes	993	2%
Bicycle-Motor Vehicle Crashes	670	1%
Pedestrian-Motor Vehicle Crashes	642	1%
Fatal Crashes	249	<1%
Fatal Crashes	249	100%
Rural Fatal Crashes	134	54%
Urban Fatal Crashes	115	46%
Speed-Related Fatal Crashes	94	38%
Alcohol and Other Drug-Related Fatal Crashes	57	23%
Teenage Driver Fatal Crashes	43	17%
Pedestrian-Motor Vehicle Fatal Crashes	29	12%
Motorcycle Fatal Crashes	23	9%
Bicycle-Motor Vehicle Fatal Crashes	10	4%
Total Persons in Crashes	143,907	100%
Drivers Involved	99,917	69%
Teenage Driver-Related Persons Involved	41,640	29%
Injured Persons	27,257	19%
Speed-Related Persons Involved	23,040	16%
Alcohol and Other Drug-Related Persons Involved	5,810	4%
Unbelted Occupants Involved	5,364	4%
Motorcyclists Involved	1,109	1%
Pedestrians	701	<1%
Bicyclists	681	<1%
Deaths	287	<1%
Deaths	287	100%
Speed-Related Deaths	113	39%
Unbelted Occupant Deaths	88	31%
Alcohol and Other Drug-Related Deaths	68	24%
Teenage Driver-Related Deaths	49	17%
Pedestrian Deaths	29	10%
Motorcyclist Deaths	24	8%
Bicyclist Deaths	10	3%

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

2006 Utah Crash Facts

- In an average day in Utah in 2006, there were 154 motor vehicle crashes involving 394 people with 75 people injured and 1 person killed.
- First motor vehicle crash occurred January 1, 2006 at 12:13 a.m. and the last crash occurred December 31, 2006 at 11:50 p.m.
- First fatal motor vehicle crash occurred January 3, 2006 at 8:13 a.m. and the last fatal crash occurred December 30, 2006 at 9:46 a.m.
- Wednesday, February 15, 2006 had the most crashes with 884 crashes and Sunday, March 05, 2006 had the fewest crashes with 45.
- 44 additional lives would have been saved if everyone had been wearing seatbelts.
- A motor vehicle crash occurred every 9 minutes.
- A person was injured in a crash every 19 minutes.
- A teenage-driver crash occurred every 36 minutes.
- A speed-related crash occurred every 52 minutes.
- A driver age 65 years or older was in a crash every 90 minutes.
- A distracted driver crash occurred every 94 minutes.
- A semi/large truck was in a crash every 2 hours.
- An alcohol or other drug-related crash occurred every 3 hours.
- An animal-motor vehicle crash occurred every 4 hours.
- A motorcycle was in a crash every 8 hours.
- A pedestrian was hit by a motor vehicle every 12 hours.
- A bicyclist was hit by a motor vehicle every 12 hours.
- A person was killed in a crash every 30 hours.
- The youngest person in a motor vehicle crash was less than 1 week-old and the oldest person was over 100 years-old.
- The youngest person killed in a motor vehicle crash was 1 year-old and the oldest person killed was 91 years-old.
- In 2006, the estimated statewide economic loss due to motor vehicle crashes in Utah was \$1.4 billion. (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration—Motor Vehicle Safety)
- In 2006, \$94,445,440 was spent on hospital and emergency department charges for the treatment of Utah residents in motor vehicle crashes. (Utah Department of Health)
- One out of every 17 licensed drivers were in a crash.
- One out of every 18 registered vehicles were in a crash.
- One out of every 18 Utah residents were in a crash.
- One out of every 43 deaths in Utah involved a motor vehicle crash.
- One out of every 501 people in a crash died.
- A person was in a crash every 181,831 miles driven in Utah.

