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2017 State of

DRUNK DRIVING FATALITIES

IN AMERICA

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Fatal Motor Vehicle Crashes in 2017 Included a Variety of Factors

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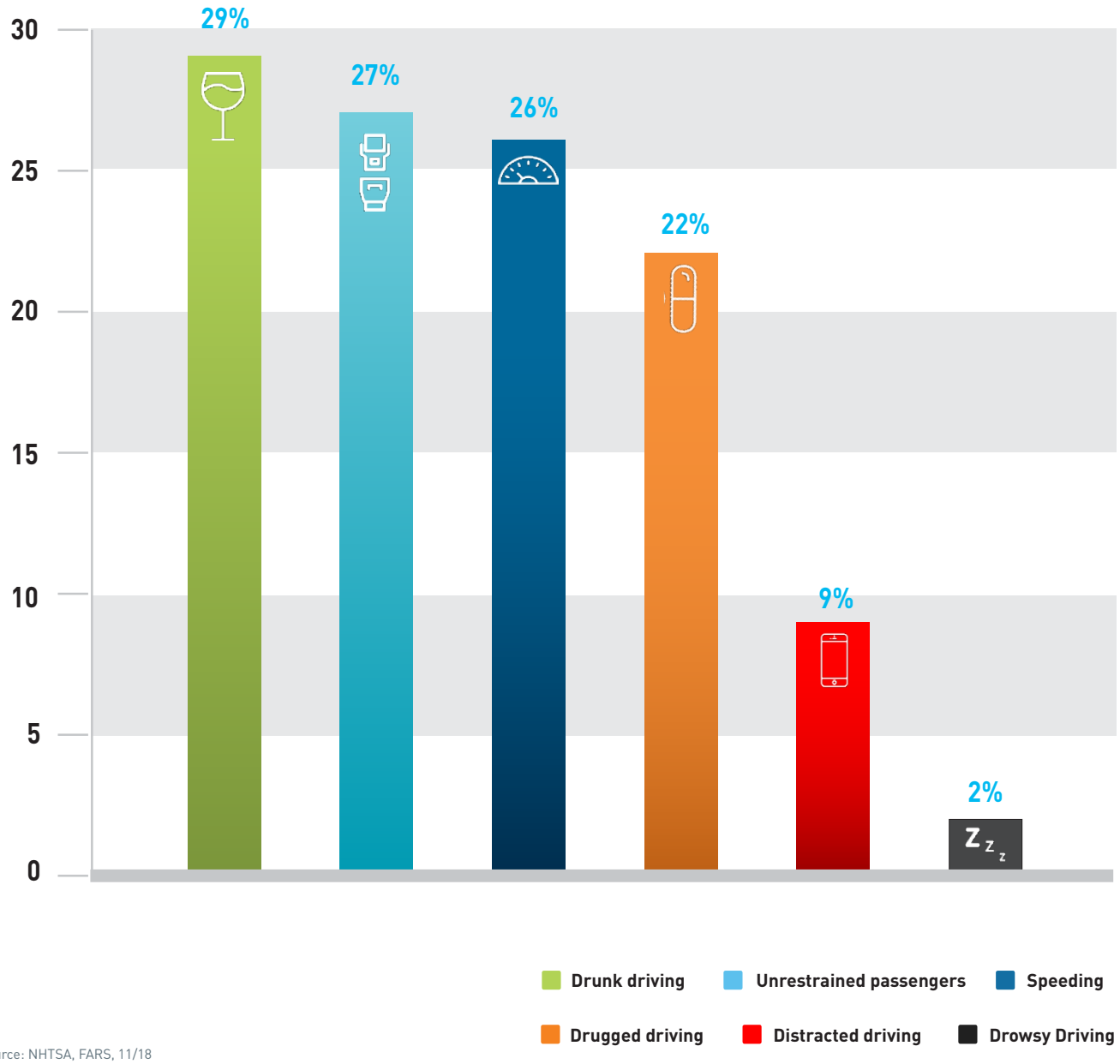
Drunk, drugged, distracted, drowsy, or a combination are forms of impaired driving and are dangerous and preventable.



Source: NHTSA, FARS, 11/18

Saving Lives for Over 25 Years

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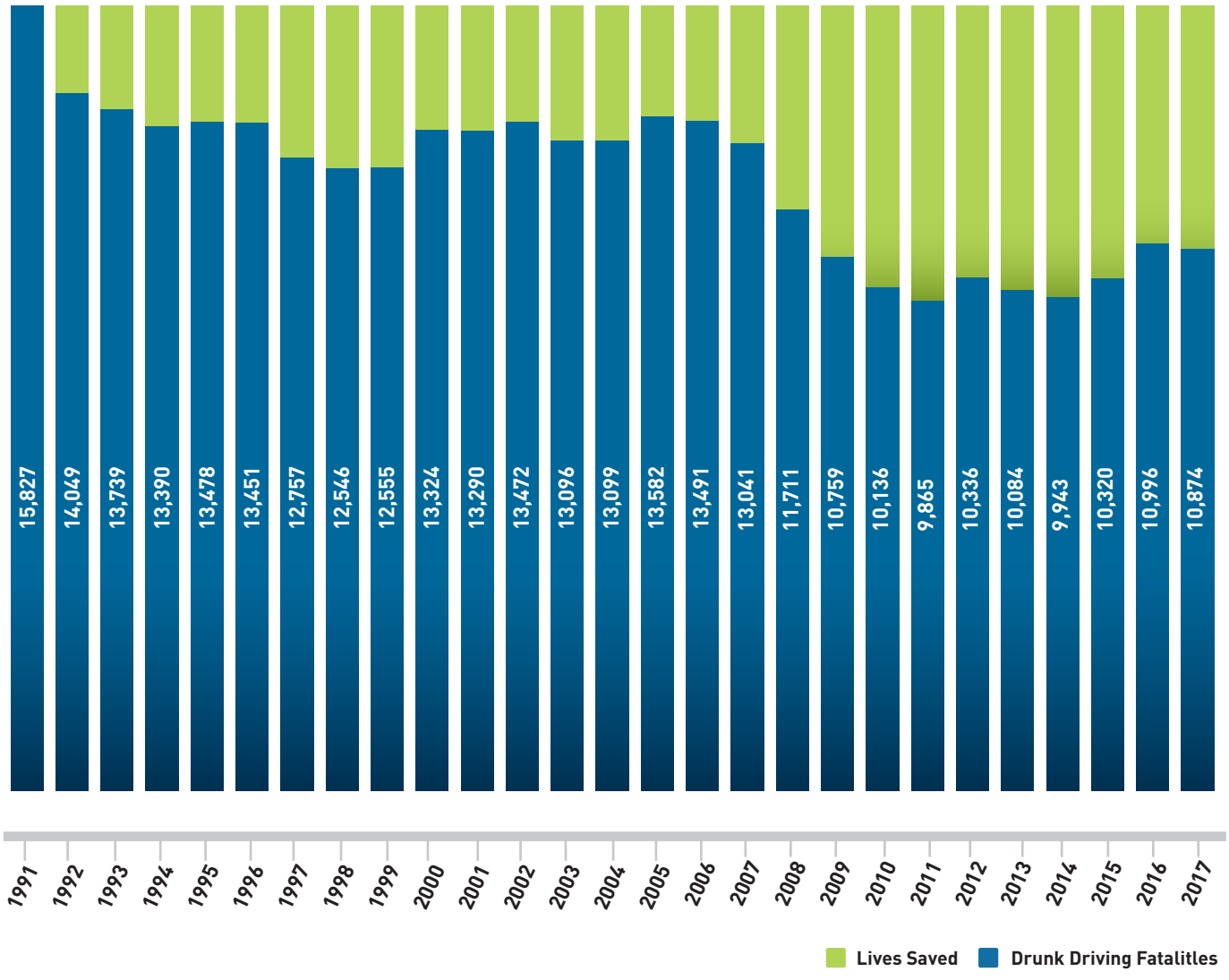
Since the inception of Responsibility.org in 1991, more than 90,000 lives have been saved.



Source: NHTSA, FARS, 10/18

Motor Vehicle Fatalities: 1982-2017

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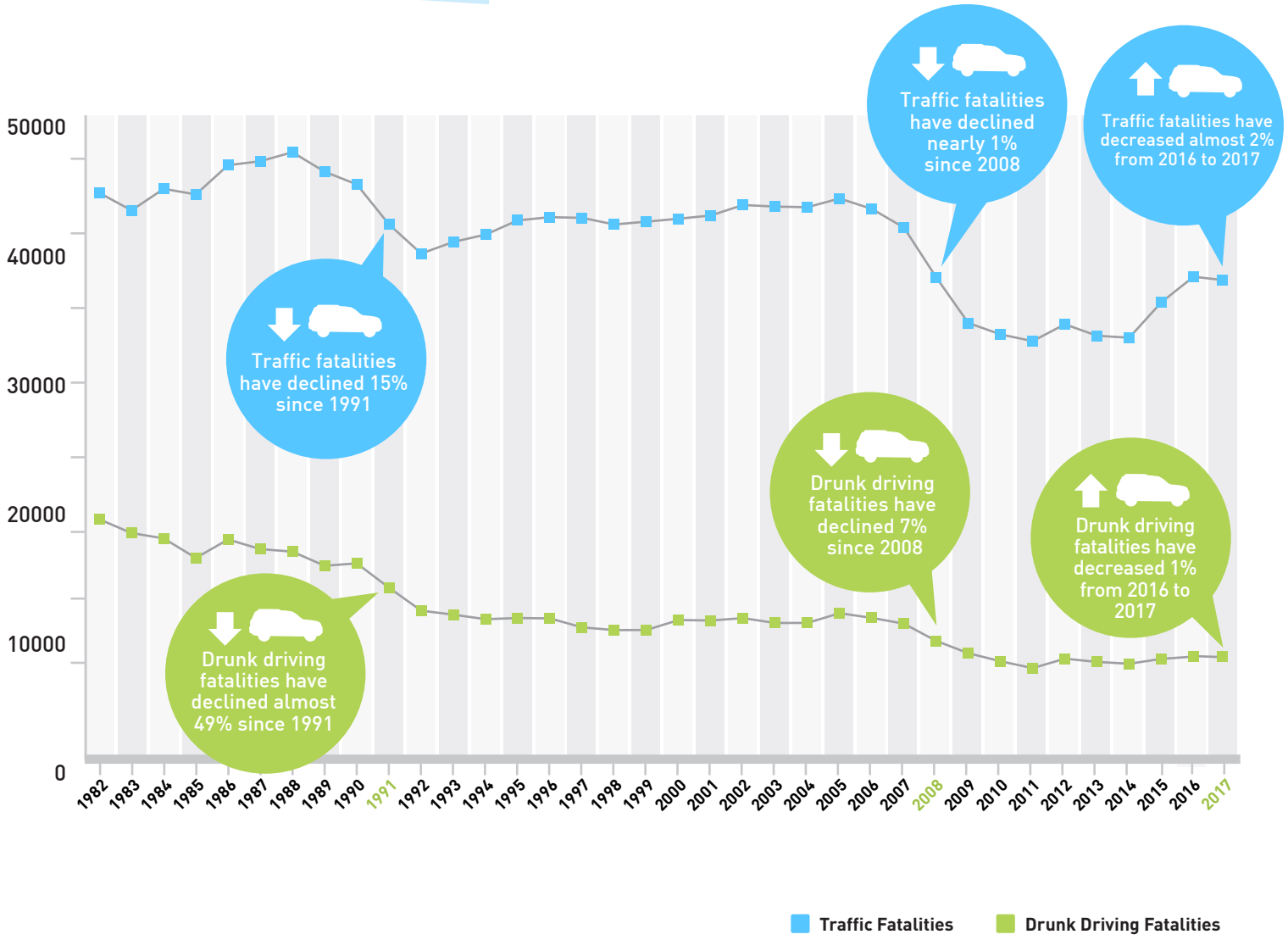
Drunk driving fatalities are descending at a faster rate than total motor vehicle fatalities.



Source: NHTSA, FARS, 10/18

Percent of 2017 Driving Fatalities by BAC Test Result

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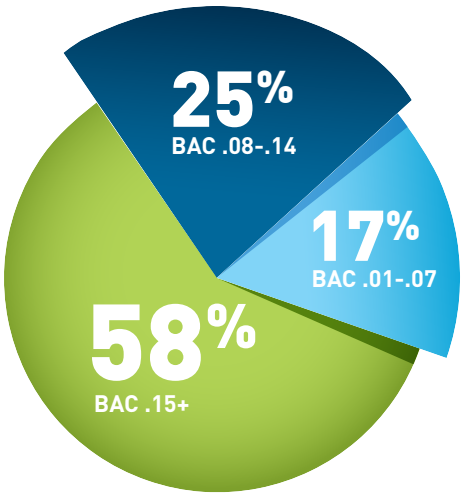
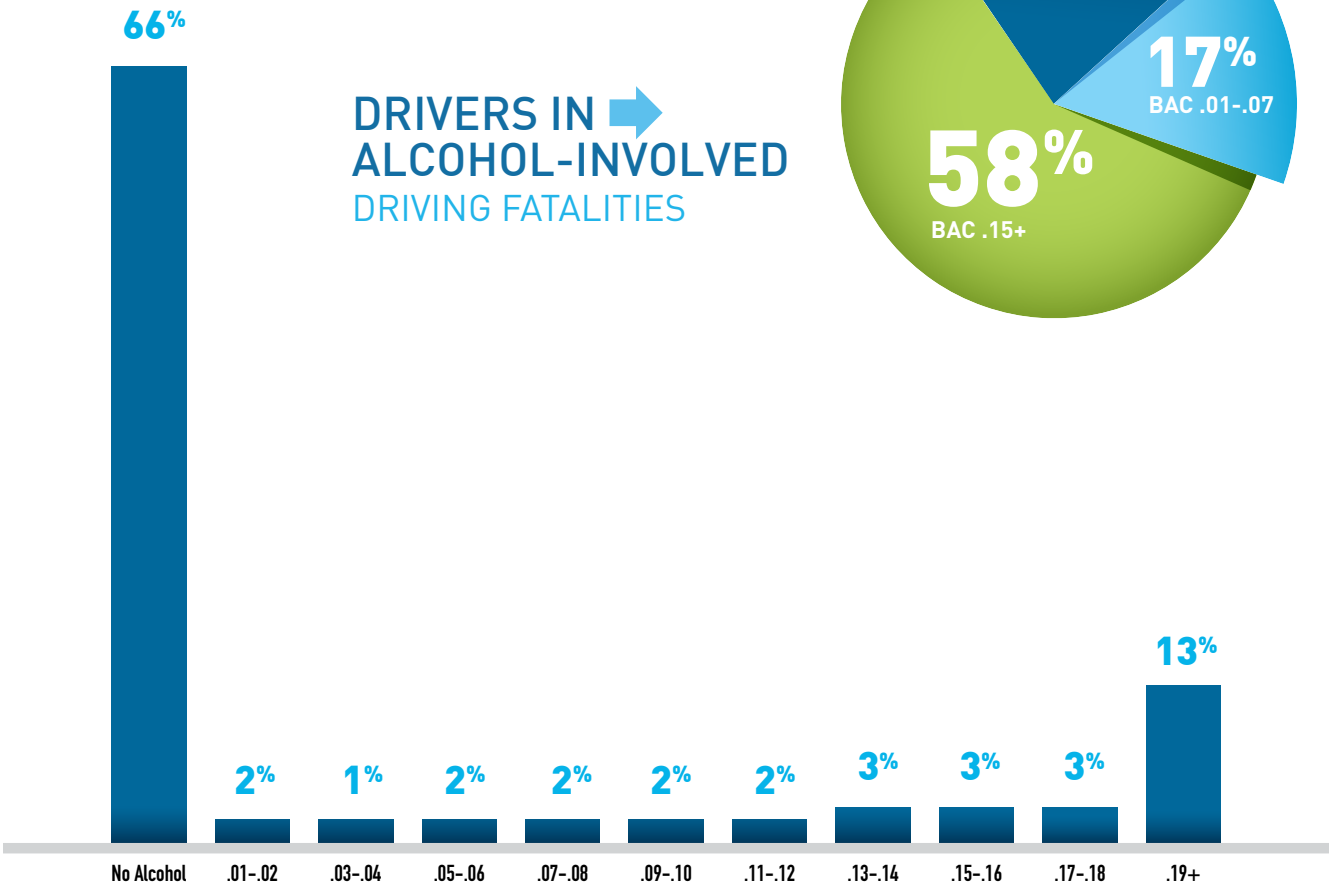
In 2017, drunk driving accounted for 29% of all traffic fatalities. Nearly sixty percent of alcohol-involved fatal crashes involved high BAC drivers.



DRIVERS IN ALCOHOL-INVOLVED DRIVING FATALITIES



KNOWN ALCOHOL TEST RESULTS OF DRIVERS INVOLVED IN FATAL TRAFFIC CRASHES

Source: NHTSA, FARS ARF of Drivers with Known BAC, 11/18
Total may not equal the sum of categories due to rounding.

Alcohol-Impaired Driving Fatality Data 2017

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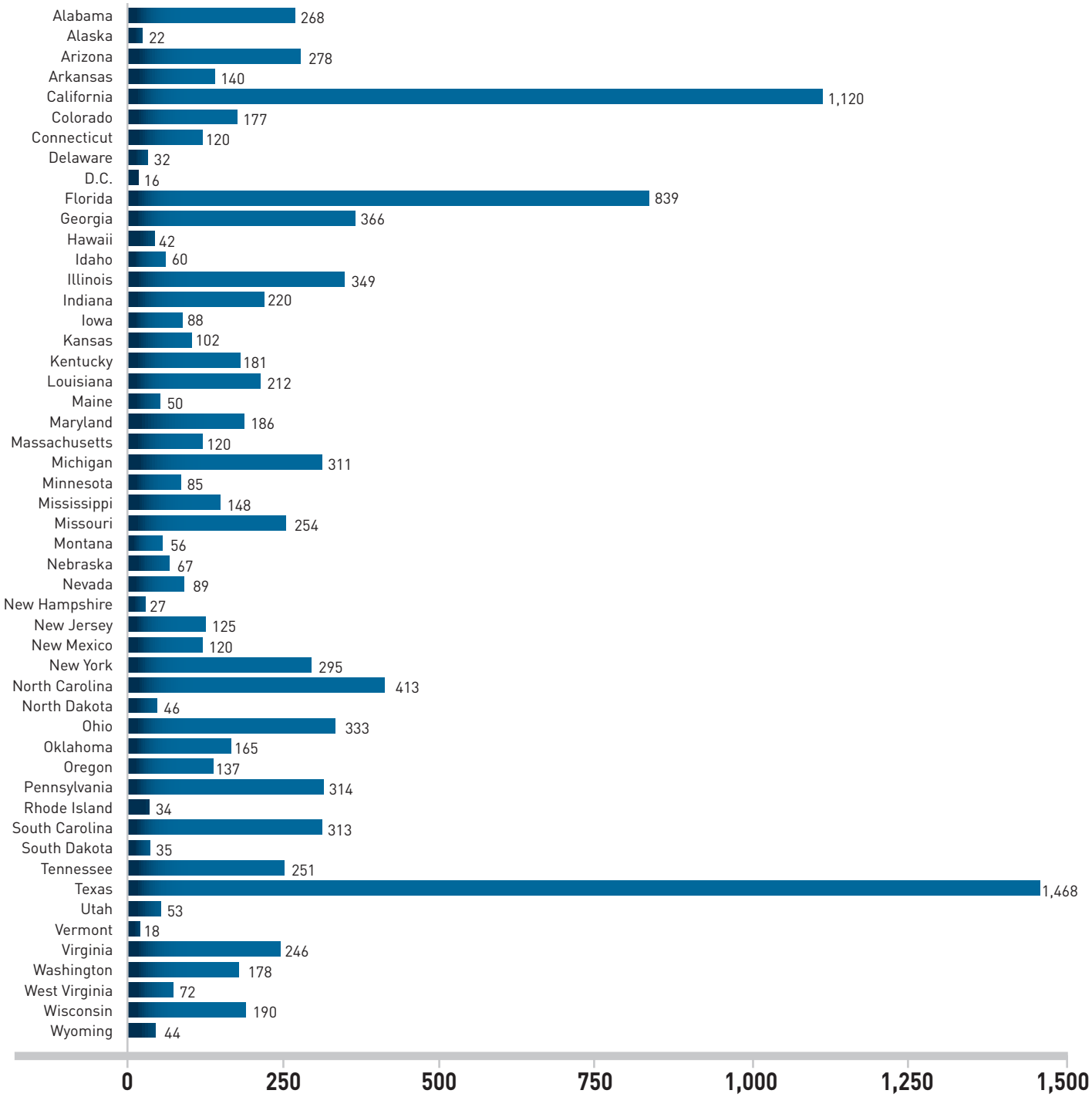

Source: NHTSA, FARS, 10/18
Total may not equal sum of the states due to rounding.

US TOTAL 10,874

Under 21 Alcohol-Impaired Driving Fatality Data 2017

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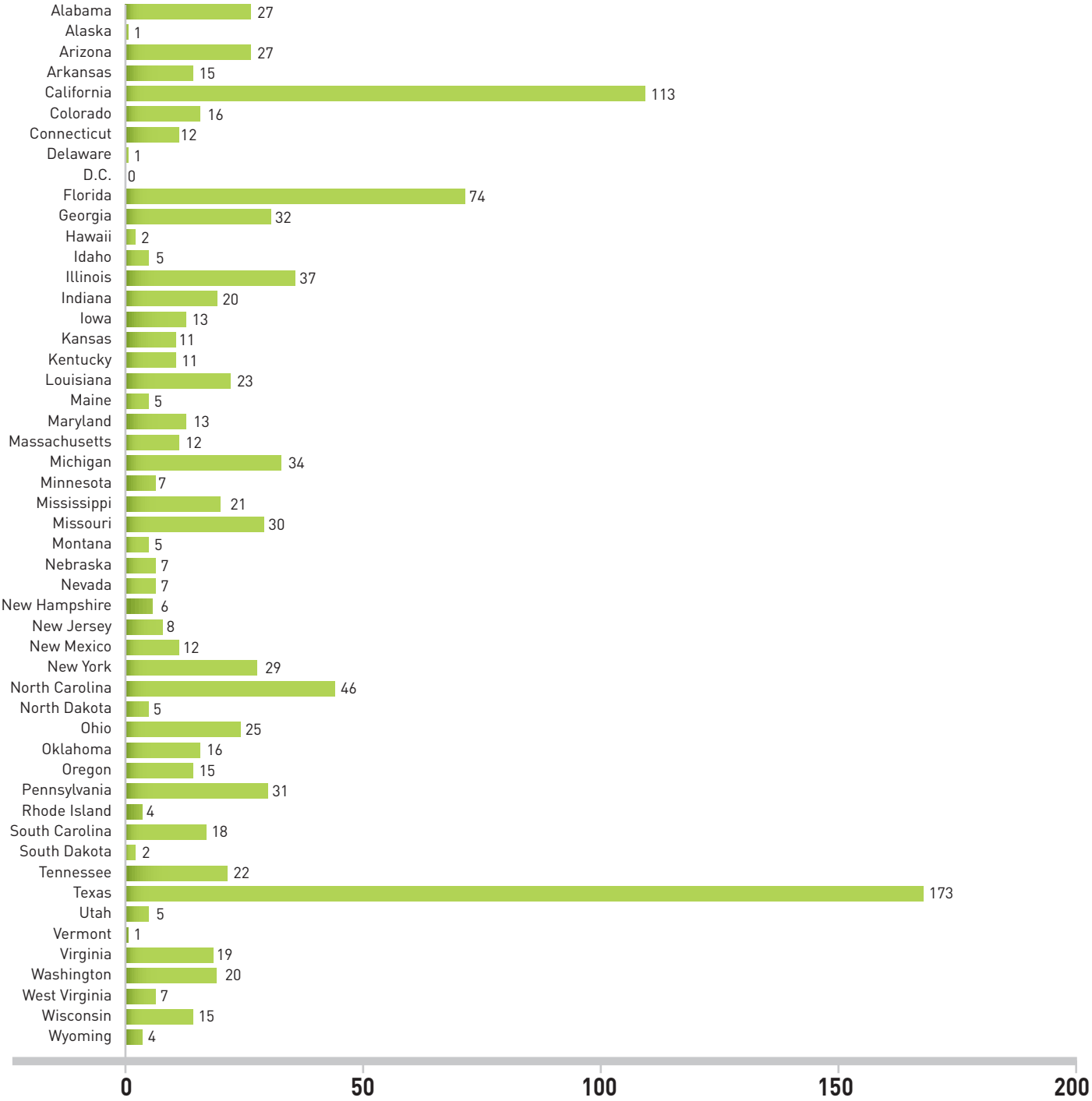

Source: NHTSA, FARS, 10/18
Total may not equal sum of the states due to rounding.

US TOTAL 1,064

Percent Change in Alcohol-Impaired Driving Fatalities from 2016 to 2017

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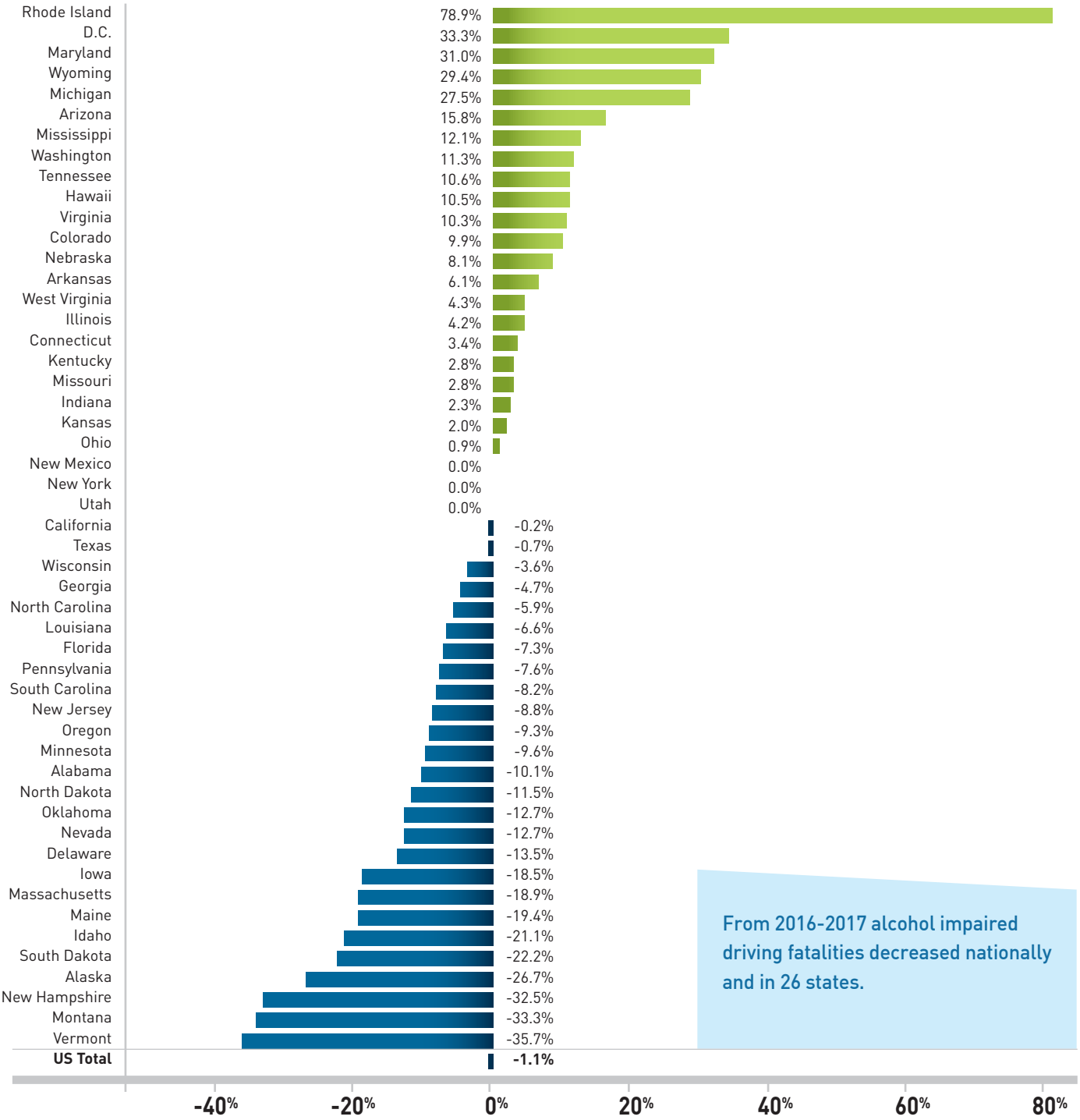

From 2016-2017 alcohol impaired driving fatalities decreased nationally and in 26 states.

Source: NHTSA, FARS, 10/18

Under 21 Percent Change in Alcohol-Impaired Driving Fatalities from 2016 to 2017

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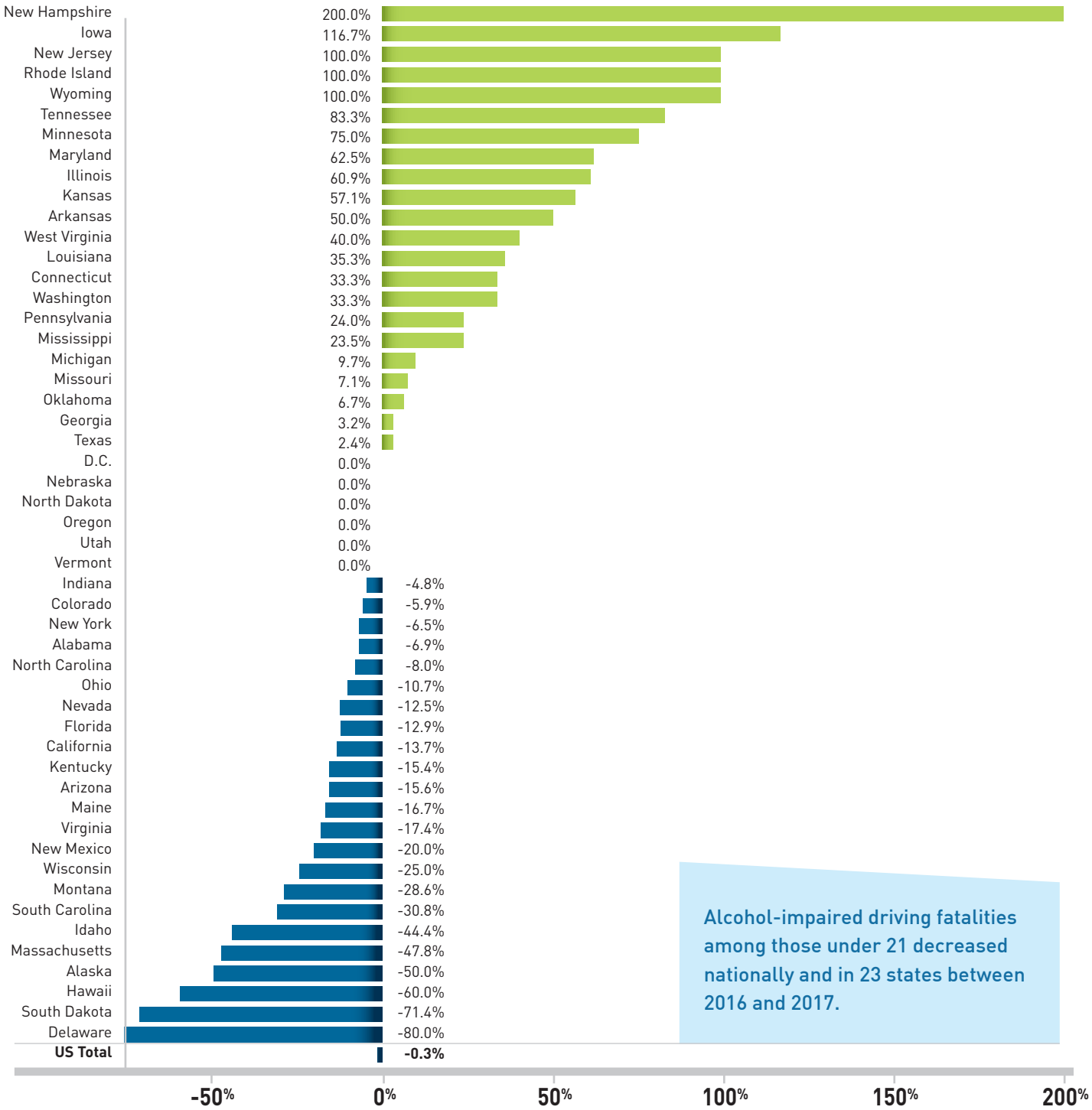

Alcohol-impaired driving fatalities among those under 21 decreased nationally and in 23 states between 2016 and 2017.

Source: NHTSA, FARS, 10/18

Alcohol-Impaired Driving Fatalities 1982-2017

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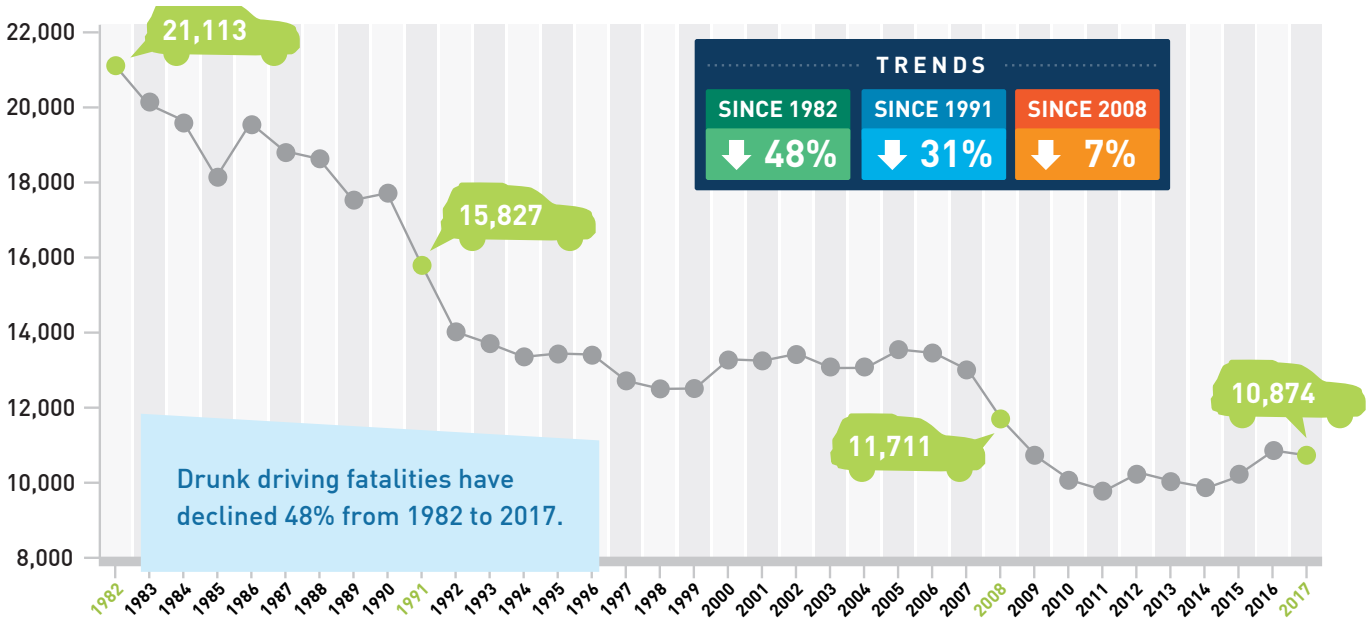
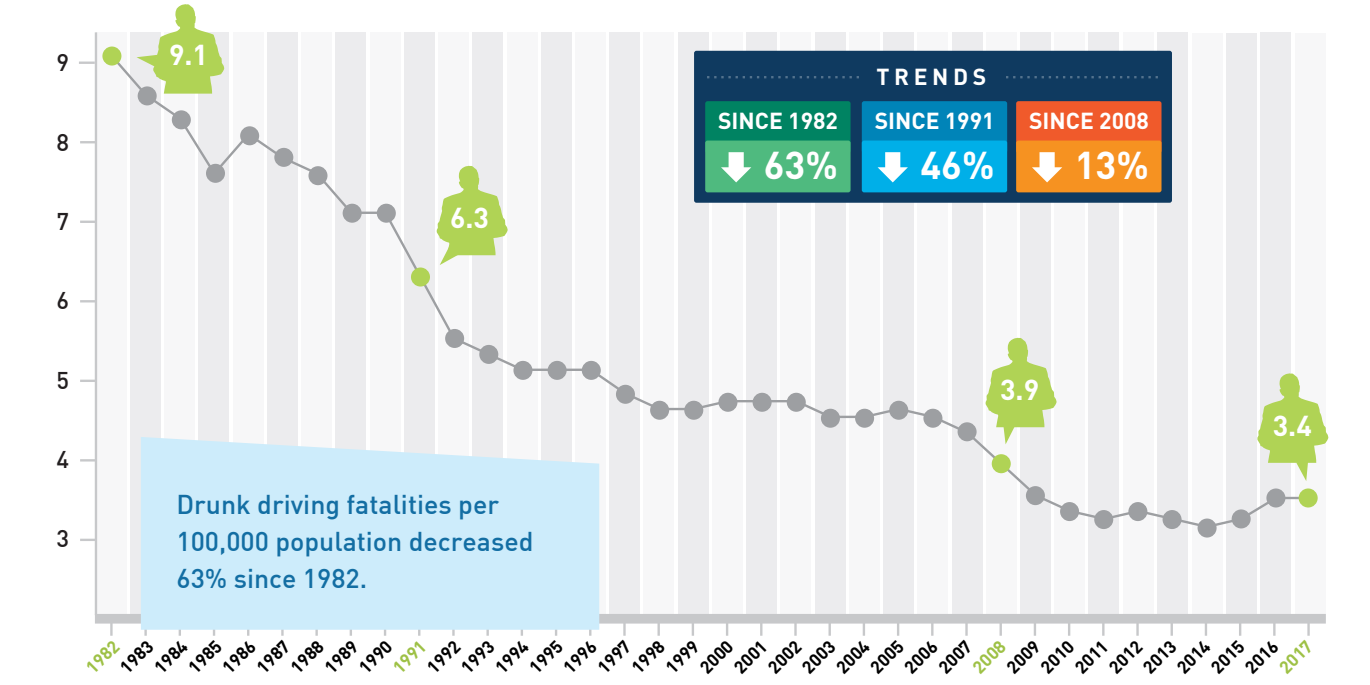
TOTAL ALCOHOL-IMPAIRED DRIVING FATALITIES



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



Top Chart - Source: NHTSA/FARS, 10/18
Bottom Chart - Source: NHTSA, FARS and U.S. Census Bureau, 10/18

Under 21 Alcohol-Impaired Driving Fatalities 1982-2017

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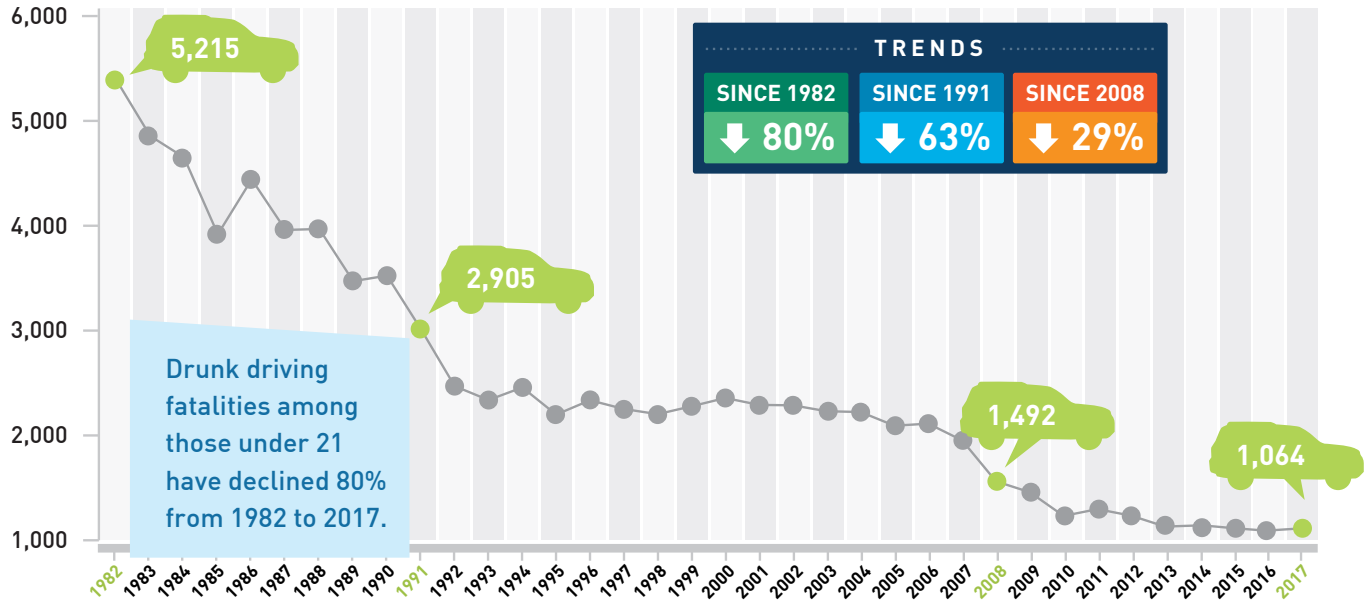
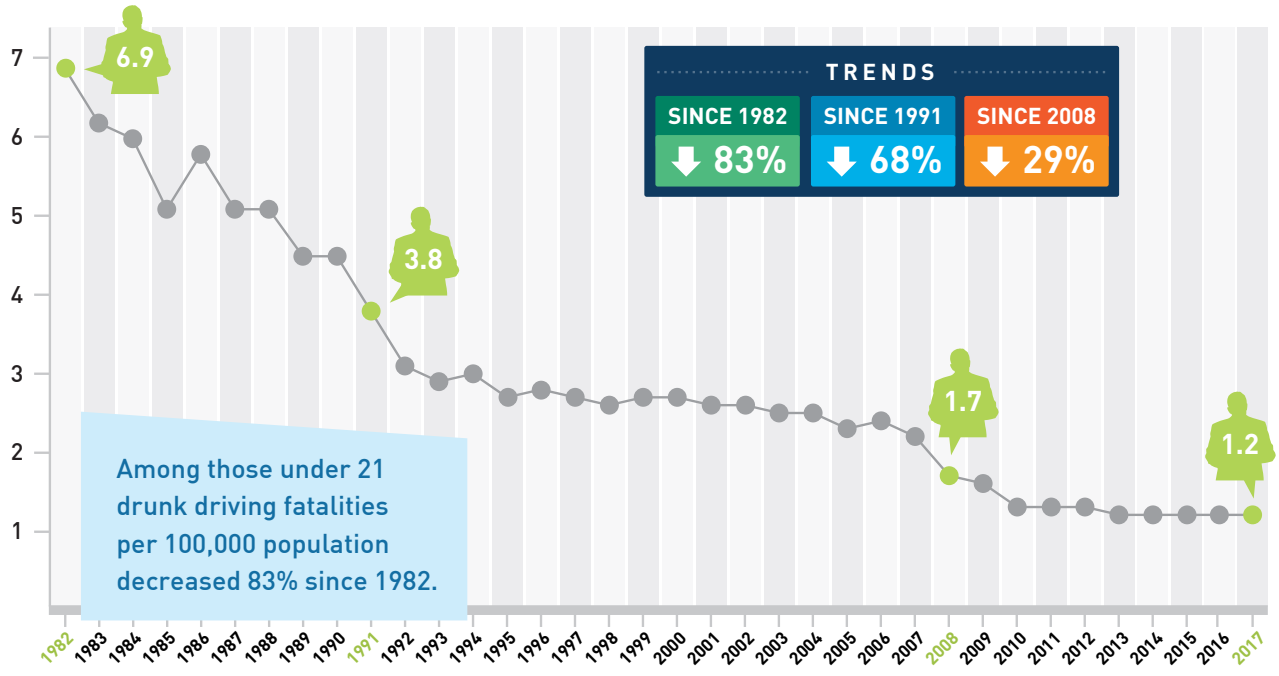
UNDER 21 ALCOHOL-IMPAIRED DRIVING FATALITIES



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



Top Chart - Source: NHTSA/FARS, 10/18
Bottom Chart - Source: NHTSA, FARS and U.S. Census Bureau, 10/18

2017 Alcohol-Impaired Driving Fatalities Per 100,000 Population by State

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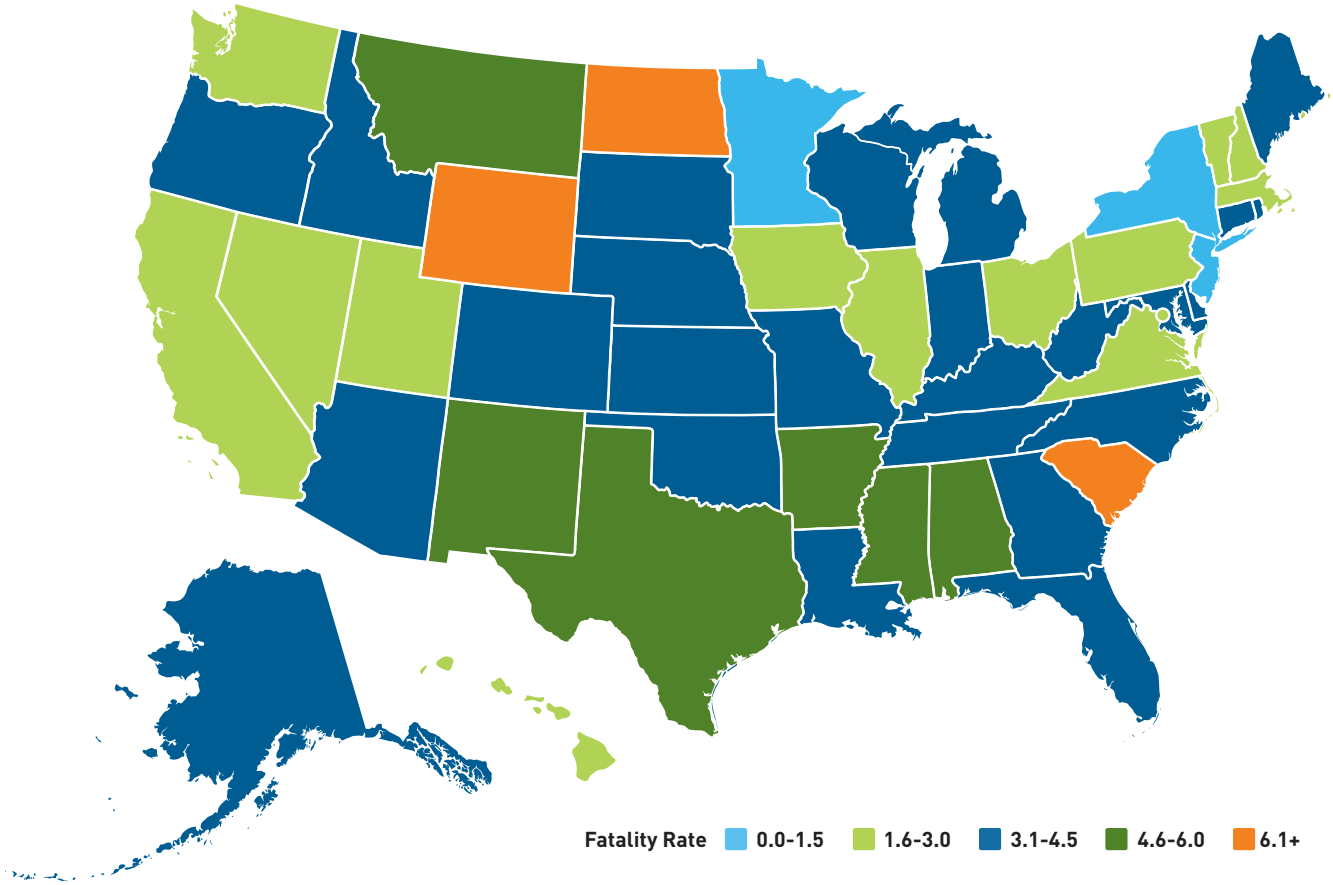

In 26 states and D.C., alcohol-impaired driving fatalities per 100,000 population were at or below the national average of 3.4 deaths per 100,000 population.

Alabama	5.5
Alaska	3.1
Arizona	4.0
Arkansas	4.7
California	2.8
Colorado	3.2
Connecticut	3.4
Delaware	3.3
D.C.	2.3
Florida	4.0
Georgia	3.5
Hawaii	3.0
Idaho	3.5
Illinois	2.7
Indiana	3.3
Iowa	2.8
Kansas	3.5
Kentucky	4.1
Louisiana	4.5
Maine	3.7
Maryland	3.1
Massachusetts	1.8
Michigan	3.1
Minnesota	1.5
Mississippi	5.0
Missouri	4.2
Montana	5.3
Nebraska	3.5
Nevada	3.0
New Hampshire	2.0
New Jersey	1.4
New Mexico	5.8
New York	1.5
North Carolina	4.1
North Dakota	6.1
Ohio	2.9
Oklahoma	4.2
Oregon	3.3
Pennsylvania	2.5
Rhode Island	3.2
South Carolina	6.3
South Dakota	4.0
Tennessee	3.7
Texas	5.2
Utah	1.7
Vermont	2.9
Virginia	2.9
Washington	2.4
West Virginia	4.0
Wisconsin	3.3
Wyoming	7.6
US Total	**3.4**

Source: NHTSA, FARS and U.S. Census Bureau, 10/18

2017 Under 21 Alcohol-Impaired Driving Fatalities Per 100,000 Population by State

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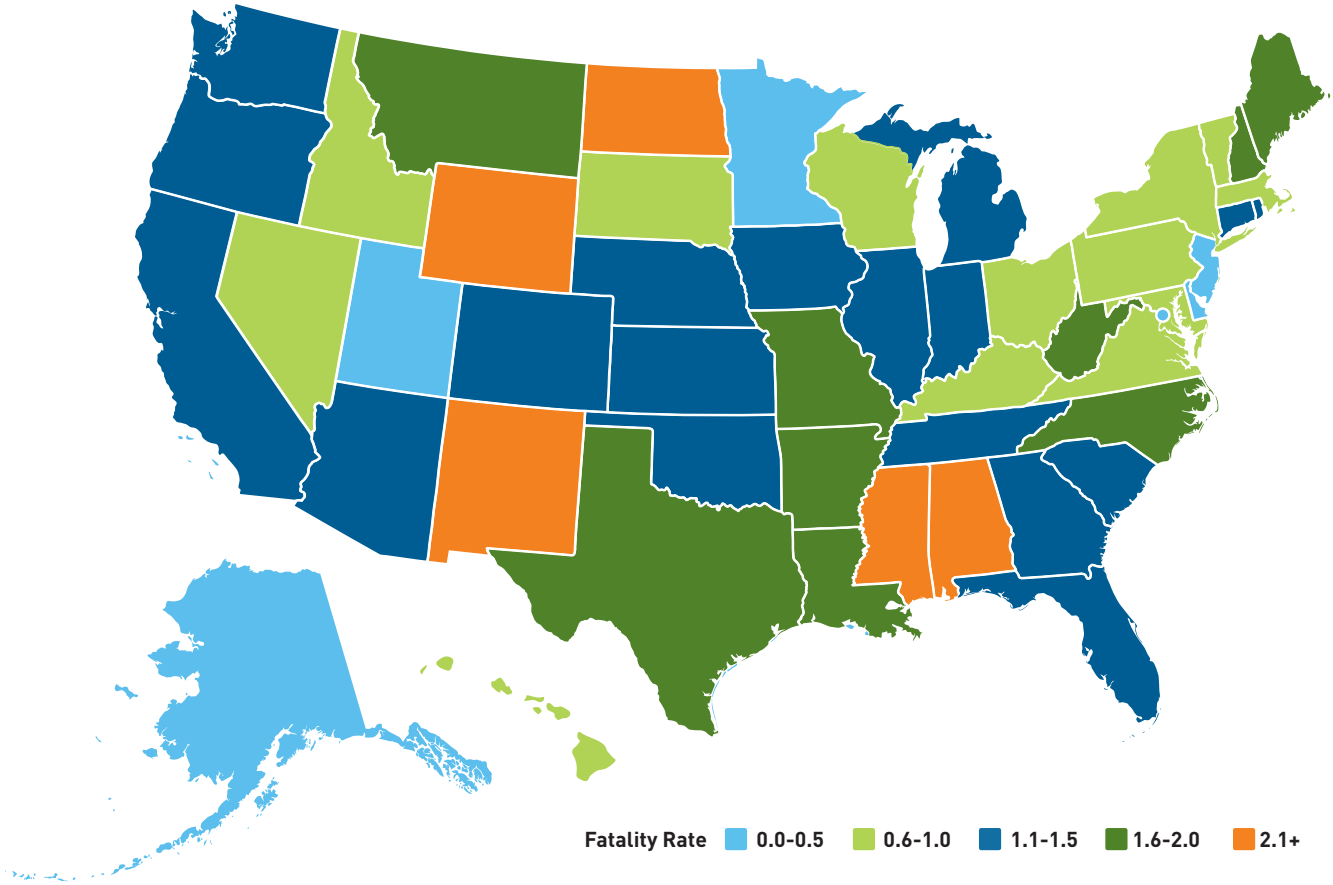

In 24 states and D.C., under 21 alcohol-impaired driving fatalities per 100,000 population were at or below the national average of 1.2 deaths per 100,000 population.

Alabama	2.1
Alaska	0.5
Arizona	1.4
Arkansas	1.8
California	1.1
Colorado	1.1
Connecticut	1.3
Delaware	0.4
D.C.	0.0
Florida	1.5
Georgia	1.1
Hawaii	0.6
Idaho	1.0
Illinois	1.1
Indiana	1.1
Iowa	1.5
Kansas	1.3
Kentucky	0.9
Louisiana	1.8
Maine	1.7
Maryland	0.8
Massachusetts	0.7
Michigan	1.3
Minnesota	0.5
Mississippi	2.5
Missouri	1.9
Montana	1.9
Nebraska	1.3
Nevada	0.9
New Hampshire	1.9
New Jersey	0.3
New Mexico	2.1
New York	0.6
North Carolina	1.7
North Dakota	2.4
Ohio	0.8
Oklahoma	1.4
Oregon	1.5
Pennsylvania	1.0
Rhode Island	1.5
South Carolina	1.4
South Dakota	0.8
Tennessee	1.3
Texas	2.0
Utah	0.5
Vermont	0.7
Virginia	0.9
Washington	1.1
West Virginia	1.6
Wisconsin	1.0
Wyoming	2.5
US Total	**1.2**

Source: NHTSA, FARS and U.S. Census Bureau, 10/18

Percent Change in Drunk Driving Fatality Rates from 2008 to 2017 by State Rank

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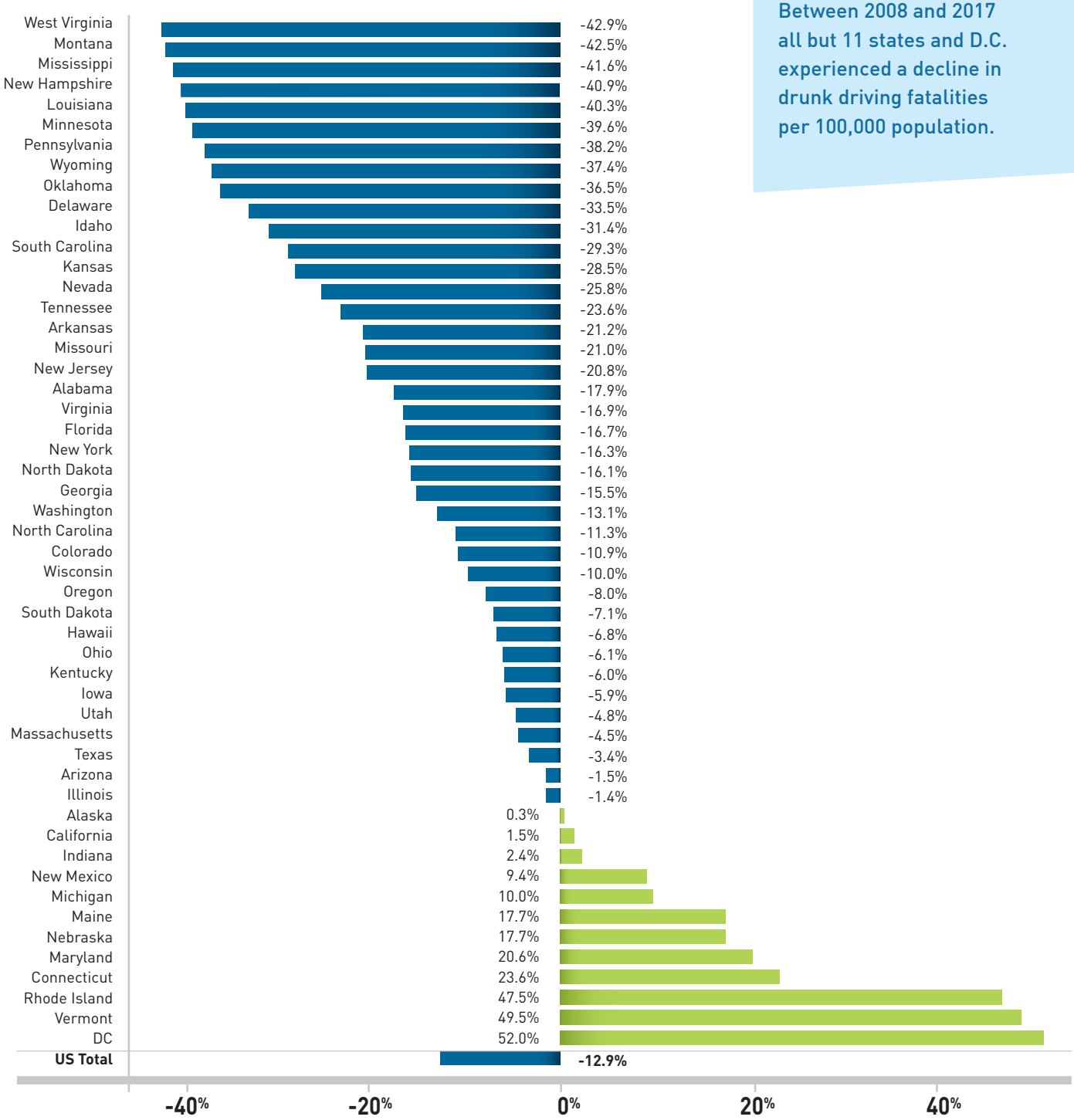
Between 2008 and 2017 all but 11 states and D.C. experienced a decline in drunk driving fatalities per 100,000 population.

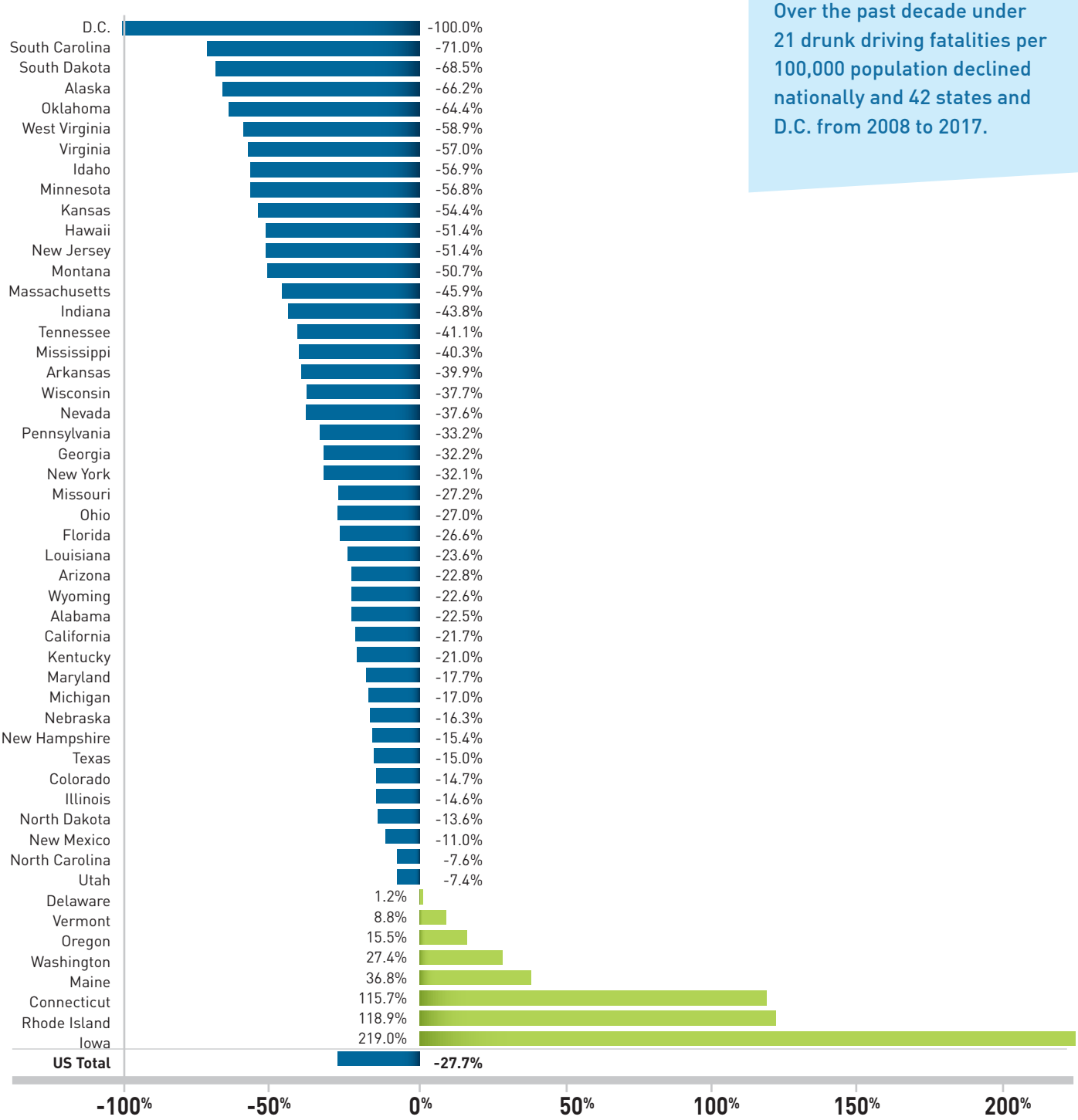


Source: NHTSA, FARS and U.S. Census Bureau, 10/18

Percent Change in Under 21 Drunk Driving Fatality Rates from 2008 to 2017 by State Rank

RESPONSIBILITY.ORG

Over the past decade under 21 drunk driving fatalities per 100,000 population declined nationally and 42 states and D.C. from 2008 to 2017.



Source: NHTSA, FARS and U.S. Census Bureau, 10/18

2017 Fatal Drunk Driving Crashes Among Drivers with a Known BAC

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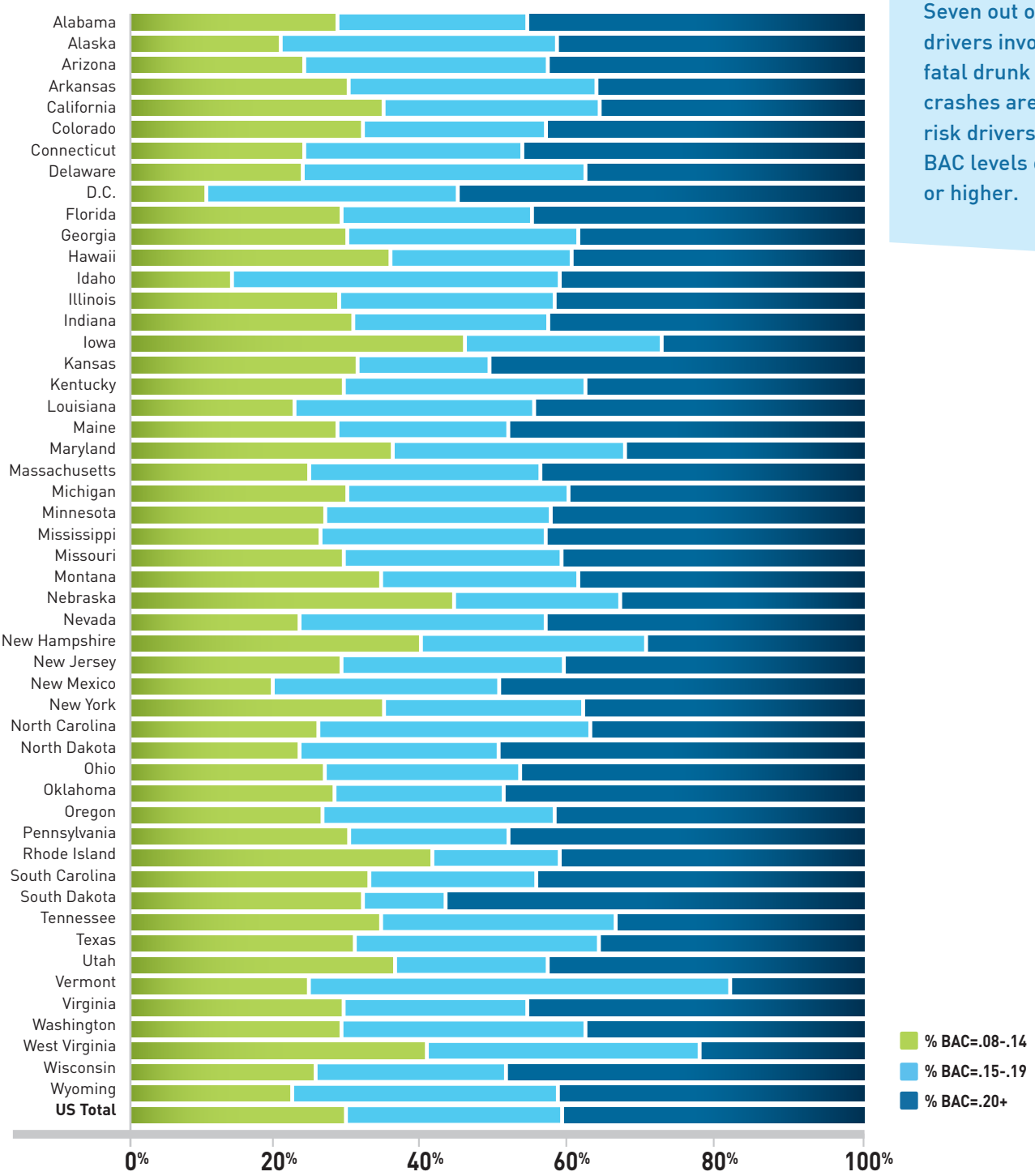
Seven out of 10 drivers involved in fatal drunk driving crashes are high risk drivers with BAC levels of .15 or higher.



Source: NHTSA, FARS ARF of Drivers with Known BAC, 11/18

Repeat Offenders Involvement in Fatal Crashes

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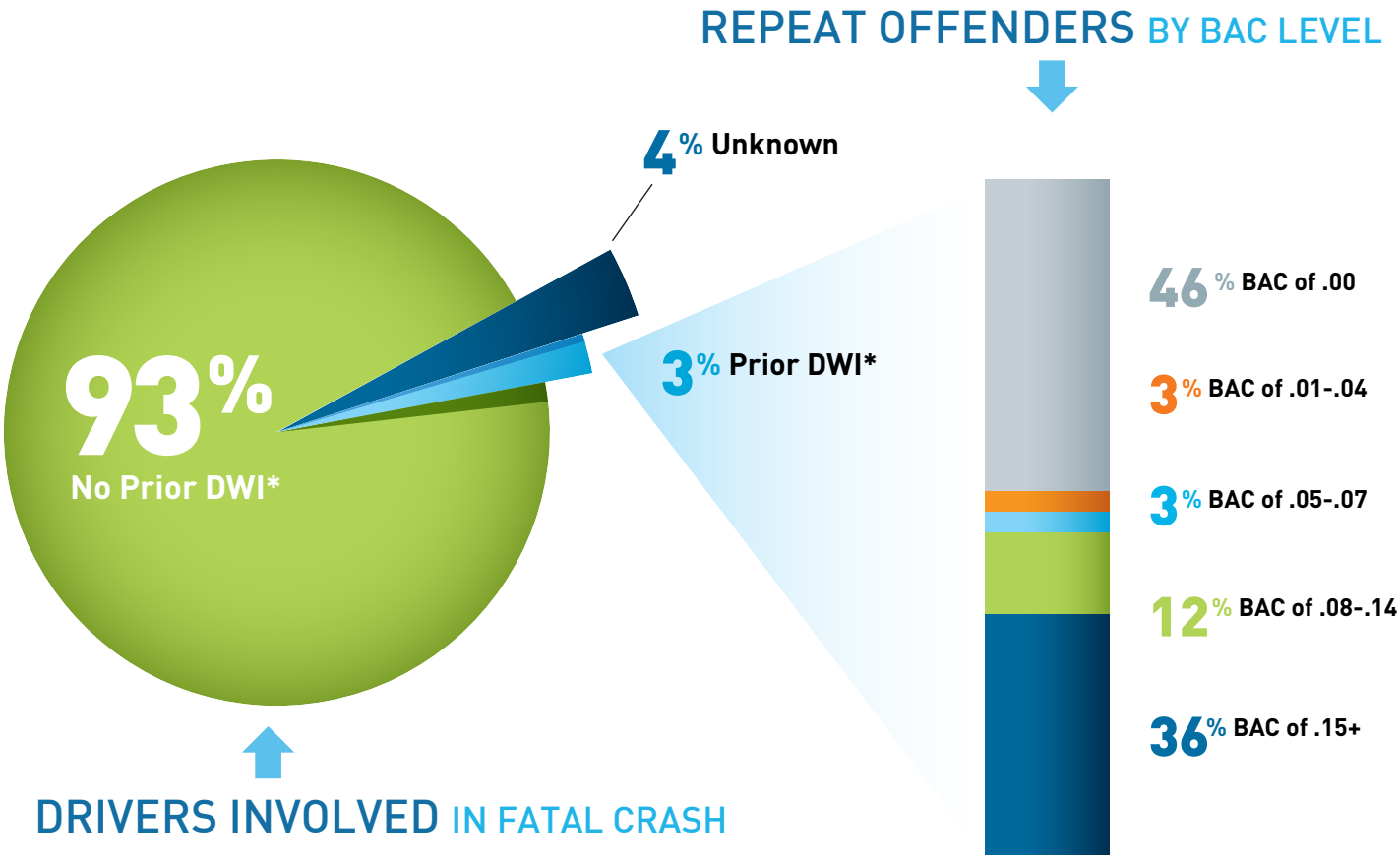
One-third of drivers involved in a fatal crash who had a prior DWI* in the past five years had a high BAC at the time of the crash.



Source: NHTSA, FARS, 11/18

*** Prior convictions only for events occurring within 5 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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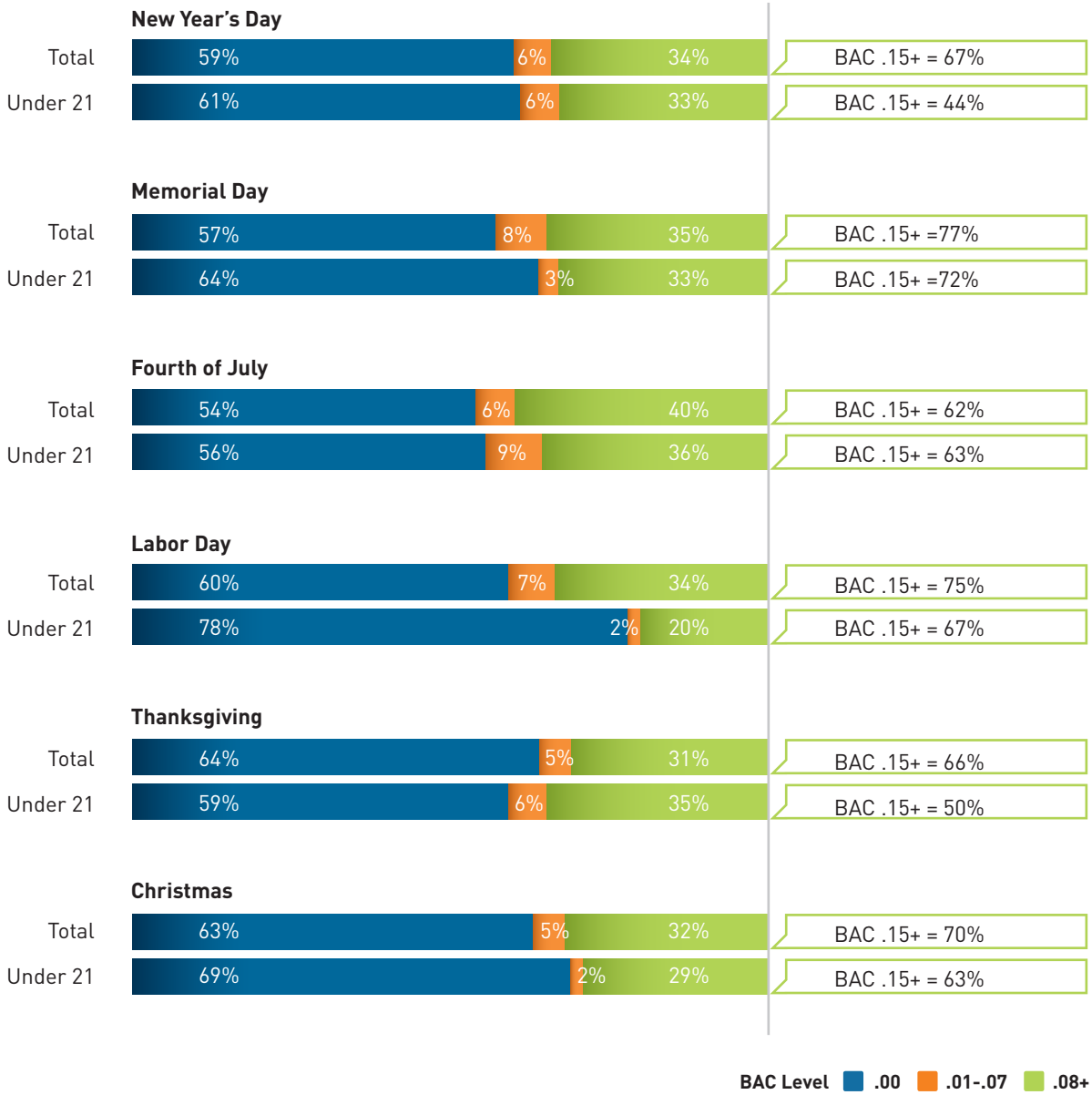
Drunk driving fatalities accounted for 34% of traffic fatalities during the 2017 holidays and drivers with a high BAC were involved in 69% of drunk driving fatalities.



Source: NHTSA, FARS, 11/18
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.

Terminology

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.

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 3.4 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 five years of the date of the crash. The same driver can have one or more of these convictions during this five-year period. Drivers who have a prior conviction in this five-year period are reported as repeat offenders.

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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