



THC & Traffic Crash Data

The Highway Safety Office

Our mission is to change behavior, so everyone on Utah's roadways arrives safely.

- Division of the Utah Department of Public Safety
- Behavioral Change programs: Drivers, Pedestrians, Bicyclists, Motorcyclists, other traffic safety-related road users.
- Programs focus on Impaired Driving, Occupant Protection, Distracted Driving, Vulnerable Users and Traffic Records.
- Stewards of the Statewide Crash Data
 - State Authority on Fatal Crash Data

The Highway Safety Office

- Partner with Utah Department of Transportation and University of Utah to create the *Utah Transportation and Public Safety Crash Data Initiative*.
 - Supports one resource for statewide crash data, improve quality and accuracy, grow research opportunities.
- Manage the Fatality Analysis and Reporting System (FARS) – Capture data regarding all fatalities statewide.
- Funding a position at the Toxicology Lab to focus on DUI cases and test for both drug and alcohol.

Challenges with Drug-Impaired Data

Presence of drugs does NOT indicate impairment, no legal limit, as in alcohol

Crash Data - Toxicology Data

- Crash report does not identify Medical Marijuana Card
- Training officer to amend crash reports to add toxicology reports after the crash is investigated
- Researched drug data back to 2017 (prior to this much of the forms were manual)

Toxicology Lab Data

- Highway Safety Office funding a position within the toxicology lab since 2020 to focus on DUI cases and to test for both drug and alcohol.
- Data from the toxicology lab is from 2021 to current. Receives once a quarter.
- Are only the cases that are sent to the State Lab.

THC and Traffic Safety

A challenge beyond our own laws

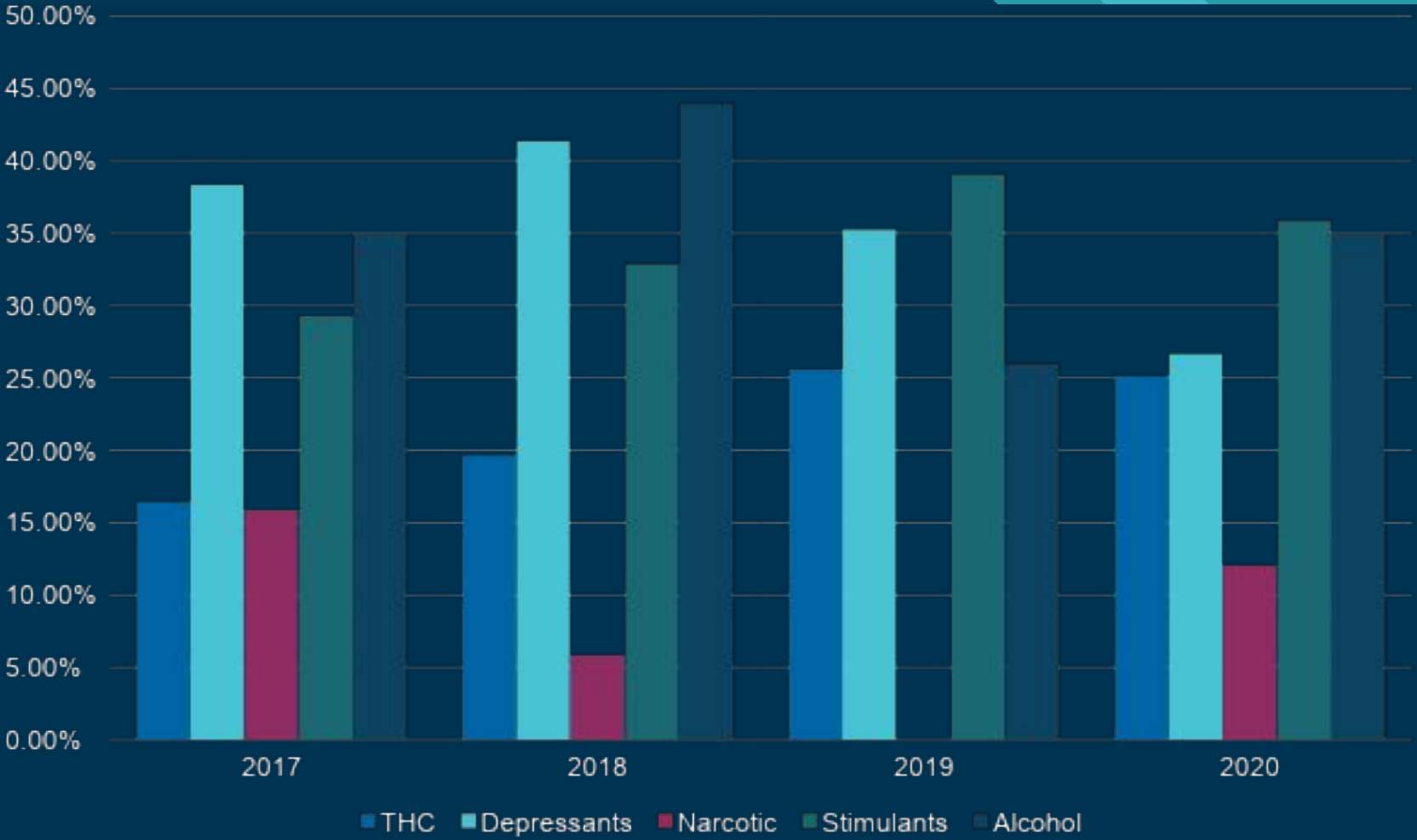
It's also coming from our neighbors:

Colorado and Washington	– legalized in 2012
Oregon and California	– legalized in 2016
Nevada	– legalized in 2017
Arizona	– legalized in 2020
New Mexico	– legalized in 2021
Montana	– legalized in 2022

THC: What Troopers see on the road

- An increase in edibles in the vehicle, with a normal to slightly higher amount of traditional marijuana.
- More field tests with drivers holding medical marijuana cards, but fair share are not arrested for DUI, due to the level of THC not above the “threshold”.
- Vape pens are being reported as a means of ingestion, difficult to detect. Usually discovered when there is a large quantity located.

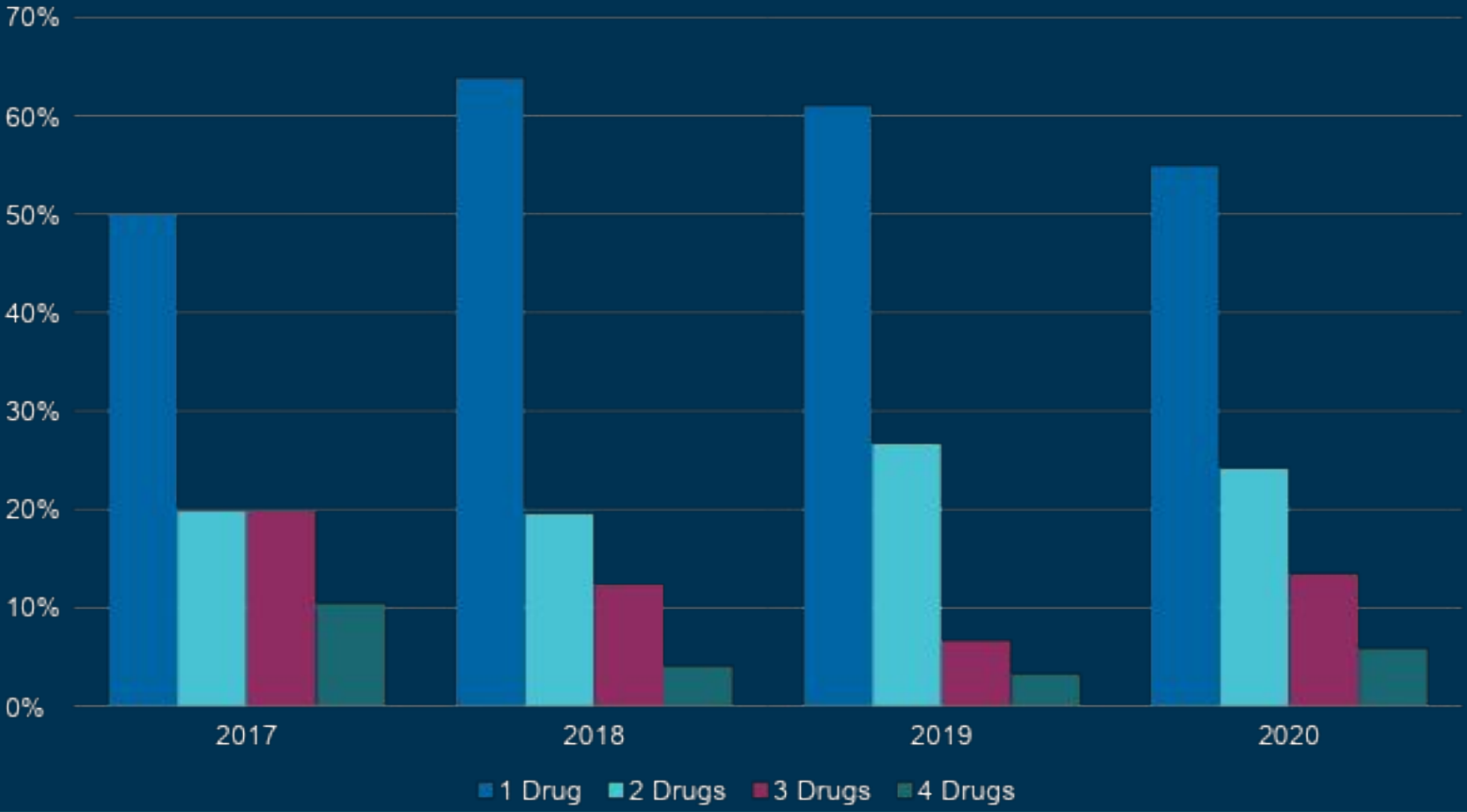
Crash Data, Alcohol/Drugs - All Road Users



Note: In many cases, there are more than one substance onboard

FARS Data - Fatalities Only

Number of Drugs and/or Alcohol per Test



Top Five Drugs Found in Fatality Cases Identified with Drugs and Alcohol

Year	Drug1	Drug2	Drug3	Drug4	Drug5
2017	THC 13 (39.4%)	Citalopram 4 (12.1%)	Methamphetamine 3 (9.1%)	Aminoclonazepam 2 (6.1%)	Fluoxetine 2 (6.1%)
2018	THC 16 (37.2%)	Citalopram 4 (9.3%)	Methamphetamine 4 (9.3%)	Diphenhydramine 2 (4.7%)	Sertraline 2 (4.7%)
2019	THC 8 (25%)	Trazodone 4 (12.5%)	Amphetamine 3 (9.4%)	Aminoclonazepam 2 (6.3%)	Sertraline 2 (6.3%)
2020	THC 21 (44.7%)	Fluoxetine 5 (10.6%)	Methamphetamine 5 (10.6%)	Cocaine 2 (4.3%)	Diphenhydramine 2 (4.3%)
Overall	THC 58 (37.4%)	Methamphetamine 12 (7.7%)	Citalopram 9 (5.8%)	Fluoxetine 9 (5.8%)	Trazodone 6 (3.9%)

Toxicology Drug Analysis

Data Received From Toxicology Lab

This data is mostly from DUI cases, testing may have resulted from a few other law enforcement events.

Federal Fiscal Year 2021 Oct 2020 – Sept 2021

Drug Only	49%
Alcohol with or without drug	51%
Alcohol Only	34%

Number of Drugs:

1 Drug	18.8%
2 Drugs	51.9%
3 Drugs	15.6%
4 Drugs	9.5%

Top 4 Drugs:

THC Metabolite	21.3%
Meth	19.5%
THC	17.3%
Amphetamine	16.6%

Federal Fiscal Year 2022 Oct 2021 – Dec 2021

Drug Only	45%
Alcohol with or without drug	55%
Alcohol Only	37%

Number of Drugs:

1 Drug	16.4%
2 Drugs	51.9%
3 Drugs	13.5%
4 Drugs	11.5%

Top 4 Drugs:

THC Metabolite	22%
THC	18%
Meth	17.3%
Amphetamine	16.1%

Thank You

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