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DWI Crash Trends: Recent Data Update

DWI WORKGROUP QUARTERLY MEETING

JANUARY 14, 2025

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Agenda

Sources of crash data and analysis

Data on DWI crashes in New Mexico

- Historical and recent trends
- Breakdown of alcohol vs. drug-involved crashes
- Fatal crashes
- Teen drinking and driving
- Severity of crashes and injury counts
- Drug toxicology in fatal crashes
- Pedestrian fatalities

Web resources for crash statistics

Crash Data Collection in New Mexico and the Role of UNM-GPS

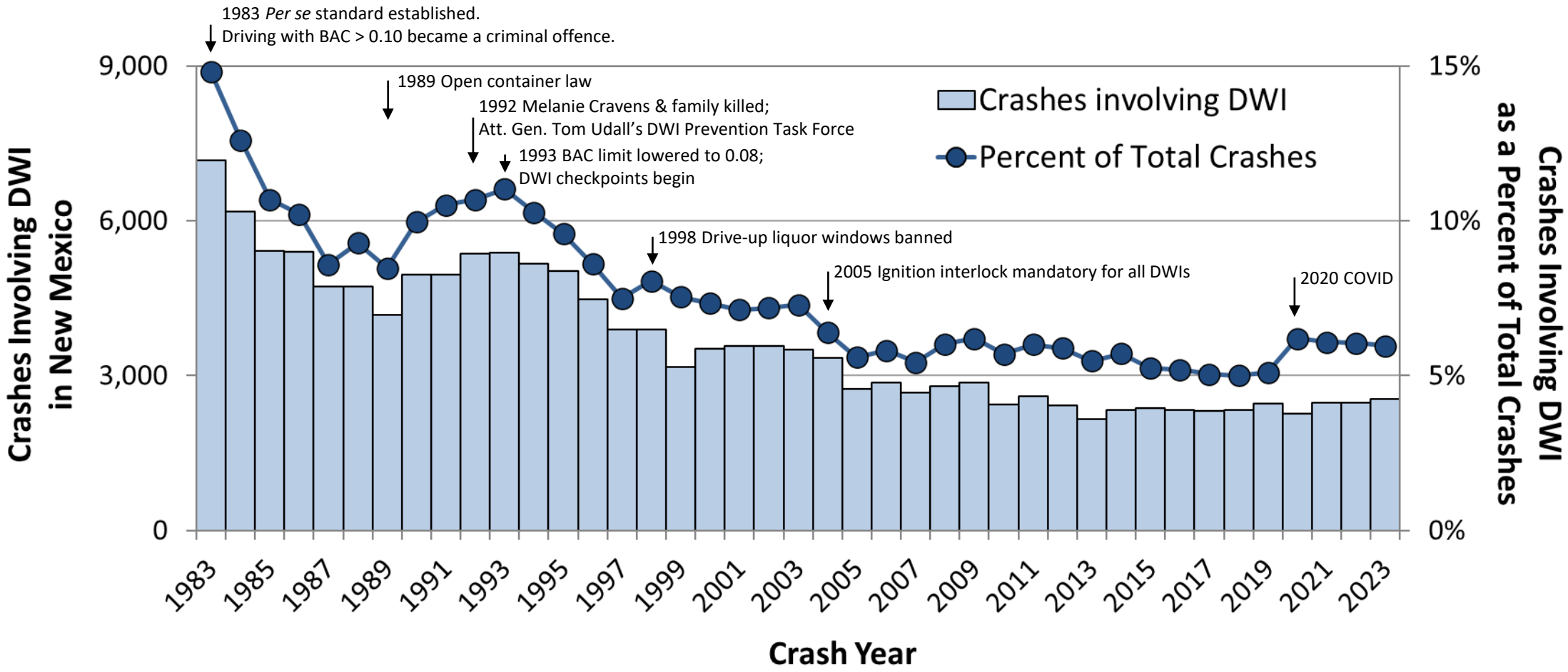
NMDOT Crash Database

- Crashes reported by law enforcement involving a motor vehicle
- Involves a fatality, injury or >$500 in damages
- On public roadways (no private property crashes)
- “DWI” crashes can be alcohol- or drug-involved
- Alcohol involvement is not BAC-specific
- Drug involvement is likely under-reported. DWI can be for alcohol OR drugs. It’s easier for law enforcement to prove impairment by alcohol.
- Drug/alcohol toxicology data from the NM Office of the Medical Investigator for crash-related fatalities

UNM Geospatial and Population Studies Center (UNM-GPS)

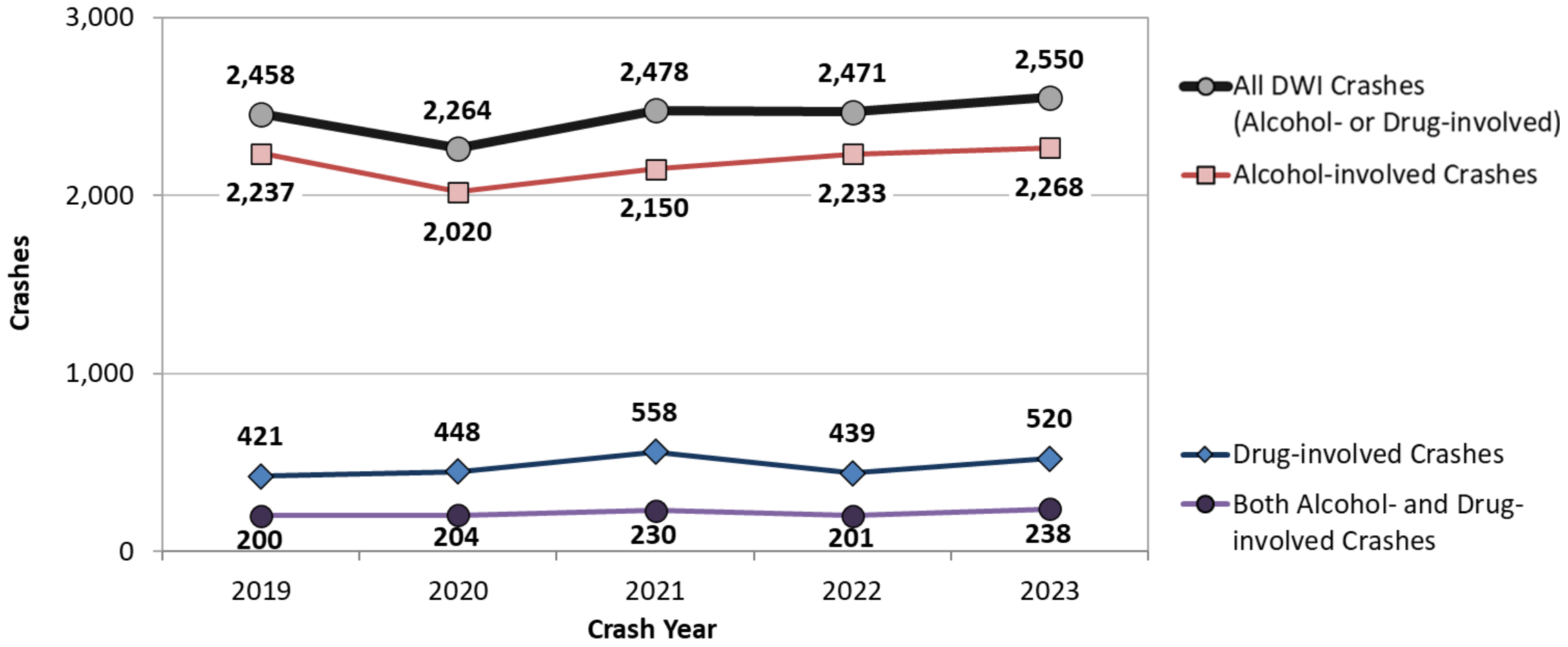
- Contracted by NMDOT Traffic Records Bureau
- Compiles crash reports into a database
- Improves data quality: Geocode, clean, and standardize
- Provides crash database expertise to NMDOT
- Performs crash trend and geospatial analyses for NMDOT
- Produces crash statistics; Fulfills custom data requests
- Maintains NMDOT’s state crash database (1978 to present)
- Analyzes DWI arrests and convictions

Historical Trends in DWI Crashes in New Mexico



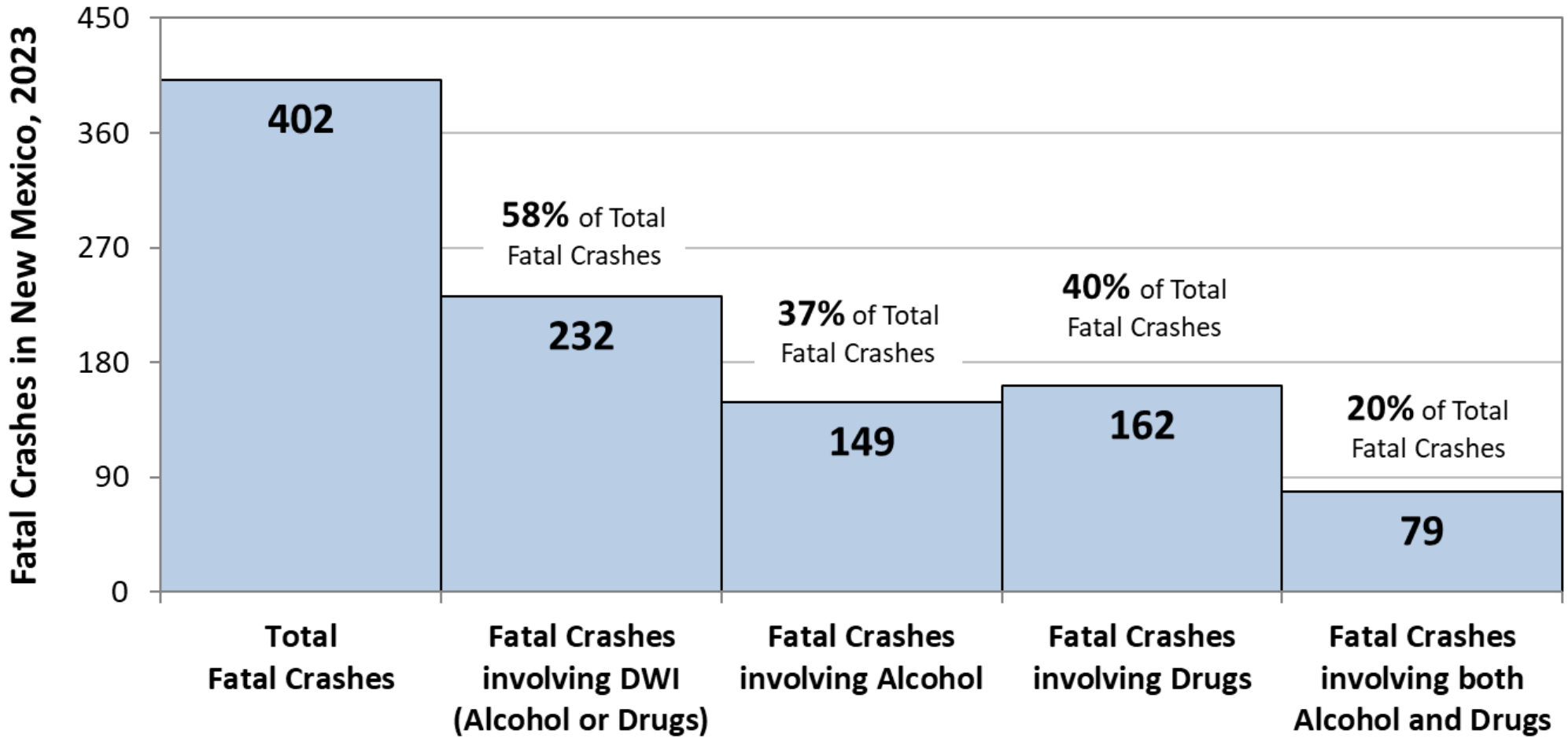
Source: NMDOT Crash Database, 1983 - 2023. DWI includes alcohol- and drug-involved crashes.
Data collection on drug-involved crashes began in 2005 and is likely underreported. Over 90% are alcohol-only.

Crashes involving DWI in New Mexico



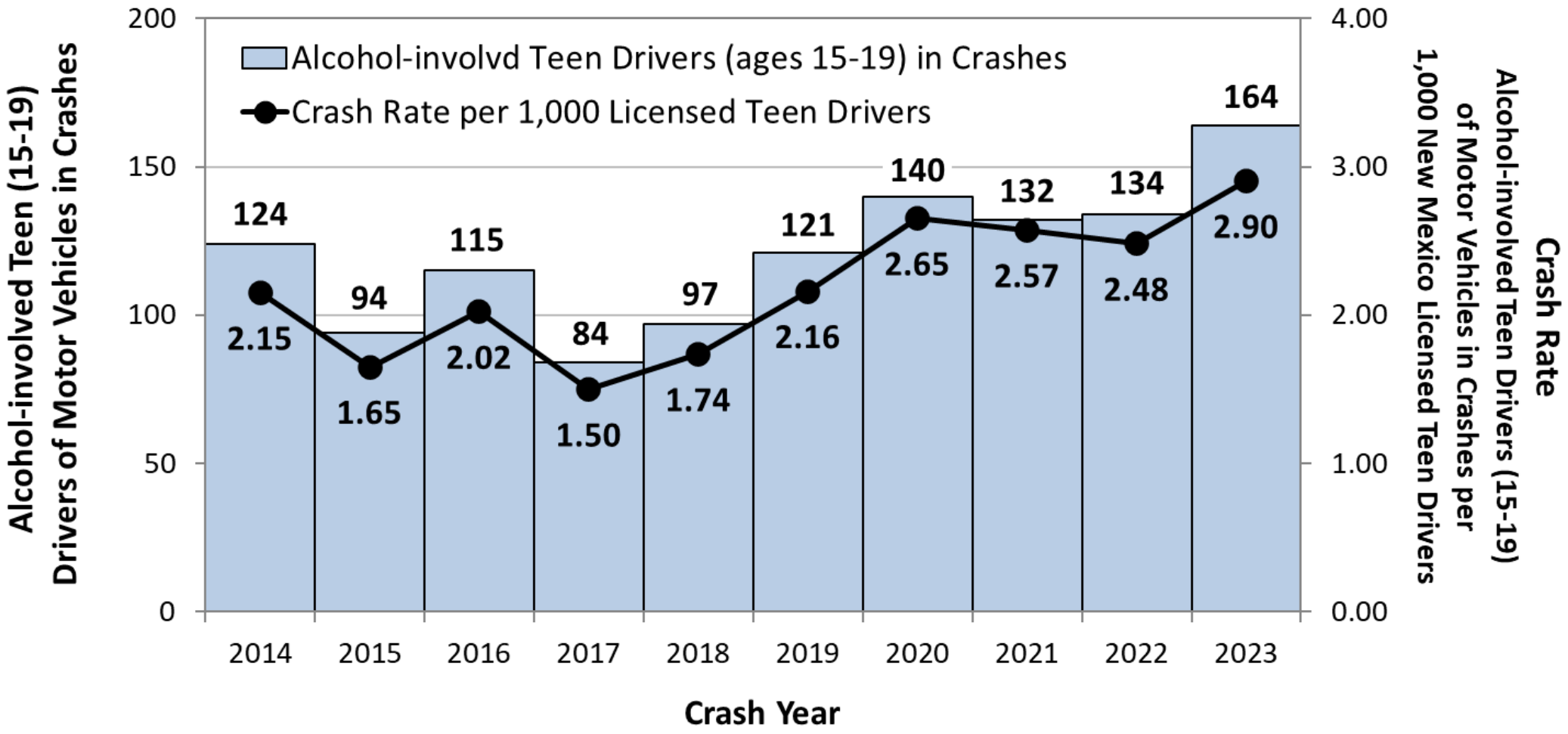
Source: NMDOT Crash Database. Drug involvement in crashes is likely under-reported.

Fatal Crashes



Source: NMDOT Crash Database. “DWI” crashes can be alcohol- or drug-involved crashes.

Teen Drinking and Driving in New Mexico



Source: NMDOT Crash Database and MVD License File. Excludes out-of-state drivers, drivers with unknown age/sex, and non-motorists. Available in the Annual DWI Report, Figure 12 (gps.unm.edu/tru/reports/dwi-reports).

Severity of DWI Crashes

	Fatal Crashes		Injury Crashes		Property Damage Only Crashes		Total DWI Crashes	
Year	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
2019	196	8.0%	1,069	43.5%	1,193	48.5%	2,458	100%
2020	207	9.1%	948	41.9%	1,109	49.0%	2,264	100%
2021	241	9.7%	1,017	41.0%	1,220	49.2%	2,478	100%
2022	236	9.6%	1,010	40.9%	1,225	49.6%	2,471	100%
2023	232	9.1%	1,068	41.9%	1,250	49.0%	2,550	100%

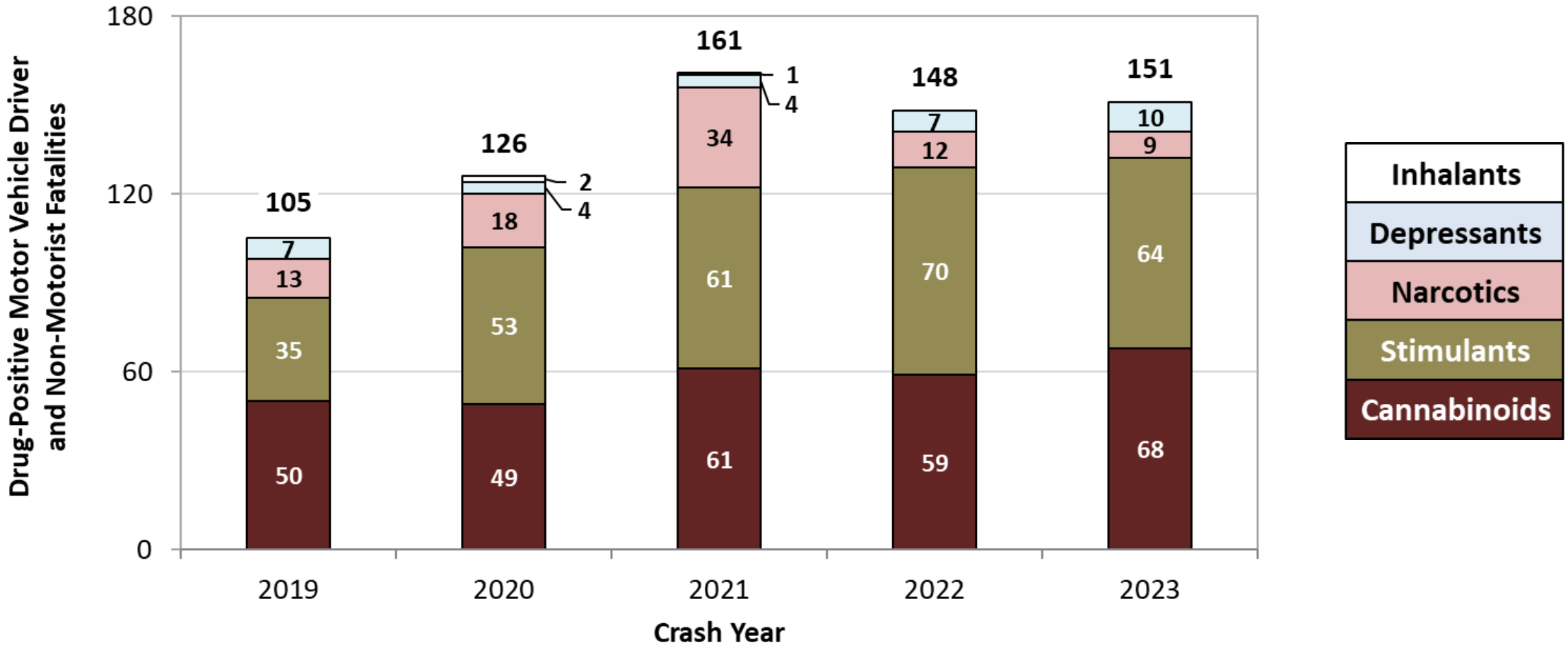
Source: NMDOT Crash Database. “DWI” crashes can be alcohol- or drug-involved crashes.

Severity of Injuries to People in DWI Crashes

	Fatalities (Class K)		Suspected Serious Injuries (Class A)		Suspected Minor Injuries (Class B)		Possible Injuries (Class C)		No Apparent Injuries (Class O)		Total People in DWI Crashes	
Year	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
2019	227	4.1%	188	3.4%	627	11.5%	788	14.4%	3,645	66.6%	5,475	100%
2020	223	4.7%	178	3.7%	593	12.5%	690	14.5%	3,065	64.5%	4,749	100%
2021	273	5.0%	190	3.5%	636	11.6%	774	14.1%	3,625	65.9%	5,498	100%
2022	259	4.8%	194	3.6%	618	11.5%	760	14.1%	3,557	66.0%	5,388	100%
2023	252	4.6%	232	4.3%	686	12.6%	695	12.8%	3,578	65.7%	5,443	100%

Source: NMDOT Crash Database. “DWI” crashes can be alcohol- or drug-involved crashes.

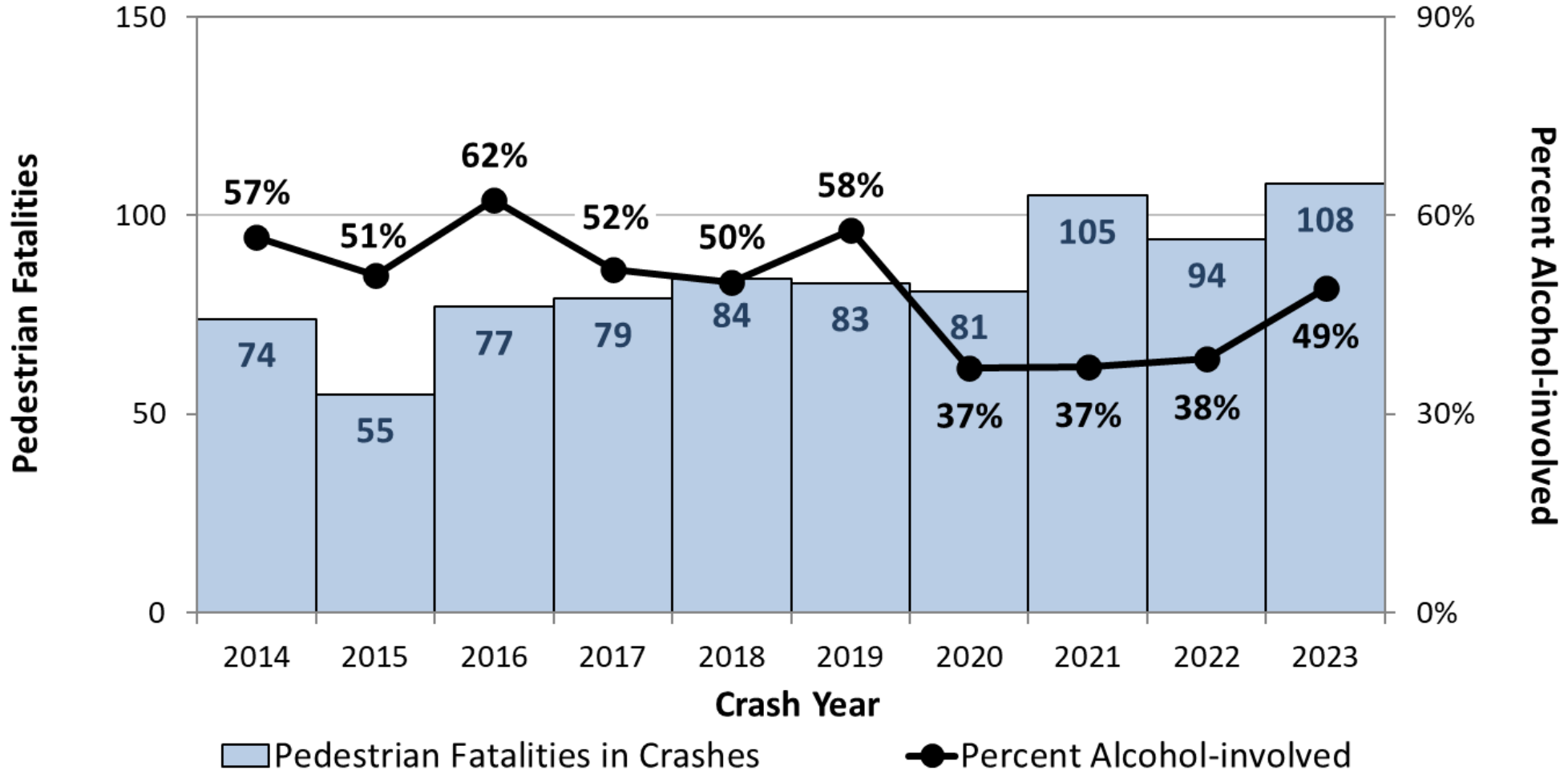
Drug Toxicology for Motor Vehicle Driver and Non-Motorist Fatalities in Crashes



Drug-Positive: A driver or non-motorist fatality who tested drug-positive according to federal FARS guidelines for drug categorization. Drug-positive toxicology results do not necessarily indicate impairment.

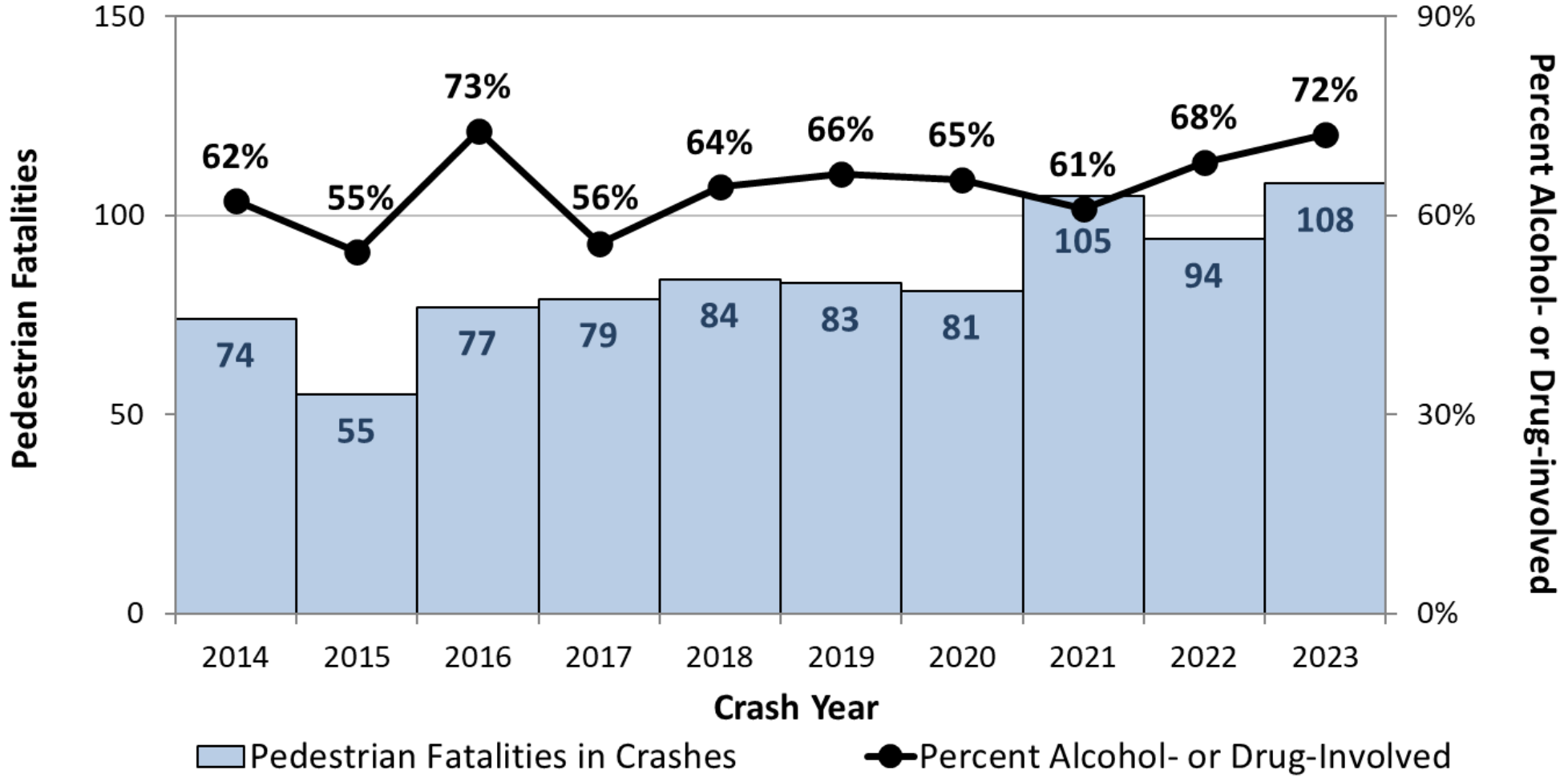
Source: NMDOT Fatallog. Toxicology data provided by the NM Office of the Medical Investigator.

Pedestrian Fatalities in Crashes by Alcohol Involvement



Source: NMDOT Crash Database. Percentages indicate pedestrians who were alcohol-involved and excludes motor vehicle drivers.
For fatalities, FARS guidelines determine alcohol or drug involvement using toxicology data provided by the NM Office of the Medical Investigator.

Pedestrian Fatalities in Crashes by Alcohol OR Drug Involvement



Source: NMDOT Crash Database. Percentages indicate pedestrians who were alcohol- or drug-involved and excludes motor vehicle drivers.
For fatalities, FARS guidelines determine alcohol or drug involvement using toxicology data provided by the NM Office of the Medical Investigator.

Public Availability of Crash Statistics

https://gps.unm.edu/tru

Community Reports, 2023

- Localized crash statistics are available for each county, city, municipality, and pueblo.
- On request: Any U.S. Census CDP

Statewide Crash Statistics, 2022

- Traffic Crash Annual Report
- DWI Annual Report (alcohol only)
- Both contain county crash rates

Fatality Statistics, 2024

- Fatalities in alcohol-involved crashes are very preliminary

Request Datasets

- End users can request a dataset of all DWI crashes in New Mexico and/or a specific intersection
- Driver, vehicle and occupant-level datasets also available for DWI crashes
- Crash data dictionaries

Geospatial Analysis, 2023

- Pedestrian/Pedalcycle Crash Dashboards
- Alcohol-involved Crash Density Maps for many cities (including Carlsbad, Farmington, Gallup, Rio Rancho)

Source: UNM Geospatial and Population Studies (UNM-GPS) is contracted by the NMDOT Traffic Records Division to produce these reports, maps and ad hoc analysis annually.

Special thanks to the staff at:
UNM-GPS,
NMDOT Traffic Records Bureau,
NMTRD Motor Vehicle Division,
and Law Enforcement Agencies

Statistics available at: **gps.unm.edu**

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