

State of

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**Drunk Driving
Fatalities in America**

2007

THE
CENTURY COUNCIL

DISTILLERS FIGHTING DRUNK DRIVING & UNDERAGE DRINKING

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DISTILLERS FIGHTING DRUNK DRIVING & UNDERAGE DRINKING

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Overview

A leader in the fight to eliminate drunk driving and underage drinking and to promote responsible decision making regarding beverage alcohol, The Century Council is a national not-for-profit organization funded by distillers. Founded in 1991, The Century Council develops and implements innovative programs and public awareness campaigns and promotes action through strategic partnerships. The Century Council is funded by the following companies: Bacardi U.S.A., Inc., Beam Global Spirits and Wine, Inc., Brown-Forman, Constellation Brands, Inc., DIAGEO, Hood River Distillers, Inc., and Sidney Frank Importing Co., Inc. An independent Advisory Board of distinguished leaders in business, government, education, medicine, and other relevant disciplines assists the Council in its efforts.

Since 1991, our funding companies have invested nearly \$200 million dollars in The Century Council enabling us to pursue our mission of fighting two of society's top safety concerns – drunk driving and underage drinking. During this same period of time alcohol-impaired driving fatalities have declined 18%, and among our nation's youth under 21 the decline is even more significant, decreasing 37% since the Council's formation. While the Council cannot claim sole responsibility for these reductions, it is likely The Century Council has played a significant role.

Despite this progress, more must still be done. In 2007 nearly seven out of ten drivers involved in an alcohol-impaired fatal crash, had a BAC level of .15, and these drivers were nine times more likely than a non-drinking driver to have a prior conviction for driving while intoxicated (DWI). Since the launch of the National Hardcore Drunk Driving Project in 1997, the Council has been spotlighting the hardcore drunk driving problem and has highlighted research, strategies, and programs for the swift identification, certain punishment, and effective treatment of these deadly offenders.

This year, as part of the project, The Century Council will release an update to the comprehensive *Combating Hardcore Drunk Driving Sourcebook* and the new *Hardcore Drunk Driving Prosecutorial Guide*, developed in cooperation with the National District Attorneys Association (NDAA) which builds on the momentum of the effective *Hardcore Drunk Driving Judicial Guide* and helps coordinate judicial and prosecutorial DUI adjudication strategies. The Council will continue its work, involving all sectors of the community including law enforcement, judges, public officials, educators, insurers, health care professionals, government agencies, and advocacy organizations, in this important fight to advance policies and programs to help eliminate hardcore drunk driving.

These statistics and initiatives highlight the Council's leadership role in the fight to eliminate drunk driving. As Chairman of The Century Council and a former member of the U.S. House of Representatives who personally brought the Council's programs into communities in my district, I hope this information will serve as a useful reference tool in the fight against drunk driving and underage drinking. To find out more about The Century Council's programs and initiatives to fight drunk driving and underage drinking, or for copies of our latest research, please visit our website at www.centurycouncil.org.



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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 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.

ALCOHOL-RELATED FATALITY

A fatality is considered alcohol-related if either the driver or anyone else involved in the police reported crash, other than a passenger (e.g., a pedestrian or bicyclist), has alcohol in their blood stream (a BAC level of .01 or more). For example, if a pedestrian with a BAC of .01 steps off the curb in front of a sober driver and is killed by that driver, this fatality is included in alcohol-related traffic statistics. If a driver who has been drinking hits a car with two sober people in it and kills both, those two fatalities are considered alcohol-related. In producing national and state alcohol-related 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 passed 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.

Terminology

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 (or alcohol-related) fatalities per 100,000 population is the number of alcohol-impaired (or alcohol-related) fatalities for every 100,000 persons in the population being measured. For example, an alcohol-impaired fatality rate of 4.3 per 100,000 population nationally means that for every 100,000 people in the nation, there were approximately four alcohol-impaired fatalities.

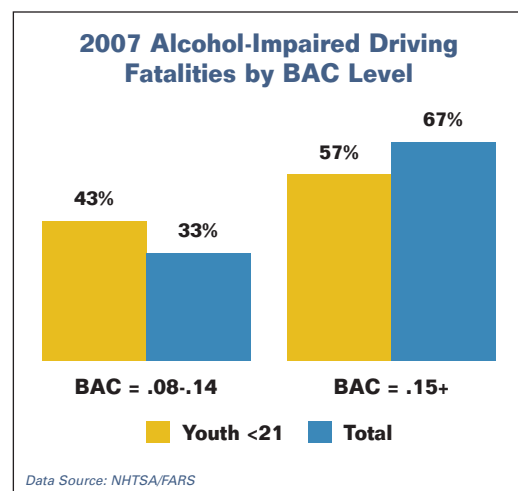
Foreword

The Century Council is pleased to present its annual *State of Drunk Driving Fatalities in America, 2007*. This report includes tables and graphs summarizing trend data and the latest available statistics on alcohol involvement in fatal crashes in the U.S. and state by state. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has begun using a new definition to estimate the number of people killed in traffic crashes that involve alcohol. The new definition of *alcohol-impaired* fatalities involve at least one driver or motorcycle operator with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) level at or above the legal per se level, that is a BAC level of .08 or higher. As such, this year's information includes the new alcohol-impaired driving fatality statistics and the former alcohol-related traffic fatality statistics, as well as hardcore drunk driving statistics.

In 2007, 41,059 people died on our nation's roadways, a reduction of 1,649, or 3.9%, from the previous year. Alcohol was involved in 37% of these motor vehicle crashes. Alcohol-impaired driving fatalities accounted for 32% of all fatal crashes, down almost 3.7% from 13,491 in 2006 to 12,998 in 2007. This represents an overall decline in both traffic fatalities and alcohol-impaired driving fatalities for the second consecutive year, while at the same time the fatality rate per 100 million vehicle miles of travel (VMT) and the alcohol-impaired driving fatality rate per 100 VMT reached historic low levels (1.37 and 0.43, respectively.)

Overall, 32 states had decreases in the number of alcohol-impaired driving fatalities in 2007. Alcohol-impaired driving fatalities among youths under 21 decreased nationally and in 26 states and the District of Columbia. The number of alcohol-impaired driving fatalities among youths under 21 decreased 9.2% from 2,027 in 2006 to 1,840 in 2007. The rate of alcohol-impaired fatalities per 100,000 population decreased more than four percent from 4.5 in 2006 to 4.3 in 2007, and the youth rates are even more encouraging decreasing 12.5% to a record low of 2.1 in 2007.

Since record keeping began in 1982, alcohol-impaired driving fatalities have decreased 38% and NHTSA estimates show the proportion of these fatal crashes has dropped from 48% to 32% over this same period of time. However, it is important to note that the impact of the hardcore drunk driver has not changed. This dangerous segment of the driving population, the hardcore drunk driver – those who drive at high BAC's (.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 – continue to account for a disproportionate share of the alcohol-impaired driving fatalities on our nation's roadways. Over the past ten years many legislative and vehicle and occupant safety enhancements have been made in an effort to make our nation's roads safer and to eliminate drunk driving, but a decade later the proportion of alcohol-involved fatalities involving a driver with a BAC level of .15 or higher remains unchanged at 57%. Drivers with a high BAC (.15+) accounted for 67% of the alcohol-impaired driving fatalities in 2007. Furthermore, the median BAC level remains twice the legal limit at .16, and 46% of drivers with a prior driving while intoxicated (DWI) conviction in the past three years involved in a fatal crash had a BAC level of .15 or higher.



Similar to alcohol-impaired fatality statistics, alcohol-related traffic fatalities have steadily decreased overall and among youth under 21 since the highest levels recorded in 1982. Alcohol-related traffic fatalities decreased 35% from 26,172 in 1982 to 17,036 in 2007. Among youth under 21, the number of youths killed in alcohol-related traffic crashes has decreased 63% from 6,512 in 1982 to 2,422 in 2007.

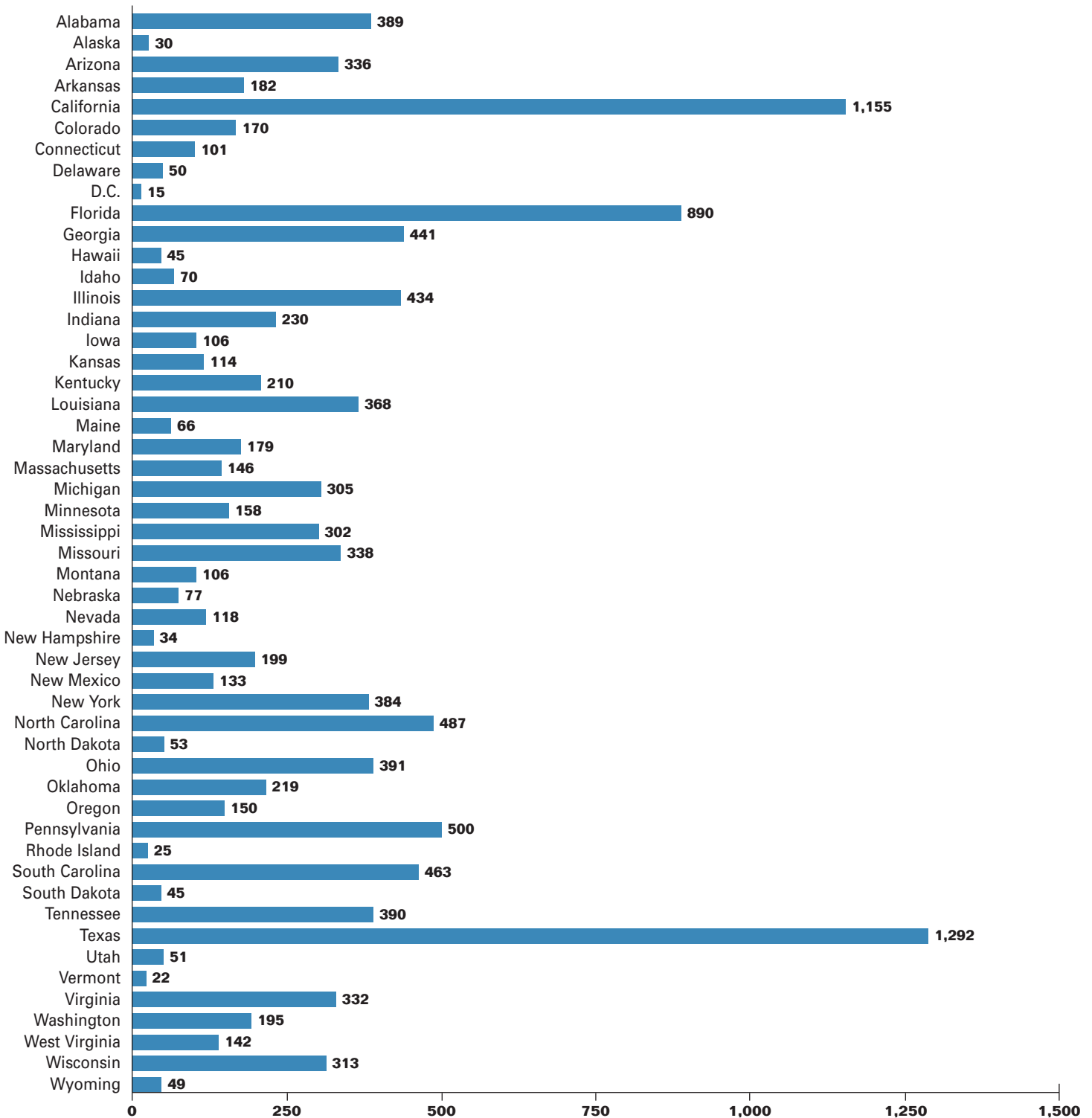
Foreword

These statistics and others in this report are all positive indicators of the progress being made to reduce and ultimately eliminate drunk driving. The Century Council will continue its efforts in this important fight and stands ready to assist law enforcement, judges, prosecutors, legislators, state and federal government agencies, treatment professionals, and advocacy groups in this important and life-saving effort.

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 published state resident population estimates used for this report.

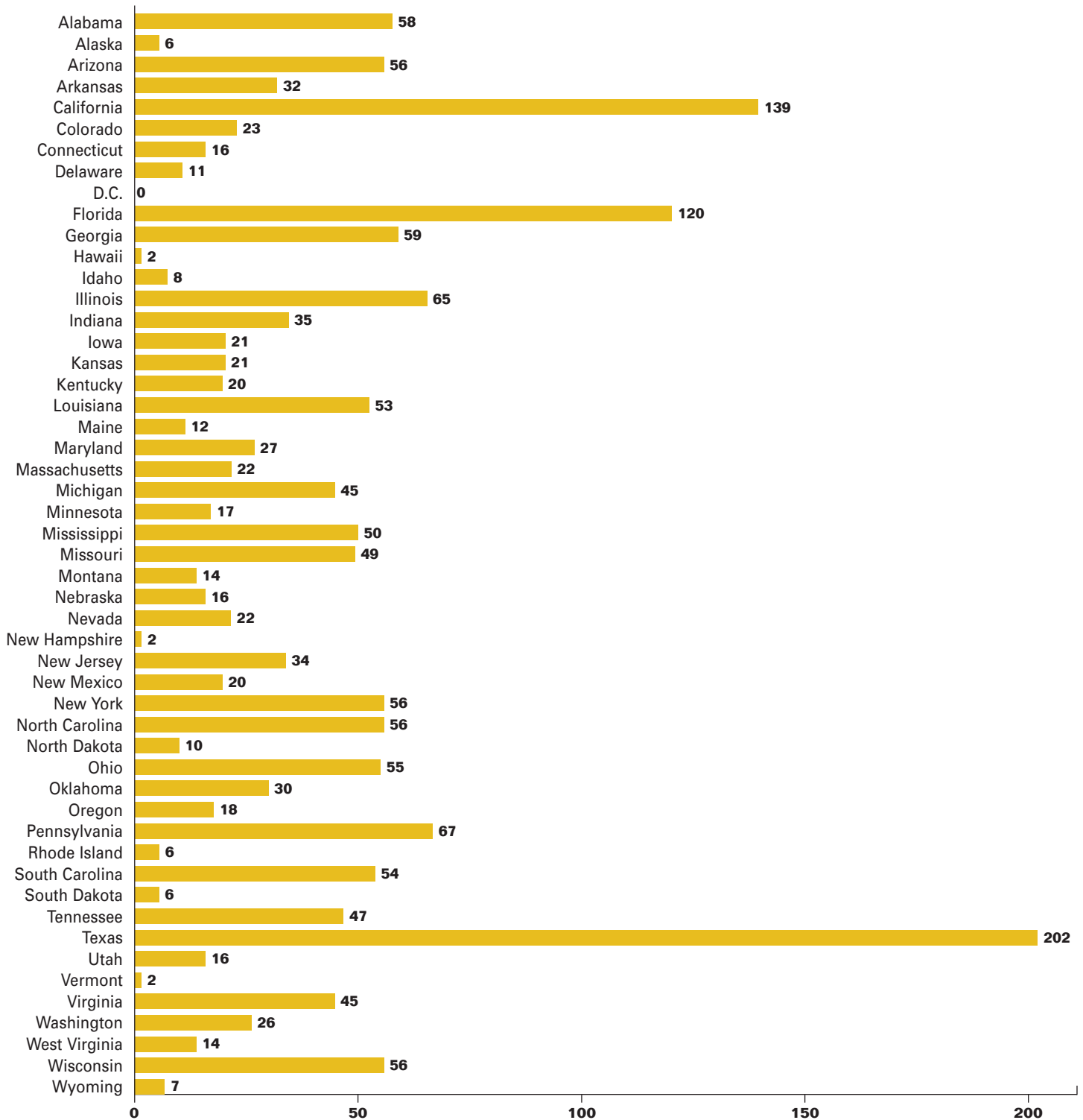
2007 Alcohol-Impaired Driving Fatalities

U.S. TOTAL: 12,998



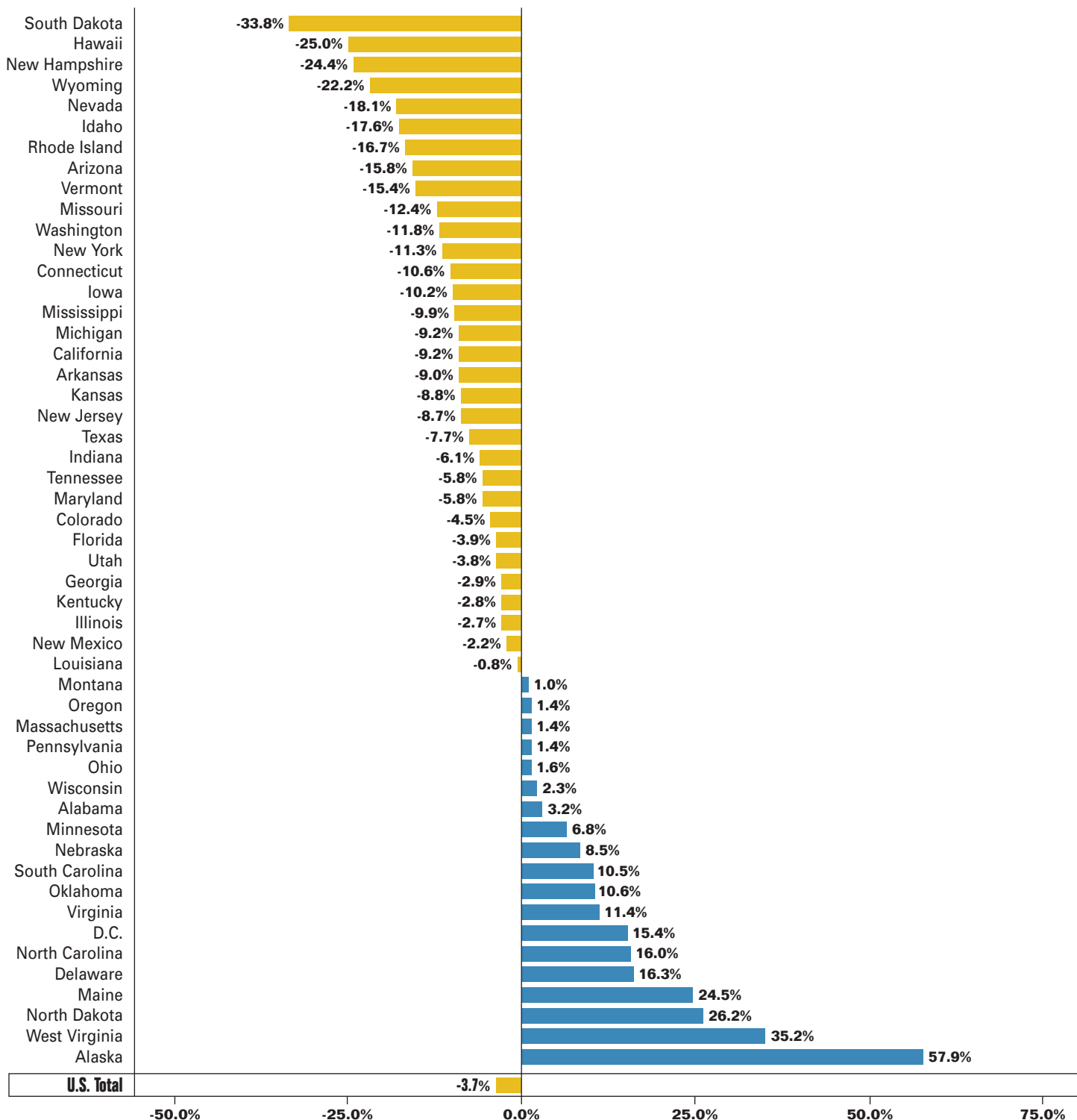
2007 Youth Under 21 Alcohol-Impaired Driving Fatalities

U.S. TOTAL: 1,840



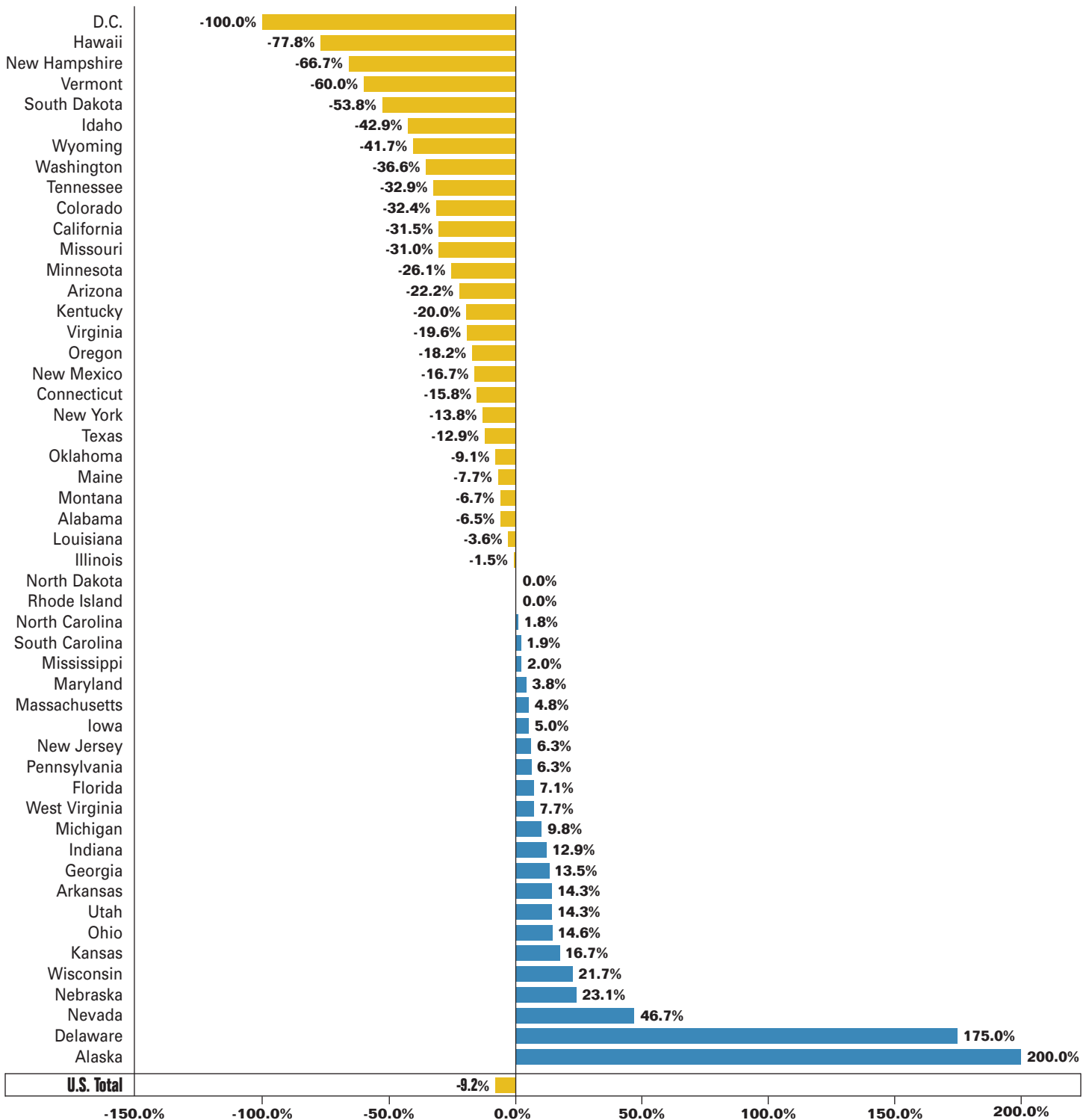
Between 2006 and 2007, alcohol-impaired driving fatalities decreased nationally and in 32 states.

PERCENT CHANGE IN ALCOHOL-IMPAIRED DRIVING FATALITIES FROM 2006 TO 2007 BY STATE RANK



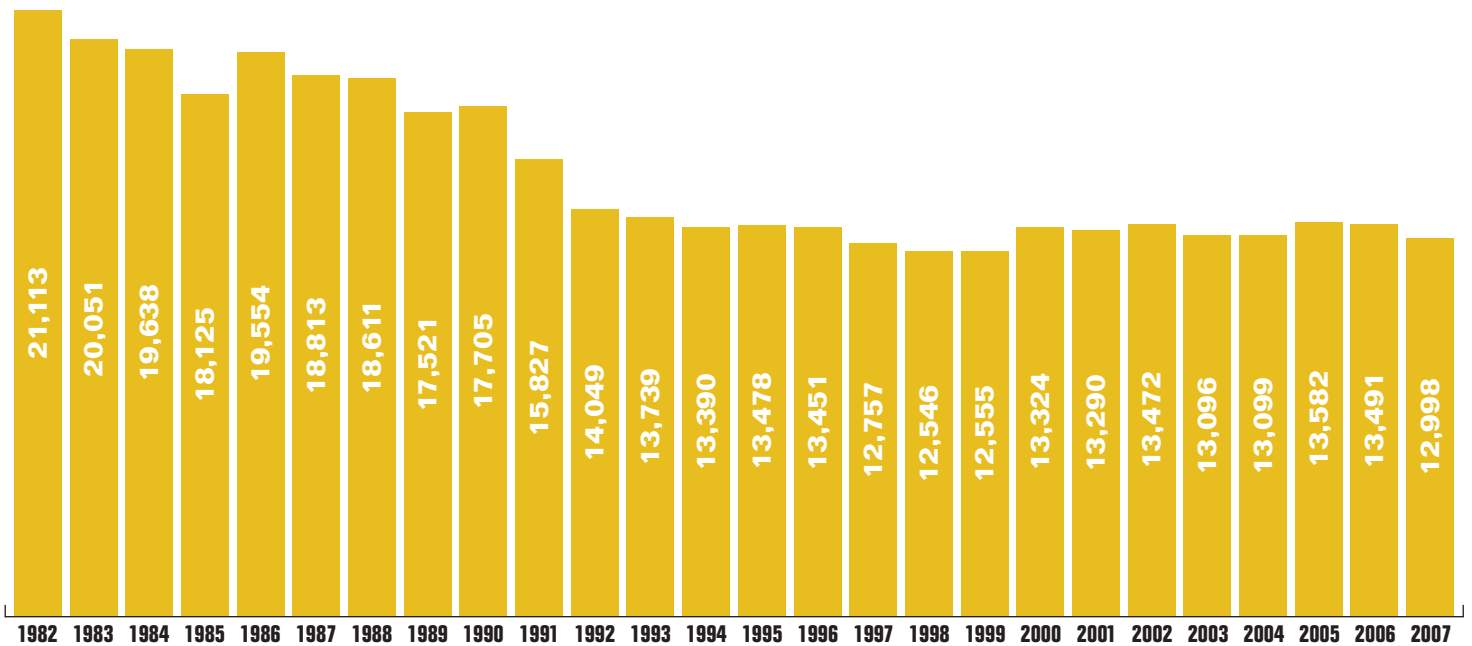
From 2006 to 2007, alcohol-impaired driving fatalities among youth under 21 decreased nationally and in 26 states and D.C.

PERCENT CHANGE IN YOUTH UNDER 21 ALCOHOL-IMPAIRED DRIVING FATALITIES FROM 2006 TO 2007 BY STATE RANK



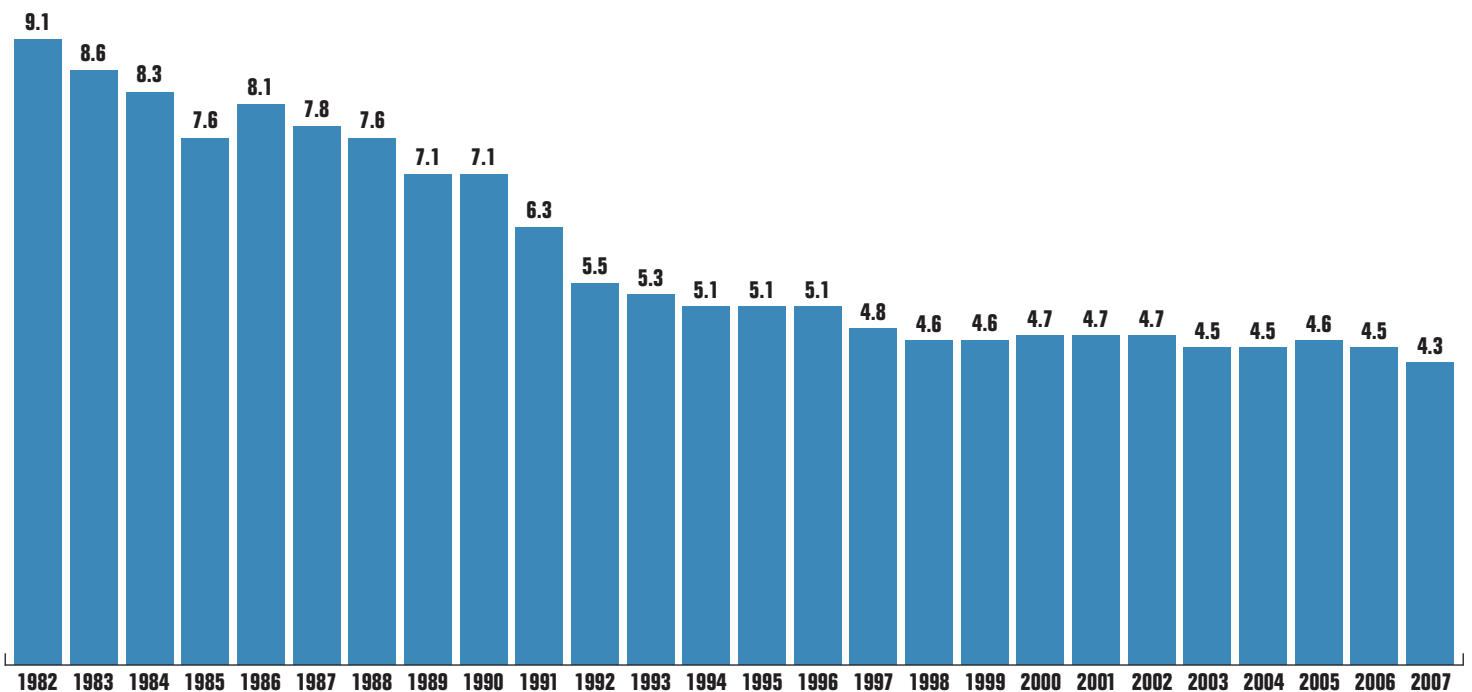
Alcohol-Impaired Driving Fatalities from 1982-2007

ALCOHOL-IMPAIRED DRIVING FATALITIES HAVE DECLINED 38% FROM 1982 TO 2007.



Data Source: NHTSA/FARS

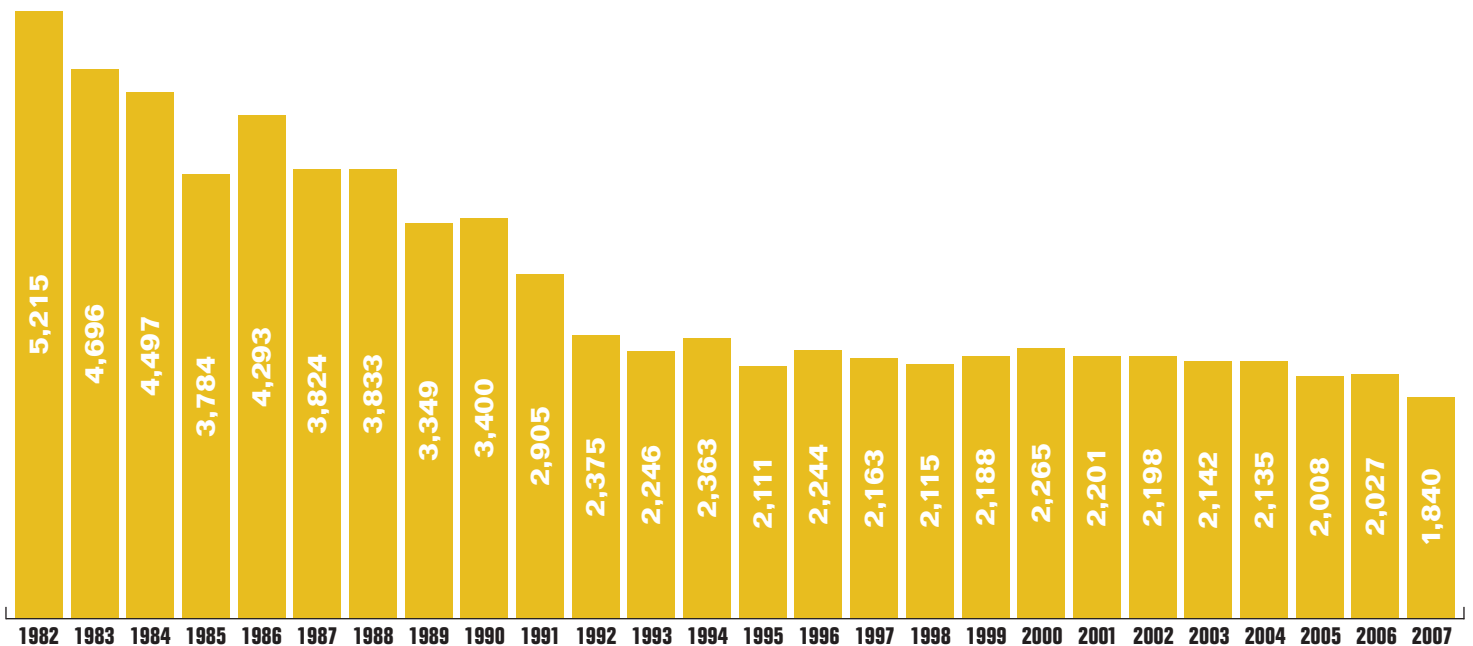
ALCOHOL-IMPAIRED DRIVING FATALITIES PER 100,000 POPULATION HAVE DECLINED 53% SINCE 1982.



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

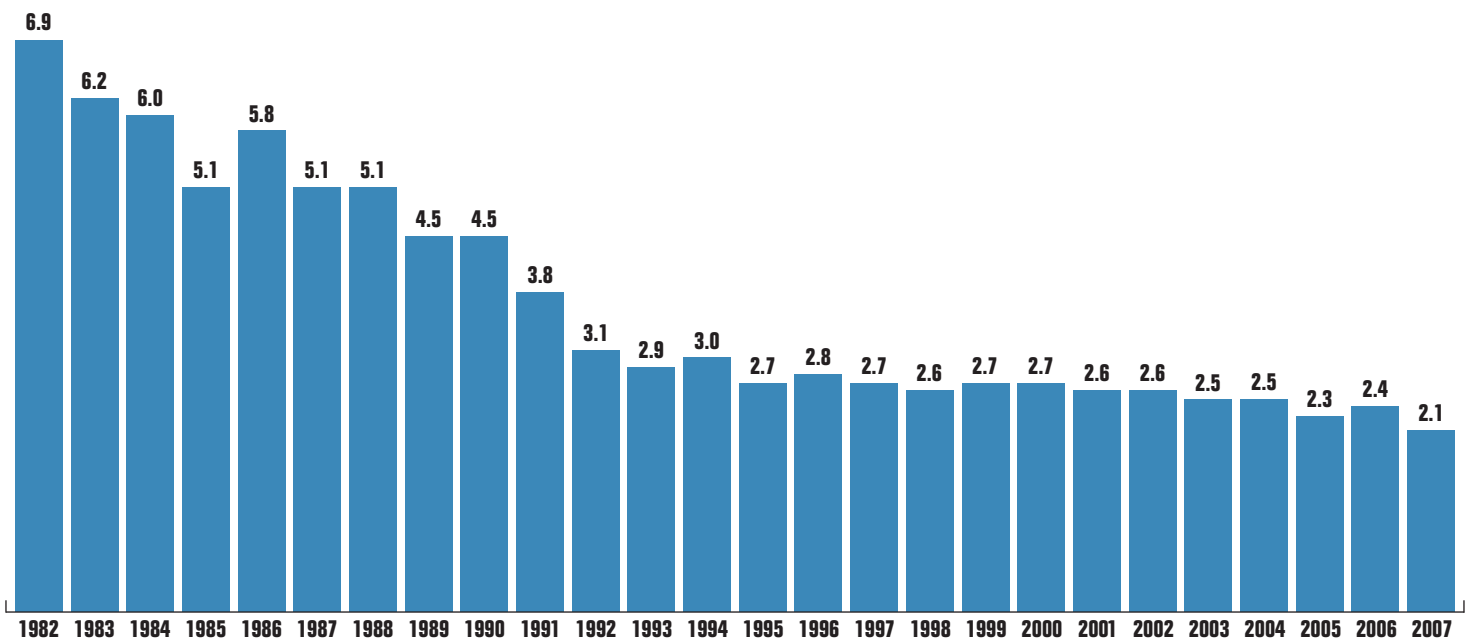
Youth Under 21 Alcohol-Impaired Driving Fatalities from 1982-2007

YOUTH UNDER 21 ALCOHOL-IMPAIRED DRIVING FATALITIES HAVE DECLINED 65% FROM 1982 TO 2007.



Data Source: NHTSA/FARS

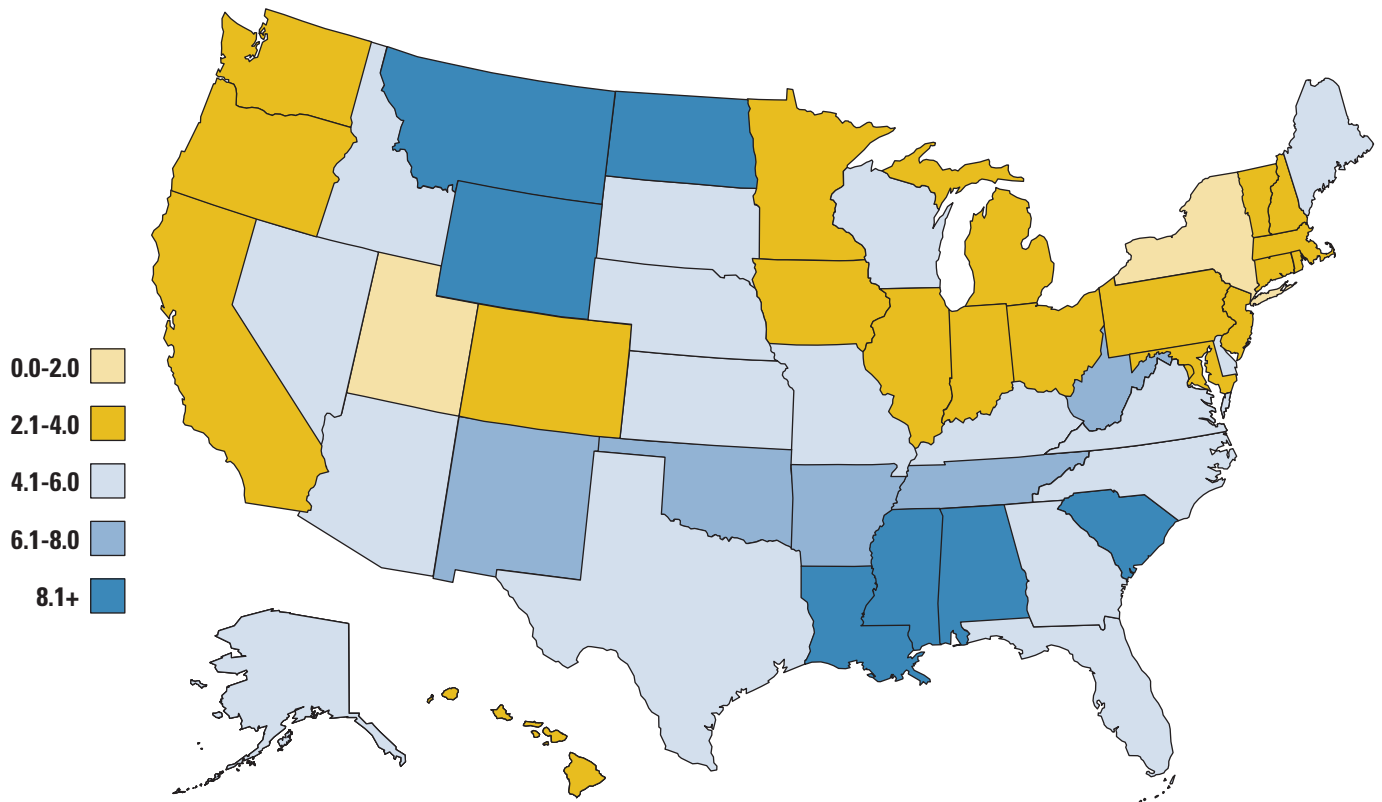
AMONG YOUTH UNDER 21, ALCOHOL-IMPAIRED DRIVING FATALITIES PER 100,000 POPULATION DECREASED 70% SINCE 1982.



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

In 24 states and D.C., alcohol-impaired driving fatalities per 100,000 population were at or below the national average of 4.3 deaths per 100,000 population.

2007 ALCOHOL-IMPAIRED DRIVING FATALITY RATES BY STATE

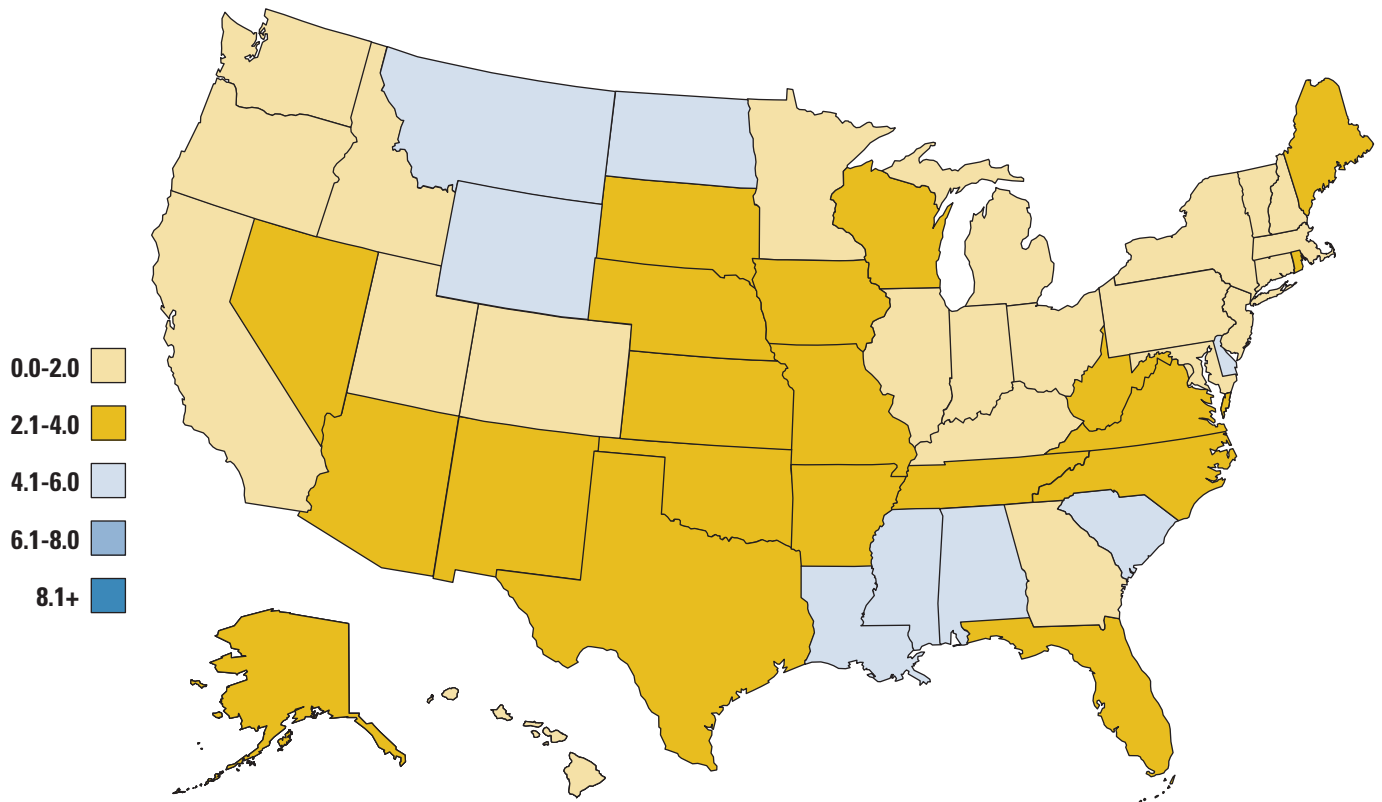


Alabama	8.4	Illinois	3.4	Montana	11.1	Rhode Island	2.4
Alaska	4.4	Indiana	3.6	Nebraska	4.3	South Carolina	10.5
Arizona	5.3	Iowa	3.5	Nevada	4.6	South Dakota	5.7
Arkansas	6.4	Kansas	4.1	New Hampshire	2.6	Tennessee	6.3
California	3.2	Kentucky	5.0	New Jersey	2.3	Texas	5.4
Colorado	3.5	Louisiana	8.6	New Mexico	6.8	Utah	1.9
Connecticut	2.9	Maine	5.0	New York	2.0	Vermont	3.5
Delaware	5.8	Maryland	3.2	North Carolina	5.4	Virginia	4.3
D.C.	2.5	Massachusetts	2.3	North Dakota	8.3	Washington	3.0
Florida	4.9	Michigan	3.0	Ohio	3.4	West Virginia	7.8
Georgia	4.6	Minnesota	3.0	Oklahoma	6.1	Wisconsin	5.6
Hawaii	3.5	Mississippi	10.3	Oregon	4.0	Wyoming	9.4
Idaho	4.7	Missouri	5.7	Pennsylvania	4.0	U.S. Total	4.3

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

In 24 states and D.C., youth under 21 alcohol-impaired driving fatalities per 100,000 population were at or below the national average of 2.1 deaths per 100,000 population.

2007 YOUTH UNDER 21 ALCOHOL-IMPAIRED DRIVING FATALITY RATES BY STATE

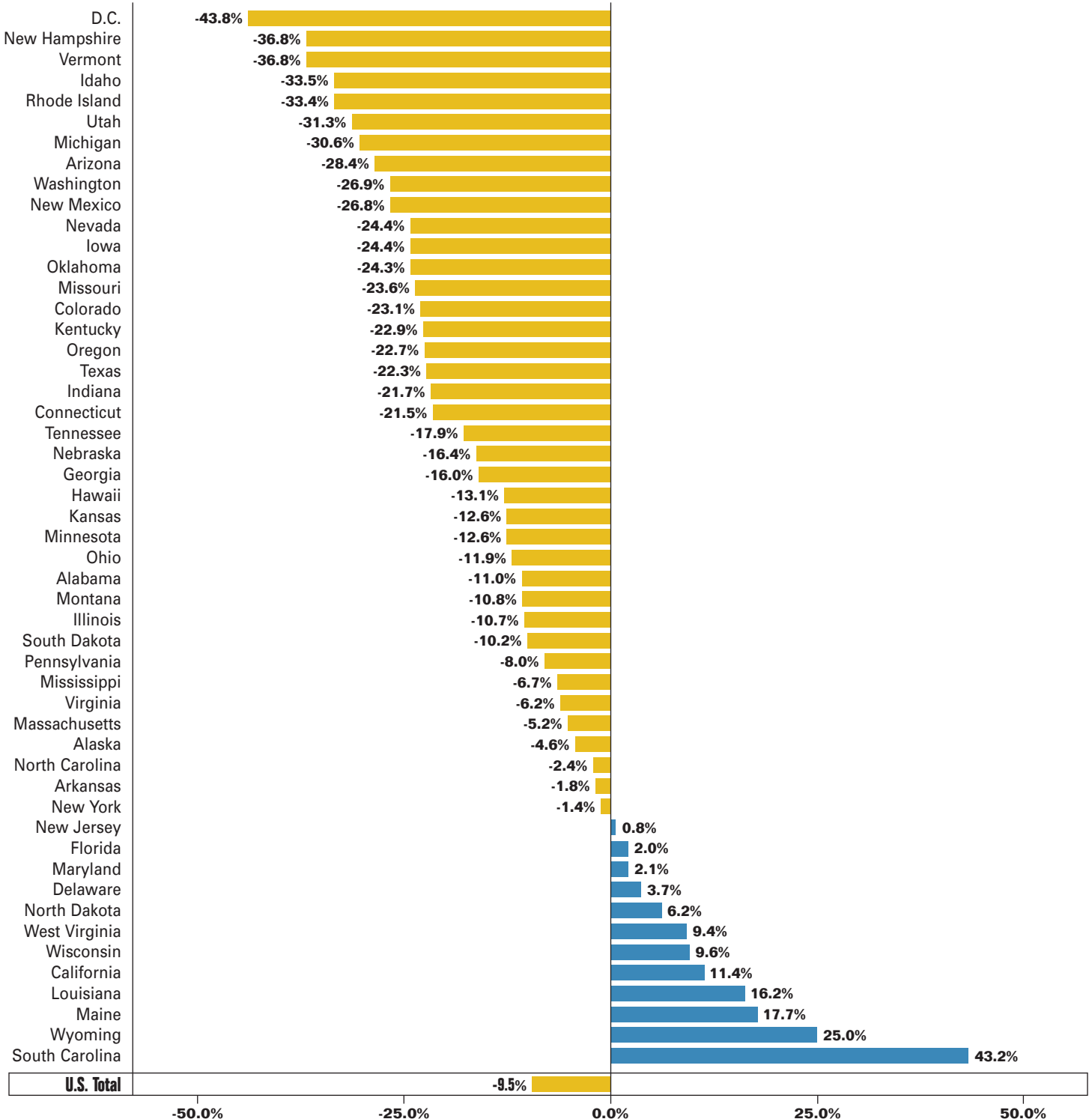


Alabama	4.4	Illinois	1.7	Montana	5.4	Rhode Island	2.1
Alaska	2.8	Indiana	1.9	Nebraska	3.0	South Carolina	4.3
Arizona	2.9	Iowa	2.5	Nevada	3.0	South Dakota	2.6
Arkansas	3.9	Kansas	2.6	New Hampshire	0.6	Tennessee	2.8
California	1.3	Kentucky	1.7	New Jersey	1.4	Texas	2.6
Colorado	1.7	Louisiana	4.2	New Mexico	3.4	Utah	1.7
Connecticut	1.7	Maine	3.6	New York	1.1	Vermont	1.3
Delaware	4.5	Maryland	1.7	North Carolina	2.2	Virginia	2.1
D.C.	0.0	Massachusetts	1.3	North Dakota	5.6	Washington	1.5
Florida	2.5	Michigan	1.6	Ohio	1.7	West Virginia	3.1
Georgia	2.0	Minnesota	1.1	Oklahoma	2.9	Wisconsin	3.6
Hawaii	0.6	Mississippi	5.6	Oregon	1.8	Wyoming	4.8
Idaho	1.7	Missouri	2.9	Pennsylvania	2.0	U.S. Total	2.1

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

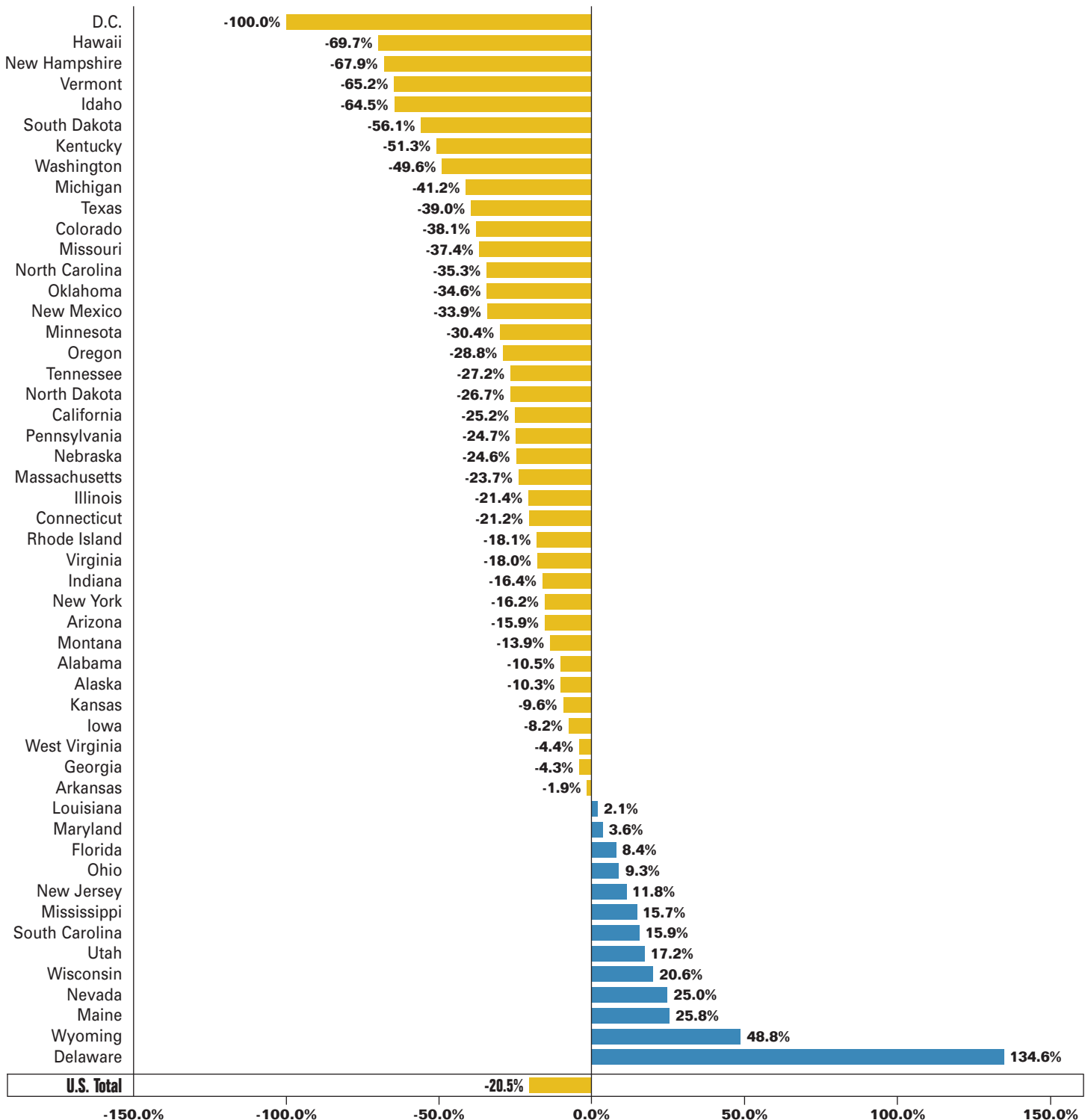
Between 1997 and 2007 alcohol-impaired driving fatalities per 100,000 population decreased in all but 12 states.

PERCENT CHANGE IN ALCOHOL-IMPAIRED DRIVING FATALITY RATES FROM 1997 TO 2007 BY STATE RANK



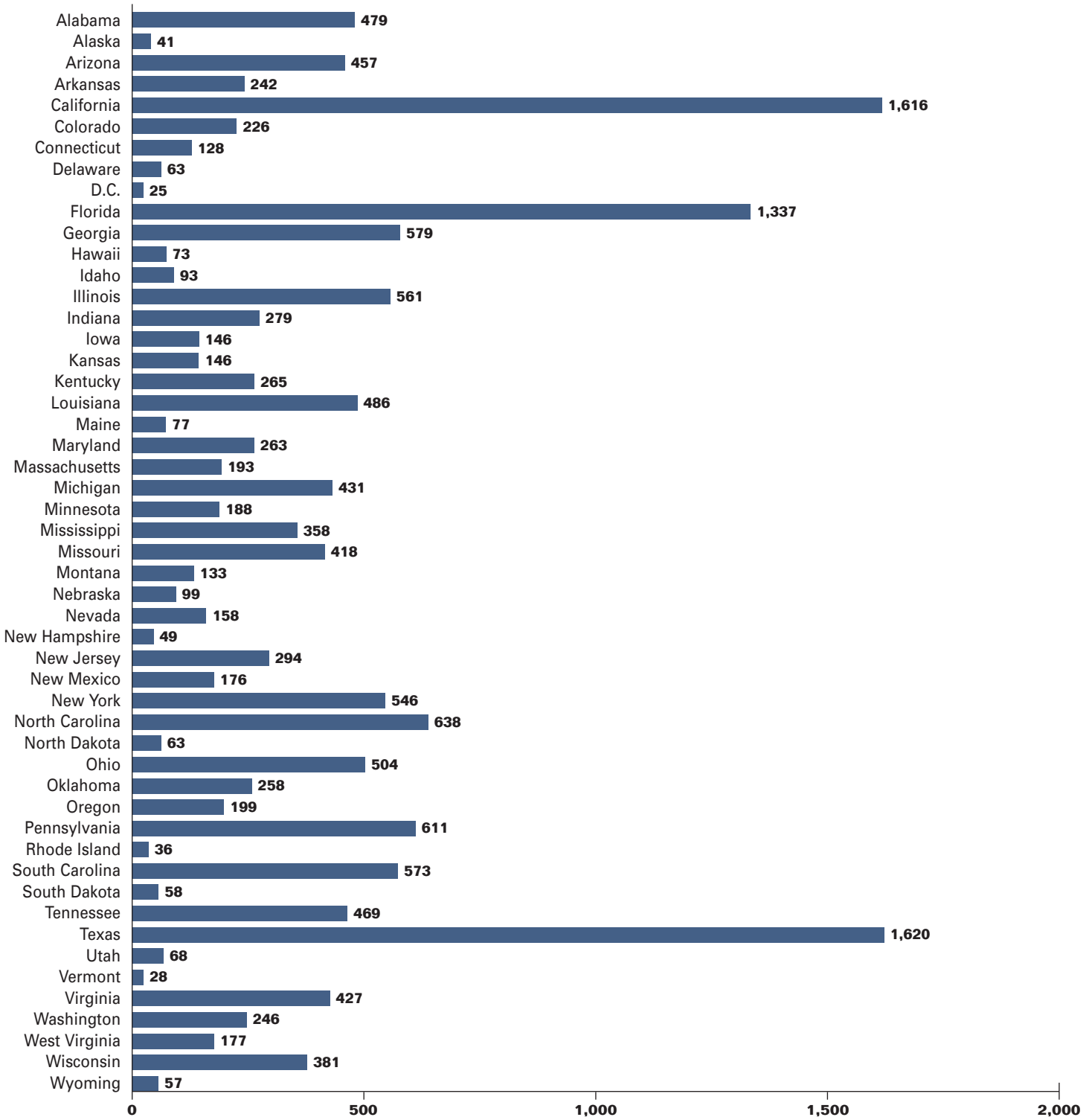
Between 1997 to 2007, youth under 21 alcohol-impaired driving fatalities per 100,000 population decreased in all but 13 states.

PERCENT CHANGE IN YOUTH UNDER 21 ALCOHOL-IMPAIRED DRIVING FATALITY RATES FROM 1997 TO 2007 BY STATE RANK



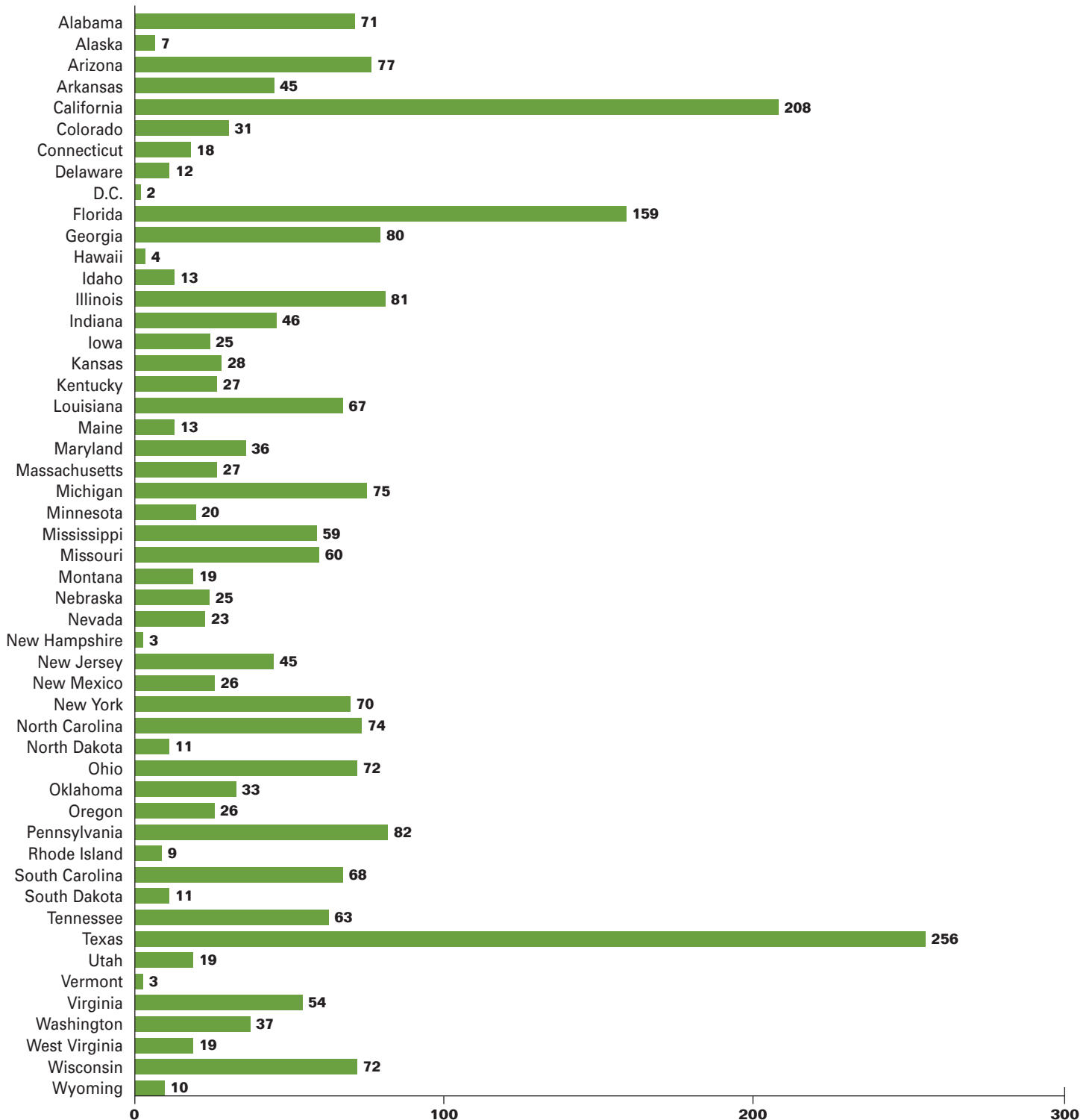
2007 Alcohol-Related Traffic Fatalities

U.S. TOTAL: 17,036



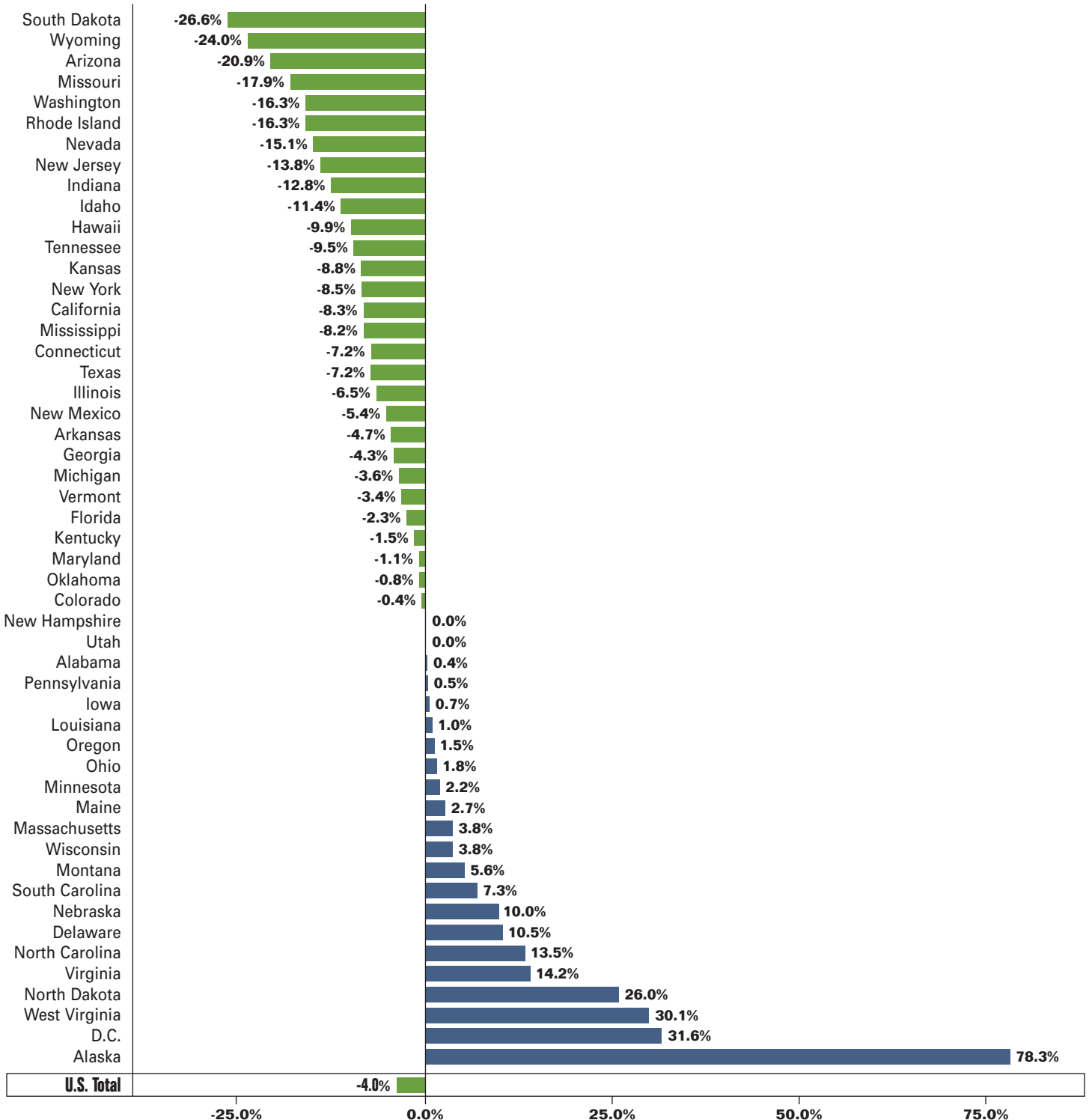
2007 Youth Under 21 Alcohol-Related Traffic Fatalities

U.S. TOTAL: 2,422



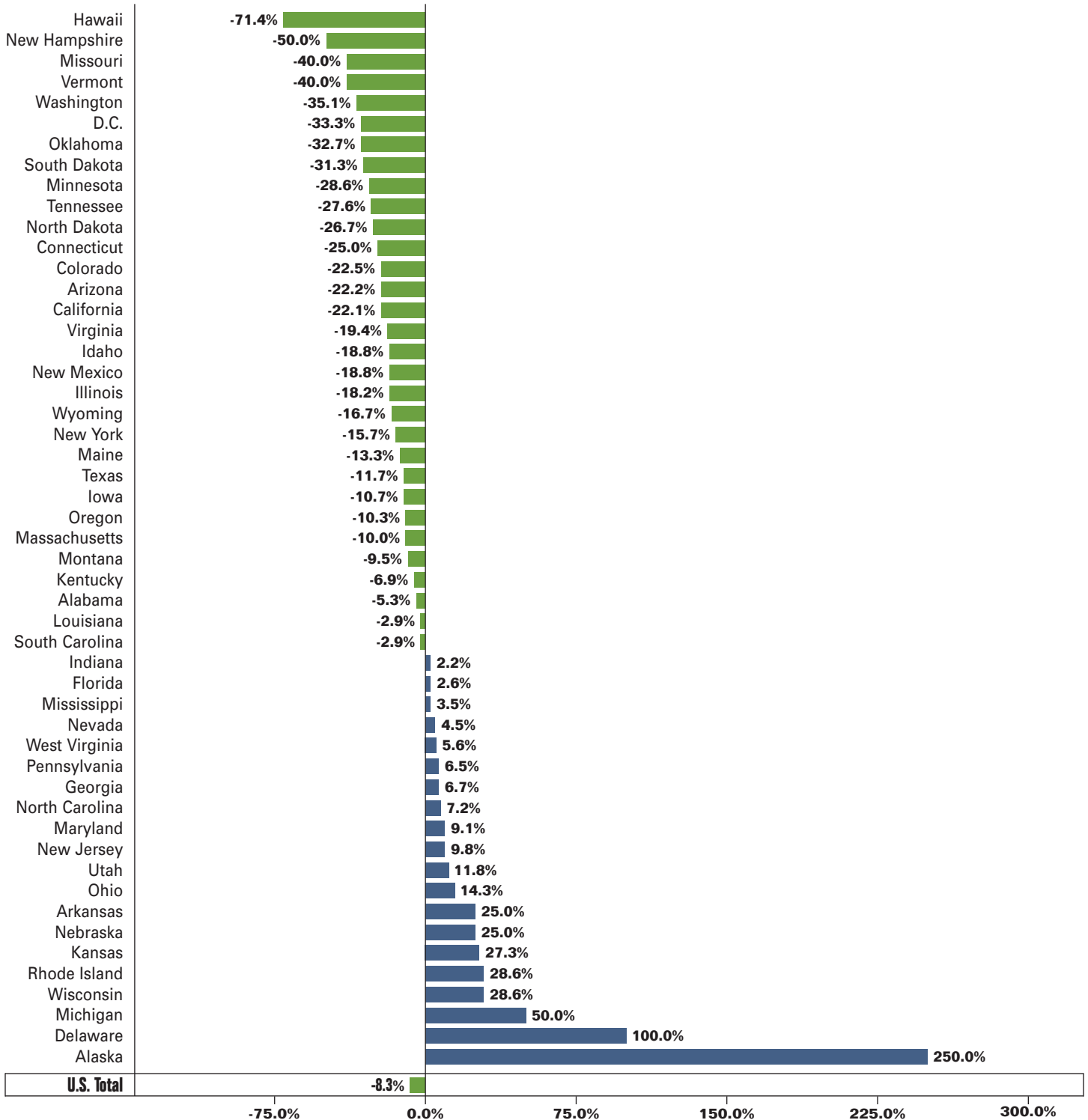
Alcohol-related traffic fatalities decreased nationally and in 29 states from 2006 and 2007.

PERCENT CHANGE IN ALCOHOL-RELATED TRAFFIC FATALITIES FROM 2006 TO 2007 BY STATE RANK



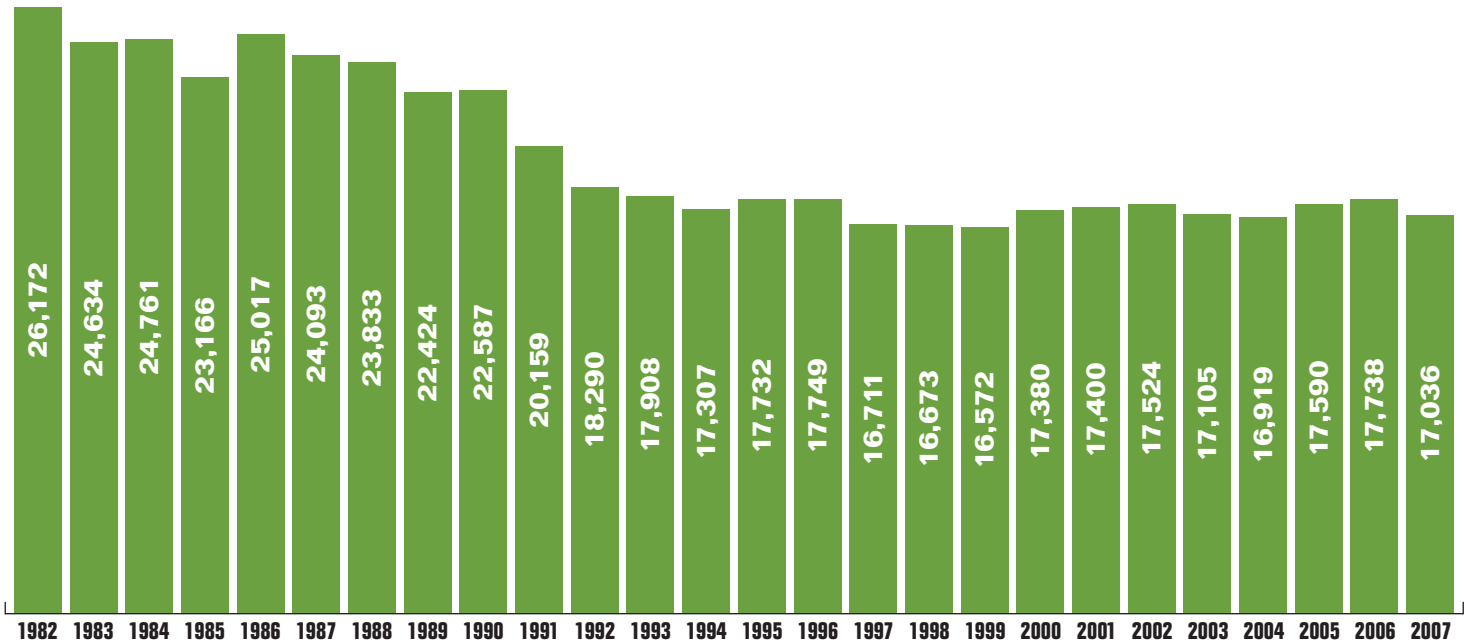
Youth under 21 alcohol-related traffic fatalities decreased nationally, in 30 states and D.C. from 2006 to 2007.

PERCENT CHANGE IN YOUTH UNDER 21 ALCOHOL-RELATED TRAFFIC FATALITIES FROM 2006 TO 2007 BY STATE RANK



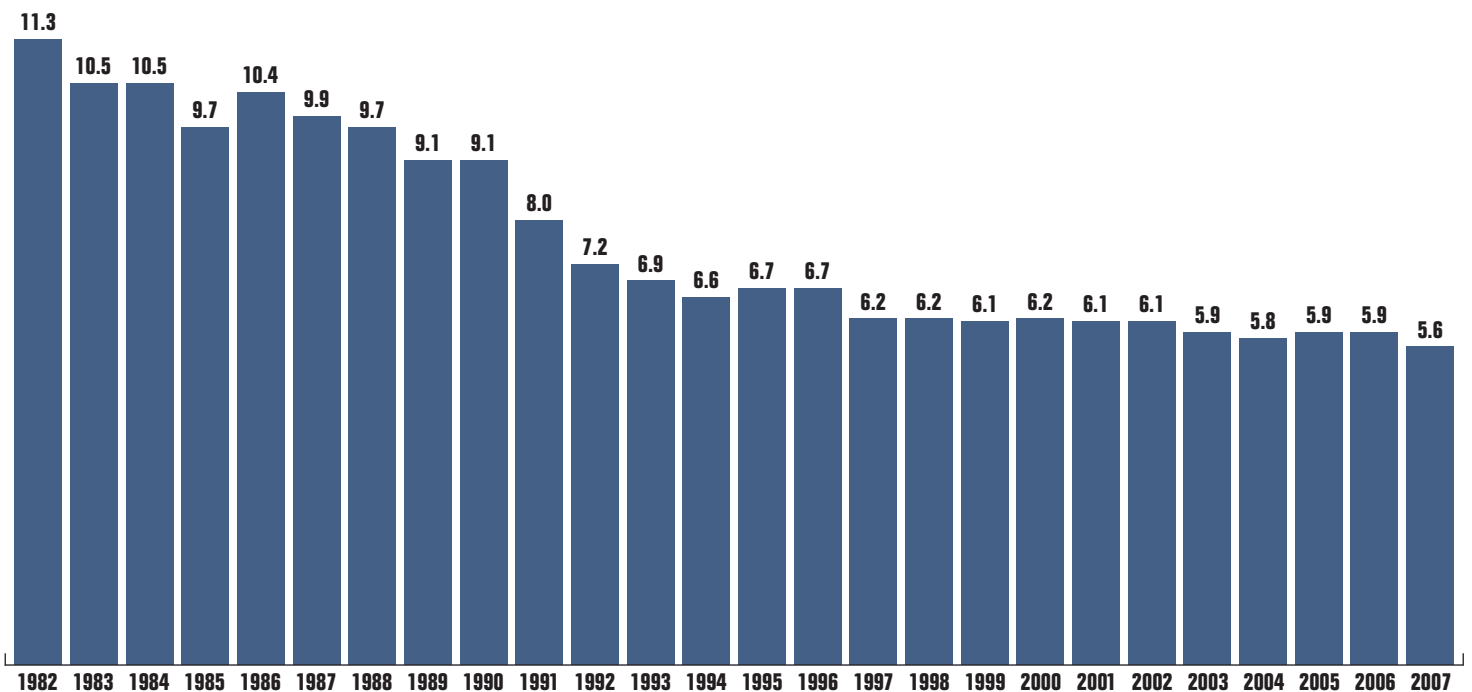
Alcohol-Related Traffic Fatalities from 1982-2007

ALCOHOL-RELATED TRAFFIC FATALITIES
HAVE DECLINED 35% FROM 1982 TO 2007.



Data Source: NHTSA/FARS

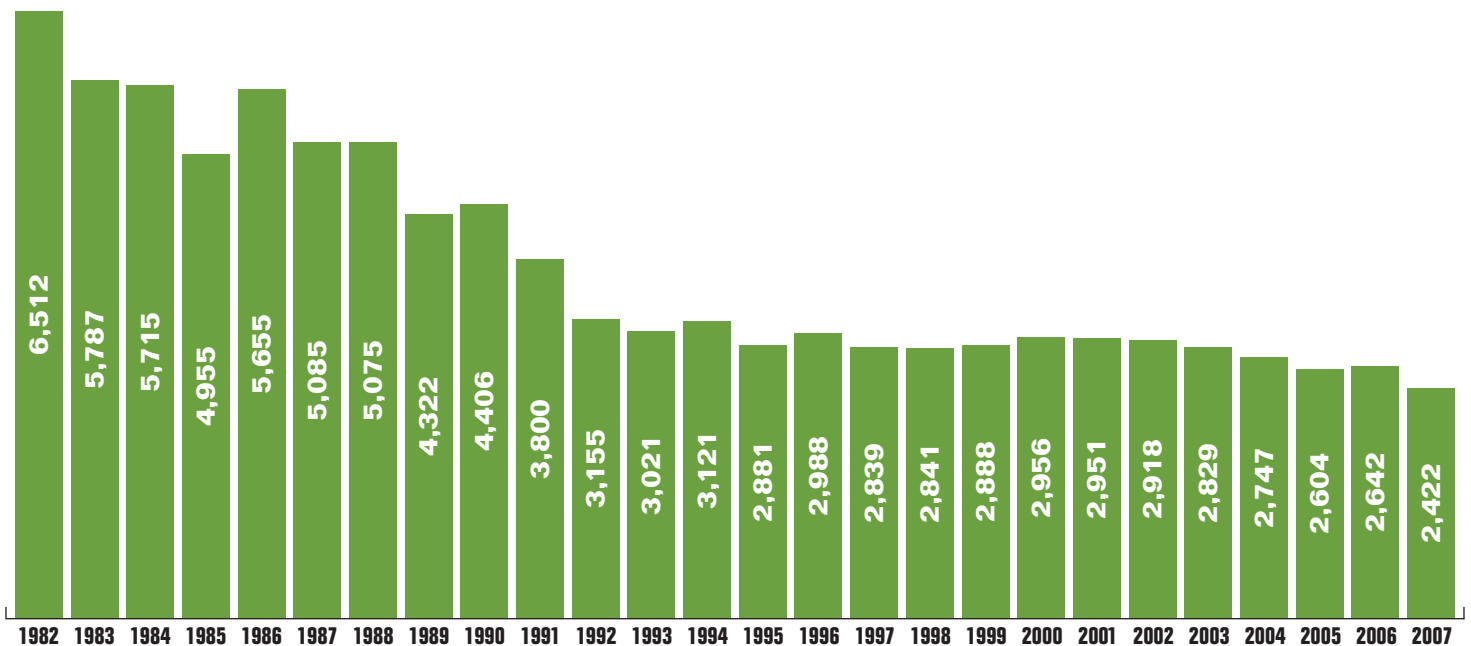
ALCOHOL-RELATED TRAFFIC FATALITIES PER 100,000
POPULATION DECREASED 50% SINCE 1982.



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

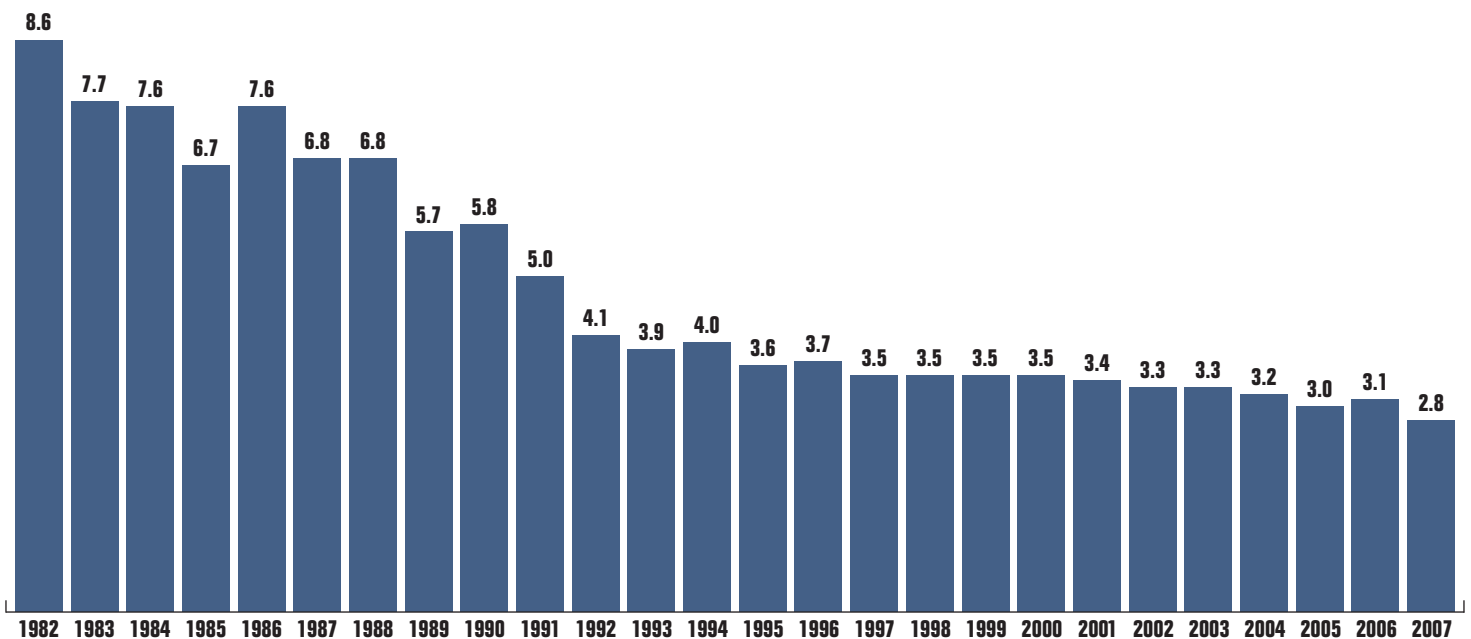
Youth Under 21 Alcohol-Related Traffic Fatalities from 1982-2007

YOUTH UNDER 21 ALCOHOL-RELATED TRAFFIC FATALITIES HAVE DECLINED 63% FROM 1982 TO 2007.



Data Source: NHTSA/FARS

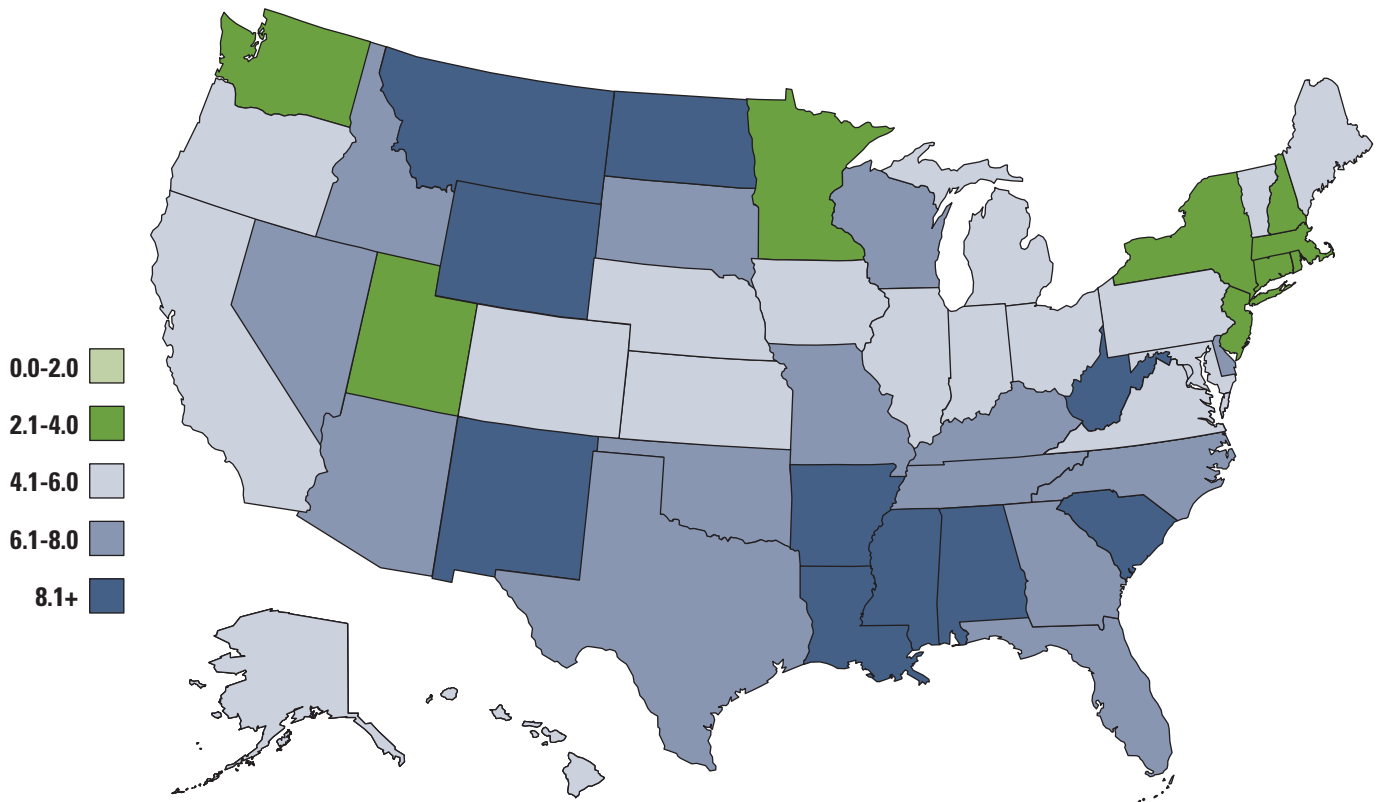
AMONG YOUTH UNDER 21, ALCOHOL-RELATED TRAFFIC FATALITIES PER 100,000 POPULATION DECREASED 67% SINCE 1982.



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

In 23 states and D.C., alcohol-related traffic fatalities per 100,000 population were at or below the national average of 5.6 deaths per 100,000 population.

2007 ALCOHOL-RELATED TRAFFIC FATALITY RATES BY STATE

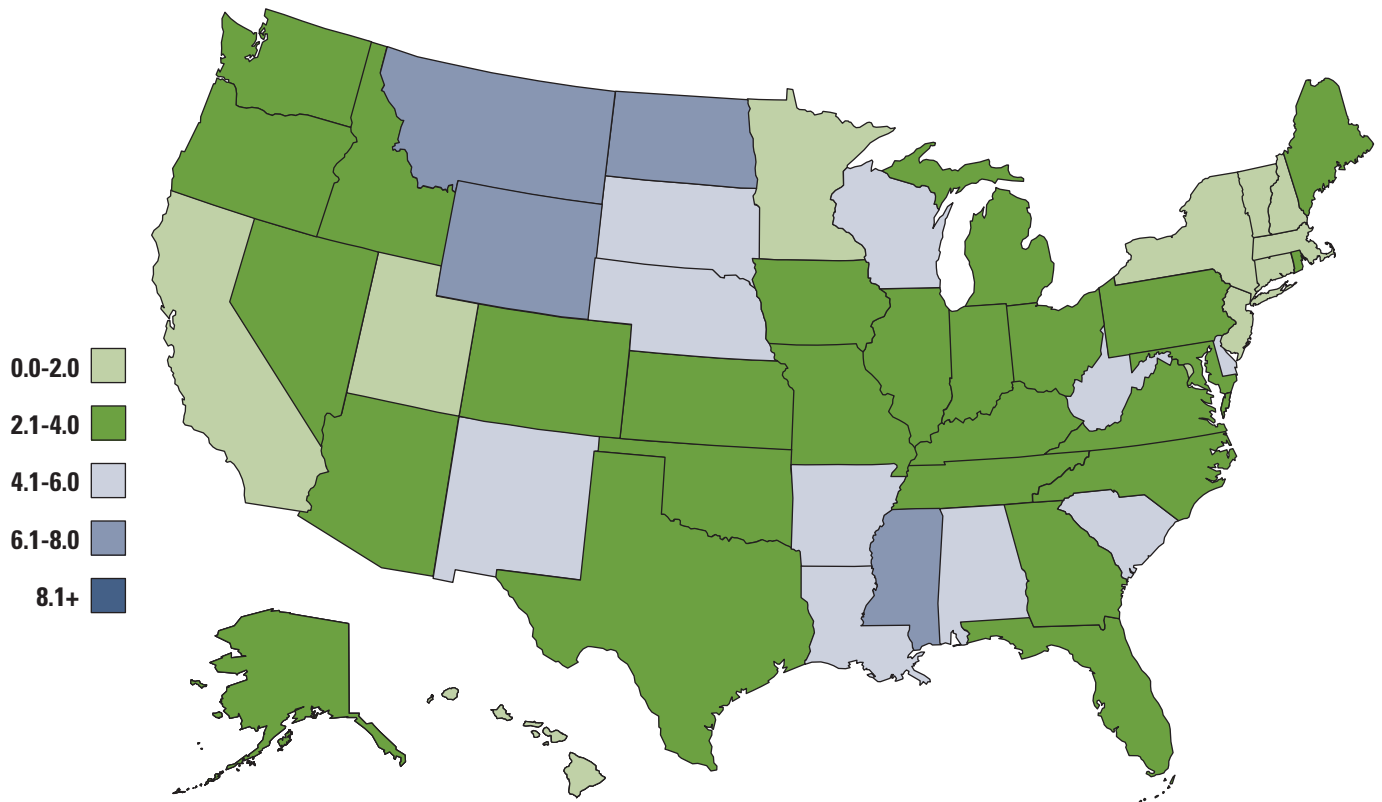


Alabama	10.4	Illinois	4.4	Montana	13.9	Rhode Island	3.4
Alaska	6.0	Indiana	4.4	Nebraska	5.6	South Carolina	13.0
Arizona	7.2	Iowa	4.9	Nevada	6.2	South Dakota	7.3
Arkansas	8.5	Kansas	5.3	New Hampshire	3.7	Tennessee	7.6
California	4.4	Kentucky	6.2	New Jersey	3.4	Texas	6.8
Colorado	4.6	Louisiana	11.3	New Mexico	8.9	Utah	2.6
Connecticut	3.7	Maine	5.8	New York	2.8	Vermont	4.5
Delaware	7.3	Maryland	4.7	North Carolina	7.0	Virginia	5.5
D.C.	4.2	Massachusetts	3.0	North Dakota	9.8	Washington	3.8
Florida	7.3	Michigan	4.3	Ohio	4.4	West Virginia	9.8
Georgia	6.1	Minnesota	3.6	Oklahoma	7.1	Wisconsin	6.8
Hawaii	5.7	Mississippi	12.3	Oregon	5.3	Wyoming	10.9
Idaho	6.2	Missouri	7.1	Pennsylvania	4.9	U.S. Total	5.6

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

In 23 states and D.C., youth under 21 alcohol-related traffic fatalities per 100,000 population were at or below the national average of 2.8 deaths per 100,000 population.

2007 YOUTH UNDER 21 ALCOHOL-RELATED TRAFFIC FATALITY RATES BY STATE

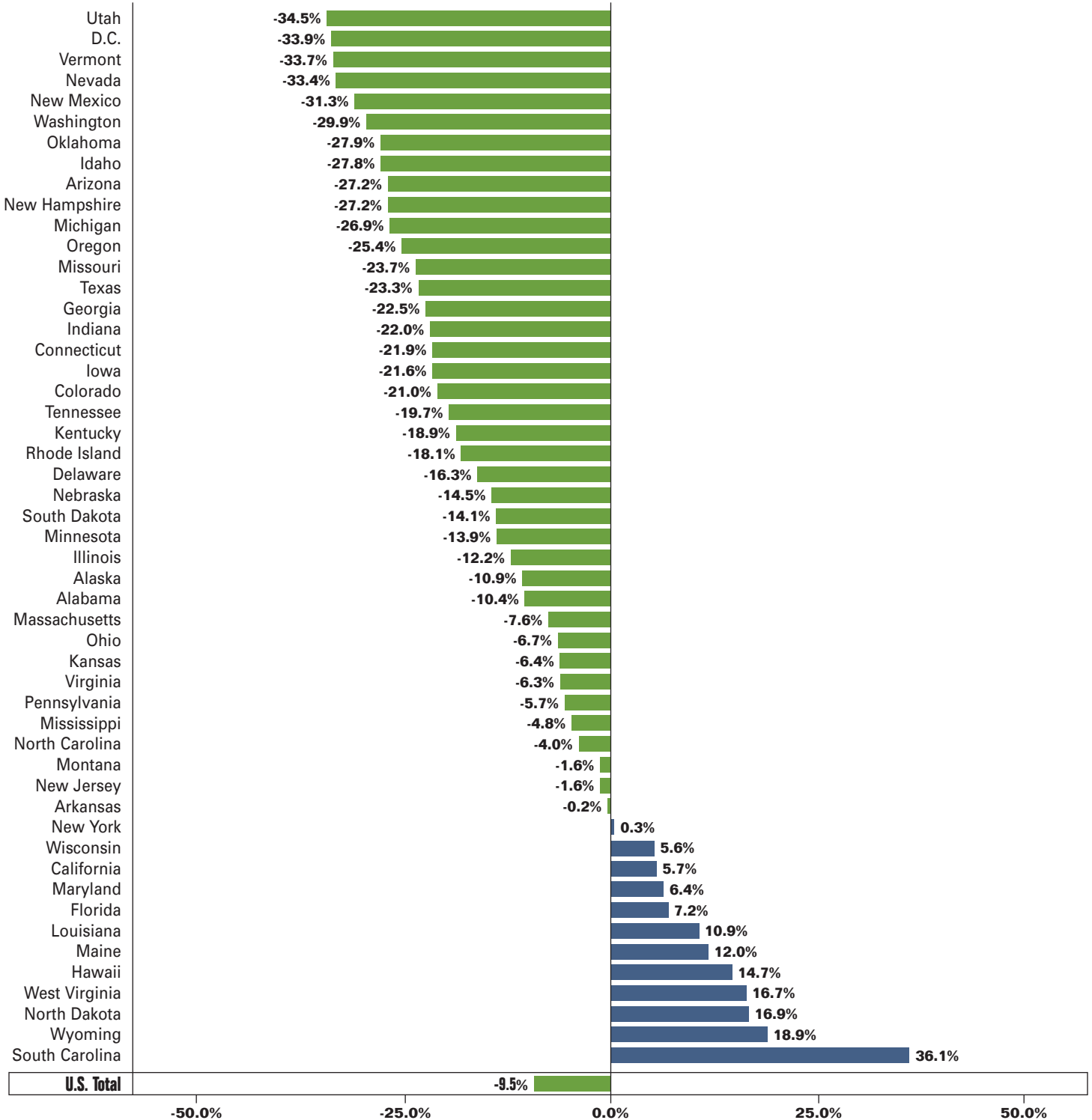


Alabama	5.4	Illinois	2.2	Montana	7.4	Rhode Island	3.1
Alaska	3.3	Indiana	2.5	Nebraska	4.8	South Carolina	5.4
Arizona	4.0	Iowa	2.9	Nevada	3.1	South Dakota	4.7
Arkansas	5.5	Kansas	3.4	New Hampshire	0.9	Tennessee	3.7
California	1.9	Kentucky	2.3	New Jersey	1.9	Texas	3.4
Colorado	2.3	Louisiana	5.2	New Mexico	4.4	Utah	2.0
Connecticut	1.9	Maine	3.9	New York	1.3	Vermont	1.9
Delaware	4.9	Maryland	2.3	North Carolina	2.9	Virginia	2.5
D.C.	1.4	Massachusetts	1.6	North Dakota	6.2	Washington	2.1
Florida	3.4	Michigan	2.6	Ohio	2.2	West Virginia	4.2
Georgia	2.7	Minnesota	1.4	Oklahoma	3.1	Wisconsin	4.6
Hawaii	1.2	Mississippi	6.6	Oregon	2.6	Wyoming	6.8
Idaho	2.8	Missouri	3.6	Pennsylvania	2.5	U.S. Total	2.8

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

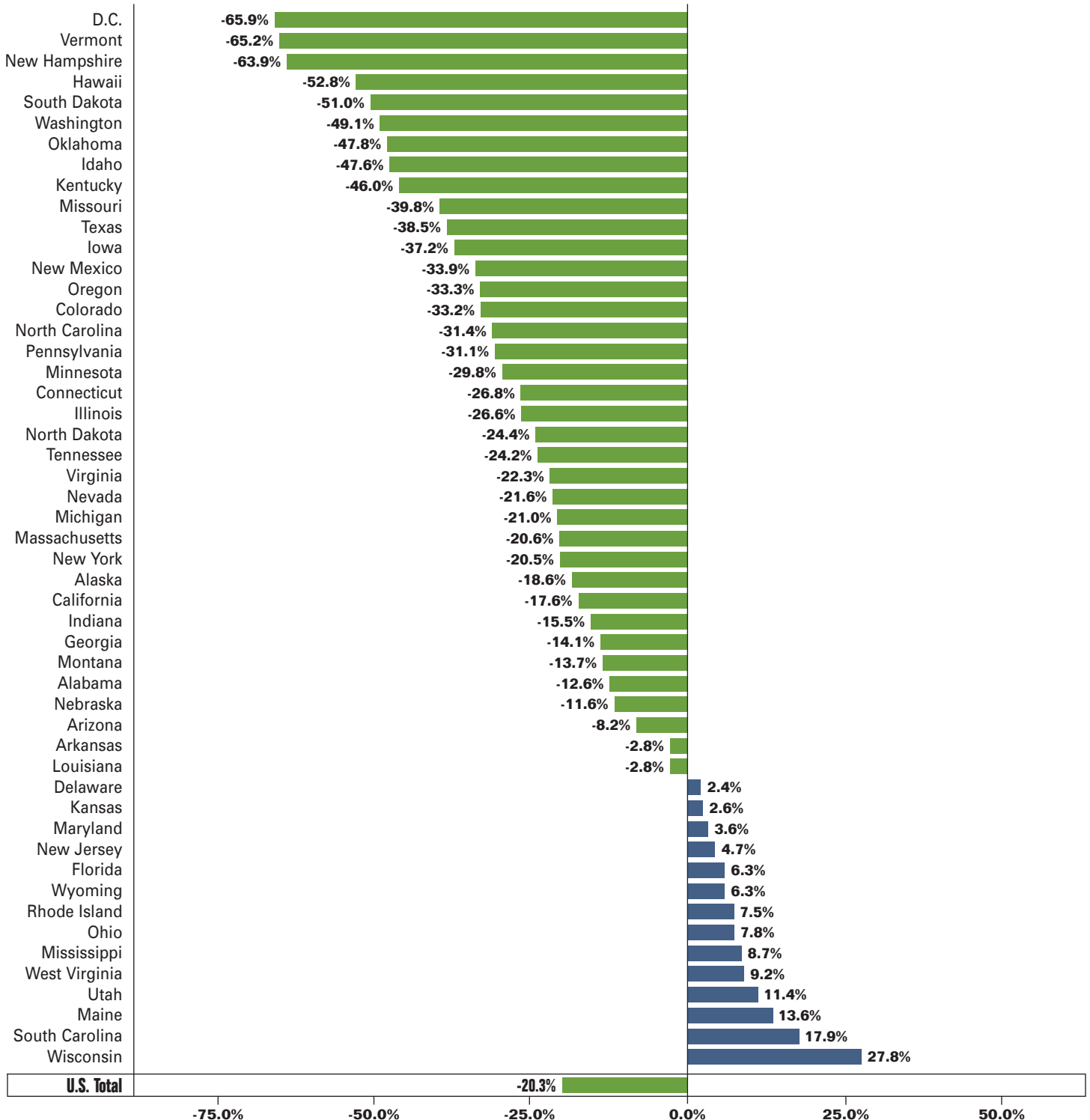
With the exception of 12 states alcohol-related traffic fatalities per 100,000 population declined between 1997 and 2007.

PERCENT CHANGE IN ALCOHOL-RELATED TRAFFIC FATALITY RATES FROM 1997 TO 2007 BY STATE RANK



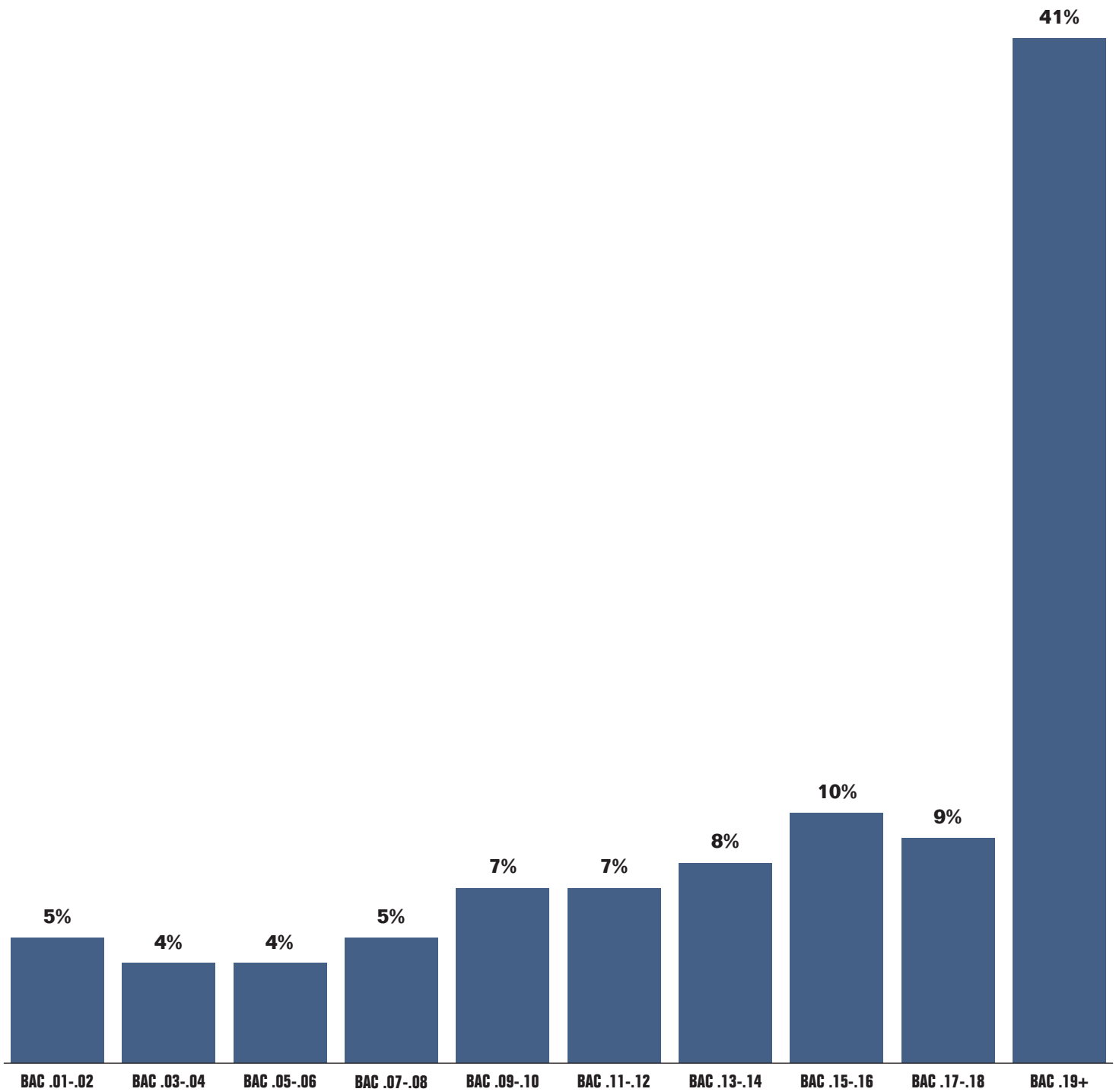
Among youth under 21, in all but 14 states alcohol-related traffic fatalities per 100,000 population decreased between 1997 to 2007.

PERCENT CHANGE IN YOUTH UNDER 21 ALCOHOL-RELATED TRAFFIC FATALITY RATES FROM 1997 TO 2007 BY STATE RANK



In 2007, 60% of the alcohol-related traffic fatalities involved high BAC drivers.

PERCENT OF 2007 DRIVERS INVOLVED IN ALCOHOL-RELATED TRAFFIC FATALITIES BY BAC

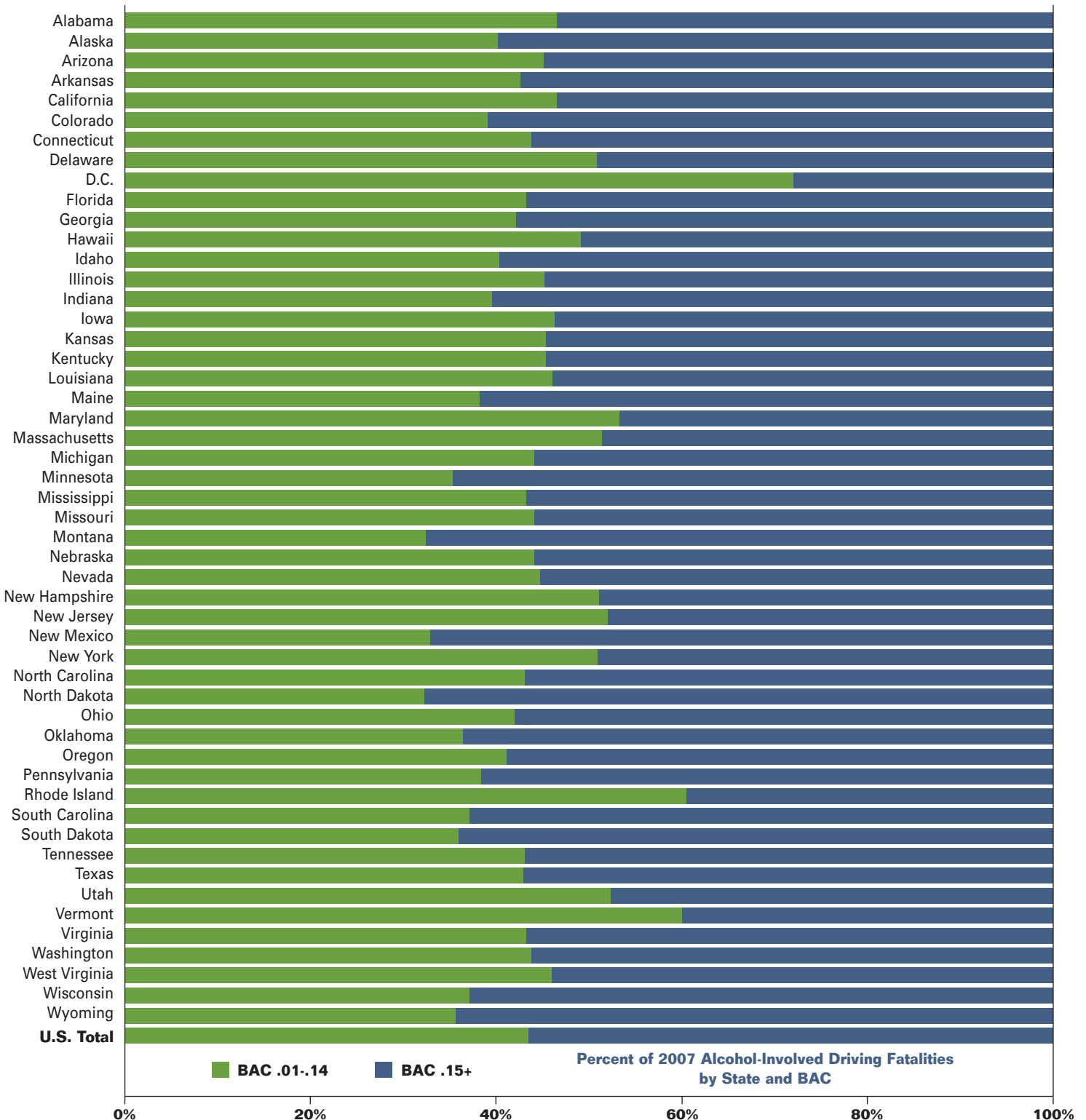


Known Alcohol Test Results of Drivers Involved in Alcohol-Related Traffic Fatalities

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

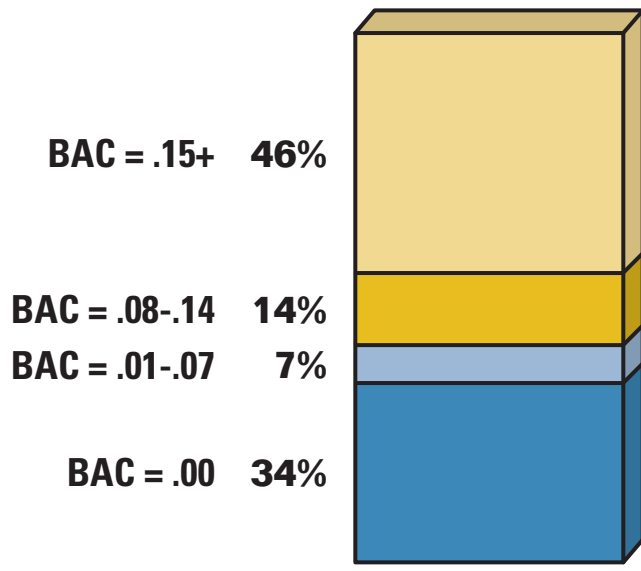
Nearly six out of ten drivers involved in fatal crashes are hardcore drunk drivers.

IN 2007, HIGH BAC DRIVERS ACCOUNTED FOR 57% OF THE ALCOHOL-INVOLVED FATAL CRASHES.



Data Source: NHTSA/FARS

Nearly half of drivers involved in fatal crashes with a prior DWI* also have a high BAC level at the time of the crash.



Repeat offenders by BAC level

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

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