

State of

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**Drunk Driving
Fatalities in America**

2009

THE
CENTURY COUNCIL
DISTILLERS FIGHTING DRUNK DRIVING & UNDERAGE DRINKING

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 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 the District of Columbia have enacted legislation establishing a driver with a BAC of .08 to be legally intoxicated. Additionally, 42 states and the District of Columbia have laws and penalties for those who drive 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

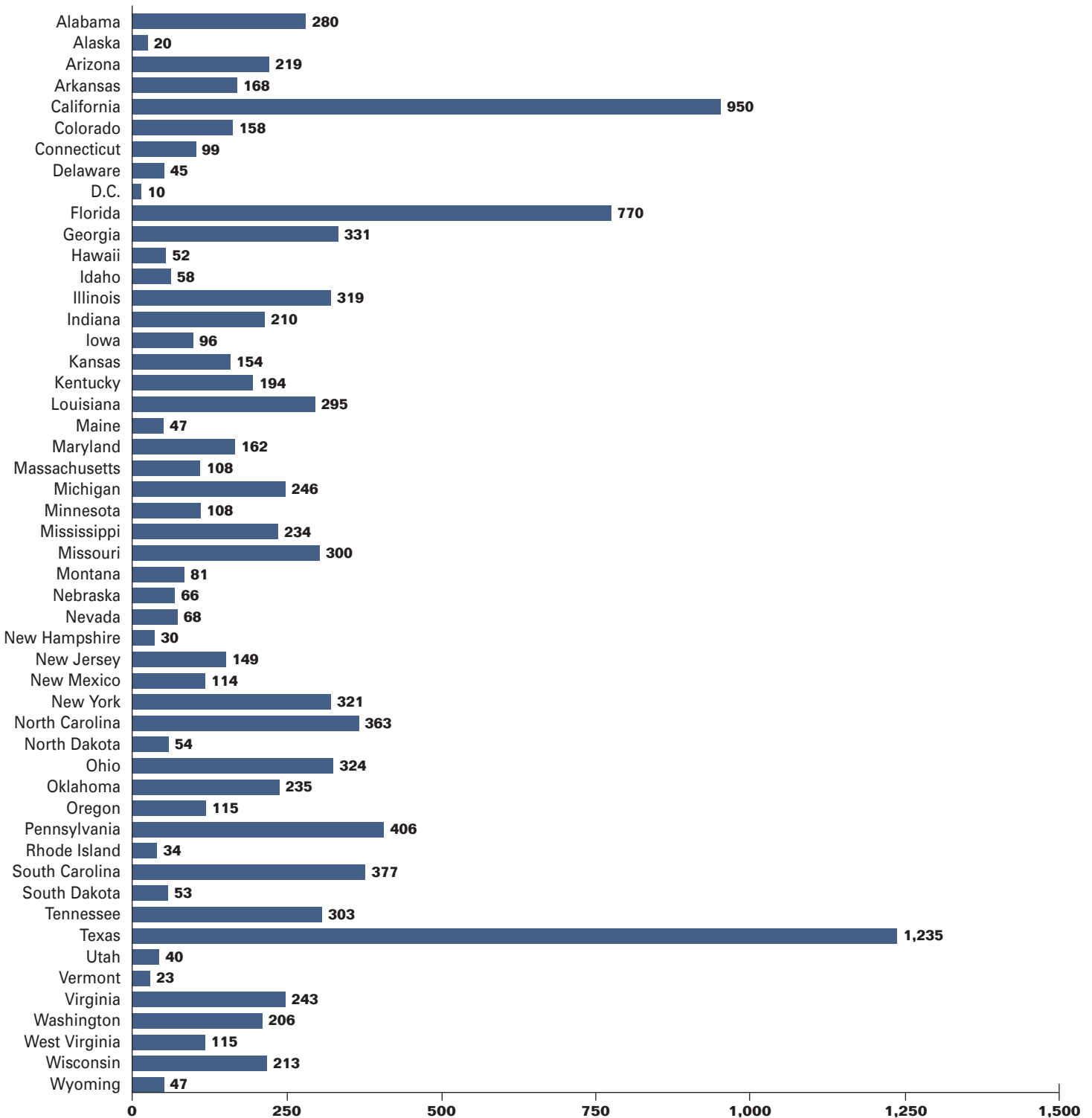
The rate of alcohol-impaired fatalities per 100,000 population is the number of alcohol-impaired fatalities for every 100,000 persons in the population being measured. For example, an alcohol-impaired fatality rate of 3.5 per 100,000 population nationally means that for every 100,000 people in the nation, there were approximately four 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.

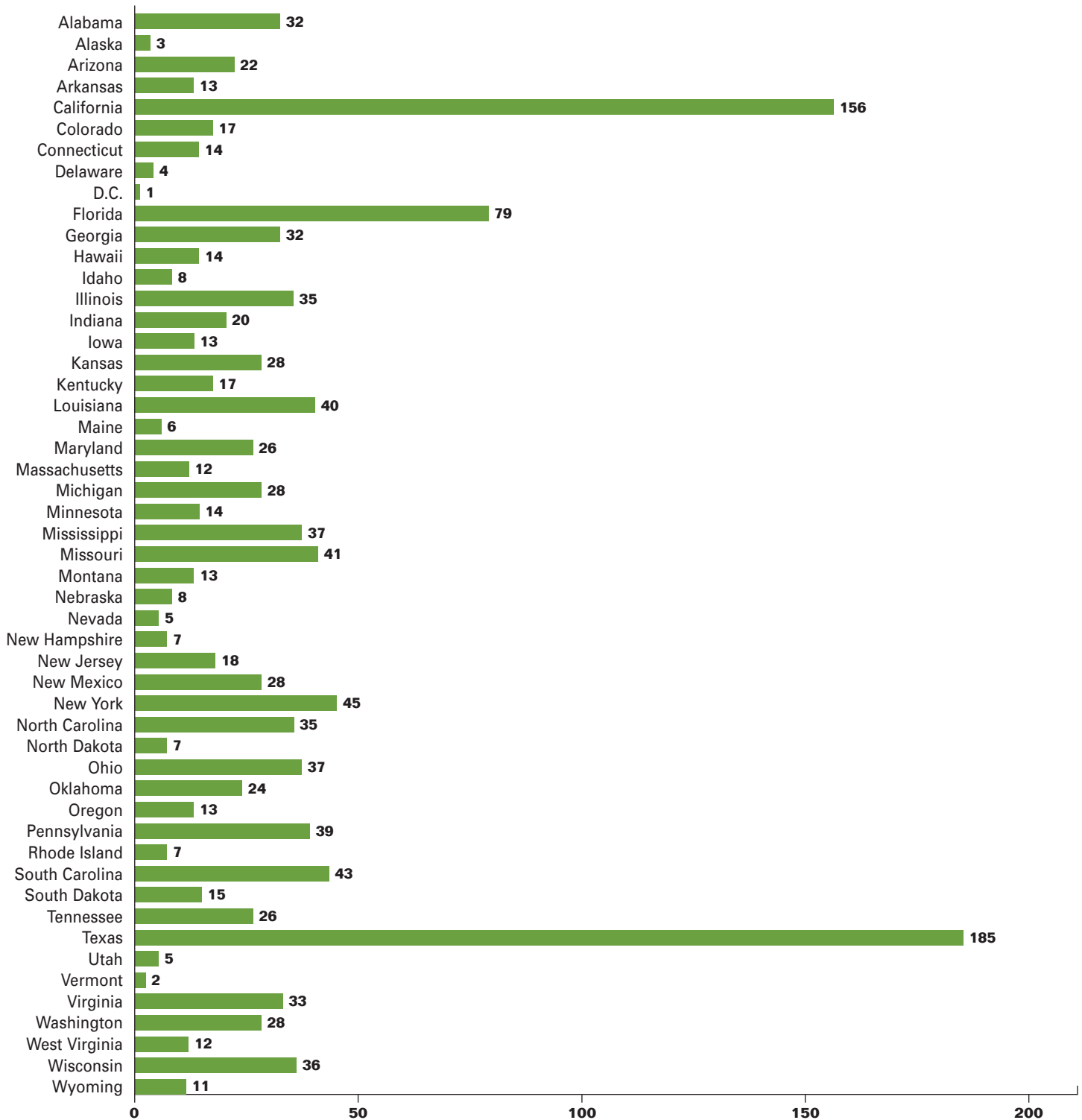
2009 Alcohol-Impaired Driving Fatalities

U.S. TOTAL: 10,839



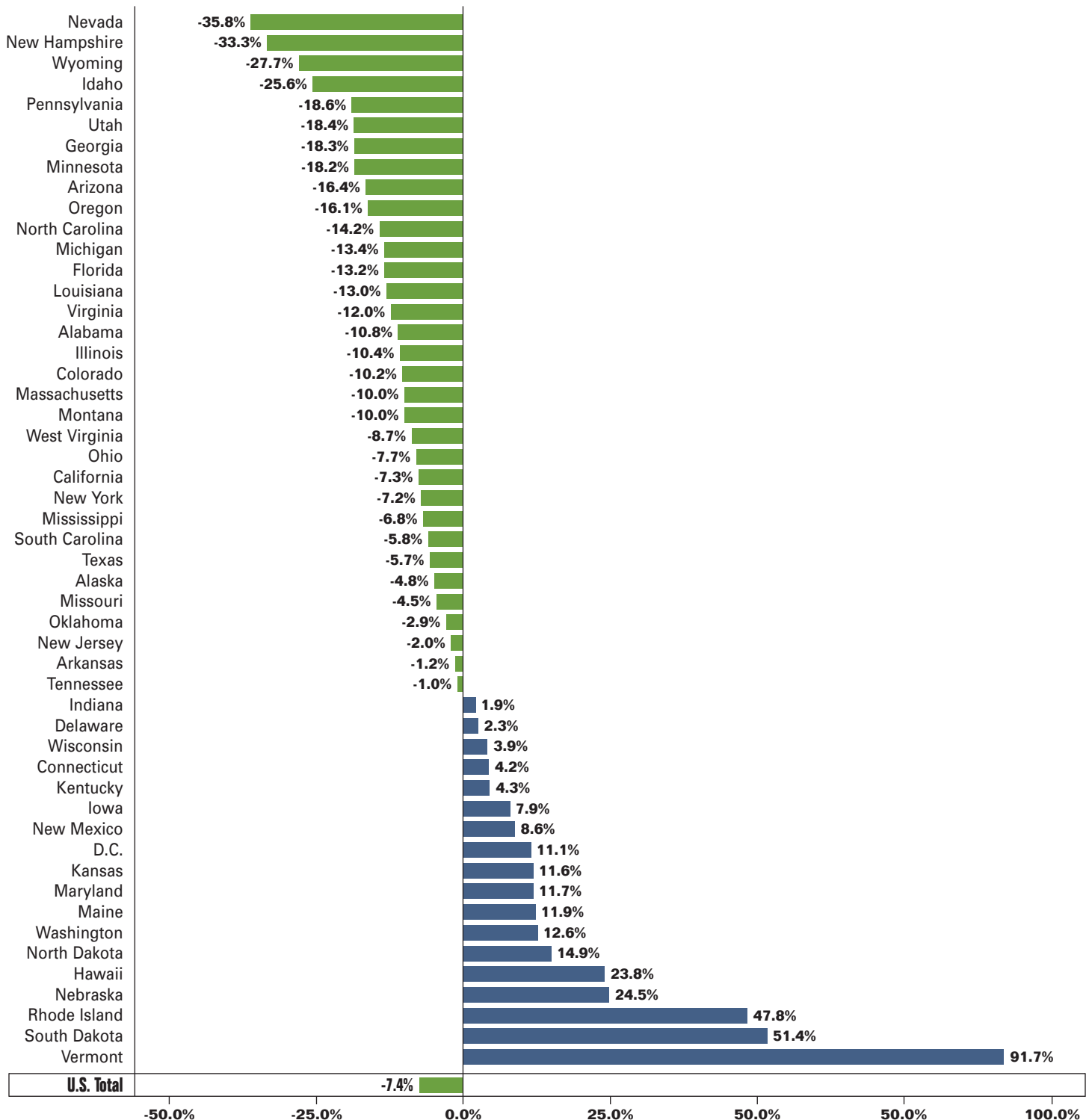
2009 Under 21 Alcohol-Impaired Driving Fatalities

U.S. TOTAL: 1,398



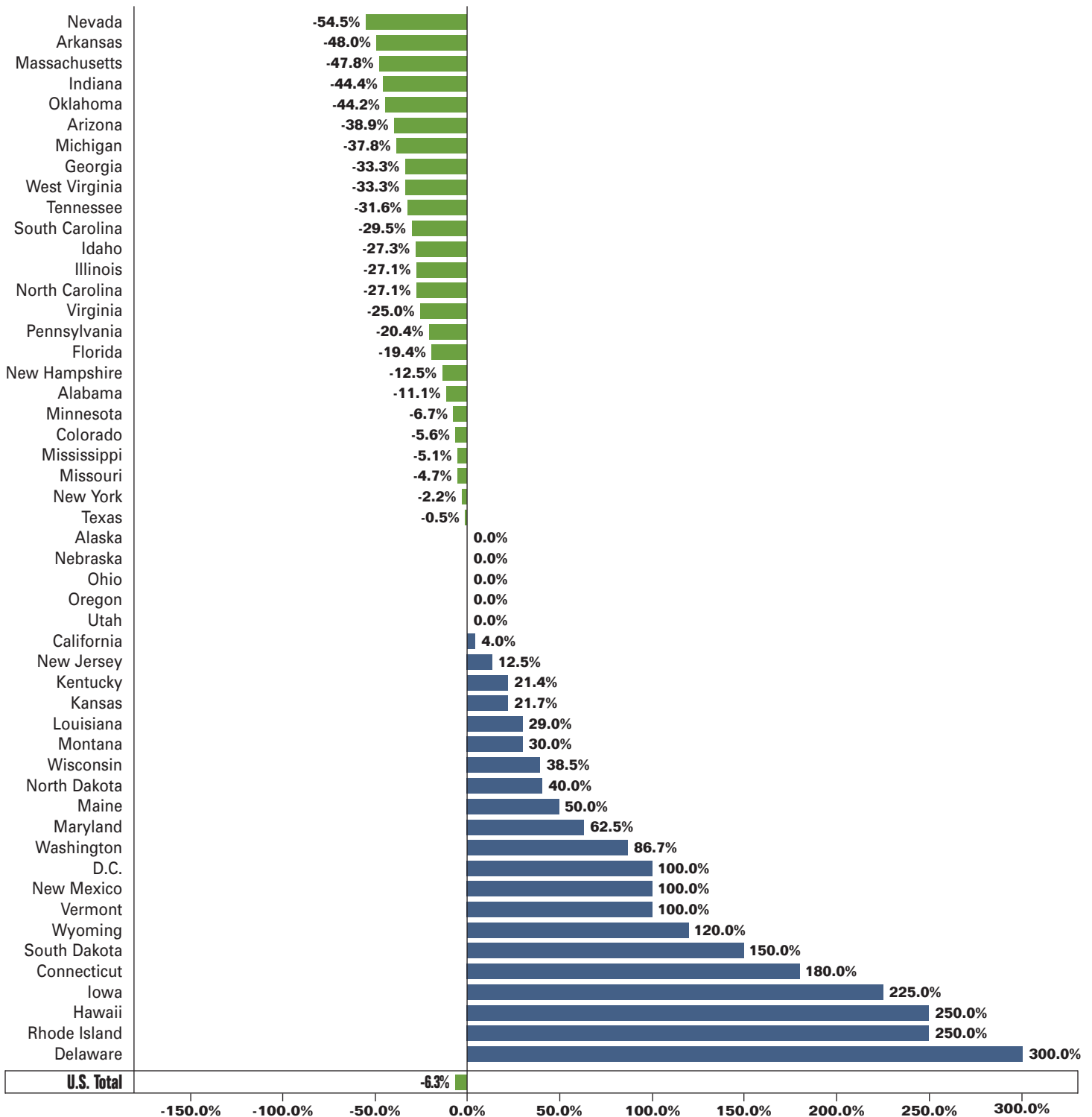
From 2008 to 2009, alcohol-impaired driving fatalities declined nationally and in 33 states.

PERCENT CHANGE IN ALCOHOL-IMPAIRED DRIVING FATALITIES FROM 2008 TO 2009 BY STATE RANK



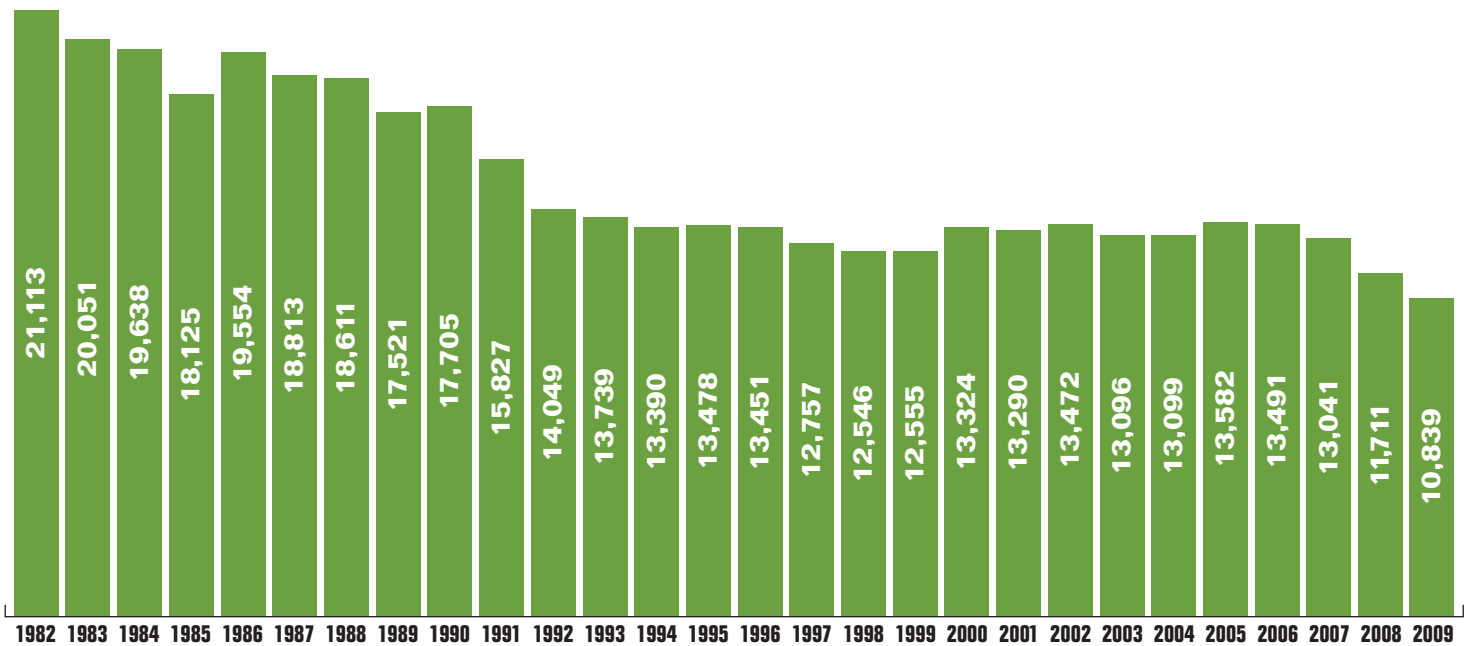
Between 2008 and 2009, alcohol-impaired driving fatalities among those under 21 decreased nationally and in 25 states.

PERCENT CHANGE IN UNDER 21 ALCOHOL-IMPAIRED DRIVING FATALITIES FROM 2008 TO 2009 BY STATE RANK



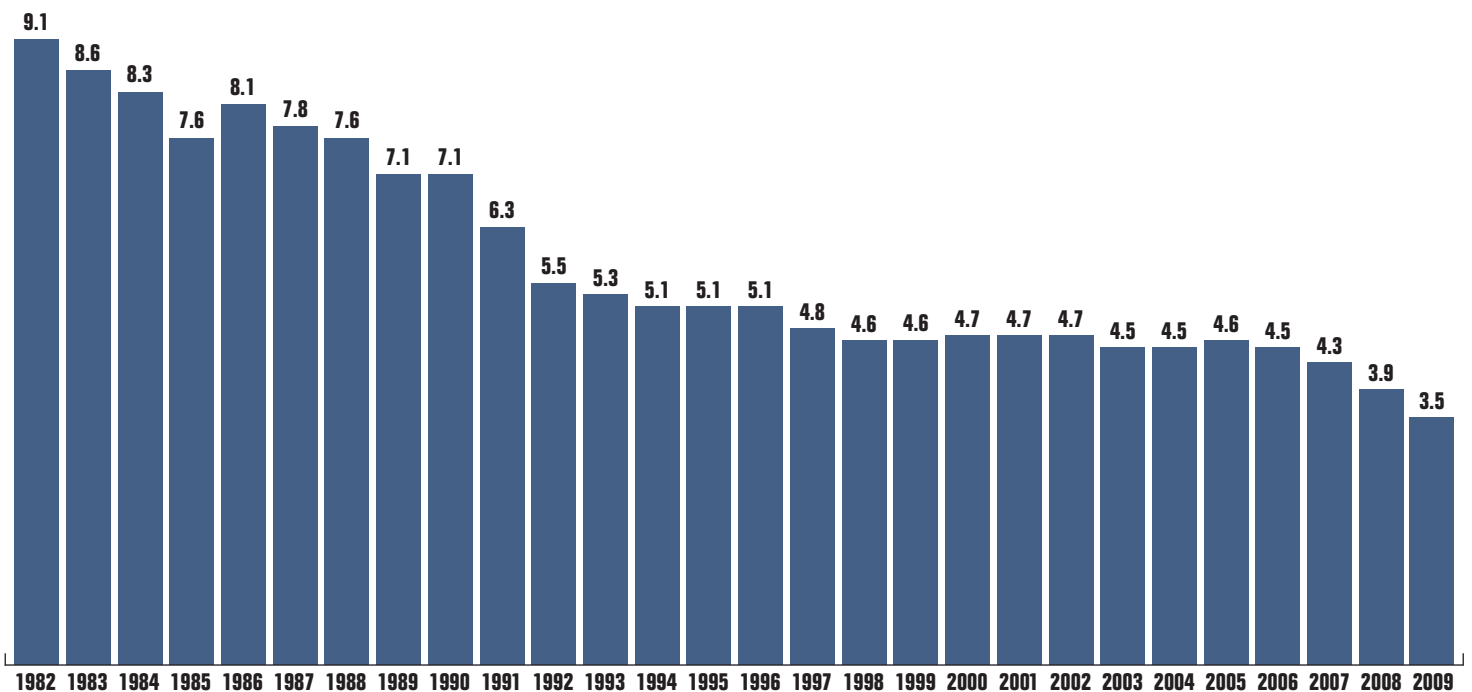
Alcohol-Impaired Driving Fatalities from 1982-2009

ALCOHOL-IMPAIRED DRIVING FATALITIES HAVE DECLINED 49% FROM 1982 TO 2009.



Data Source: NHTSA/FARS, 10/10

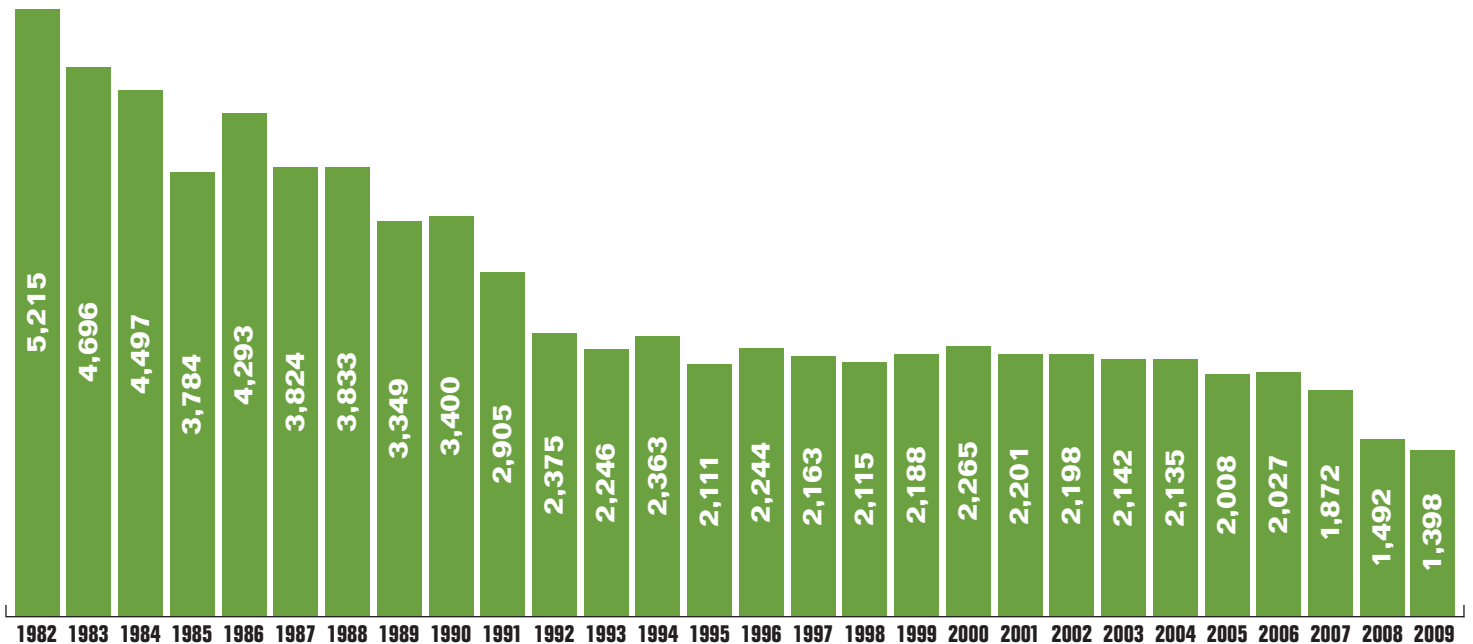
ALCOHOL-IMPAIRED DRIVING FATALITIES PER 100,000 POPULATION HAVE DECLINED 62% SINCE 1982.



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

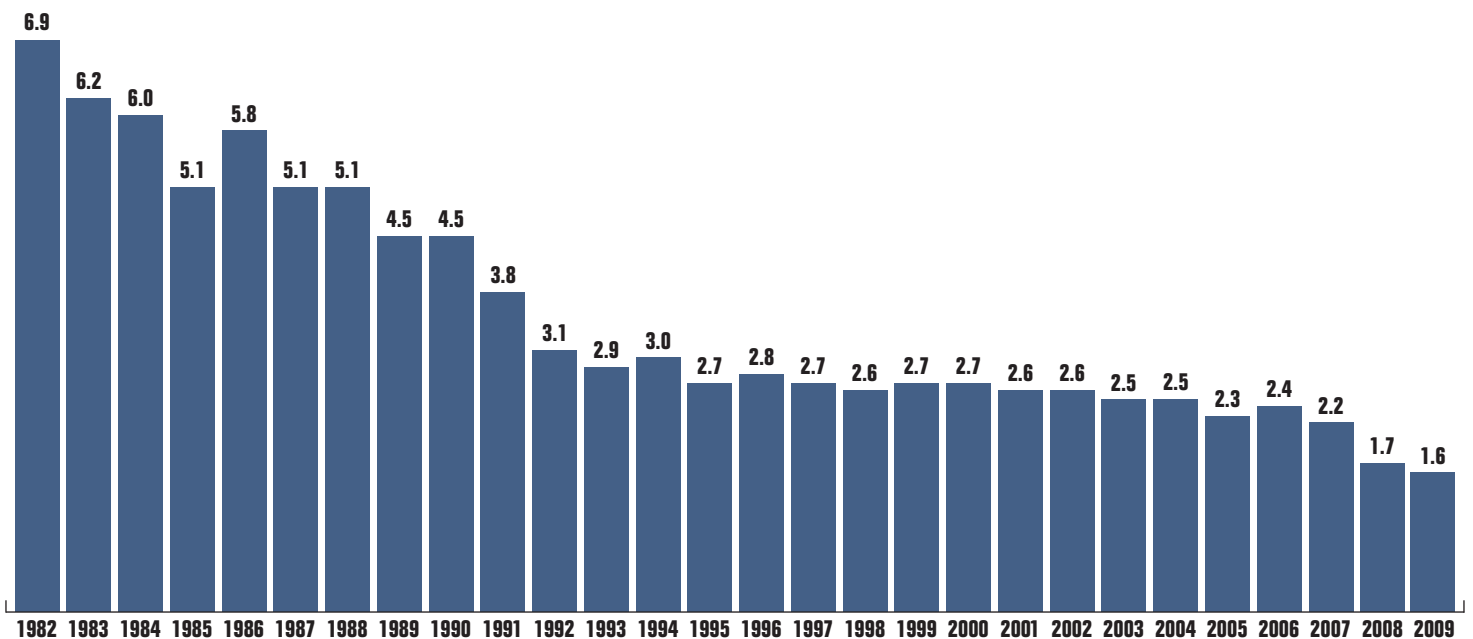
Under 21 Alcohol-Impaired Driving Fatalities from 1982-2009

UNDER 21 ALCOHOL-IMPAIRED DRIVING FATALITIES HAVE DECLINED 73% FROM 1982 TO 2009.



Data Source: NHTSA/FARS, 10/10

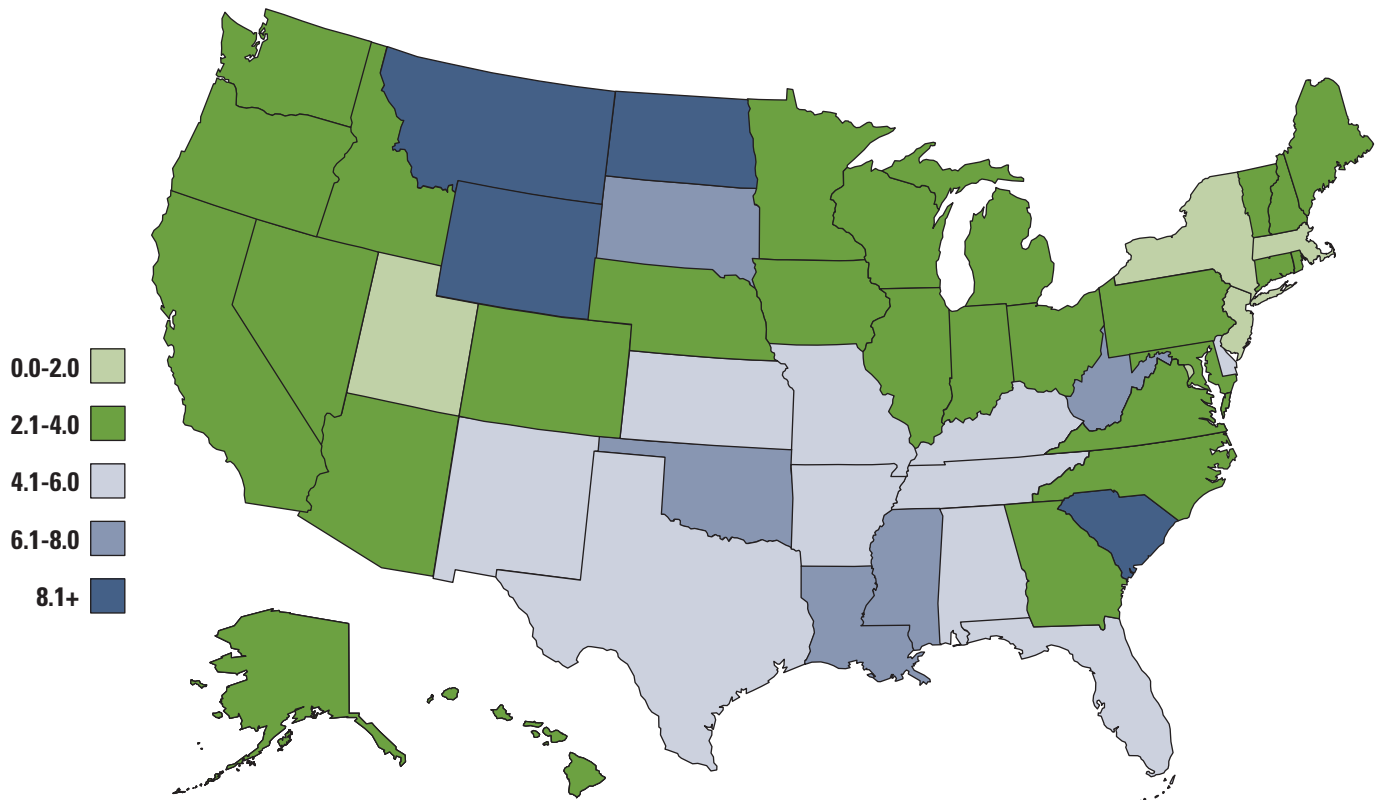
AMONG THOSE UNDER 21, ALCOHOL-IMPAIRED DRIVING FATALITIES PER 100,000 POPULATION DECREASED 77% SINCE 1982.



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

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.

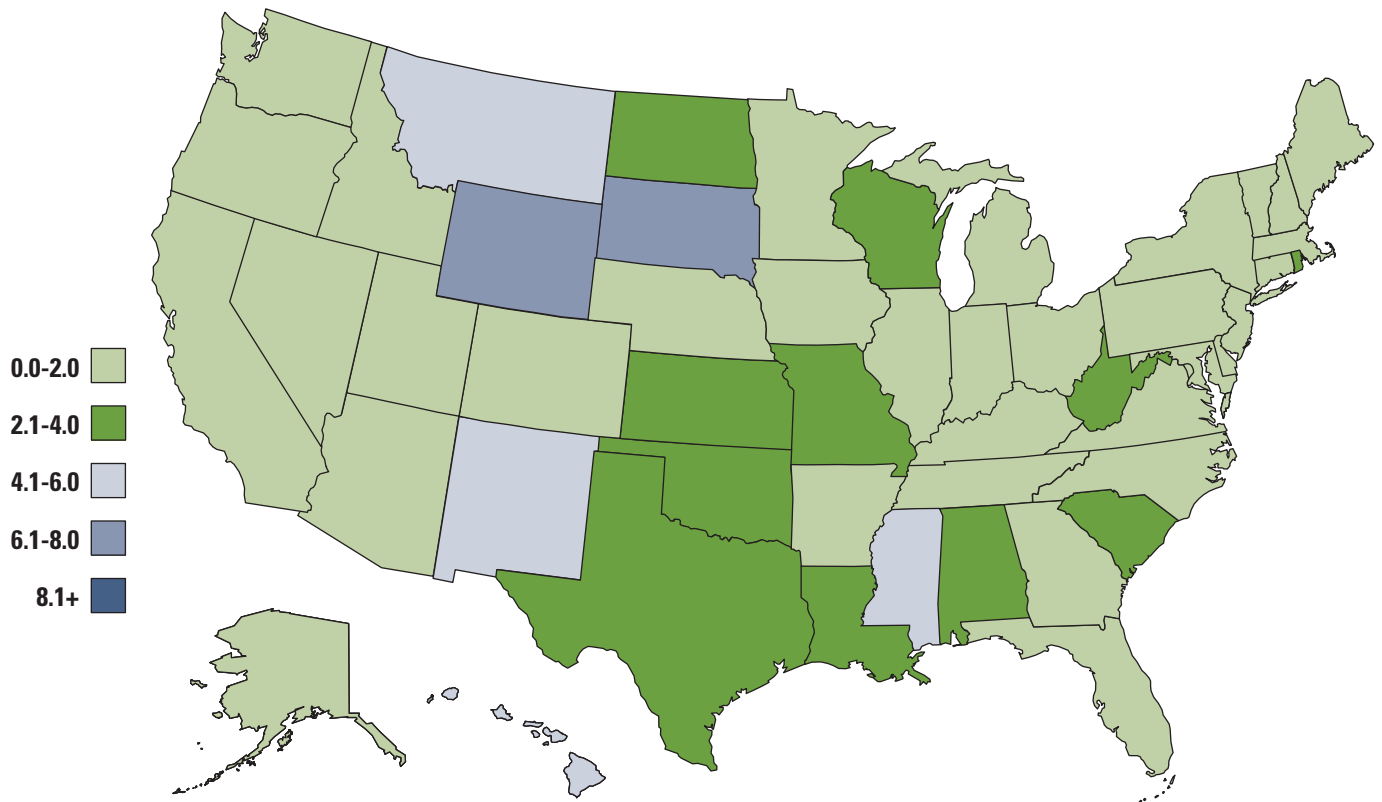
2009 ALCOHOL-IMPAIRED DRIVING FATALITY RATES BY STATE



Alabama	5.9	Illinois	2.5	Montana	8.3	Rhode Island	3.2
Alaska	2.9	Indiana	3.3	Nebraska	3.7	South Carolina	8.3
Arizona	3.3	Iowa	3.2	Nevada	2.6	South Dakota	6.5
Arkansas	5.8	Kansas	5.5	New Hampshire	2.3	Tennessee	4.8
California	2.6	Kentucky	4.5	New Jersey	1.7	Texas	5.0
Colorado	3.1	Louisiana	6.6	New Mexico	5.7	Utah	1.4
Connecticut	2.8	Maine	3.6	New York	1.6	Vermont	3.7
Delaware	5.1	Maryland	2.8	North Carolina	3.9	Virginia	3.1
D.C.	1.7	Massachusetts	1.6	North Dakota	8.3	Washington	3.1
Florida	4.2	Michigan	2.5	Ohio	2.8	West Virginia	6.3
Georgia	3.4	Minnesota	2.1	Oklahoma	6.4	Wisconsin	3.8
Hawaii	4.0	Mississippi	7.9	Oregon	3.0	Wyoming	8.6
Idaho	3.8	Missouri	5.0	Pennsylvania	3.2	U.S. Total	3.5

In 30 states and D.C., under 21 alcohol-impaired driving fatalities per 100,000 population were at or below the national average of 1.6 deaths per 100,000 population.

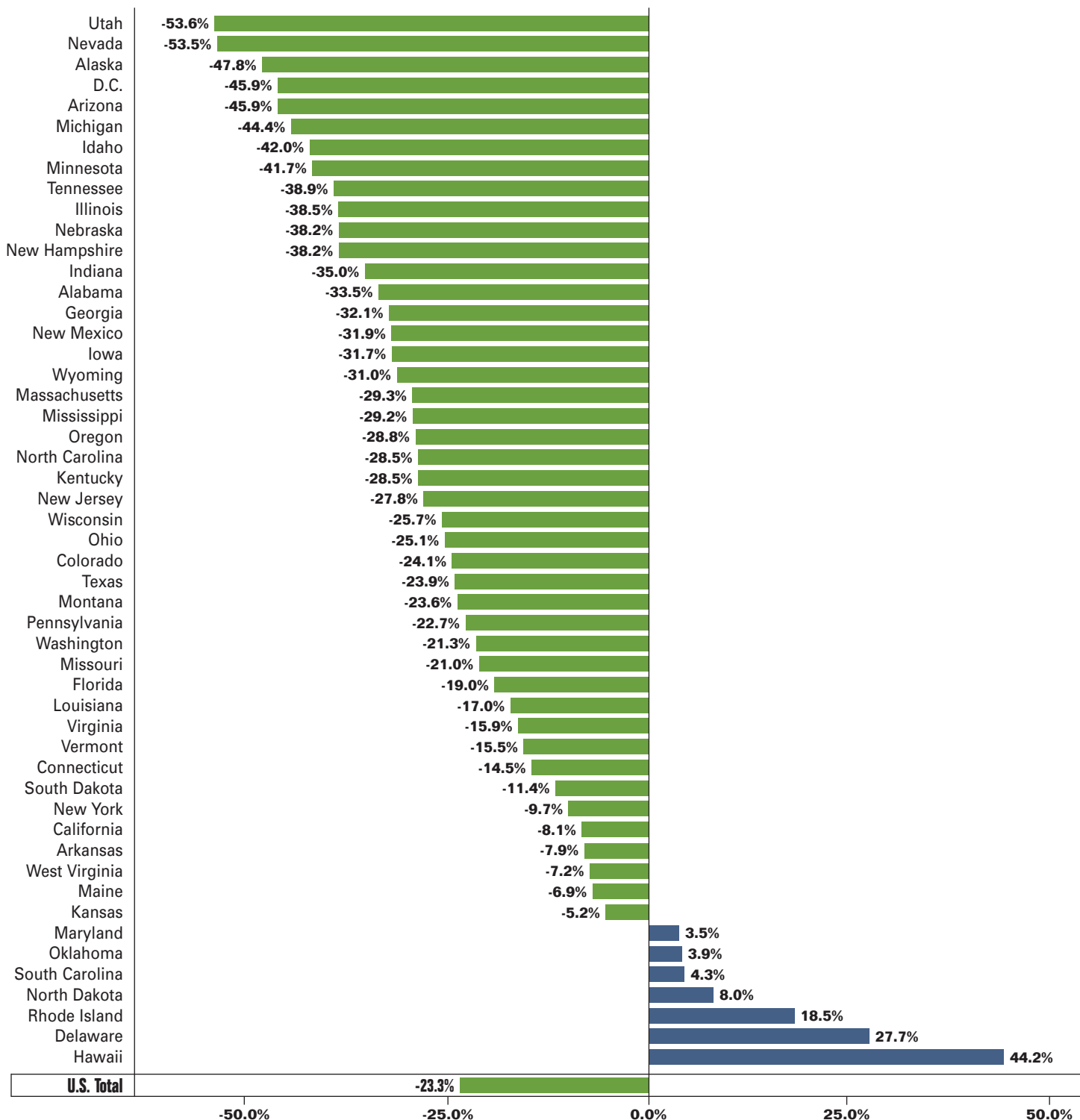
2009 UNDER 21 ALCOHOL-IMPAIRED DRIVING FATALITY RATES BY STATE



Alabama	2.4	Illinois	0.9	Montana	4.9	Rhode Island	2.5
Alaska	1.4	Indiana	1.1	Nebraska	1.5	South Carolina	3.4
Arizona	1.1	Iowa	1.5	Nevada	0.6	South Dakota	6.3
Arkansas	1.6	Kansas	3.4	New Hampshire	2.0	Tennessee	1.5
California	1.4	Kentucky	1.4	New Jersey	0.8	Texas	2.3
Colorado	1.2	Louisiana	3.0	New Mexico	4.7	Utah	0.5
Connecticut	1.4	Maine	1.8	New York	0.9	Vermont	1.3
Delaware	1.6	Maryland	1.6	North Carolina	1.3	Virginia	1.5
D.C.	0.7	Massachusetts	0.7	North Dakota	3.9	Washington	1.5
Florida	1.7	Michigan	1.0	Ohio	1.2	West Virginia	2.6
Georgia	1.1	Minnesota	0.9	Oklahoma	2.2	Wisconsin	2.3
Hawaii	4.1	Mississippi	4.1	Oregon	1.3	Wyoming	7.0
Idaho	1.6	Missouri	2.4	Pennsylvania	1.2	U.S. Total	1.6

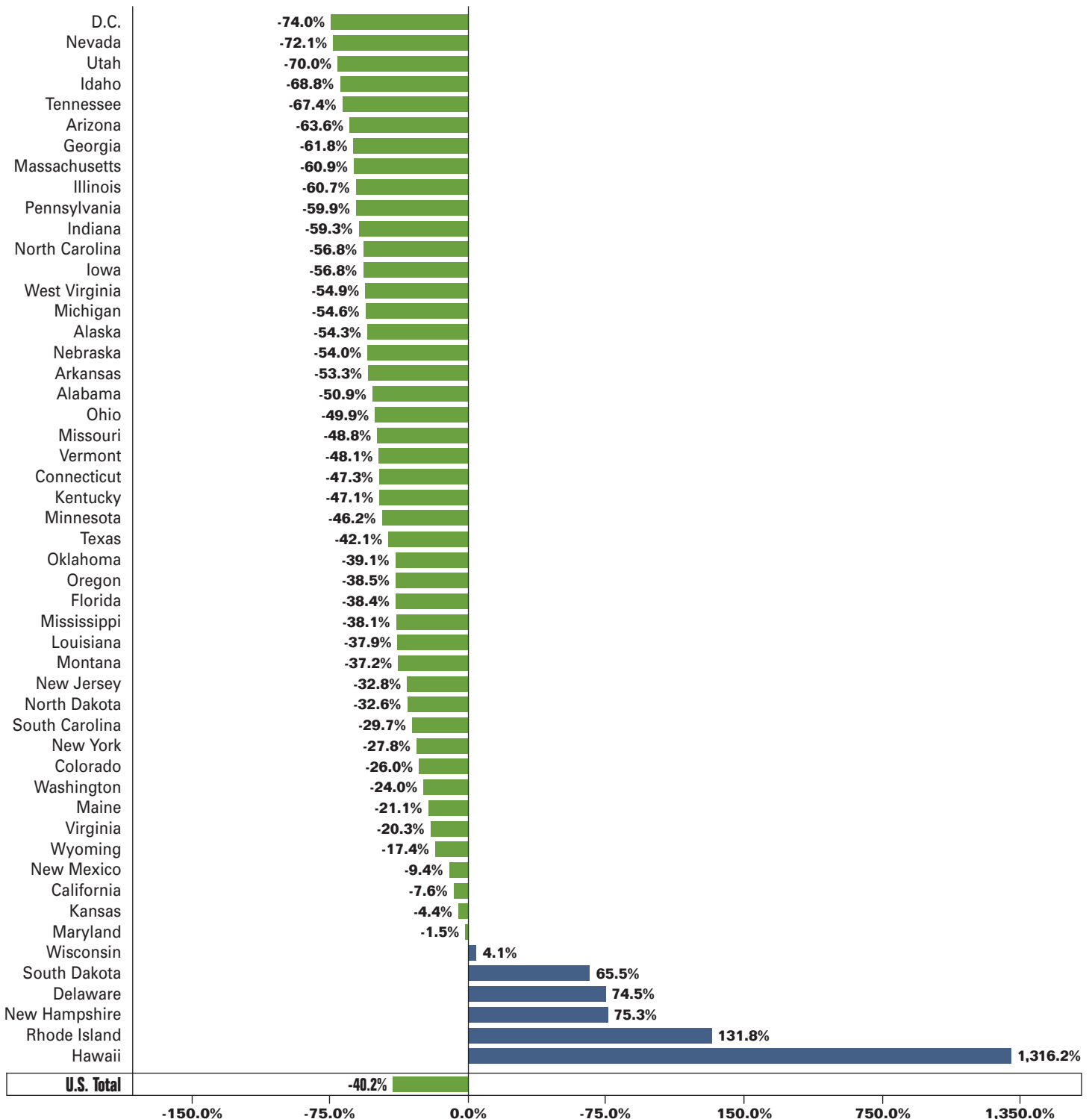
Between 1999 and 2009 alcohol-impaired driving fatalities per 100,000 population decreased in all but seven states.

PERCENT CHANGE IN ALCOHOL-IMPAIRED DRIVING FATALITY RATES FROM 1998 TO 2009 BY STATE RANK



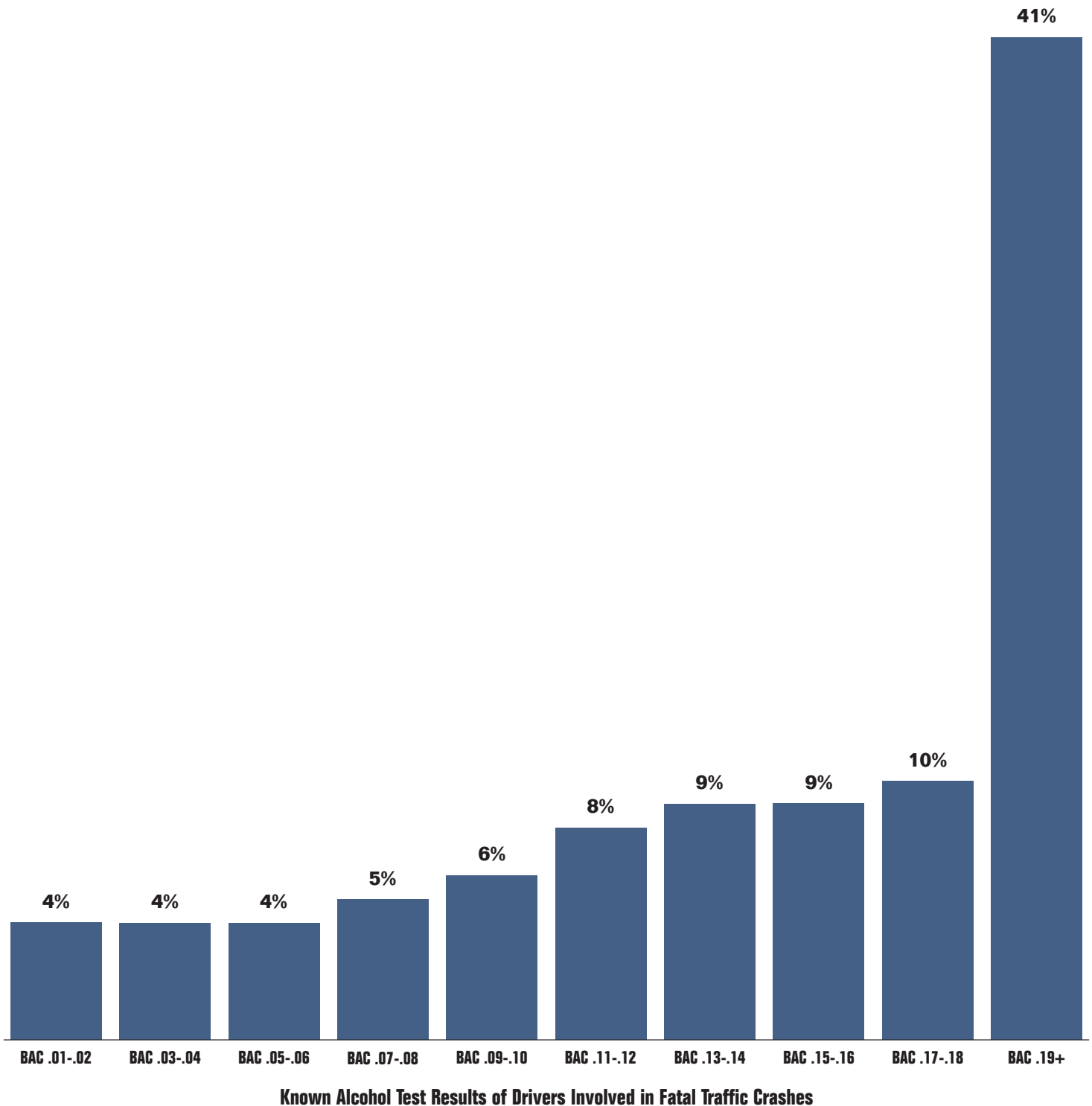
With the exception of six states, under 21 alcohol-impaired driving fatalities per 100,000 population declined between 1999 and 2009.

PERCENT CHANGE IN UNDER 21 ALCOHOL-IMPAIRED DRIVING FATALITY RATES FROM 1999 TO 2009 BY STATE RANK



In 2009, 60% of the alcohol-involved driving fatalities involved high BAC drivers.

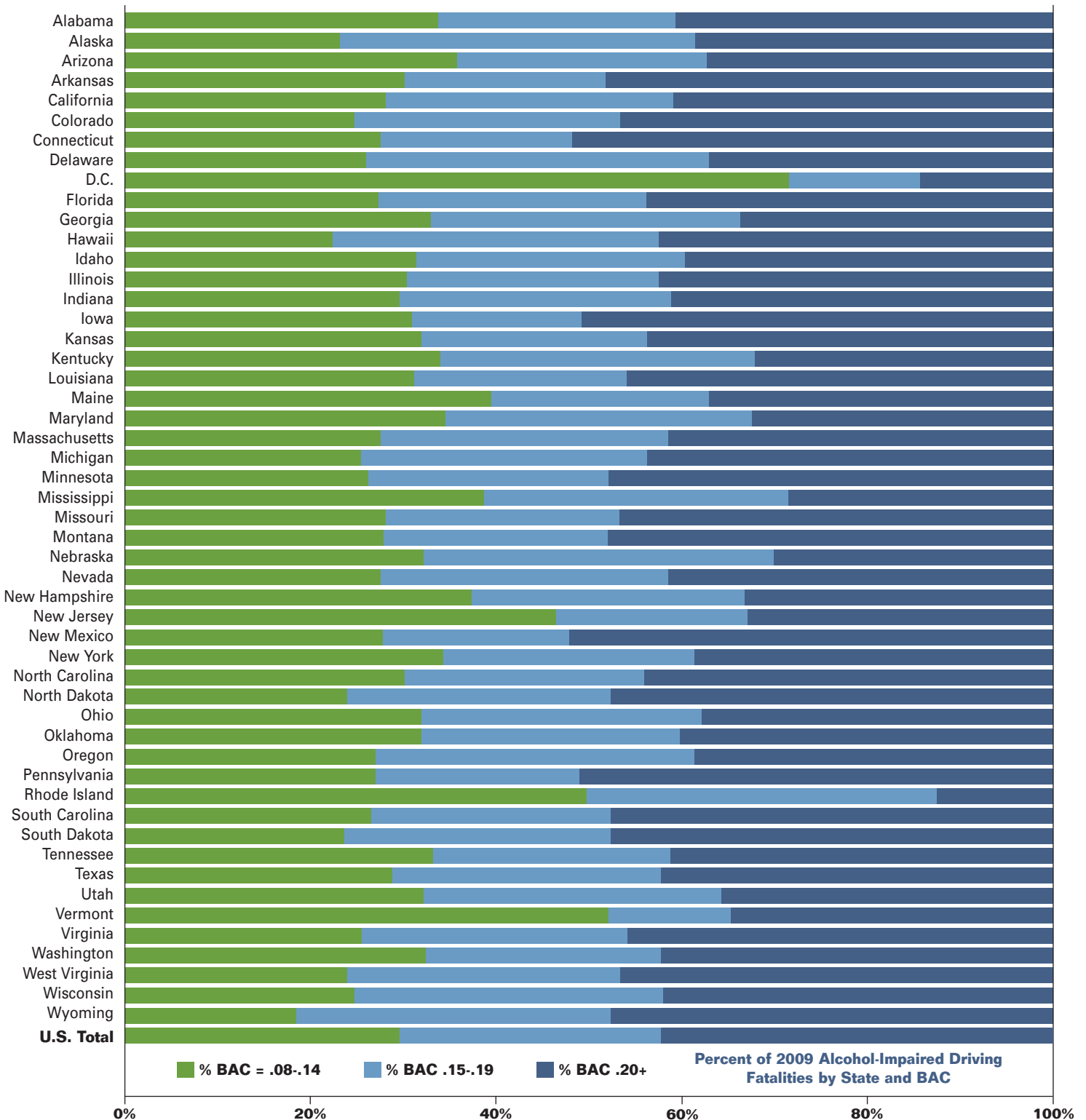
PERCENT OF 2009 DRIVERS IN ALCOHOL-INVOLVED DRIVING FATALITIES BY BAC TEST RESULT



*Data Source: NHTSA/FARS ARF of Drivers with Known BAC, 10/10
Total may not equal the sum of categories due to rounding.*

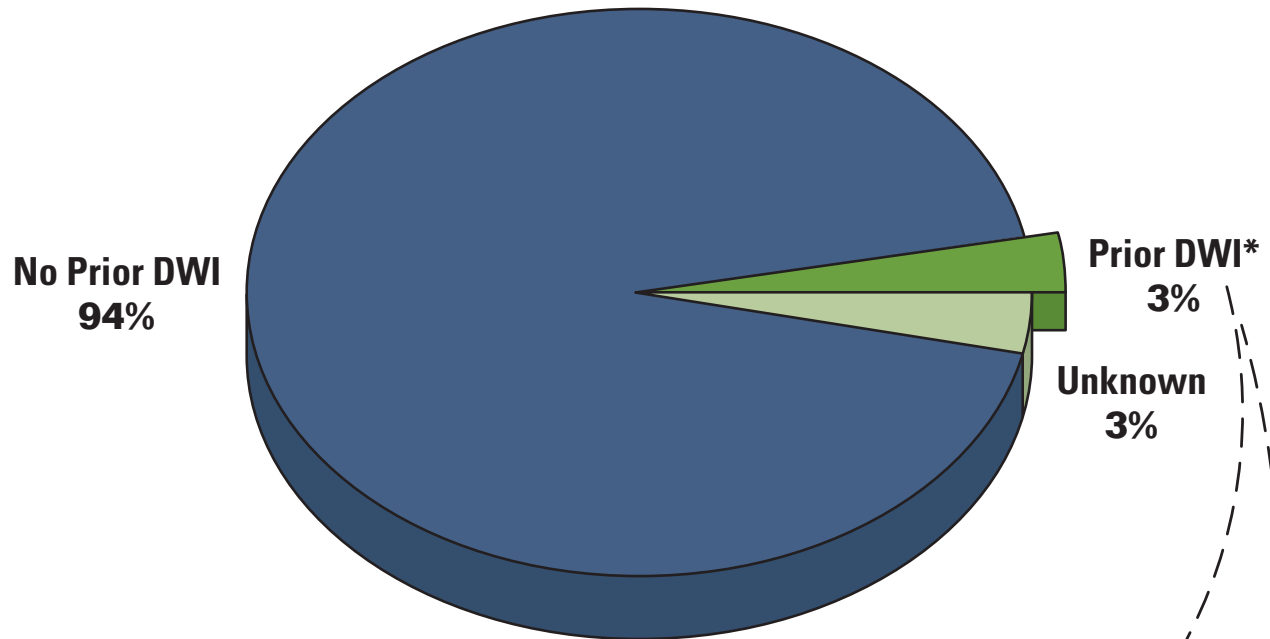
Seven out of ten drivers involved in fatal drunk driving crashes are hardcore drunk drivers in 2009.

HIGH BAC DRIVERS ACCOUNTED FOR 70% OF THE ALCOHOL-IMPAIRED FATAL CRASHES.

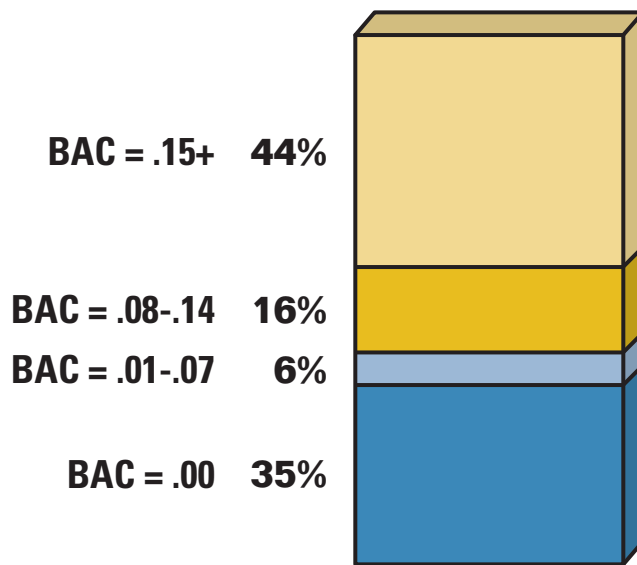


Data Source: NHTSA/FARS - 2009 ARF, 10/10

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



Drivers involved in fatal crashes



Repeat offenders by BAC level

Data Source: NHTSA/FARS, 10/10
*Prior convictions only for events occurring within 3 years from date of crash.
Total may not equal the sum of categories due to rounding.