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RESPONSIBILITY



DRUNK DRIVING
FATALITIES



2014 State of

Drunk Driving Fatalities

IN AMERICA

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Overview



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The Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility is a national, independent, not-for-profit organization funded by the nation's leading distillers. Founded in 1991, Responsibility.org offers proven strategies to stop impaired driving. Building upon a longstanding history of corporate social responsibility and the philosophy that collective actions have a greater impact than individual efforts, our funders, Bacardi U.S.A., Inc.; Beam Suntory Inc.; Brown-Forman; Constellation Brands, Inc.; DIAGEO; Edrington; Hood River Distillers, Inc.; and Pernod Ricard USA, have demonstrated their support for Responsibility.org's mission for 25 years by investing in the development and implementation of innovative programs, award winning public awareness campaigns and groundbreaking research. An independent Advisory Board of distinguished leaders in business, government, education, medicine and other relevant disciplines assists us in these efforts.

Since Responsibility.org's inception, [drunk driving](#) fatalities have reached record low levels. Alcohol-impaired driving fatalities have been cut by more than one third, down 37% since 1991, while total driving fatalities have declined at a slower rate, decreasing 21%. Among our nation's youth, the decline in drunk driving fatalities among those under 21 has been even more significant, decreasing 64% since Responsibility.org's formation. While we cannot claim sole responsibility for these reductions, the Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility has played a significant role in helping to reach these historic low levels of drunk driving fatalities.

Since Responsibility.org initially brought national attention to the problem of the [hardcore drunk driver](#), the proportion of DUI arrests among repeat offenders has declined 19% from approximately one-third to 25%. However, these hardcore drunk drivers continue to wreak havoc on our nation's roads. The average BAC among drunk drivers in fatal crashes is .16, double the legal limit in all 50 states and D.C. In 2014, 72% of drunk driving fatalities, where there is a known alcohol-test

result for the driver, involved a high BAC driver – a trend that has remained relatively unchanged for nearly two decades. Furthermore, these high BAC drivers were seven times more likely to have a prior driving while intoxicated (DWI) conviction in the past three years alone.

Clearly we still have more work to do. Responsibility.org's commitment to bring evidence-based and innovative programs to the forefront is undeniable. FAAR's ongoing support of the [Computerized Assessment and Referral System \(CARS\)](#), a standardized mental health assessment tool that effectively screens for alcohol and drug use disorders as well as underlying psychiatric disorders, will enable targeted interventions to address comorbid mental health issues among DUI offenders. Responsibility.org has also brought together ten traffic safety and health organizations committed to spreading the word that together we can end impaired driving. The cornerstone of this initiative is a PSA [#EndImpairedDriving](#) that focuses on the four "D"s of impaired driving – drunk, drugged, distracted and drowsy – and reminds everyone that any form of impaired driving is dangerous and preventable.

The Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility remains committed to working alongside all sectors of the community in this important fight to advance policies and programs to help eliminate drunk driving and underage drinking. Therefore, I trust this information will serve as a useful resource to those committed to this effort.

Ralph S. Blackman

President & CEO

Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility

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Alcohol-Impaired Fatality

Drivers in all 50 states and D.C. are considered to be alcohol-impaired if their blood alcohol concentration (BAC) is .08 grams per deciliter (g/dL) or higher. Any fatality occurring in a crash involving at least one driver, or motorcycle operator, with a BAC of .08 or higher is considered to be an alcohol-impaired driving, or drunk driving, fatality. The term alcohol-impaired does not indicate that a crash or a fatality was the result of alcohol impairment. In producing national and state alcohol-impaired statistics, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) estimates the extent of alcohol involvement when alcohol test results are unknown.

Alcohol-Involved Fatality

Alcohol-involved fatalities are those where at least one driver, or motorcycle operator, has a positive BAC of .01 or higher. In producing national and state alcohol-involved statistics, NHTSA estimates the extent of alcohol involvement when alcohol test results are unknown.

Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC)

BAC is measured in grams of alcohol per 100 milliliters of blood. A BAC of .01 indicates .01 grams of alcohol per 100 milliliters of blood. As of July 2004, all 50 states and D.C. have passed legislation establishing a driver with a BAC of .08 to be legally intoxicated. Additionally, 48 states and D.C. have laws that increase penalties for those convicted of driving with elevated or "high" BAC levels.

Hardcore Drunk Drivers

Hardcore drunk drivers, those who drive with a high BAC of .15 or above, do so repeatedly, as demonstrated by having more than one drunk driving arrest, and are highly resistant to changing their behavior despite previous sanctions, treatment or education efforts.

Rates per 100,000 Population

The rate of alcohol-impaired fatalities per 100,000 population is the number of alcohol-impaired fatalities for every 100,000 persons in the population being measured. For example, an alcohol-impaired fatality rate of 3.1 per 100,000 population nationally means that for every 100,000 people in the nation, there were approximately three alcohol-impaired fatalities.

Repeat Offenders

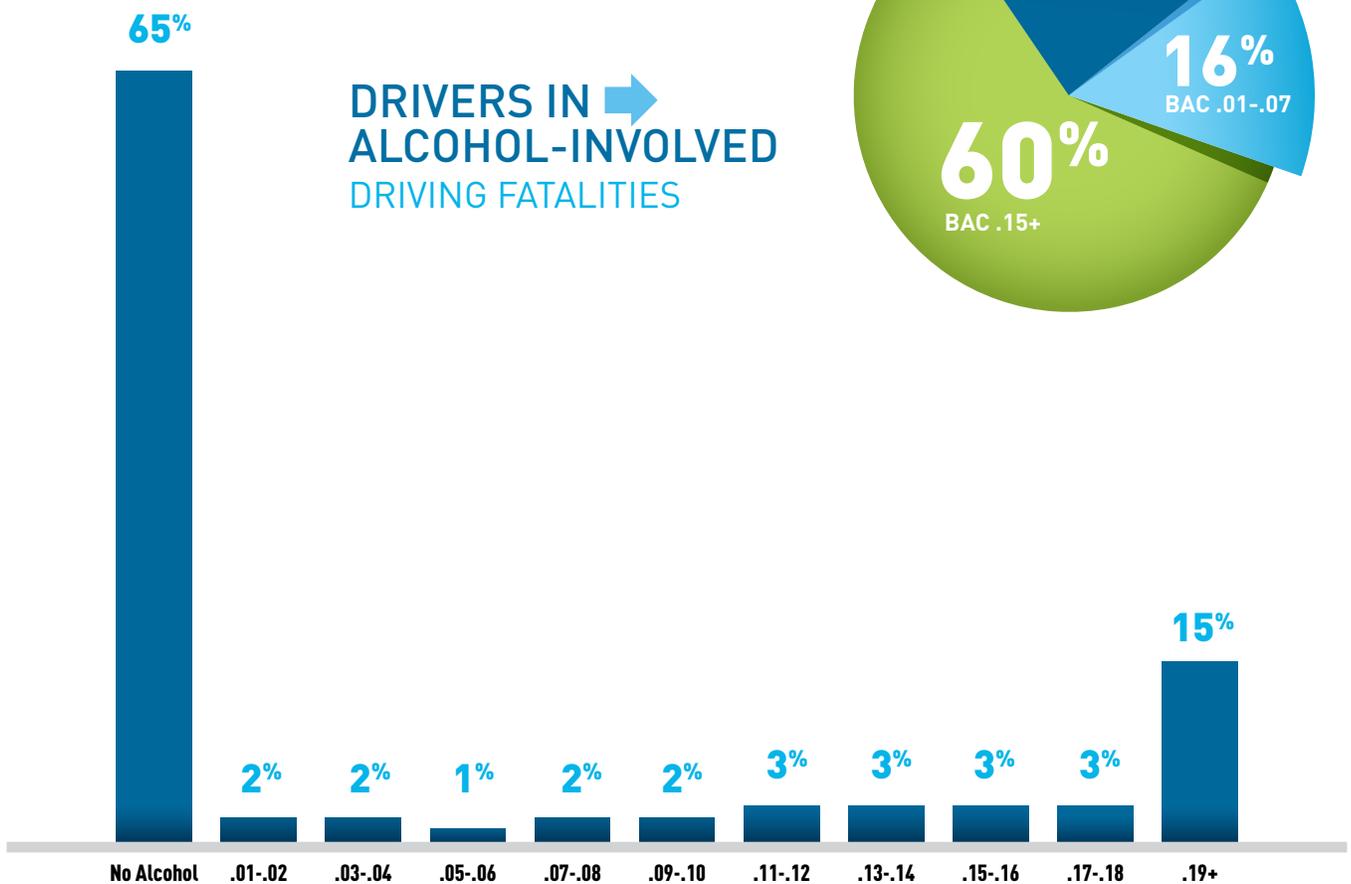
The NHTSA/FARS data records prior driving records (convictions only, not violations) for driving while intoxicated events occurring within three years of the date of the crash. The same driver can have one or more of these convictions during this three year period. Drivers who have a prior conviction in this three year period are reported as repeat offenders.

Percent of 2014 Driving Fatalities by BAC Test Result



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In 2014, drunk driving accounted for 31% of all traffic fatalities. Six out of ten alcohol-involved fatal crashes involved high BAC drivers.



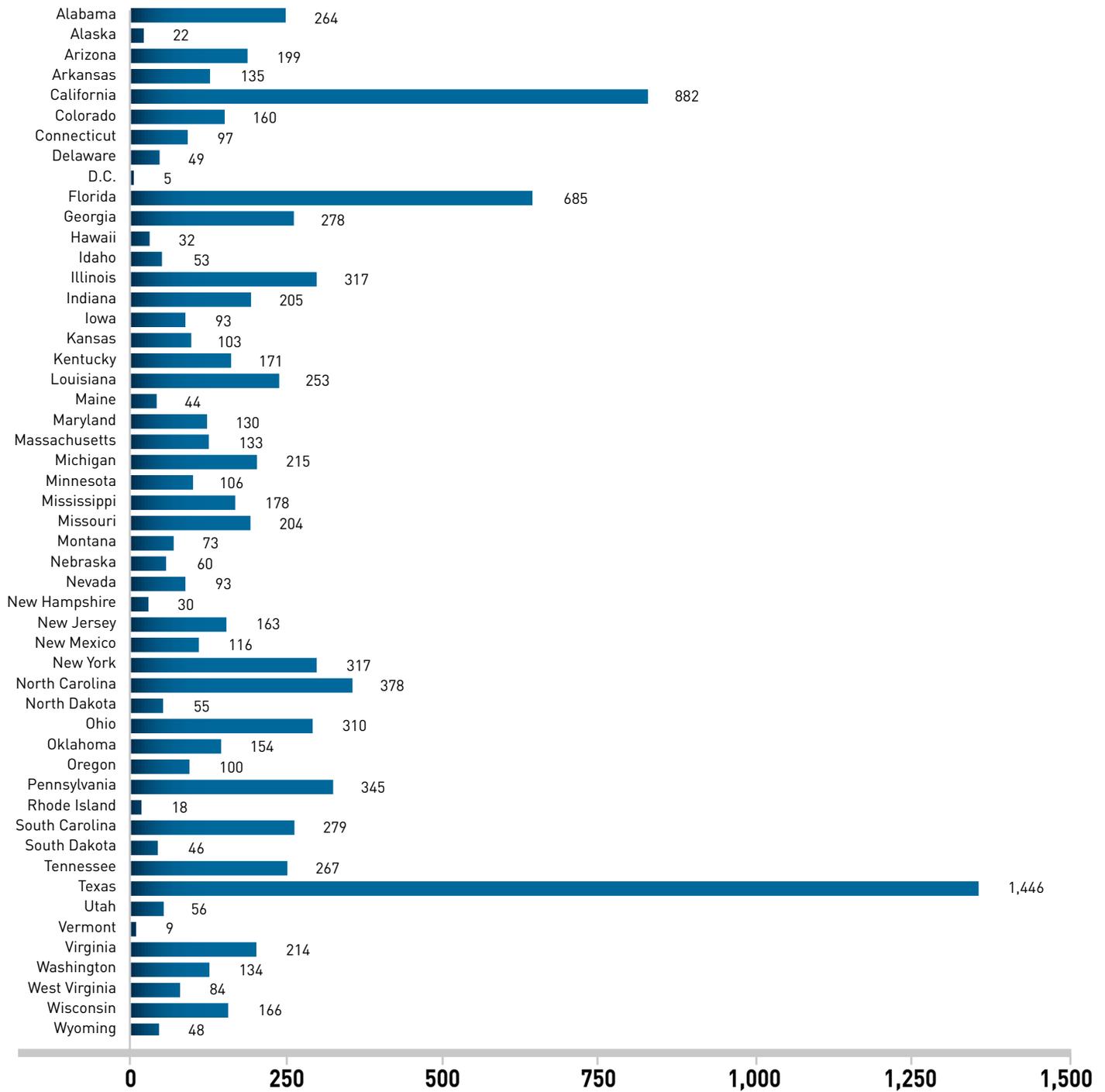
KNOWN ALCOHOL TEST RESULTS OF DRIVERS INVOLVED IN FATAL TRAFFIC CRASHES

Source: NHTSA, FARS ARF of Drivers with Known BAC, 12/15
Total may not equal the sum of categories due to rounding.

Alcohol-Impaired Driving Fatality Data 2014



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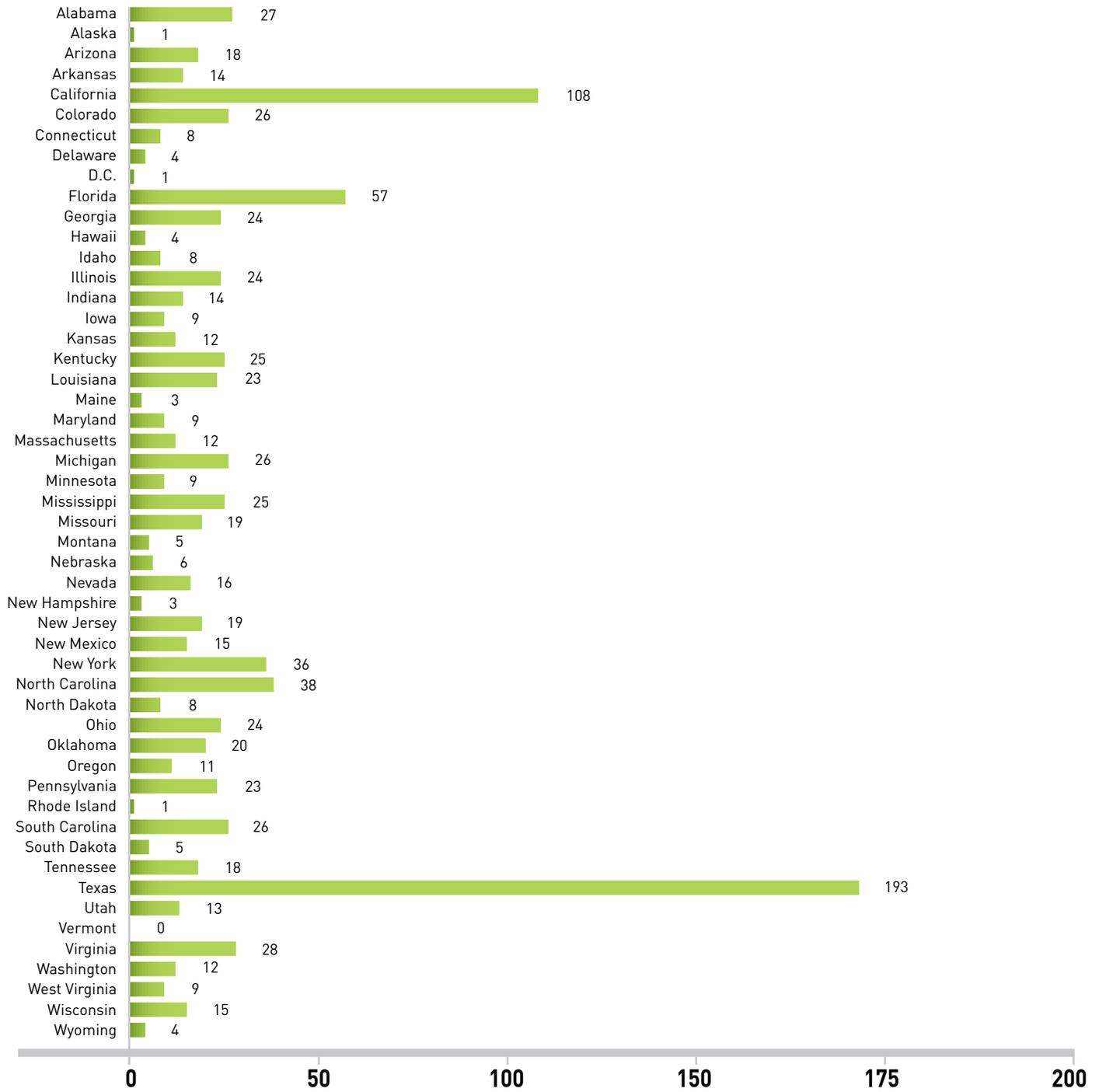
Source: NHTSA, FARS, 12/15
Total may not equal sum of the states due to rounding.

US TOTAL 9,967

Under 21 Alcohol-Impaired Driving Fatality Data 2014



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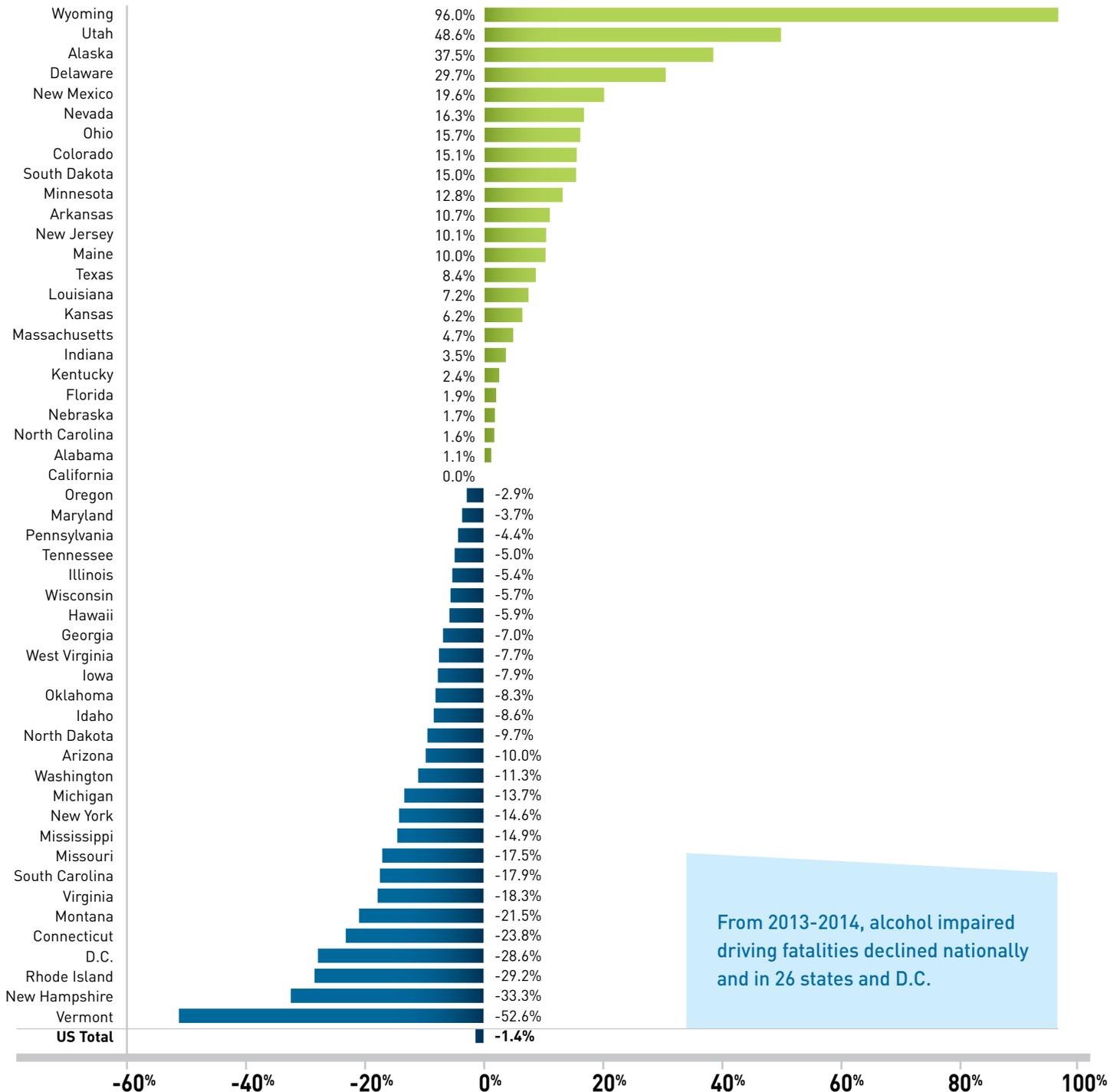
Source: NHTSA, FARS, 12/15
Total may not equal sum of the states due to rounding.

US TOTAL 1,052

Percent Change in Alcohol-Impaired Driving Fatalities from 2013 to 2014



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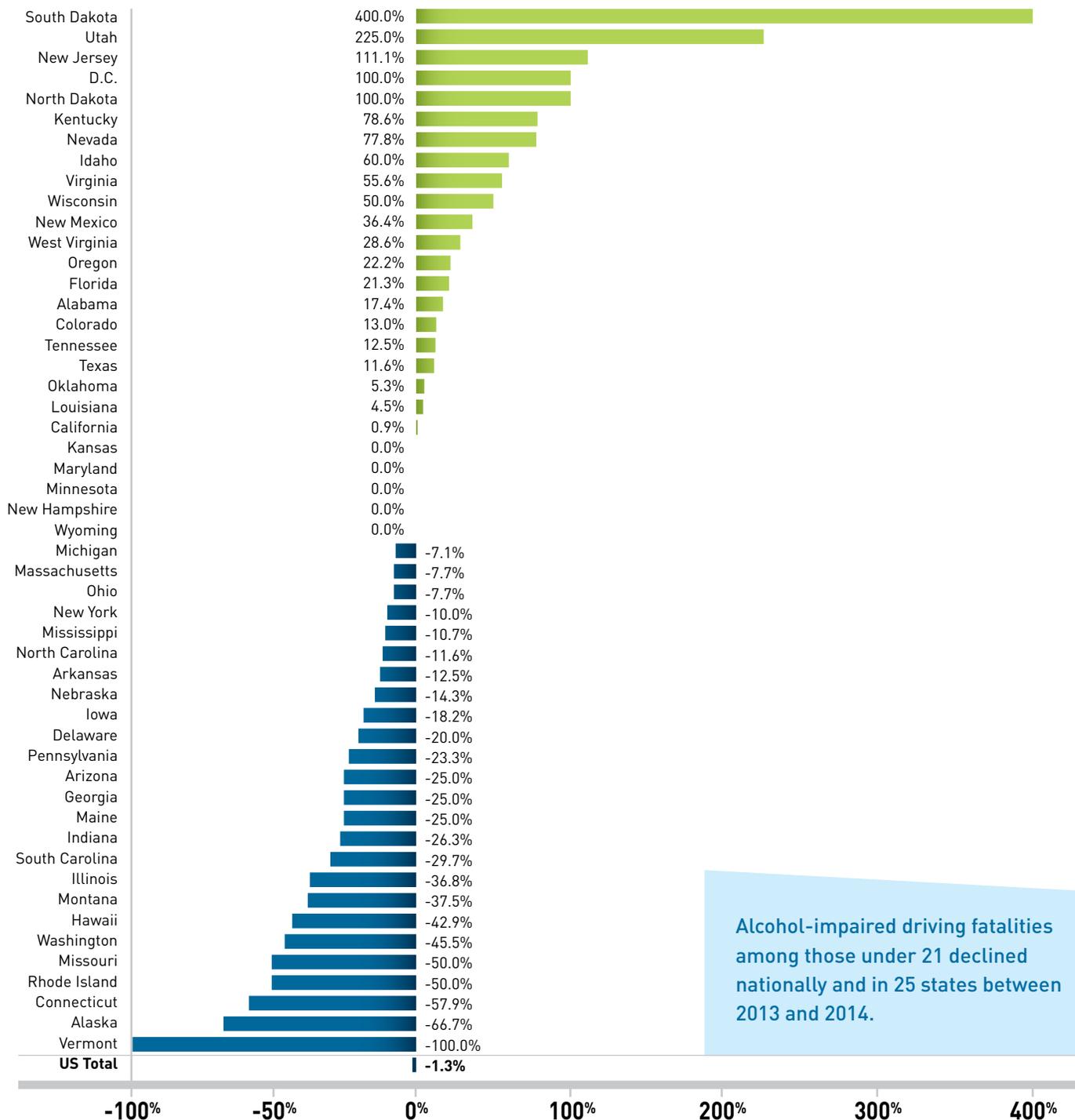
From 2013-2014, alcohol impaired driving fatalities declined nationally and in 26 states and D.C.

Source: NHTSA, FARS, 12/15

Under 21 Percent Change in Alcohol-Impaired Driving Fatalities from 2013 to 2014



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Alcohol-impaired driving fatalities among those under 21 declined nationally and in 25 states between 2013 and 2014.

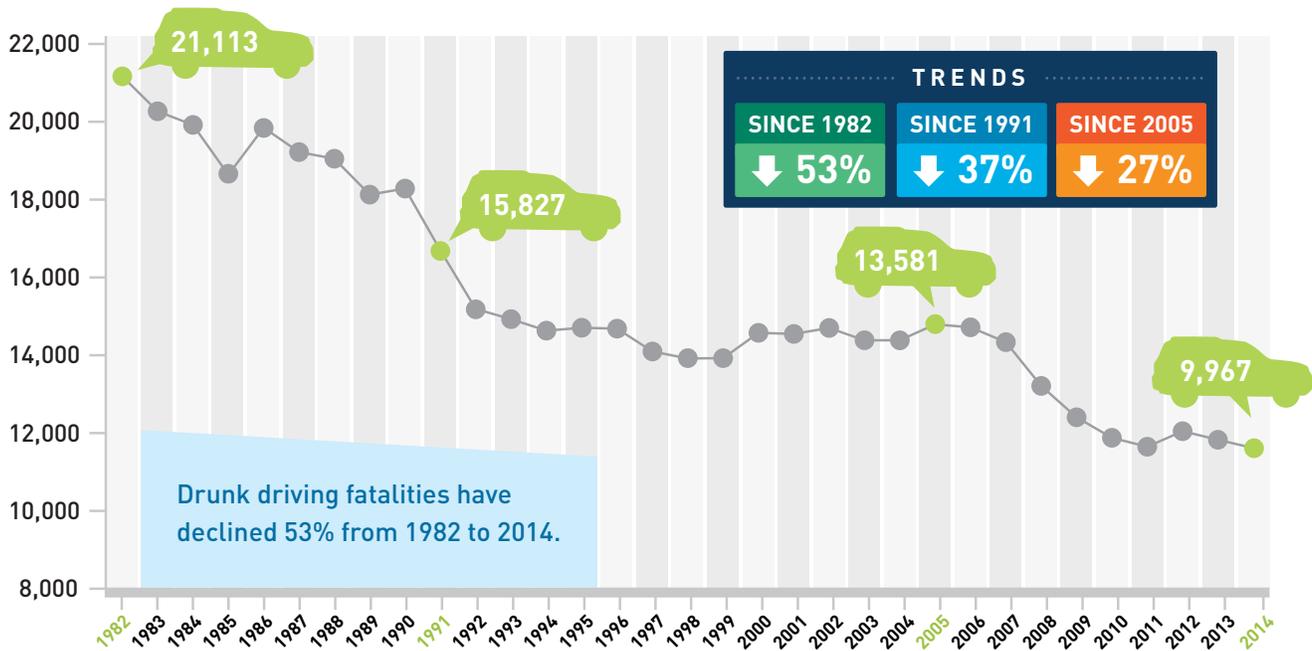
Source: NHTSA, FARS, 1/15

Alcohol-Impaired Driving Fatalities 1982-2014

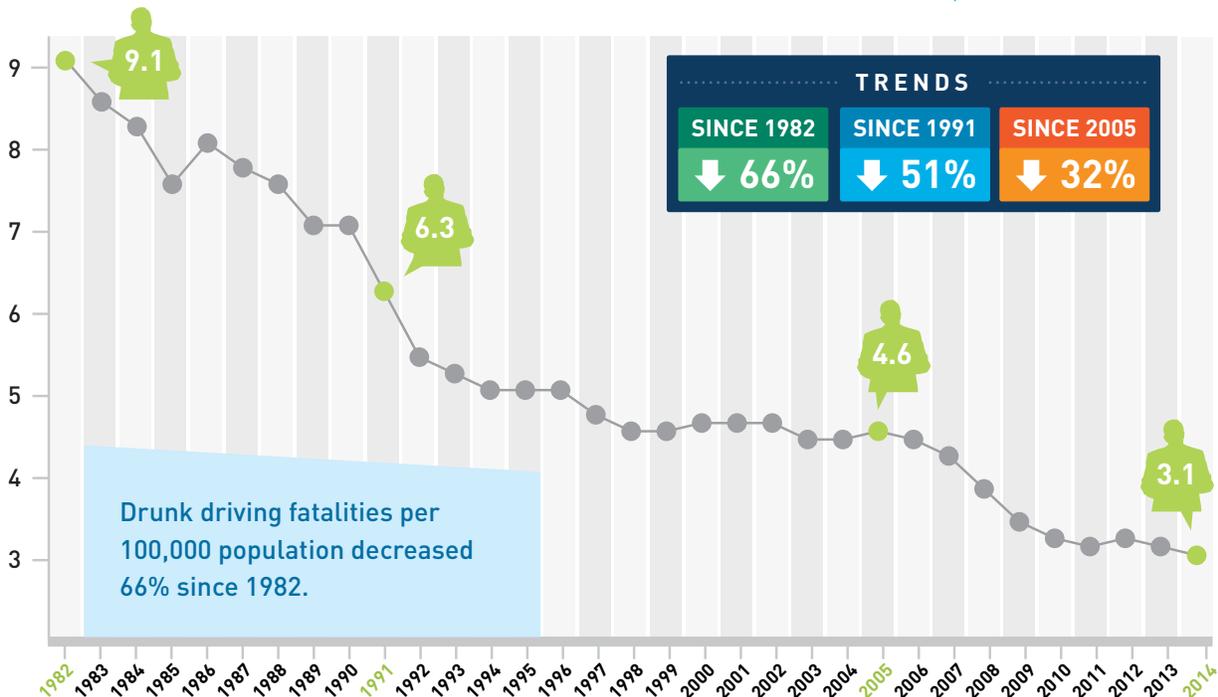


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TOTAL ALCOHOL-IMPAIRED DRIVING FATALITIES



RATE OF TOTAL ALCOHOL-IMPAIRED DRIVING FATALITIES PER 100,000 POPULATION



Top Chart - Source: NHTSA/FARS, 12/15

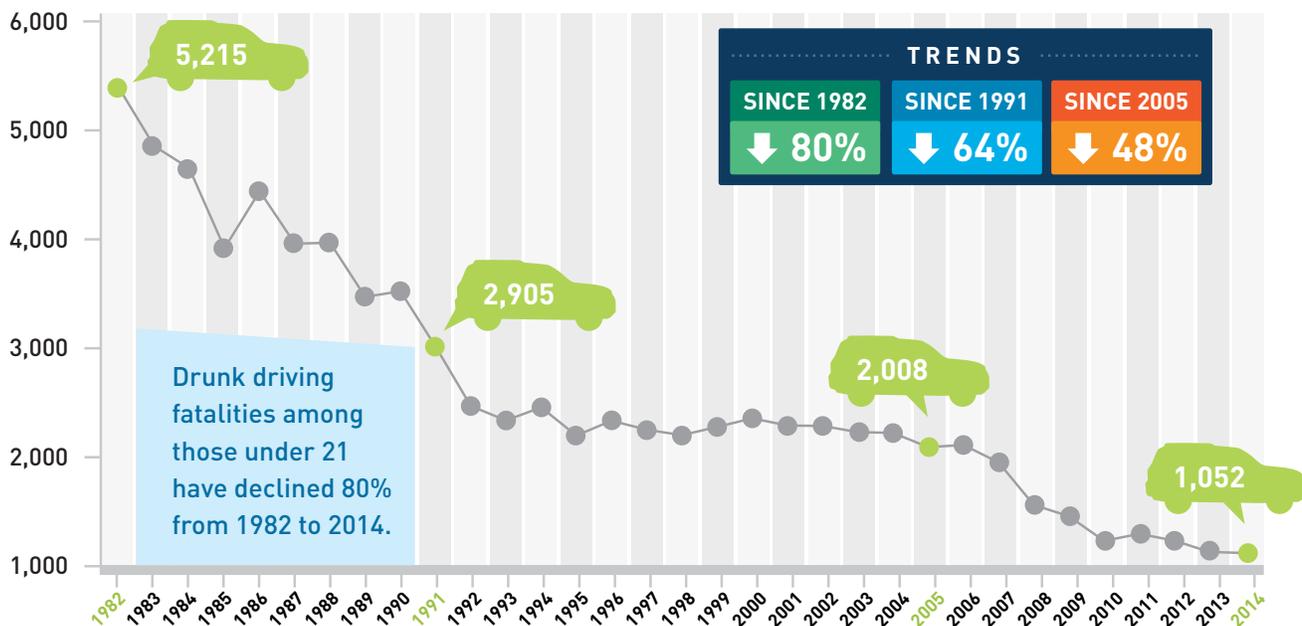
Bottom Chart - Source: NHTSA, FARS and U.S. Census Bureau, 12/15

Under 21 Alcohol-Impaired Driving Fatalities 1982-2014



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UNDER 21 ALCOHOL-IMPAIRED DRIVING FATALITIES



RATE OF UNDER 21 ALCOHOL-IMPAIRED DRIVING FATALITIES PER 100,000 POPULATION



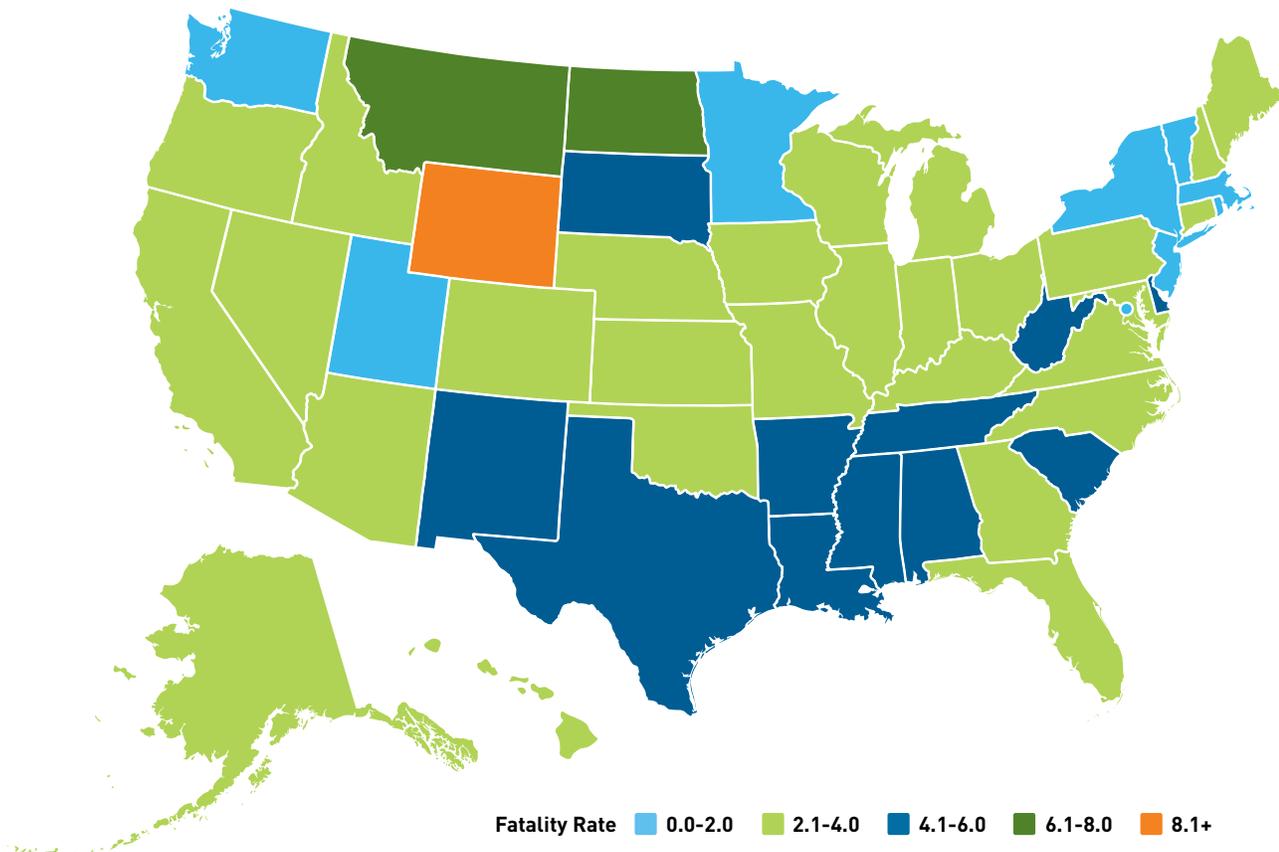
Top Chart - Source: NHTSA/FARS, 12/15

Bottom Chart - Source: NHTSA, FARS and U.S. Census Bureau, 12/15

2014 Alcohol-Impaired Driving Fatalities Per 100,000 Population by State



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In 26 states and D.C., alcohol-impaired driving fatalities per 100,000 population were at or below the national average of 3.1 deaths per 100,000 population.

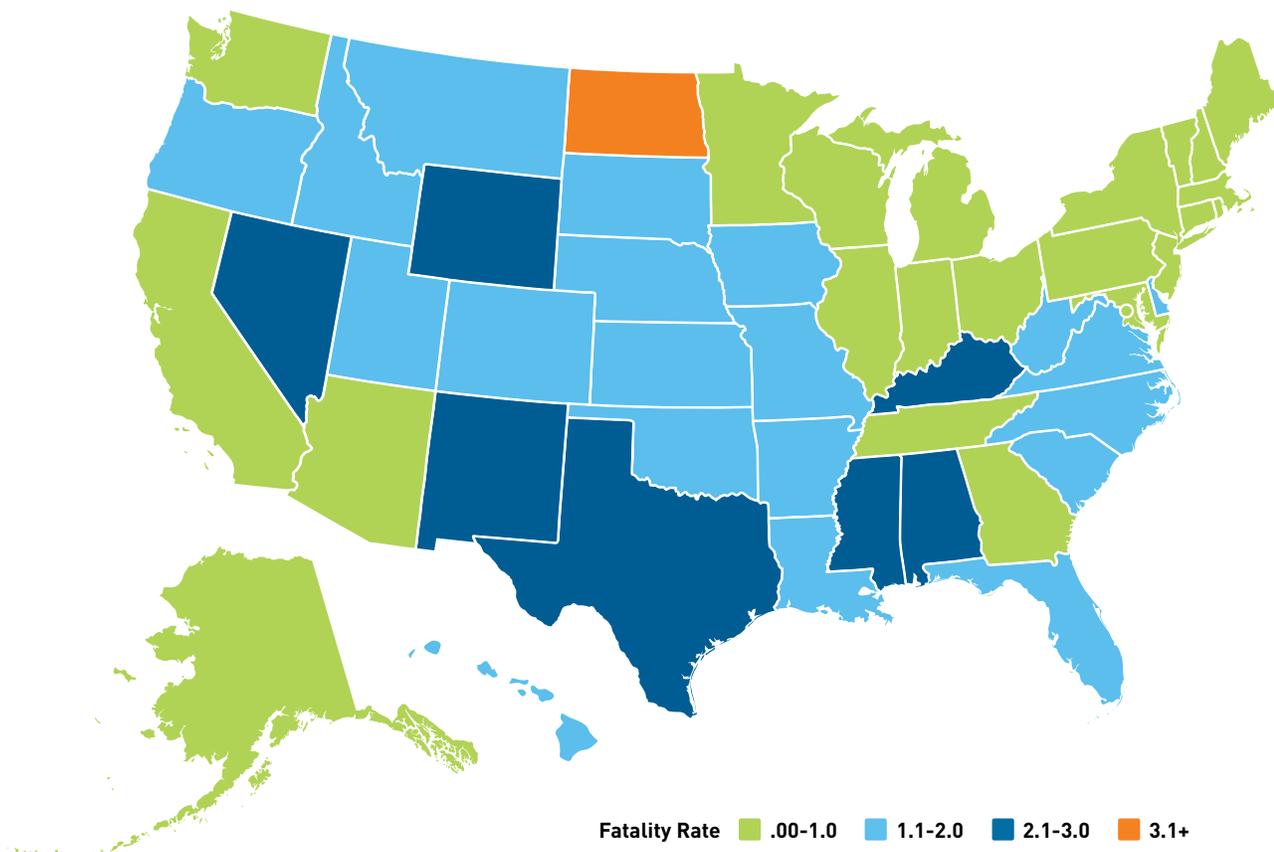
Alabama	5.5	Kentucky	3.9	Ohio	2.7
Alaska	3.1	Louisiana	5.5	Oklahoma	4.0
Arizona	3.0	Maine	3.3	Oregon	2.5
Arkansas	4.6	Maryland	2.2	Pennsylvania	2.7
California	2.3	Massachusetts	2.0	Rhode Island	1.7
Colorado	3.0	Michigan	2.2	South Carolina	5.8
Connecticut	2.7	Minnesota	1.9	South Dakota	5.4
Delaware	5.3	Mississippi	6.0	Tennessee	4.1
D.C.	0.8	Missouri	3.4	Texas	5.4
Florida	3.5	Montana	7.2	Utah	1.9
Georgia	2.8	Nebraska	3.2	Vermont	1.4
Hawaii	2.3	Nevada	3.3	Virginia	2.6
Idaho	3.3	New Hampshire	2.3	Washington	1.9
Illinois	2.5	New Jersey	1.8	West Virginia	4.5
Indiana	3.1	New Mexico	5.6	Wisconsin	2.9
Iowa	3.0	New York	1.6	Wyoming	8.3
Kansas	3.6	North Carolina	3.8	US Total	3.1
		North Dakota	7.5		

Source: NHTSA, FARS and U.S. Census Bureau, 12/15

2014 Under 21 Alcohol-Impaired Driving Fatalities Per 100,000 Population by State



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In 28 states and D.C., under 21 alcohol-impaired driving fatalities per 100,000 population were at or below the national average of 1.2 deaths per 100,000 population.

Alabama	2.1	Kentucky	2.1	Ohio	0.8
Alaska	0.5	Louisiana	1.8	Oklahoma	1.8
Arizona	0.9	Maine	1.0	Oregon	1.1
Arkansas	1.7	Maryland	0.6	Pennsylvania	0.7
California	1.0	Massachusetts	0.7	Rhode Island	0.4
Colorado	1.8	Michigan	1.0	South Carolina	2.0
Connecticut	0.9	Minnesota	0.6	South Dakota	2.0
Delaware	1.7	Mississippi	2.9	Tennessee	1.0
D.C.	0.7	Missouri	1.2	Texas	2.3
Florida	1.2	Montana	1.9	Utah	1.3
Georgia	0.8	Nebraska	1.1	Vermont	0.0
Hawaii	1.1	Nevada	2.1	Virginia	1.3
Idaho	1.6	New Hampshire	0.9	Washington	0.6
Illinois	0.7	New Jersey	0.8	West Virginia	2.0
Indiana	0.8	New Mexico	2.6	Wisconsin	1.0
Iowa	1.0	New York	0.7	Wyoming	2.5
Kansas	1.4	North Carolina	1.4	US Total	1.2
		North Dakota	3.9		

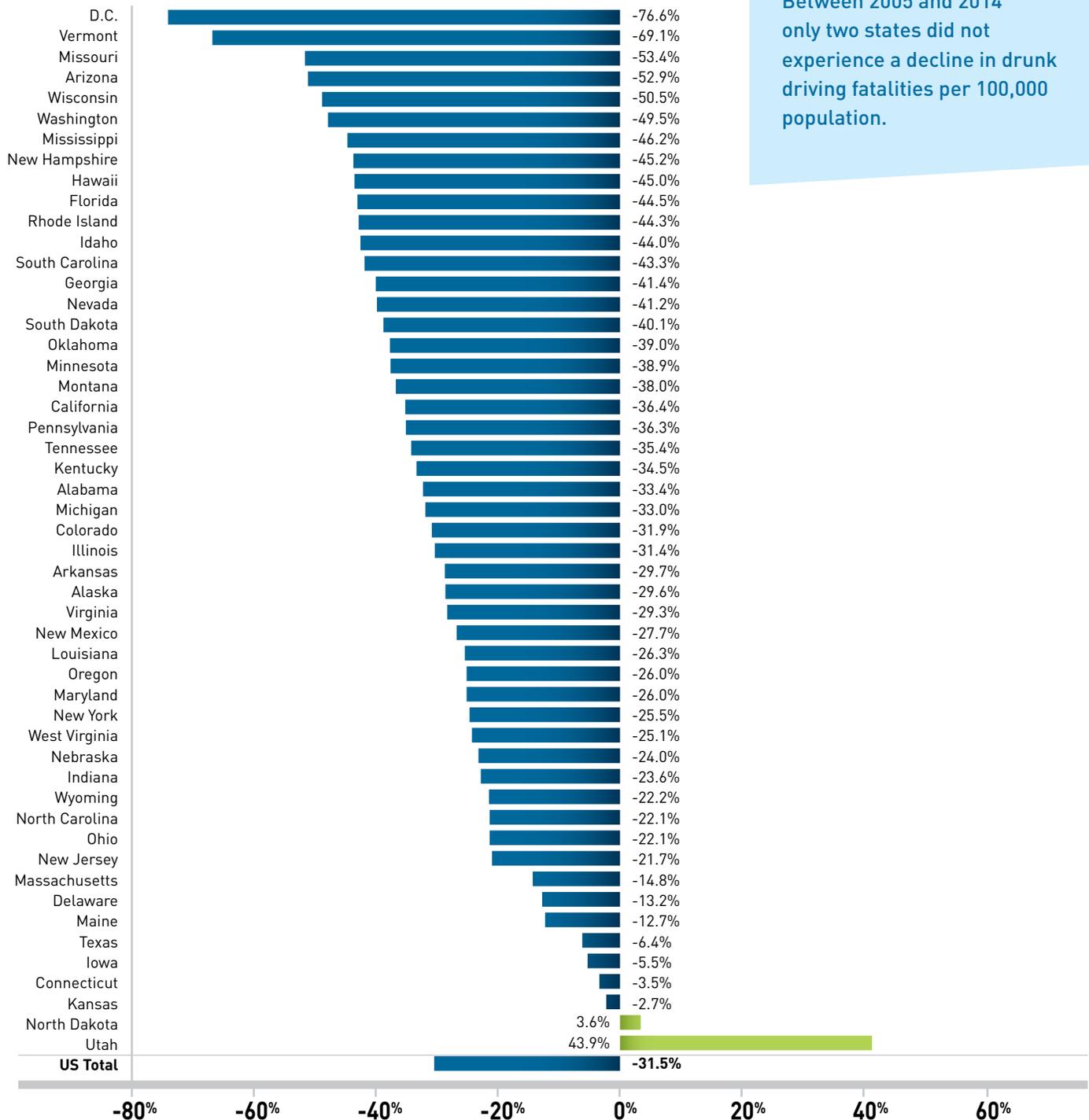
Source: NHTSA, FARS and U.S. Census Bureau, 12/15

Percent Change in Drunk Driving Fatality Rates from 2005 to 2014 by State Rank



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Between 2005 and 2014 only two states did not experience a decline in drunk driving fatalities per 100,000 population.



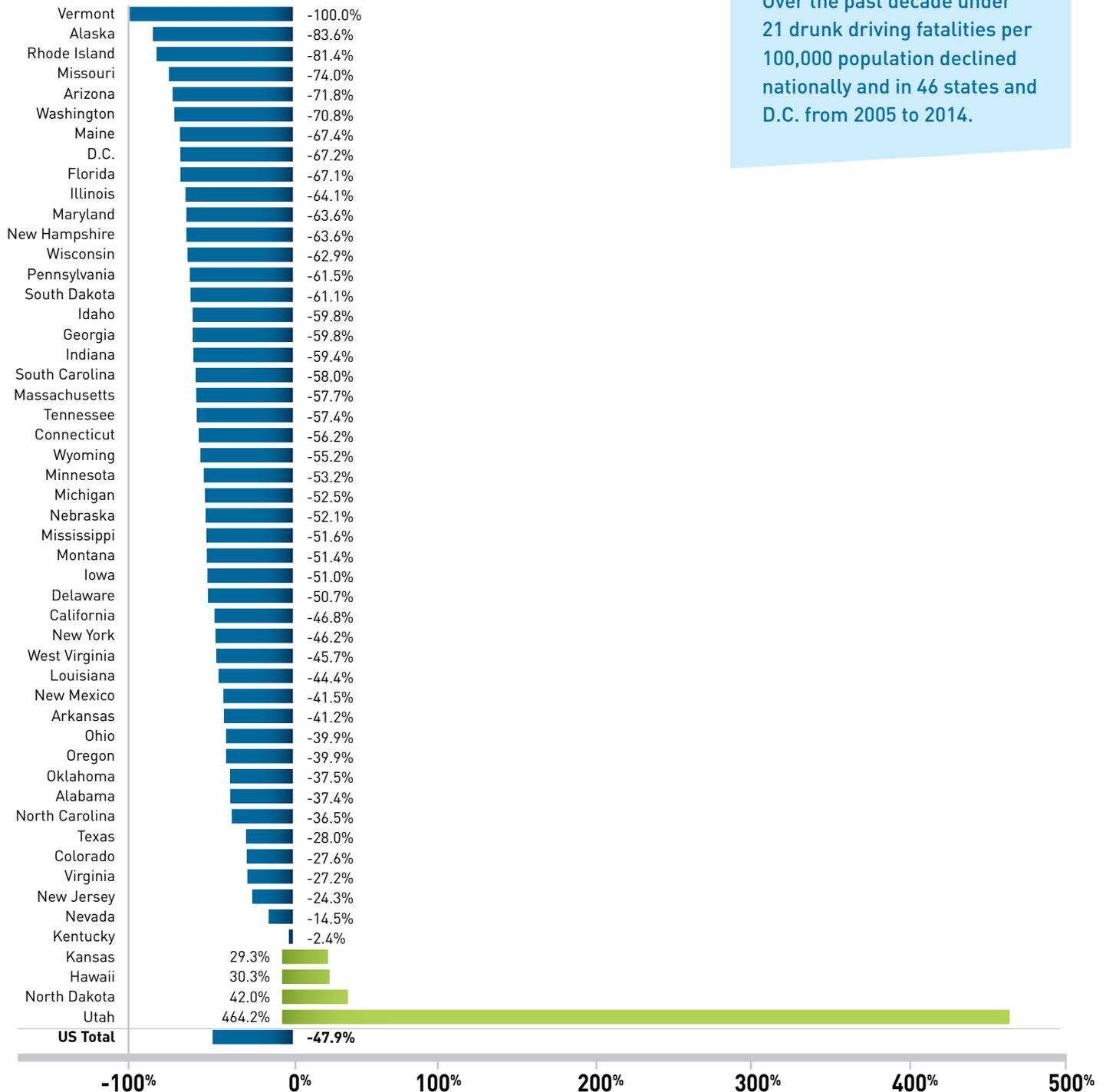
Source: NHTSA, FARS and U.S. Census Bureau, 12/15

Percent Change in Under 21 Drunk Driving Fatality Rates from 2005 to 2014 by State Rank



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Over the past decade under 21 drunk driving fatalities per 100,000 population declined nationally and in 46 states and D.C. from 2005 to 2014.



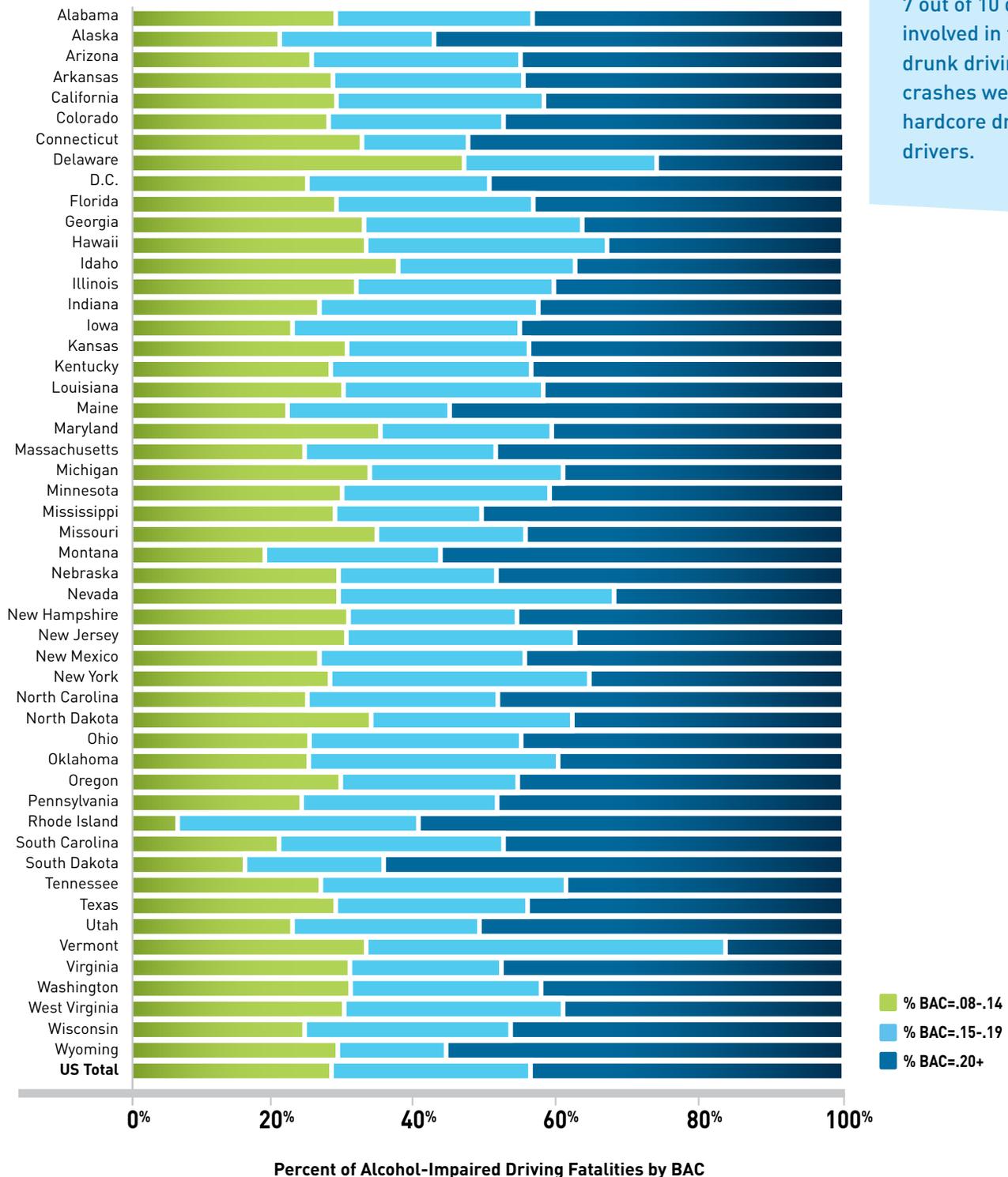
Source: NHTSA, FARS and U.S. Census Bureau, 12/15

2014 Fatal Drunk Driving Crashes Among Drivers with a Known BAC



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7 out of 10 drivers involved in fatal drunk driving crashes were hardcore drunk drivers.



Source: NHTSA, FARS ARF of Drivers with Known BAC, 12/15

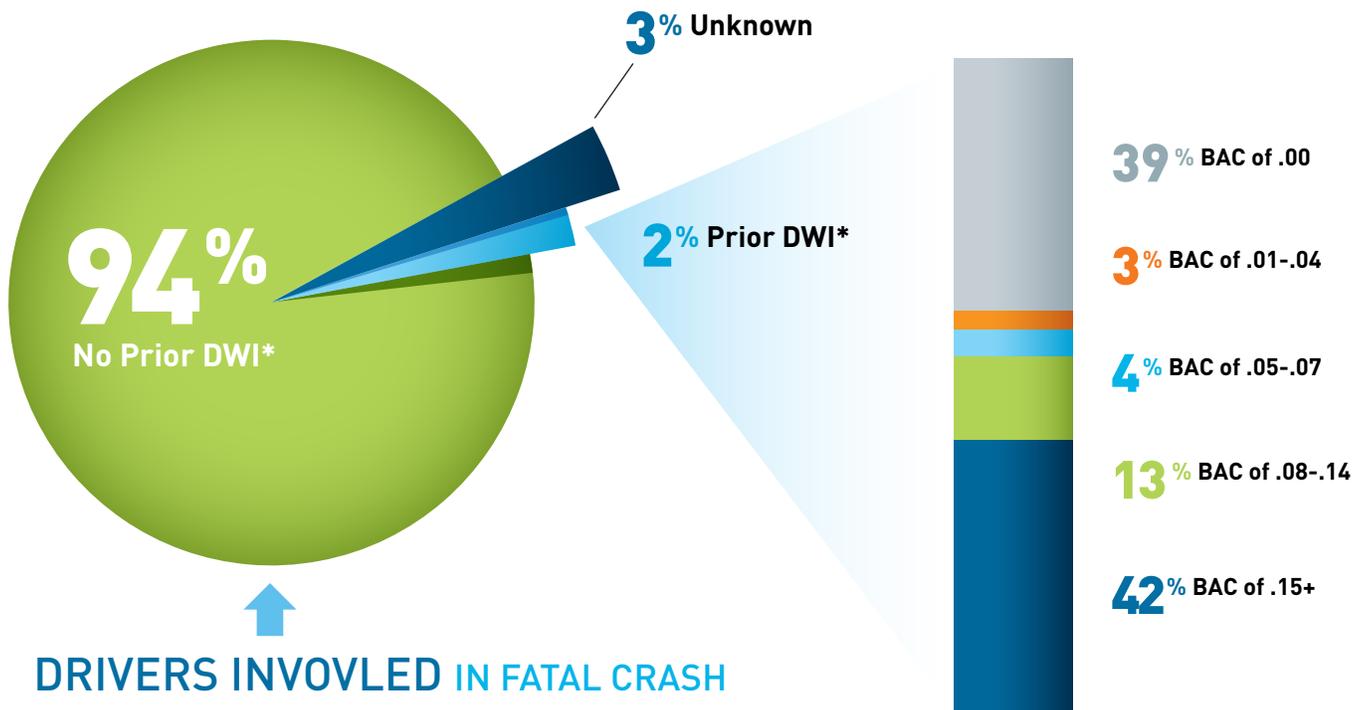
Repeat Offenders Involvement in Fatal Crashes



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Four out of ten drivers involved in a fatal crash with a prior DWI* also had a high BAC at the time of the crash.

REPEAT OFFENDERS BY BAC LEVEL



Source: NHTSA, FARS, 12/15

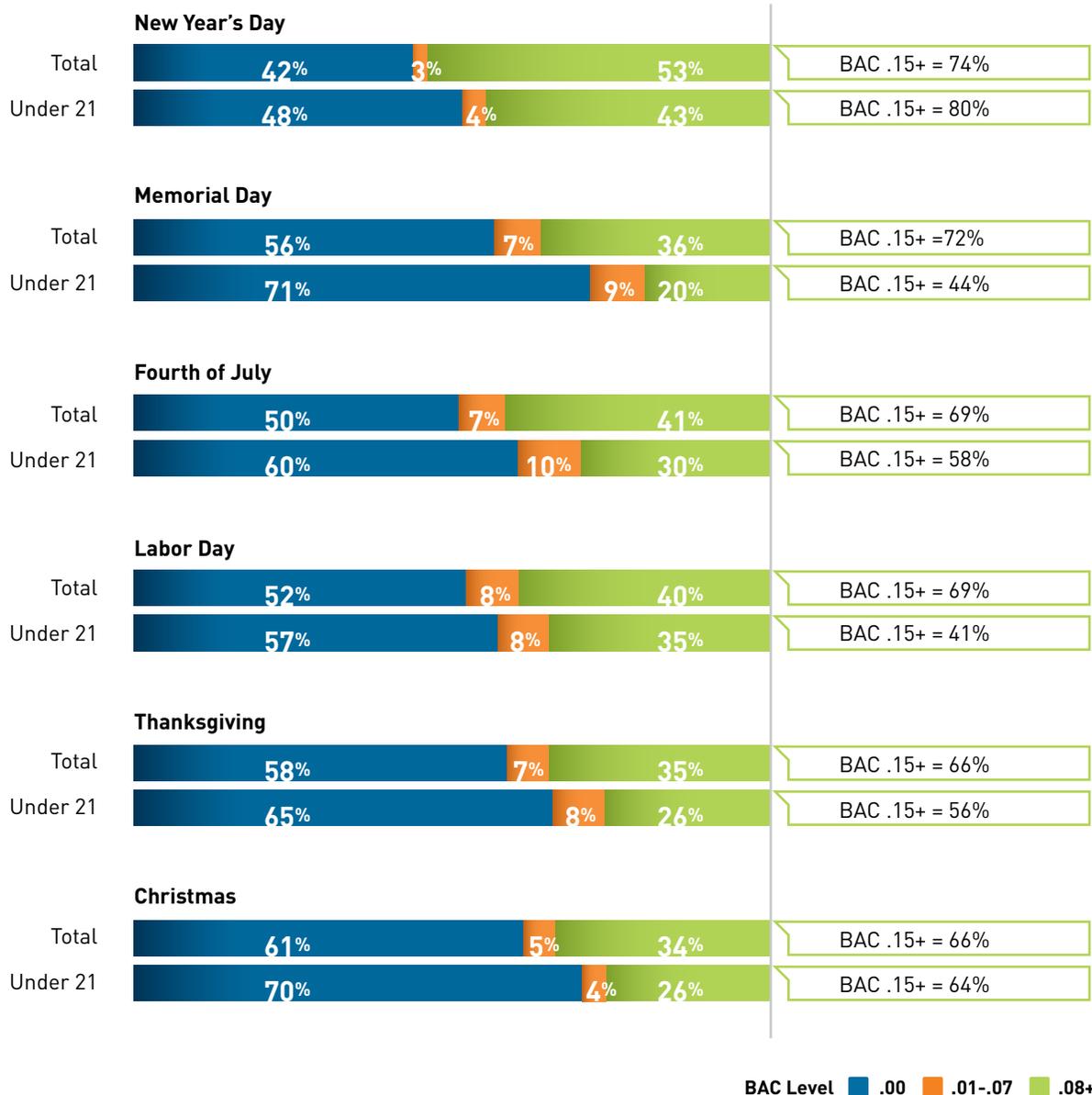
* Prior convictions only for events occurring within 3 years from date of crash. Total may not equal sum of categories due to rounding.

Holiday Traffic Fatalities by BAC Level



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Drunk driving fatalities accounted for 38% of traffic fatalities during the 2014 holidays and drivers with a high BAC were involved in 69% of drunk driving fatalities.



Source: NHTSA, FARS, 12/15

The number of whole days in the holiday period depends on the day on which the legal holiday falls. Typically, the period is 6 p.m. the night before until 5:59 a.m. the day after the holiday. Total may not equal sum of categories due to rounding.



The information presented in this report is drawn from several databases maintained by government agencies, including the National Center for Statistics and Analysis (NCSA) of NHTSA, which compiles crash data from the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS), and the U.S. Census Bureau of the U.S. Department of Commerce. This report reflects data from 1982 to the present utilizing NHTSA's multiple imputation method for estimating missing information about BAC levels for persons involved in fatal crashes, thus allowing for improved reporting of alcohol involvement statistics at any BAC level. The U.S. Census Bureau publishes state resident population estimates which were used in this report.



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