



2020 State of
**DRUNK DRIVING
FATALITIES**
IN AMERICA



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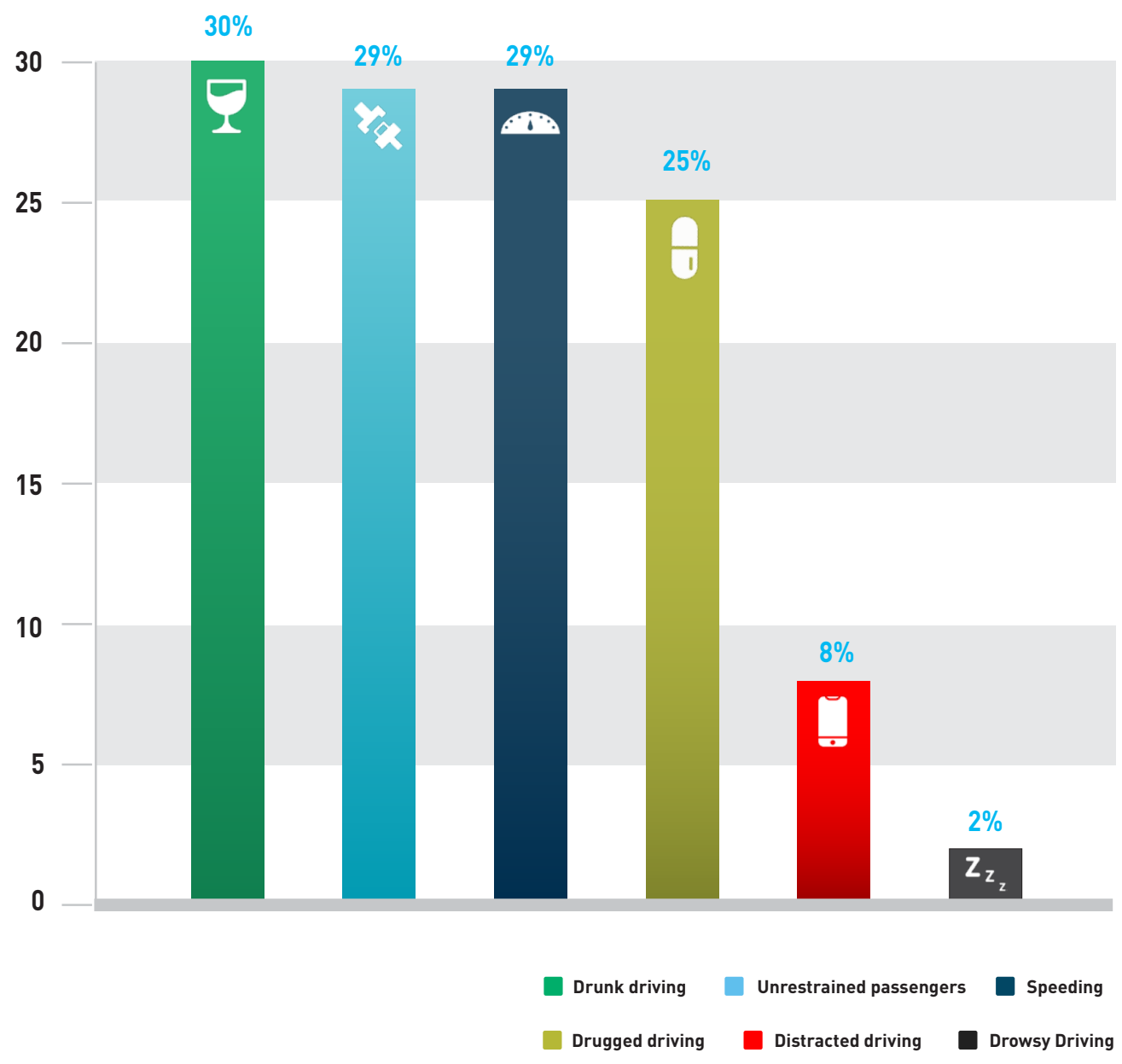
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DID YOU KNOW

In 2020 there was an increase in three behavioral focus areas - speeding, alcohol-impaired driving, and seat belt non-use.

Fatal Motor Vehicle Crashes in 2020 Included a Variety of Factors



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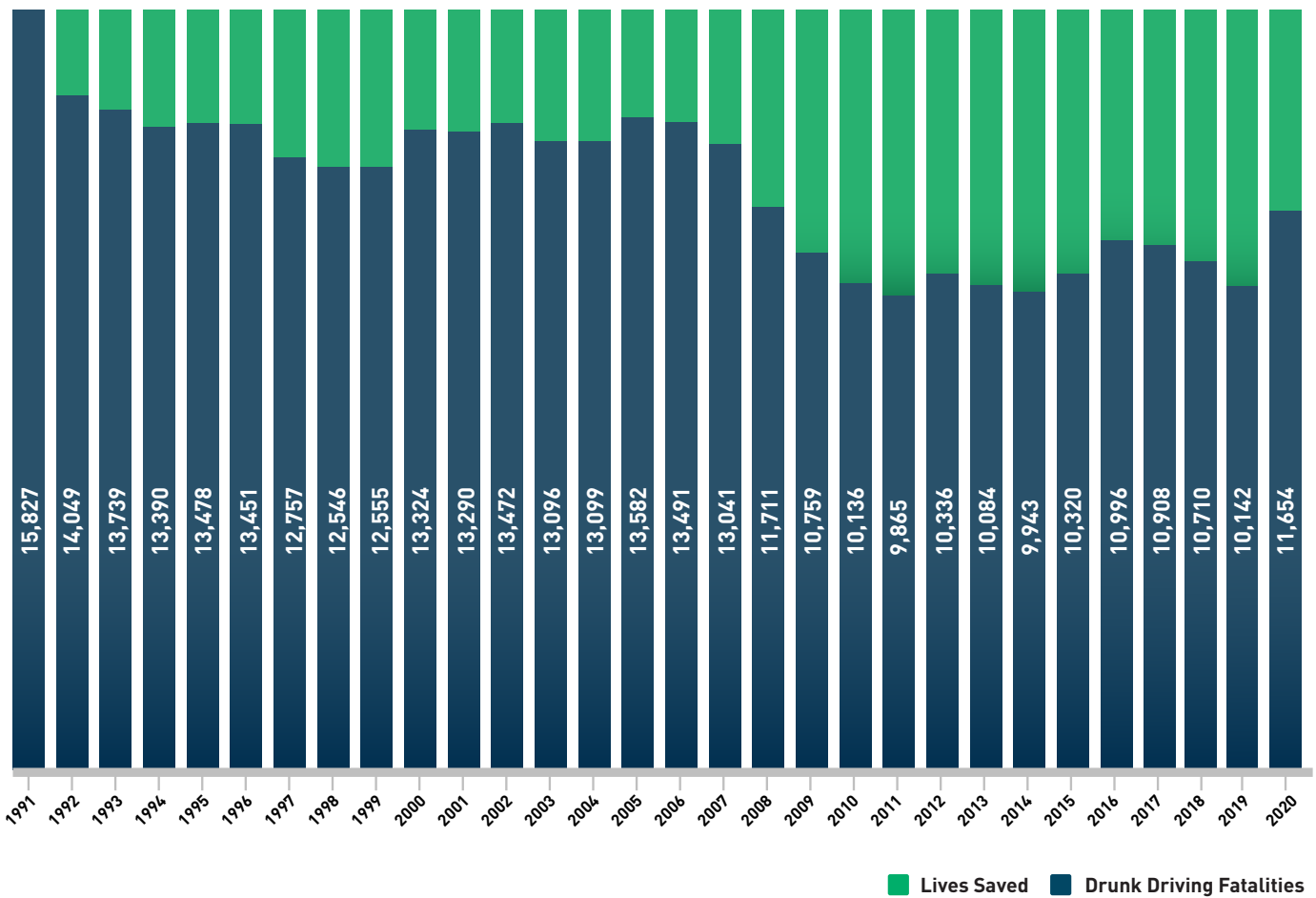
Source: NHTSA, FARS 5/22



DID YOU KNOW

Since the inception of Responsibility.org in 1991, more than 100,000 lives have been saved.

Saving Lives for Over Three Decades



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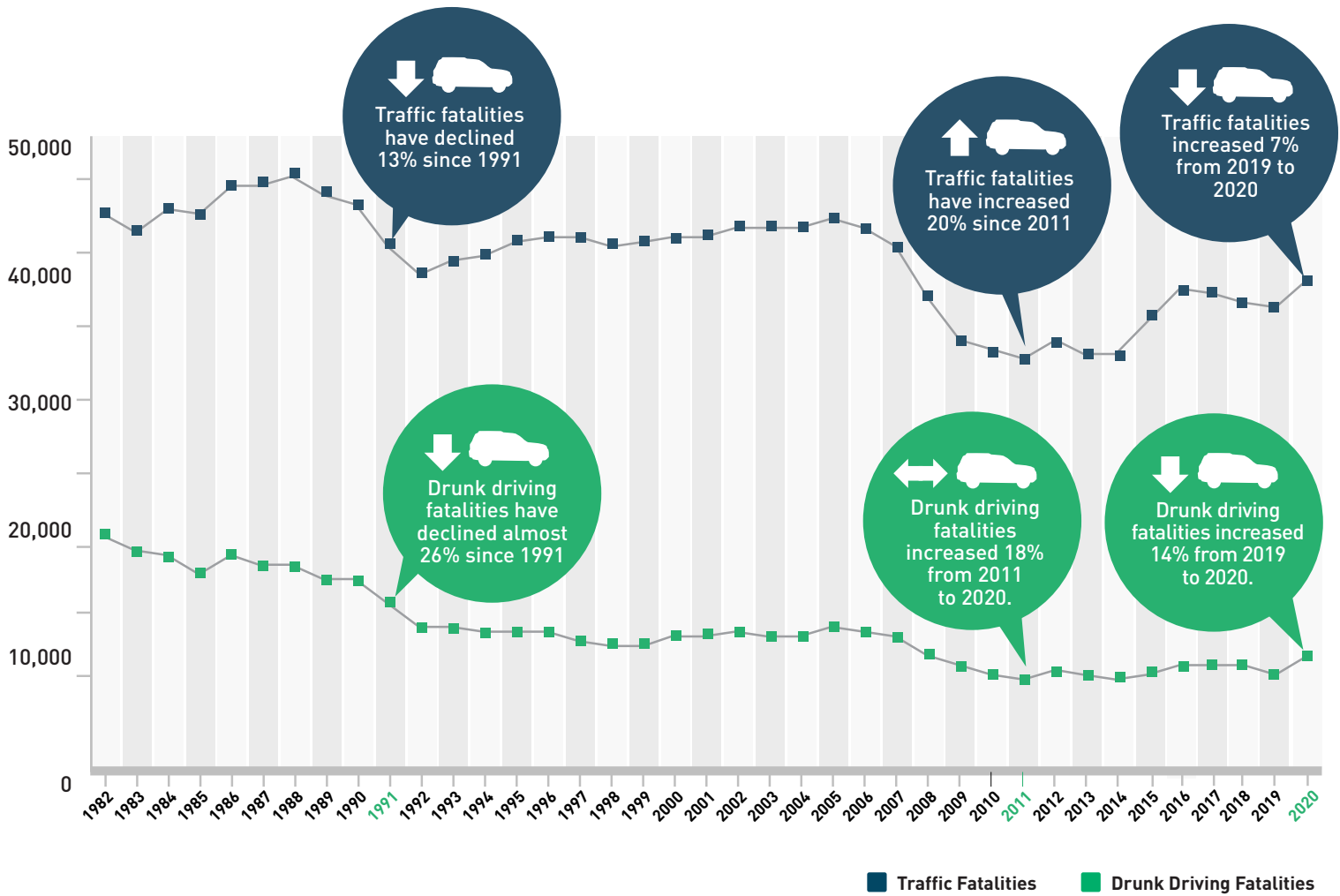
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Source: NHTSA, FARS 5/22

DID YOU KNOW

Traffic fatalities and drunk driving fatalities increased to their highest counts since 2007.

Motor Vehicle Fatalities: 1982-2020



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Source: NHTSA, FARS 5/22



DID YOU KNOW

In 2020, drunk driving accounted for 30% of all traffic fatalities. Nearly sixty percent of alcohol-involved fatal crashes involved high BAC drivers.

Percent of 2020 Driving Fatalities by BAC Test Result

Drivers In → **Alcohol-Involved**
Driving Fatalities

17%

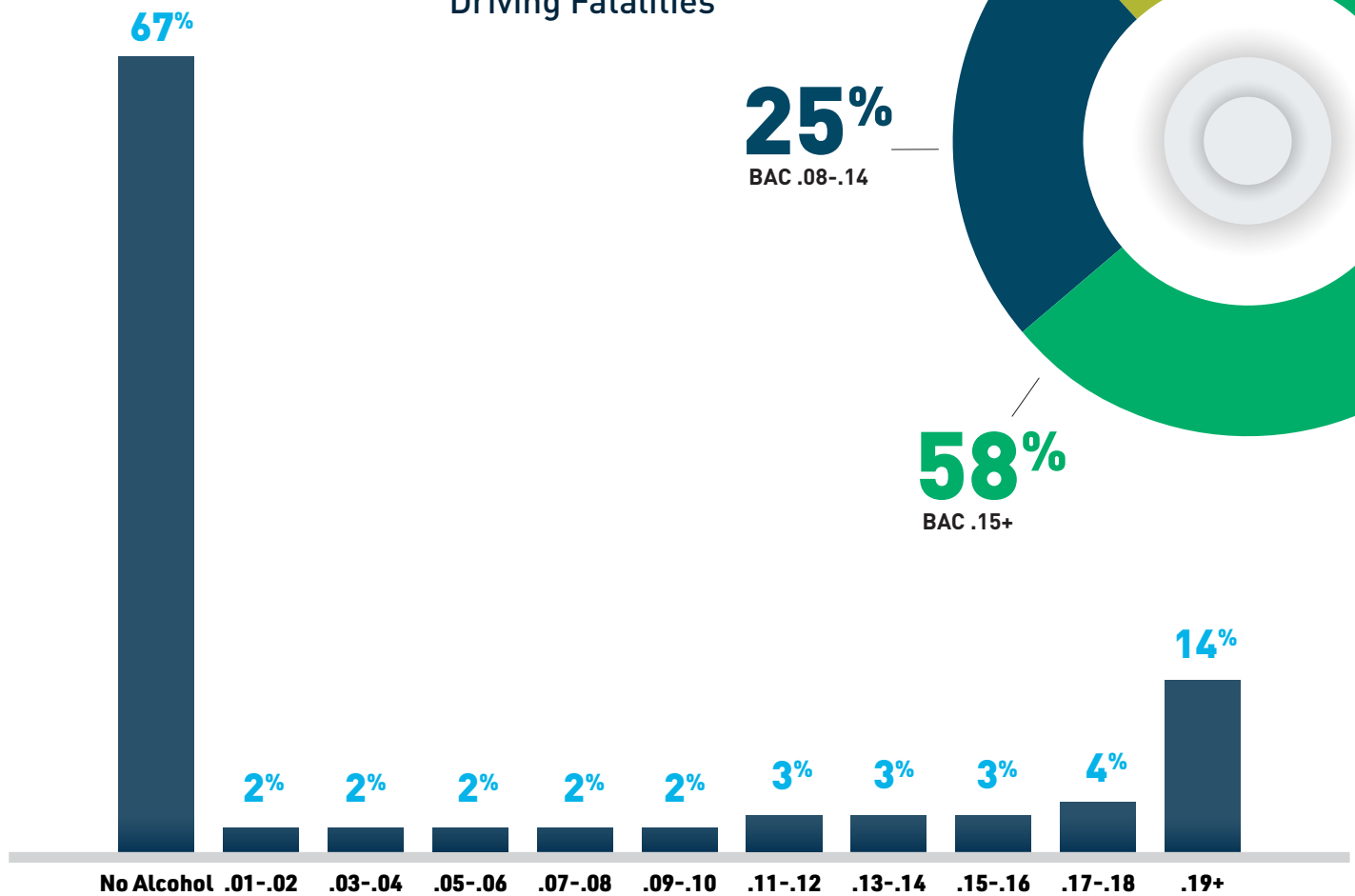
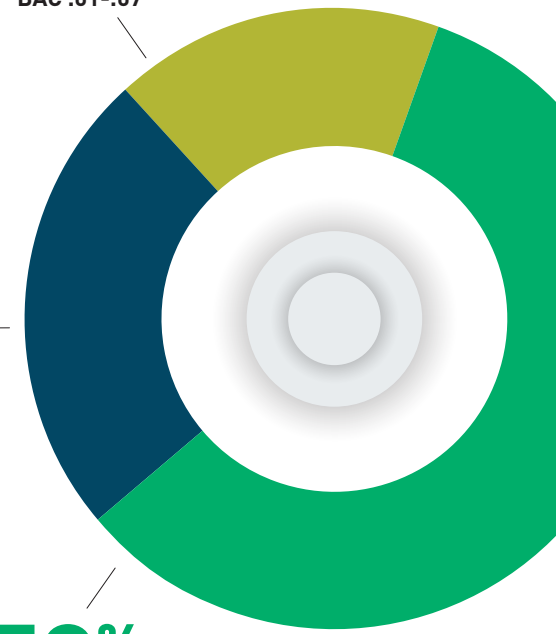
BAC .01-.07

25%

BAC .08-.14

58%

BAC .15+



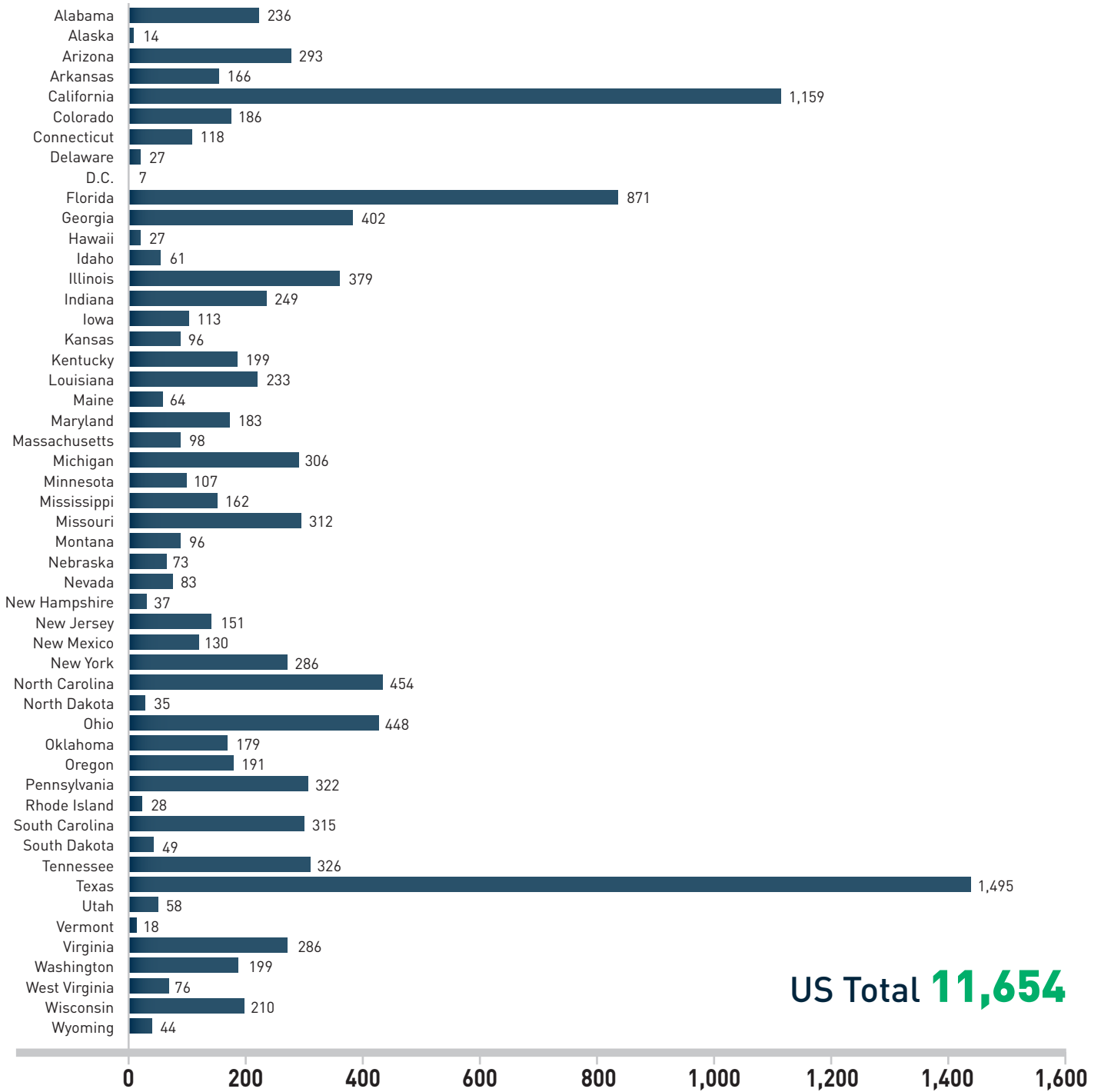
↑ **Known Alcohol Test Results of**
Drivers Involved in Fatal Traffic Crashes

Learn more at

[Responsibility.org](https://responsibility.org)

Source: NHTSA, FARS ARF of Drivers with Known BAC, 5/22
Total may not equal the sum of categories due to rounding.

Alcohol-Impaired Driving Fatality Data 2020

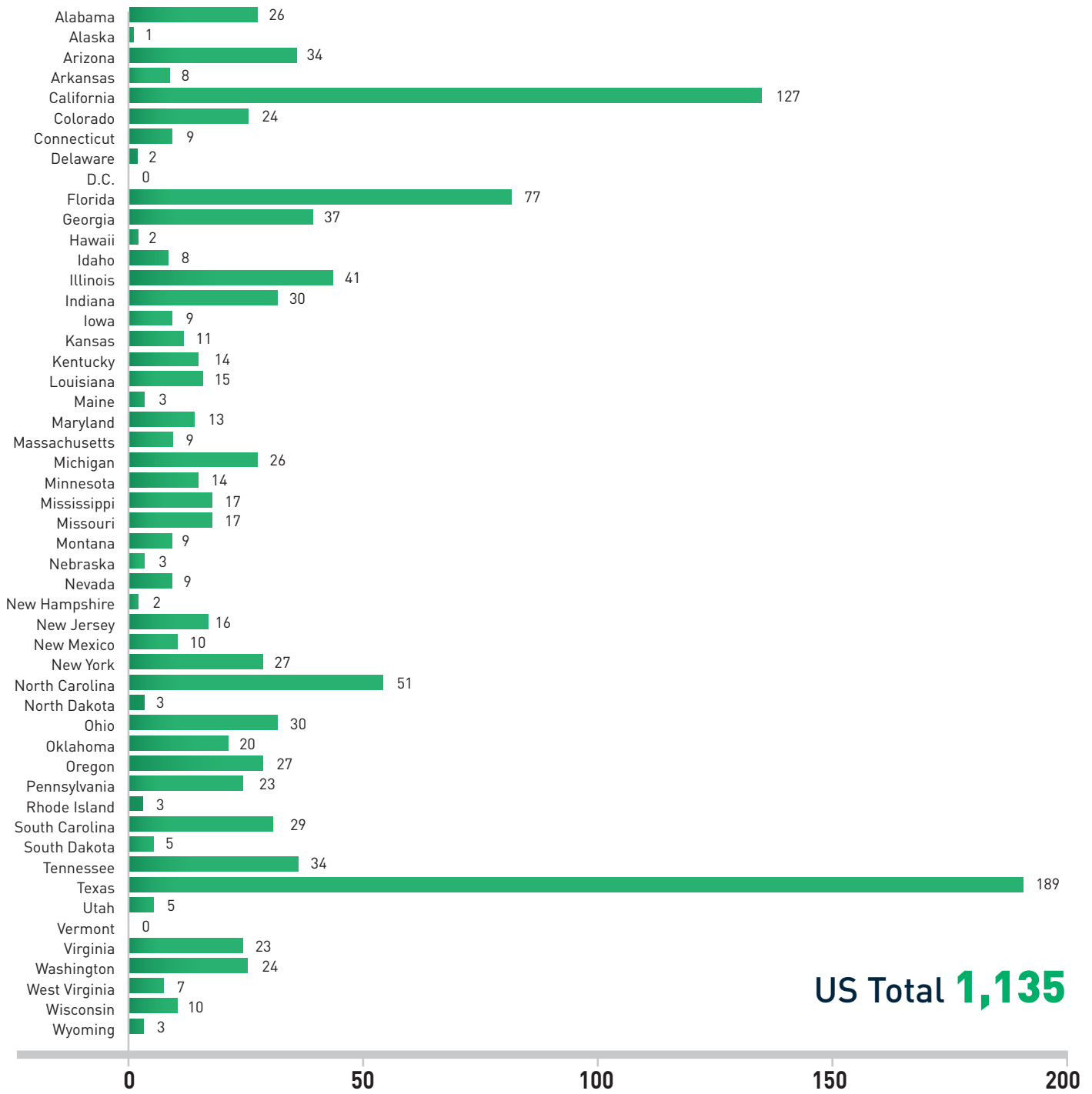


Source: NHTSA, FARS, 5/22
Total may not equal sum of the states due to rounding.

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Under 21 Alcohol-Impaired Driving Fatality Data 2020



Source: NHTSA, FARS, 5/22
Total may not equal sum of the states due to rounding.

Learn more at

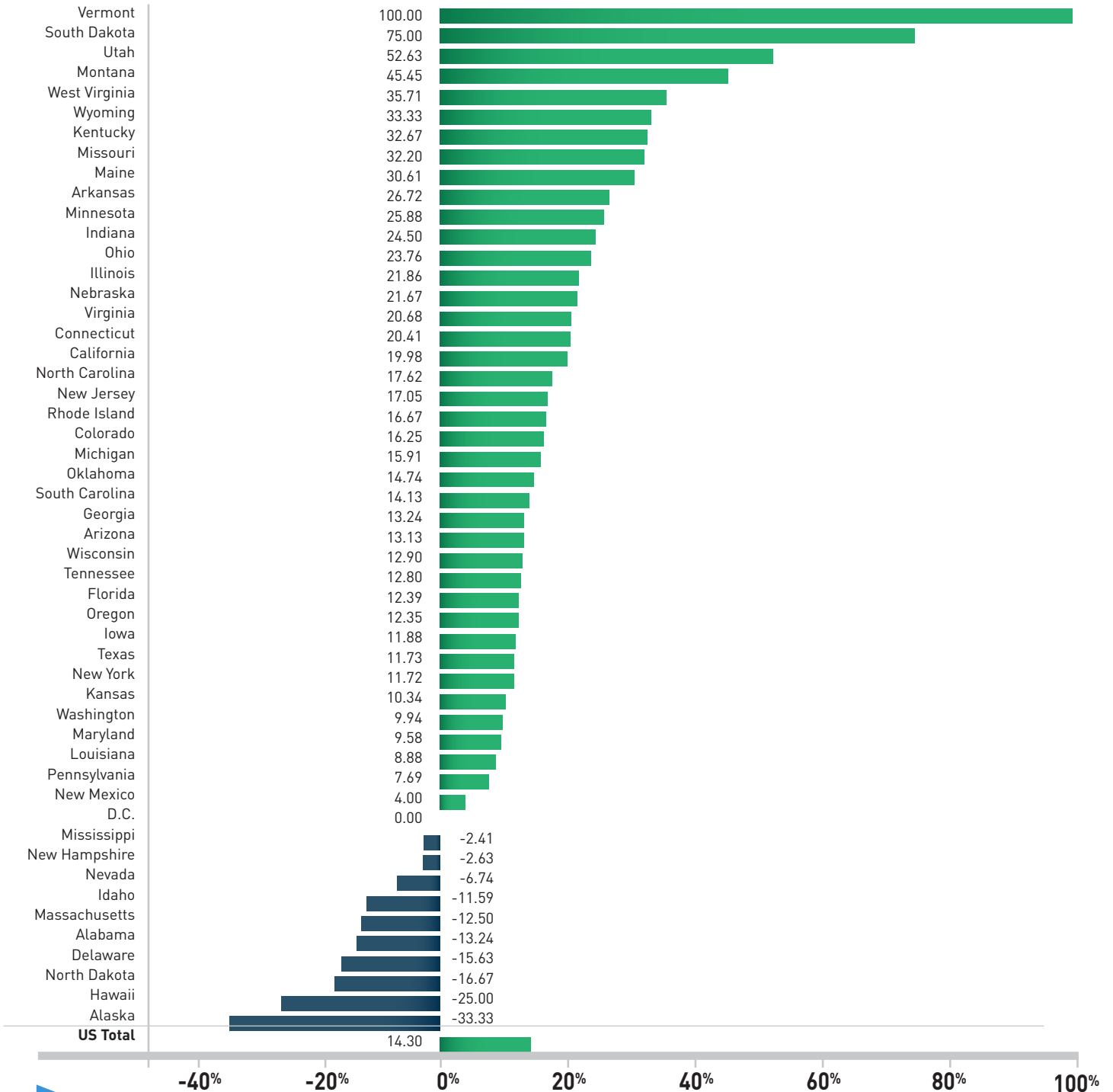
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DID YOU KNOW

Despite national increases, alcohol-impaired driving fatalities decreased in 10 states between 2019 and 2020.

Percent Change in Alcohol-Impaired Driving Fatalities from 2019 to 2020



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[Responsibility.org](https://responsibility.org)

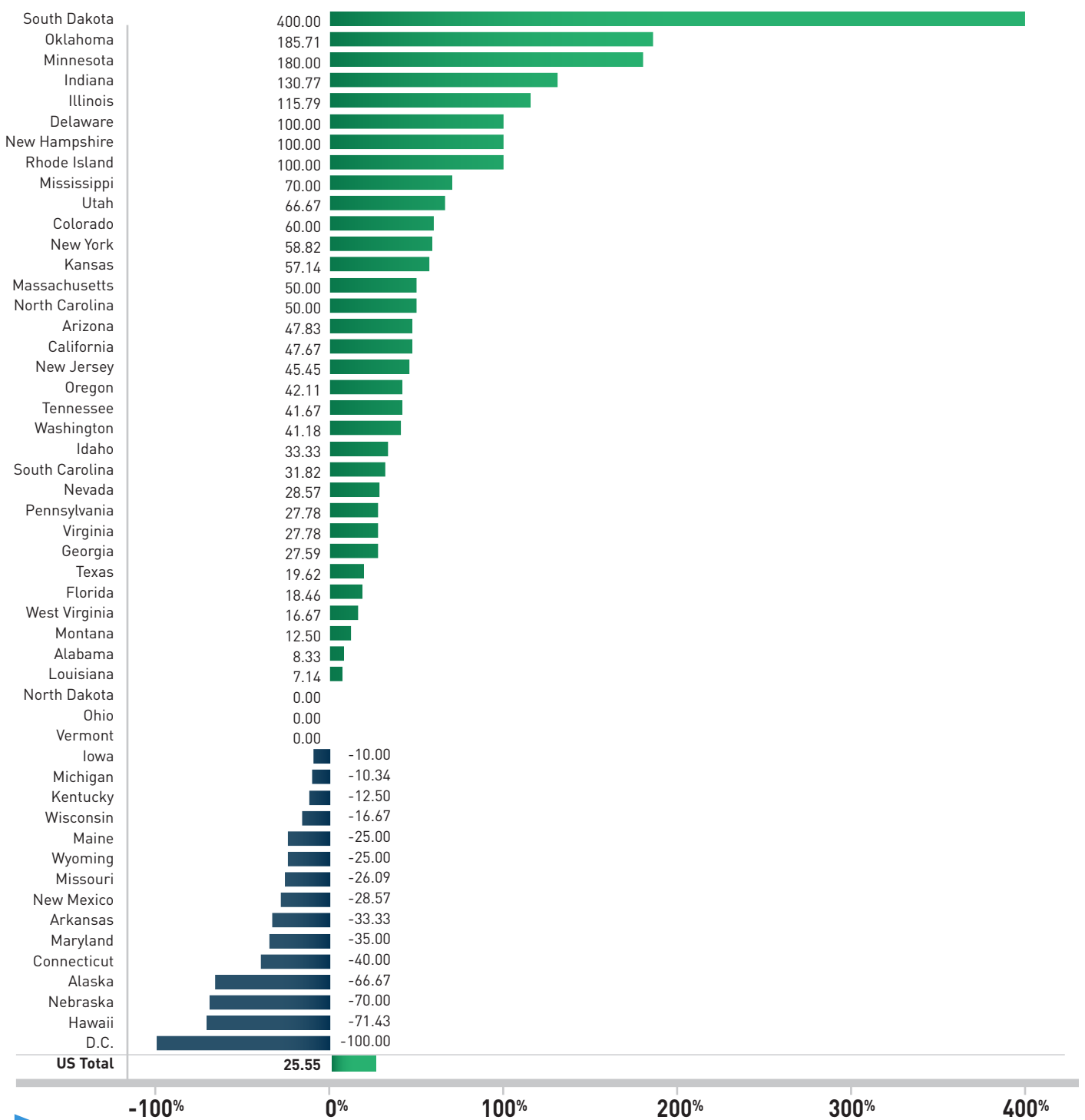
Source: NHTSA, FARS 5/22



DID YOU KNOW

From 2019 to 2020 alcohol impaired driving fatalities among those under 21 decreased in only 14 states and D.C.

Under 21 Percent Change in Alcohol-Impaired Driving Fatalities from 2019 to 2020

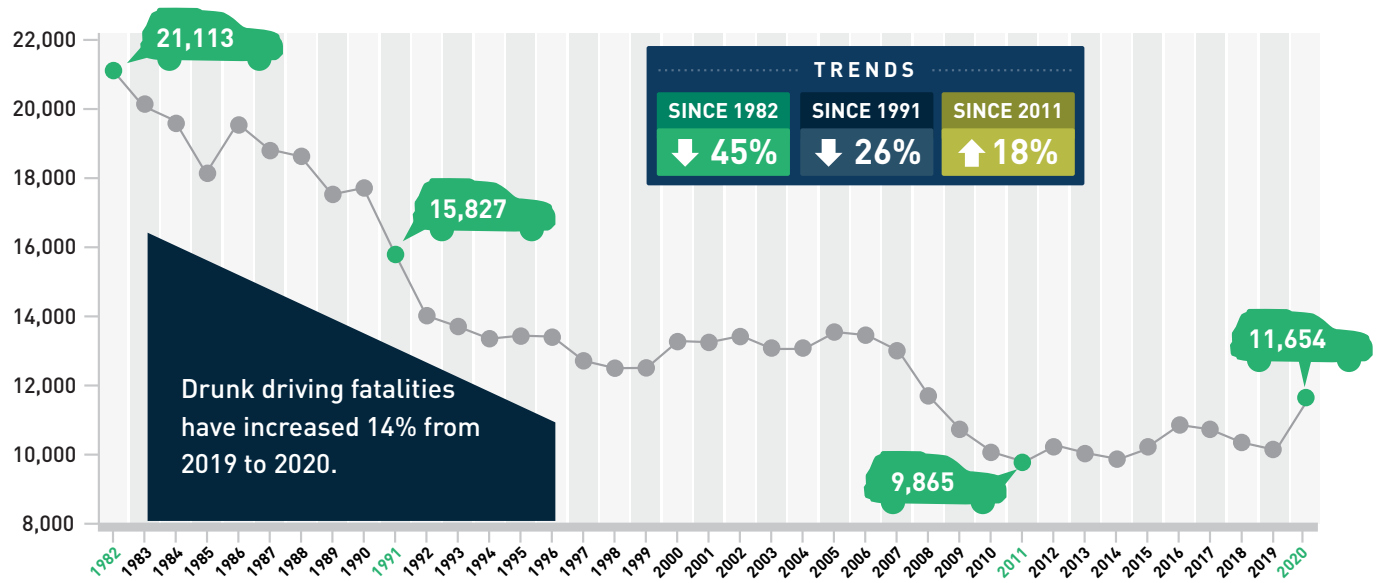


Source: NHTSA, FARS 5/22

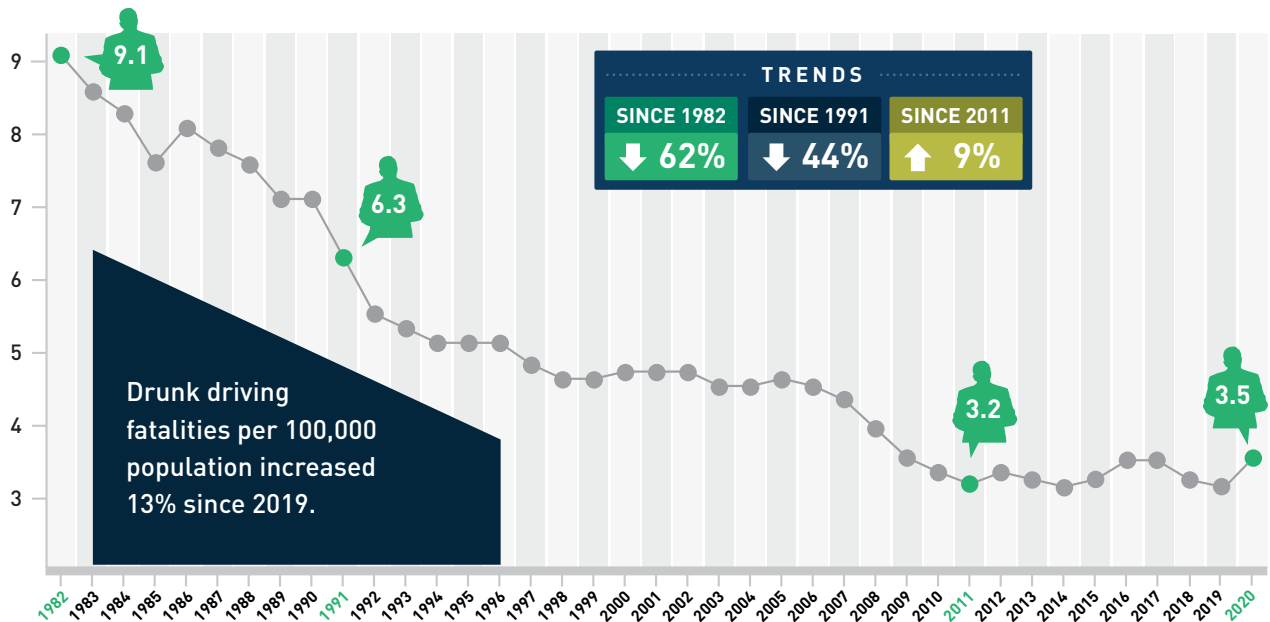
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Alcohol-Impaired Driving Fatalities 1982-2020

Total Alcohol-Impaired Driving Fatalities



Rate of Total Alcohol-Impaired Driving Fatalities per 100,000 Population



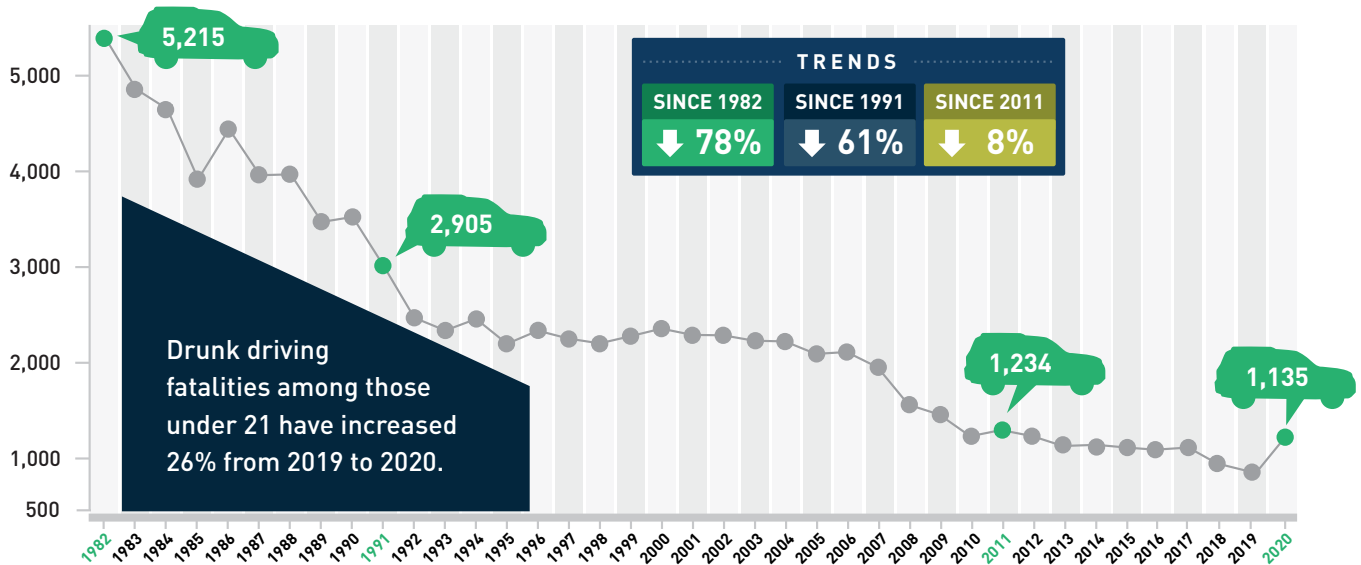
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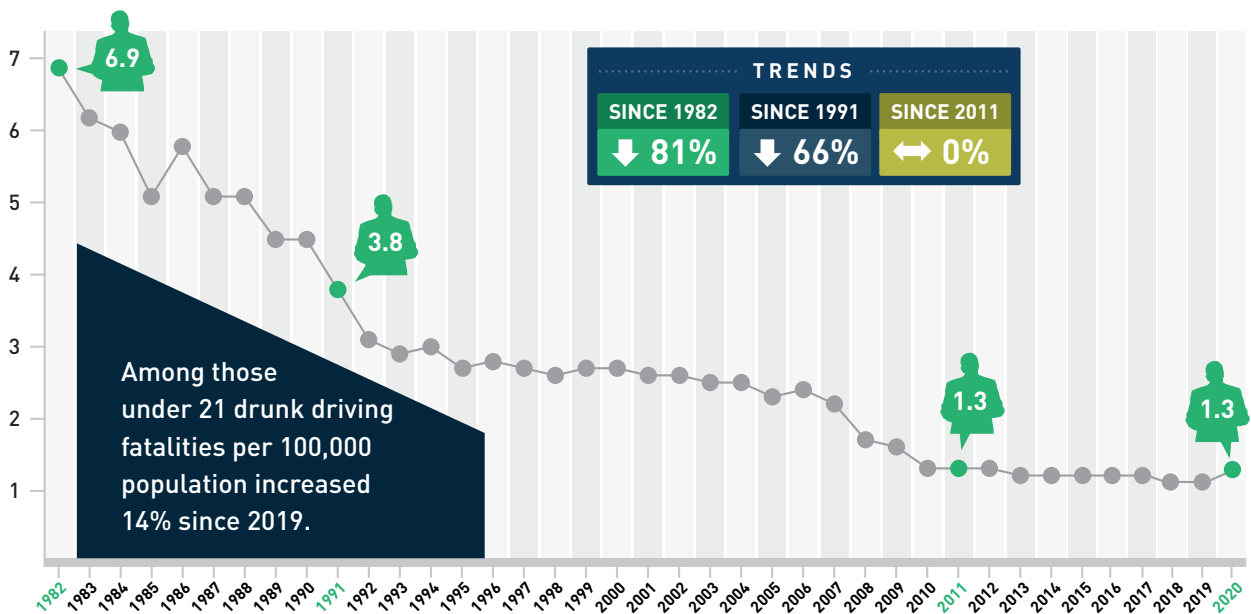
Top Chart - Source: NHTSA/FARS, 3/22
Bottom Chart - Source: NHTSA, FARS and U.S. Census Bureau, 5/22

Under 21 Alcohol-Impaired Driving Fatalities 1982-2020

Under 21 Alcohol-Impaired Driving Fatalities



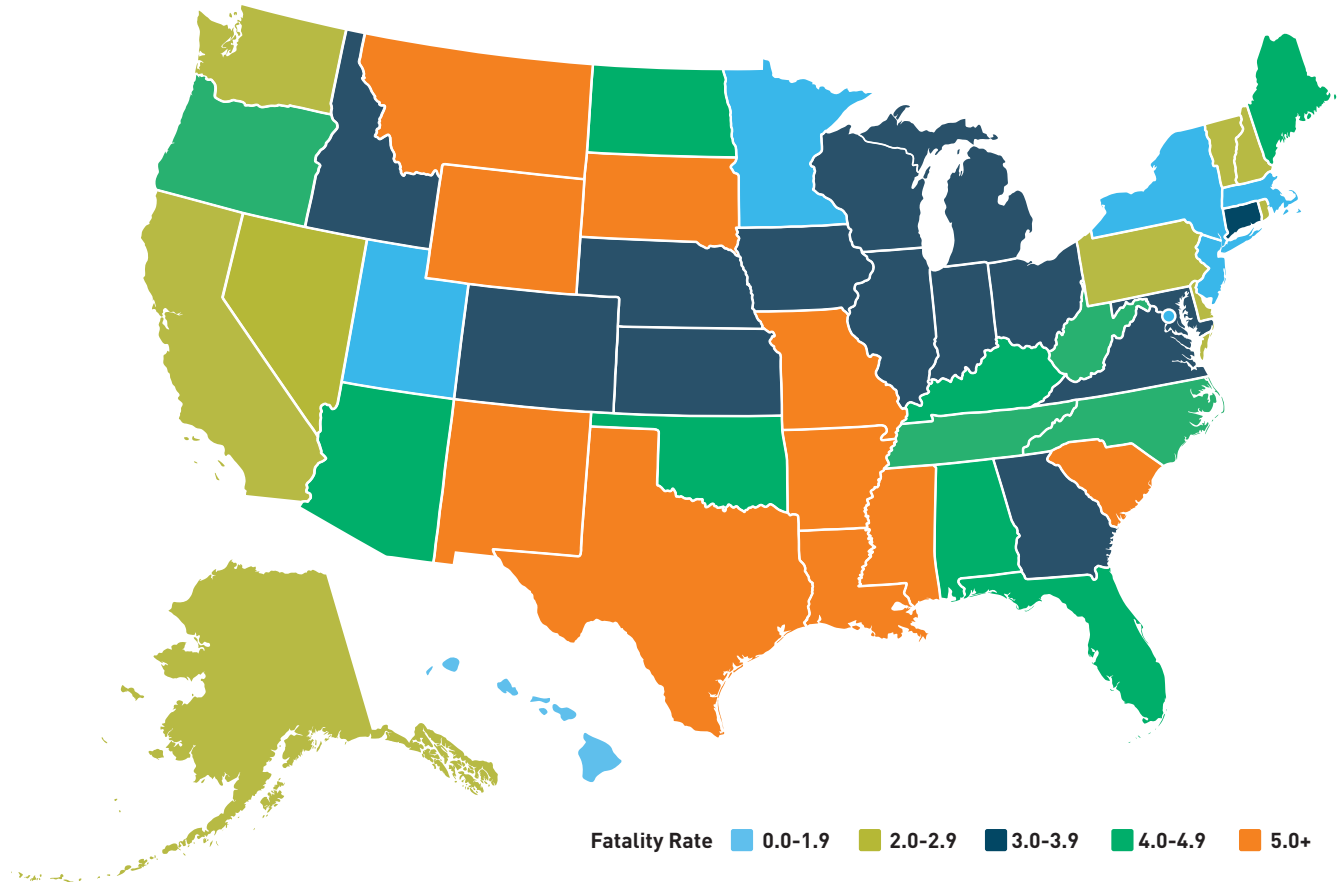
Rate of Under 21 Alcohol-Impaired Driving Fatalities per 100,000 Population



Learn more at
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Top Chart - Source: NHTSA/FARS, 5/22
 Bottom Chart - Source: NHTSA, FARS and U.S. Census Bureau, 5/22

2020 Alcohol-Impaired Driving Fatalities Per 100,000 Population by State



In 24 states and D.C., alcohol-impaired driving fatalities per 100,000 population were at or below the national average of 3.5 deaths per 100,000 population.

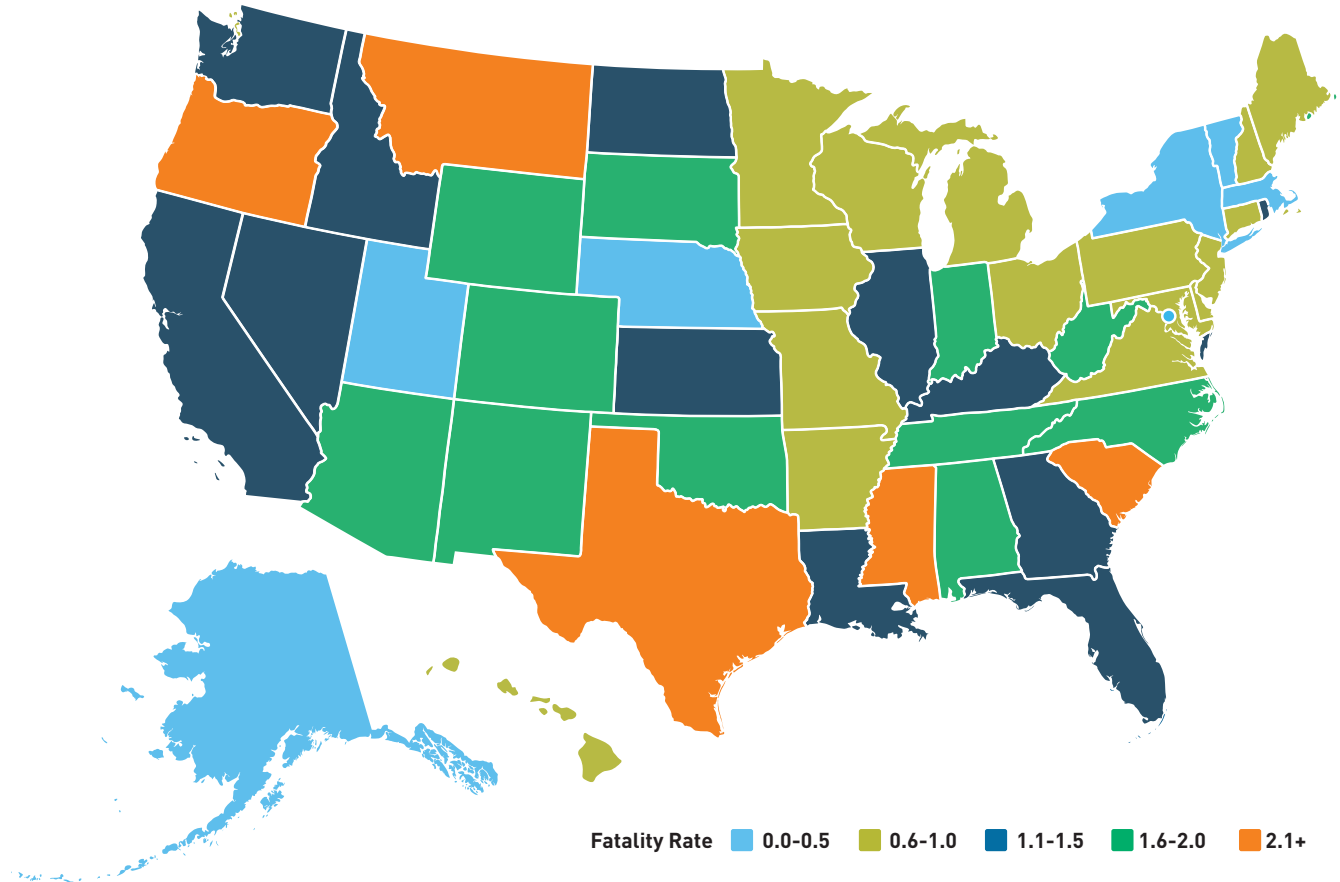
Alabama	4.7	Kentucky	4.4	Ohio	3.8
Alaska	2.0	Louisiana	5.0	Oklahoma	4.5
Arizona	4.1	Maine	4.7	Oregon	4.5
Arkansas	5.5	Maryland	3.0	Pennsylvania	2.5
California	2.9	Massachusetts	1.4	Rhode Island	2.6
Colorado	3.2	Michigan	3.0	South Carolina	6.2
Connecticut	3.3	Minnesota	1.9	South Dakota	5.5
Delaware	2.7	Mississippi	5.5	Tennessee	4.7
D.C.	1.0	Missouri	5.1	Texas	5.1
Florida	4.0	Montana	8.9	Utah	1.8
Georgia	3.8	Nebraska	3.7	Vermont	2.8
Hawaii	1.9	Nevada	2.7	Virginia	3.4
Idaho	3.3	New Hampshire	2.7	Washington	2.6
Illinois	3.0	New Jersey	1.6	West Virginia	4.2
Indiana	3.7	New Mexico	6.2	Wisconsin	3.6
Iowa	3.5	New York	1.4	Wyoming	7.7
Kansas	3.3	North Carolina	4.4	U.S. Total	3.5
		North Dakota	4.5		

Source: NHTSA, FARS, 3/22 and U.S. Census Bureau, 5/22

Learn more at

[Responsibility.org](https://responsibility.org)

2020 Under 21 Alcohol-Impaired Driving Fatalities Per 100,000 Population by State



In 31 states and D.C., under 21 alcohol-impaired driving fatalities per 100,000 population were at or below the national average of 1.3 deaths per 100,000 population.

Alabama	2.0	Kentucky	1.2	Ohio	1.0
Alaska	0.5	Louisiana	1.2	Oklahoma	1.8
Arizona	1.8	Maine	1.0	Oregon	2.6
Arkansas	1.0	Maryland	0.8	Pennsylvania	0.7
California	1.2	Massachusetts	0.5	Rhode Island	1.1
Colorado	1.6	Michigan	1.0	South Carolina	2.2
Connecticut	1.0	Minnesota	0.9	South Dakota	2.0
Delaware	0.8	Mississippi	2.1	Tennessee	1.9
D.C.	0.0	Missouri	1.0	Texas	2.2
Florida	1.5	Montana	3.3	Utah	0.5
Georgia	1.2	Nebraska	0.5	Vermont	0.0
Hawaii	0.6	Nevada	1.1	Virginia	1.0
Idaho	1.5	New Hampshire	0.6	Washington	1.2
Illinois	1.2	New Jersey	0.7	West Virginia	1.6
Indiana	1.6	New Mexico	1.8	Wisconsin	0.7
Iowa	1.0	New York	0.5	Wyoming	1.9
Kansas	1.3	North Carolina	1.9	U.S. Total	1.3
		North Dakota	1.4		

Source: NHTSA, FARS, 3/22 and U.S. Census Bureau, 5/22

Learn more at

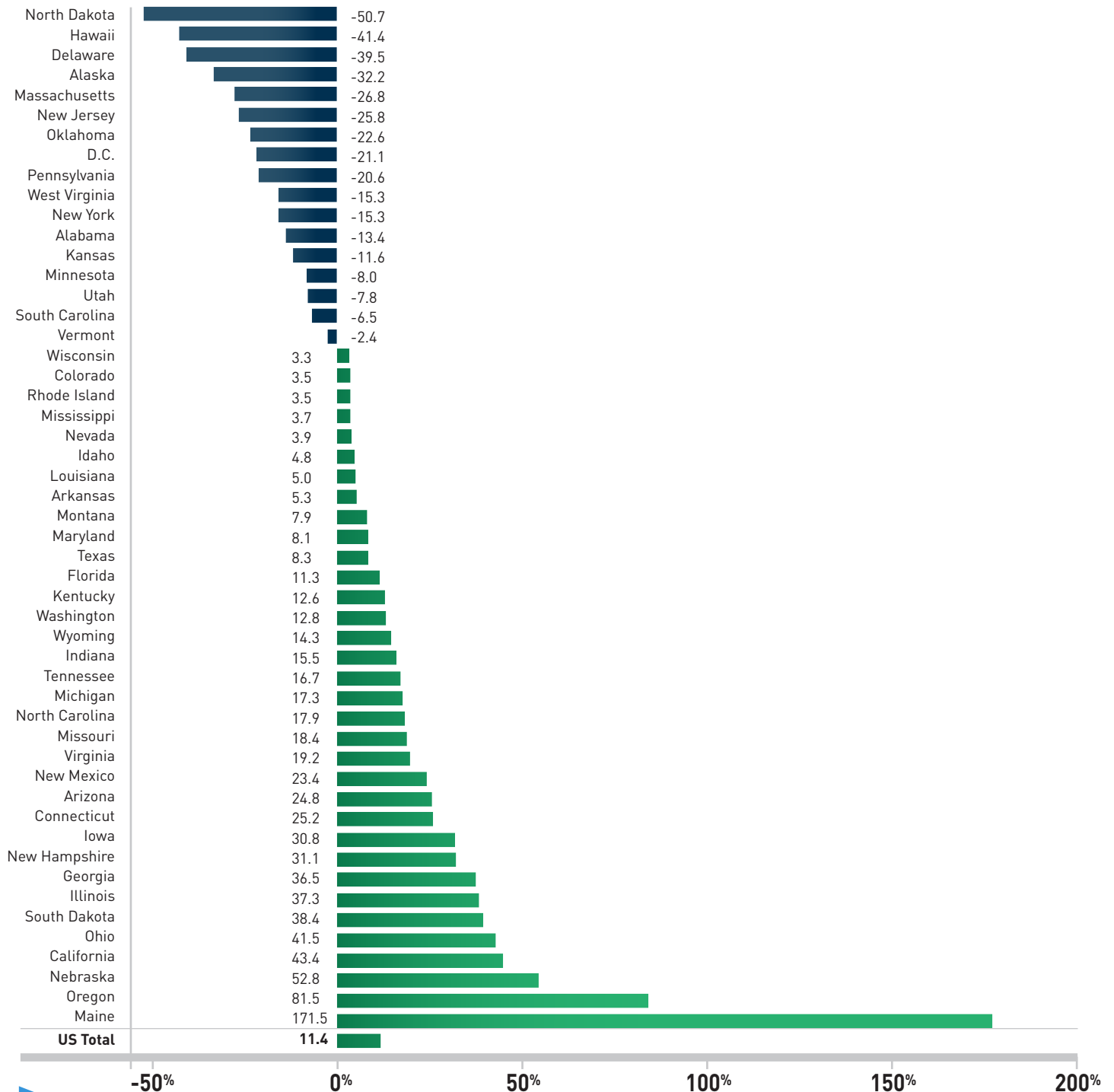
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DID YOU KNOW

Over the past decade drunk driving fatalities per 100,000 population increased nationally but declined in 16 states and D.C. from 2011 to 2020.

Percent Change in Drunk Driving Fatality Rates from 2011 to 2020 by State Rank



Learn more at

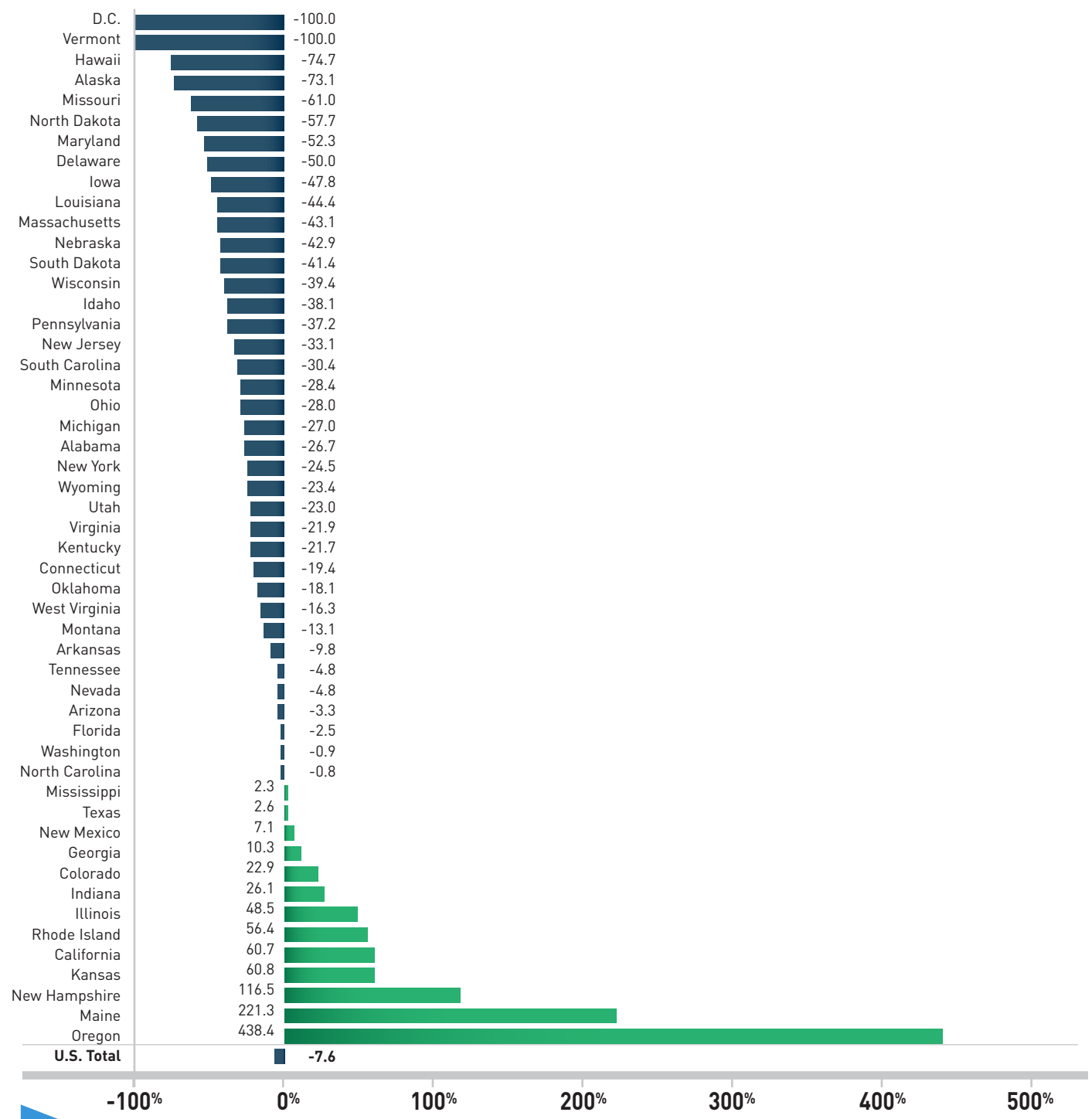
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Source: NHTSA, FARS, 3/22 and U.S. Census Bureau, 5/22

DID YOU KNOW

Between 2011 and 2020 all but 13 states experienced a decline in under 21 drunk driving fatalities per 100,000 population.

Percent Change in Under 21 Drunk Driving Fatality Rates from 2011 to 2020 by State Rank



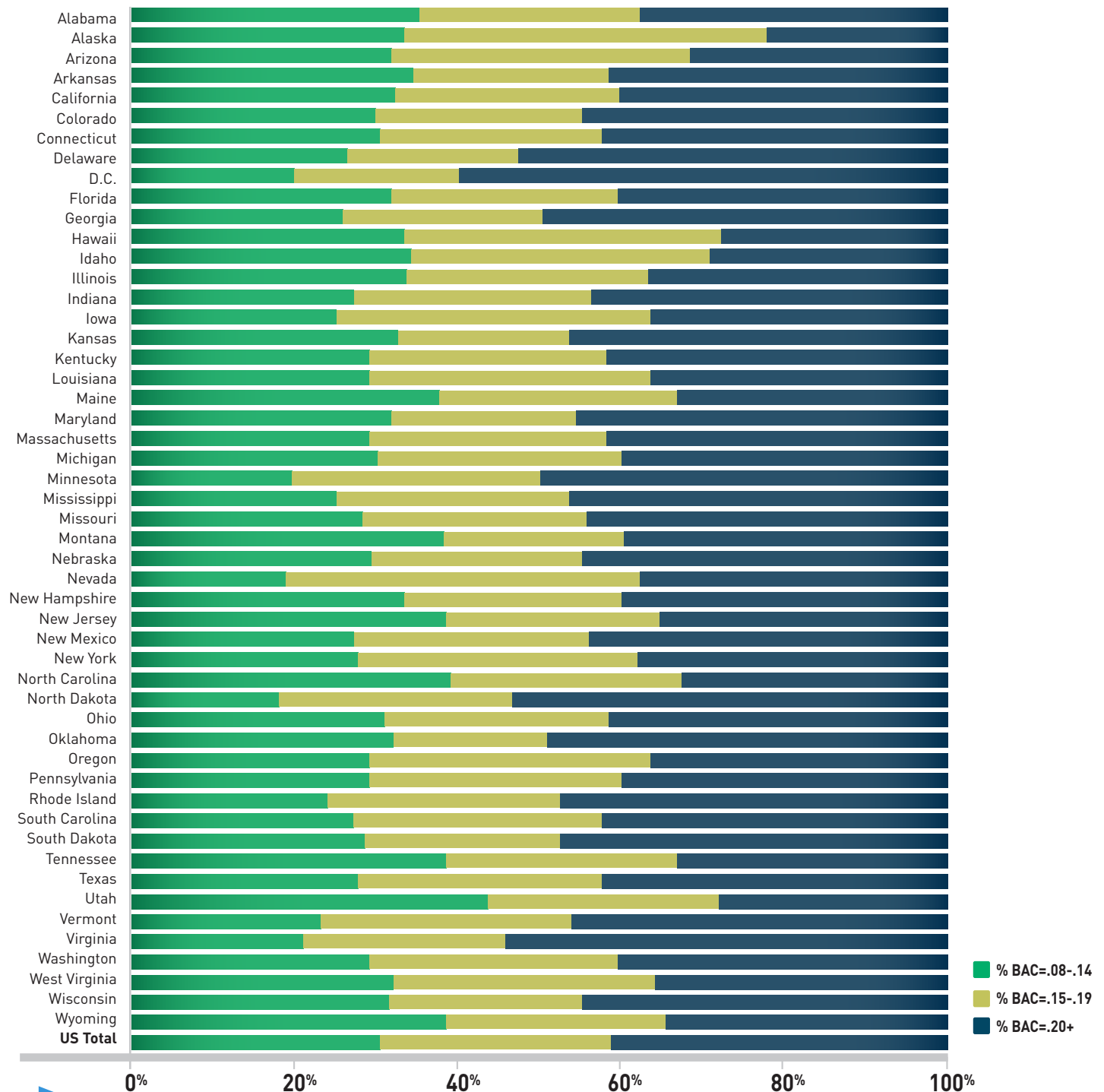
Learn more at
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Source: NHTSA, FARS, 3/22 and U.S. Census Bureau, 5/22

DID YOU KNOW

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

2020 Fatal Drunk Driving Crashes Among Drivers with a Known BAC



Percent of Alcohol-Impaired Driving Fatalities by BAC

Source: NHTSA, FARS ARF of Drivers with Known BAC, 5/22

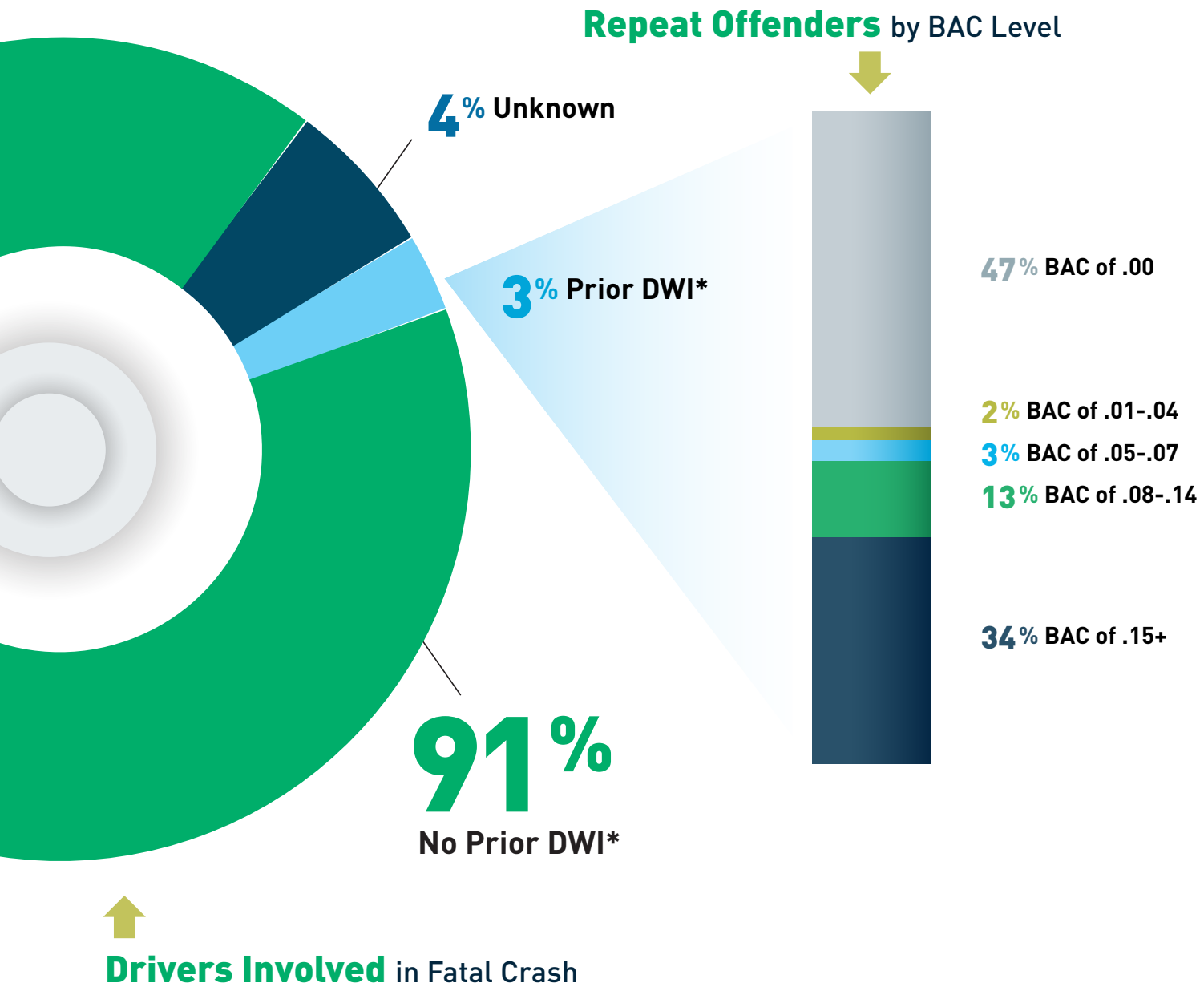
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DID YOU KNOW

One in three drivers involved in a fatal crash who had a prior DWI* had a high BAC at the time of the crash.

Repeat Offenders Involvement in Fatal Crashes



↑ Drivers Involved in Fatal Crash

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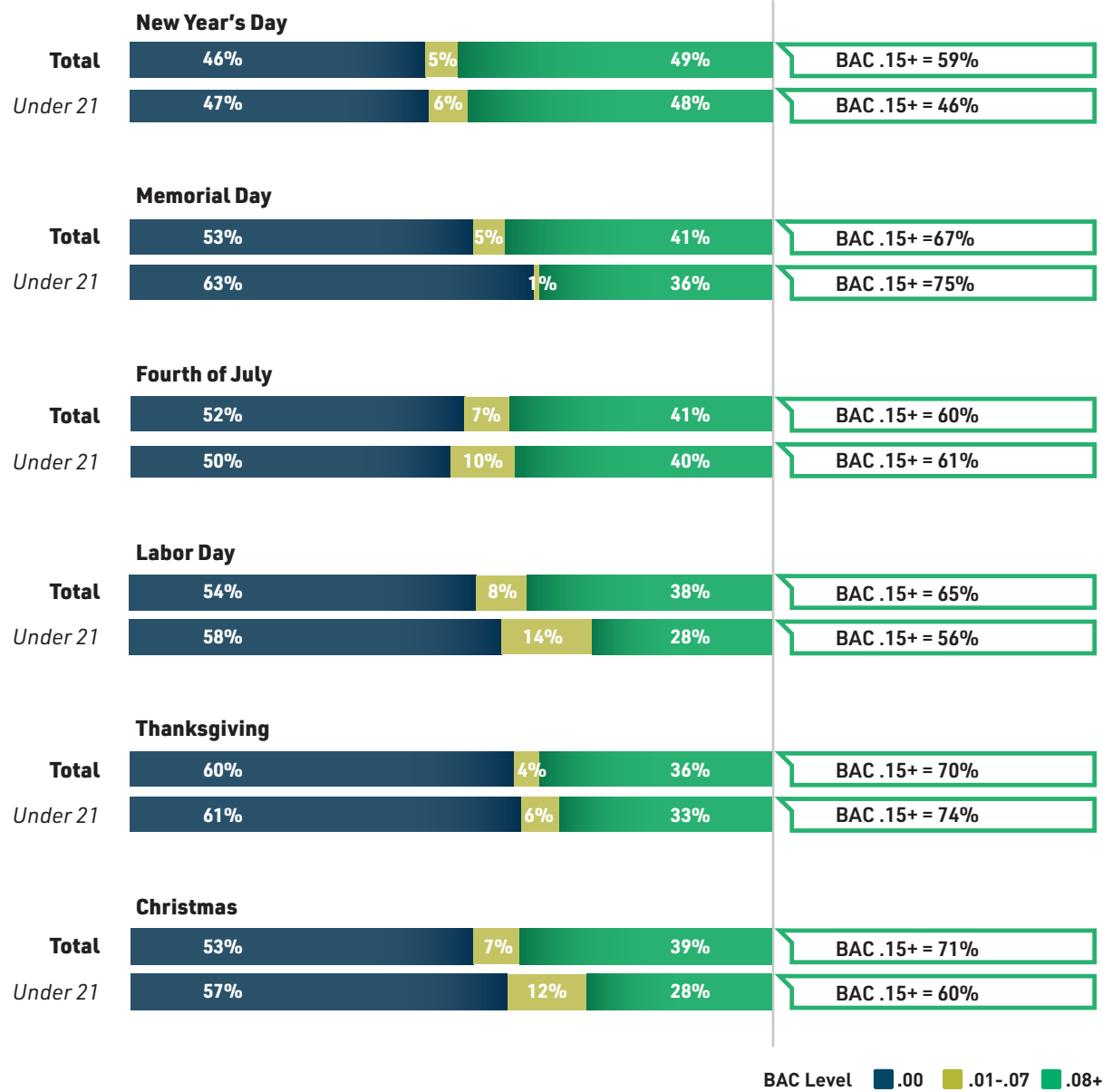
* Prior convictions only for events occurring within 5 years from date of crash. Total may not equal sum of categories due to rounding. Source: NHTSA, FARS, 5/22



DID YOU KNOW

Drunk driving fatalities accounted for 39% of all traffic fatalities during the holidays, and drivers with a high BAC were involved in 66% of drunk driving fatalities during the holidays.

Holiday Traffic Fatalities by BAC Level



Source: NHTSA, FARS, 5/22
 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.

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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; Utah passed a law lowering the state's BAC limit from .08 to .05 for impaired driving that became effective December 30, 2018. Additionally, 44 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 3.5 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.

Learn more at

[Responsibility.org](https://responsibility.org)

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 and civilian population estimates which were used in this report



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