

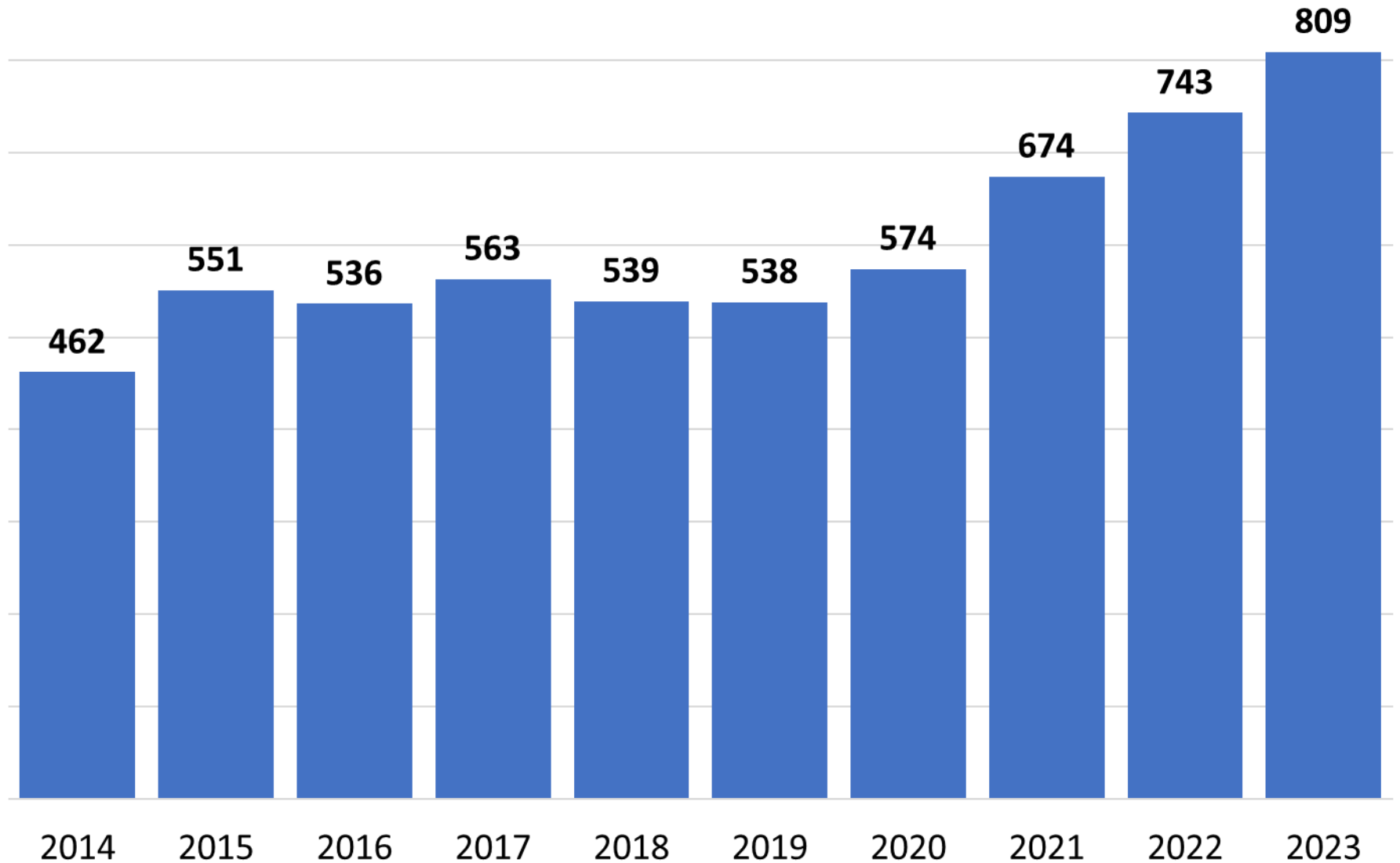


IMPAIRED DRIVING, CRASH RISK, TRAFFIC FATALITIES, AND 0.05 BAC

Mark McKechnie, External Relations Director
Washington Traffic Safety Commission

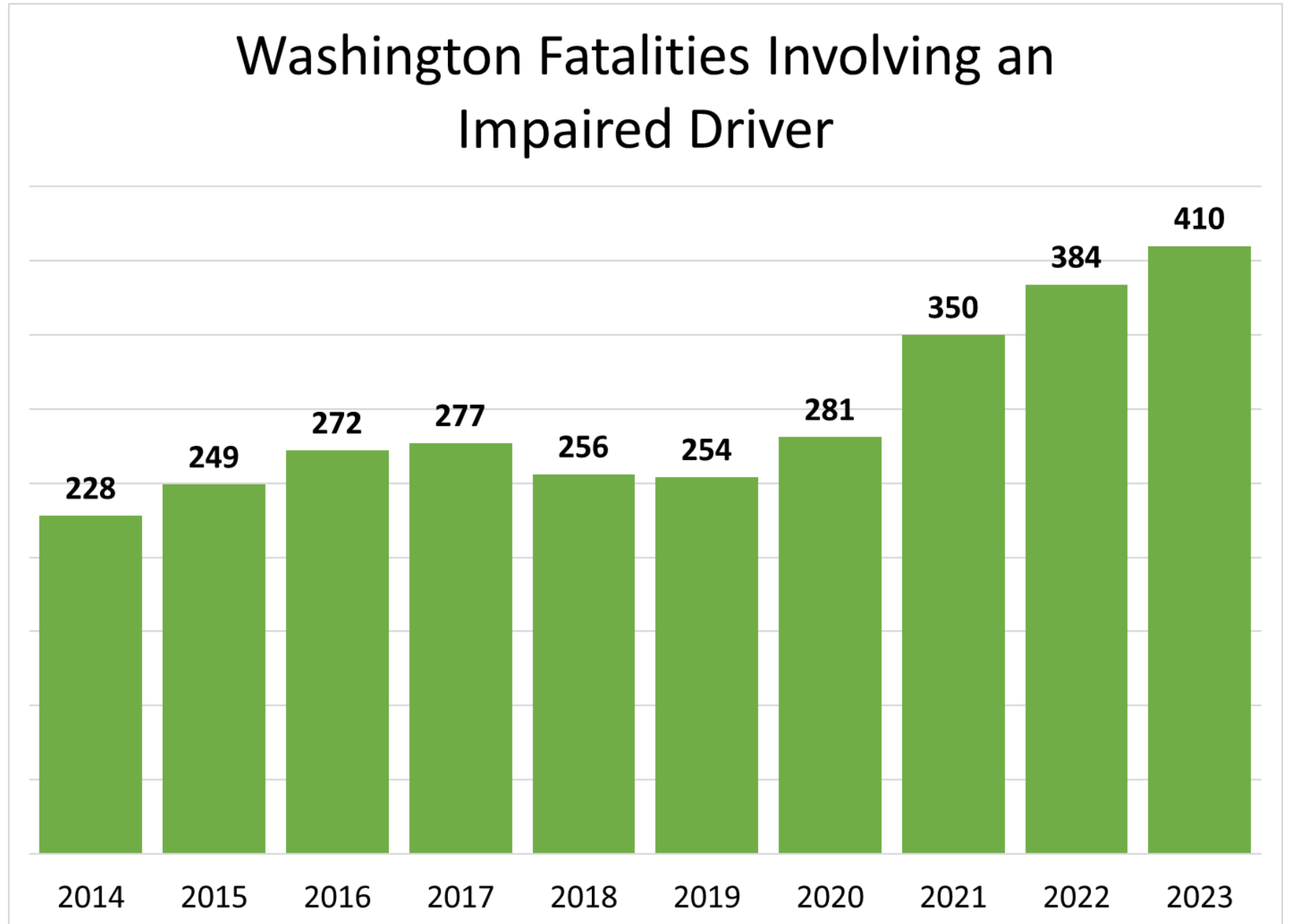
Washington Traffic Fatalities

Traffic fatalities increased by 75% from 2014 to 2023

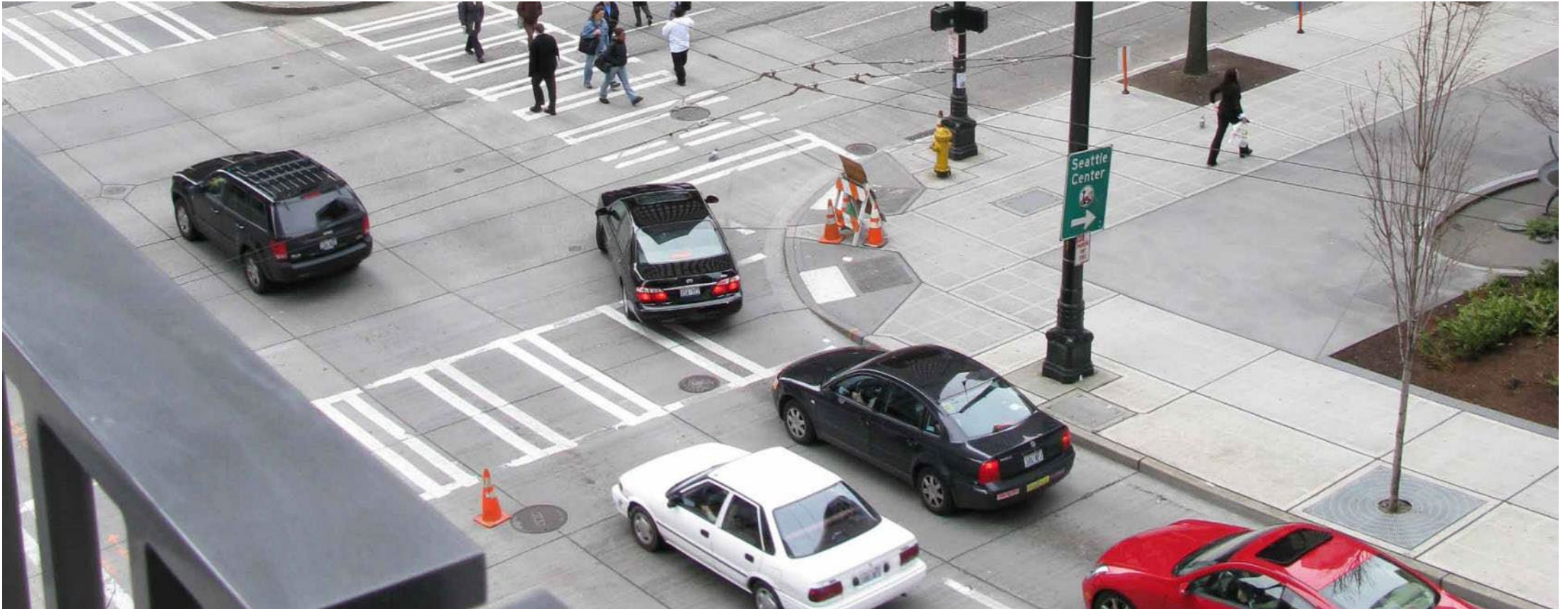


FATALITIES
INVOLVING AN
IMPAIRED
DRIVER
INCREASED
80% FROM
2014 TO 2023

TOTAL: 2,961



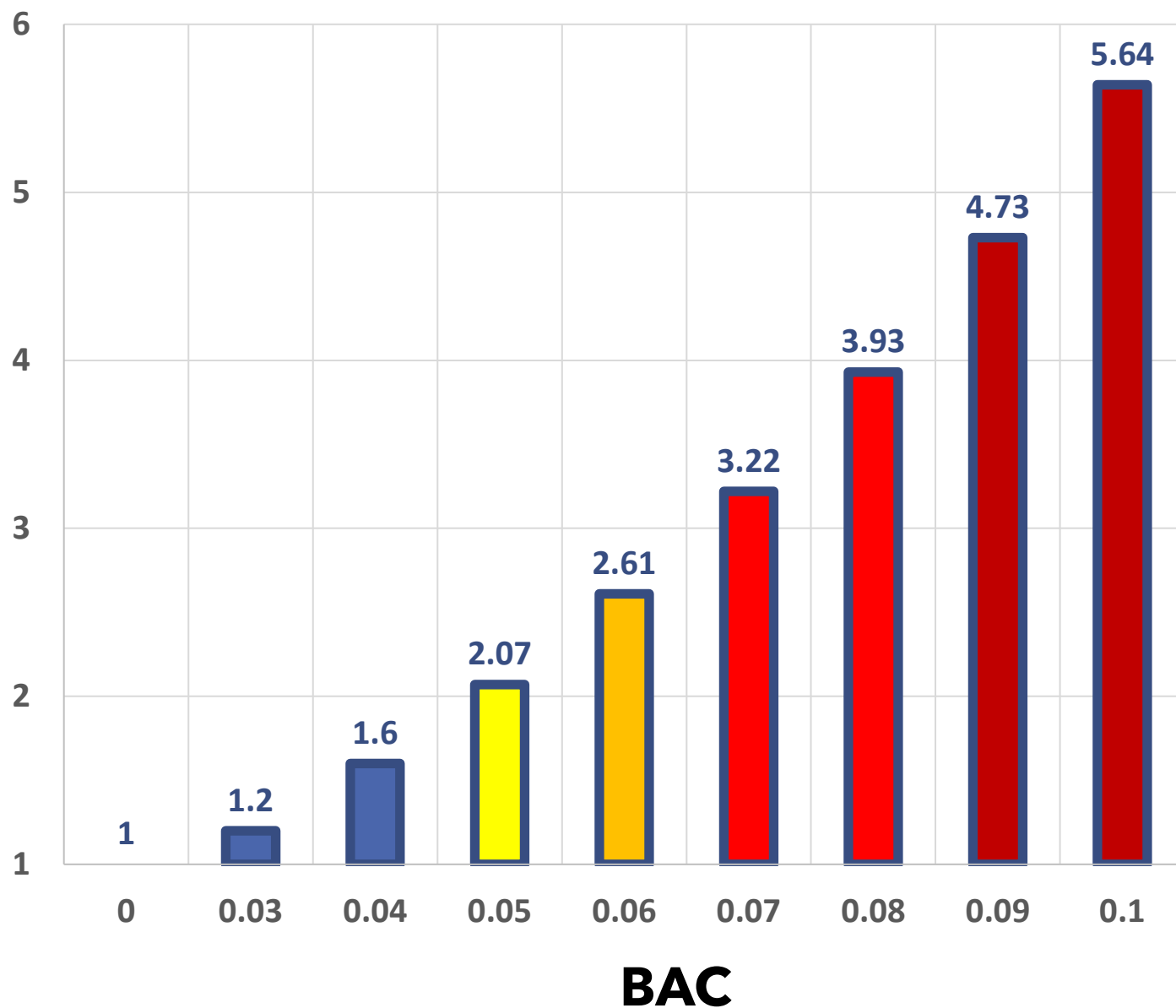
61% OF IMPAIRED DRIVERS HAD ALCOHOL IN THEIR SYSTEMS AT THE TIME OF THE FATAL CRASH



Crash Risk Compared to Sober Driver*

*Adjusted to account for other factors that increase crash risk, e.g. males and younger drivers have higher crash rates compared to females and older drivers.

Baseline risk:
Sober Driver

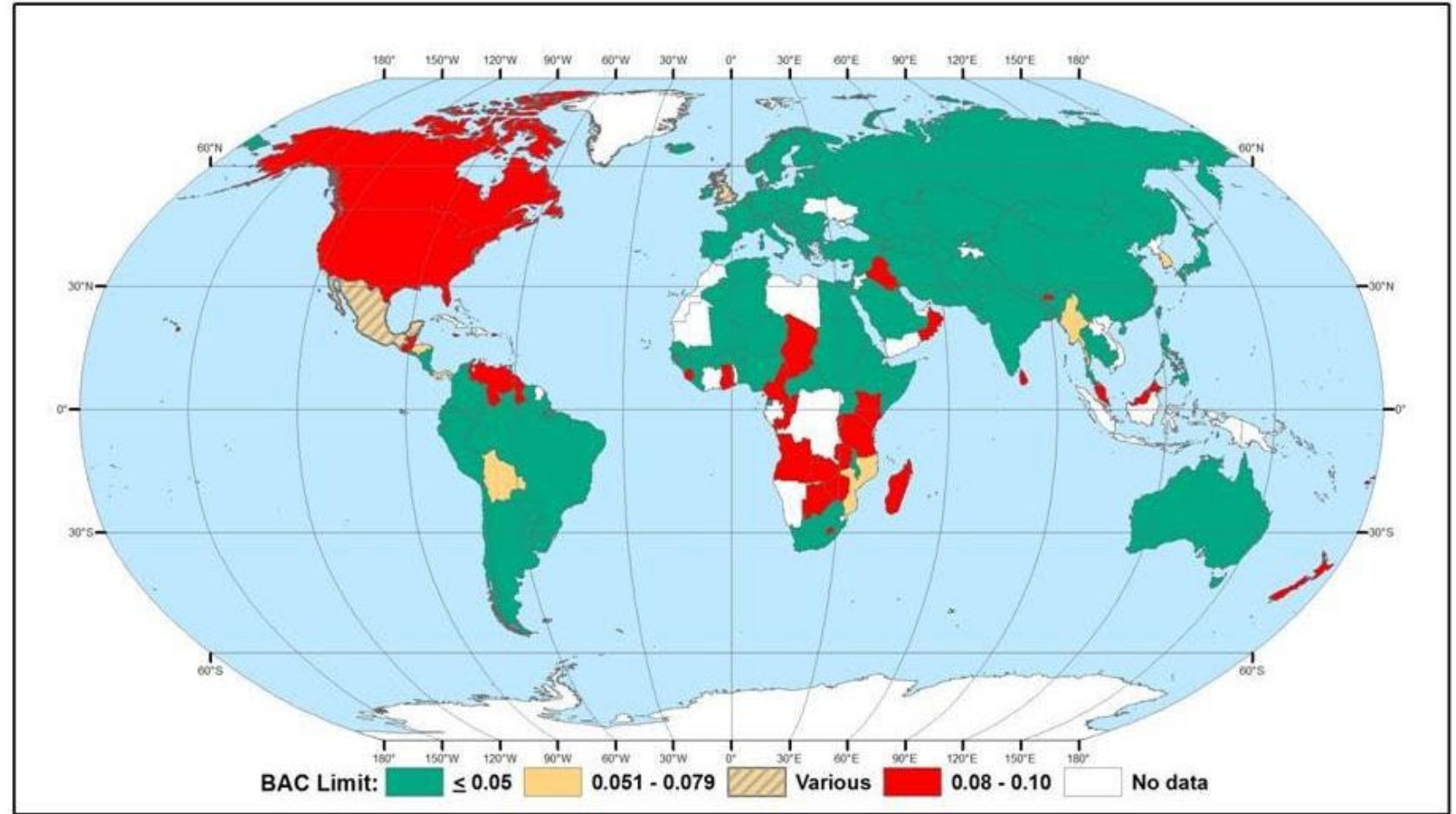


HISTORY

Norway adopted the first
per se BAC limit in 1936:
0.05 percent

By the mid 2010s, 75% of
countries (home to 84%
of the Earth's population)
had adopted BAC limits
of 0.05 or lower

AVERAGE 11% REDUCTION IN FATAL CRASHES AFTER BAC LOWERED FROM 0.08 TO 0.05



Voas, Robert B., Torres, Pedro, Romano, E., & Lacey, John H. (2012). Alcohol-related risk of driver fatalities: An update using 2007 data. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*, 73(3), 341-350.

Countries with 0.05 or lower are in Green
Countries with 0.08-0.10 are in Red

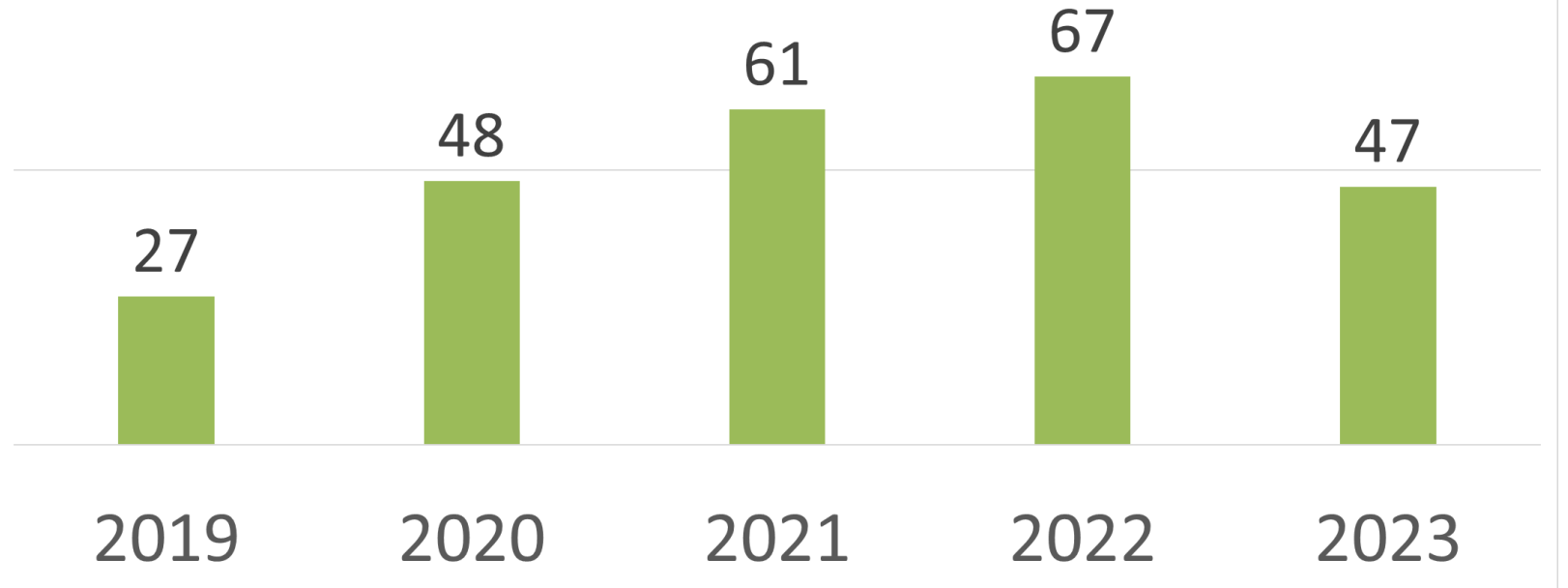
SEPARATING DRINKING FROM DRIVING REDUCES FATALITIES (WE CAN REDUCE FATALITIES WITHOUT REDUCING CONSUMPTION.)

Country/State	Fatality Rate per 1,000,000	BAC Limit (adult)	Alcohol Consumption (annual liters/person)
USA	129	0.08	8.93
Washington	94.5	0.08	8.59
Portugal	63	0.05	10.37
France	49	0.05	11.44
Austria	41	0.05	11.9
Germany	34	0.05	10.56
Finland	34	0.05	8.23
Spain	36	0.05	10.72
Ireland	31	0.05	10.91

2022 data: Traficom Finland

WHILE COVID
DISRUPTED
PROGRESS IN
UTAH, THEIR
0.05 LAW
HELPED BRING
FATALITIES BACK
DOWN AFTER
COVID (UNLIKE
WA)

Utah: Fatalities involving a Driver with BAC of 0.05 or higher, 2019-2023 (UT Dept of Public Safety, 2024)



2019 was the first year of 0.05 in Utah

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING 0.05

- World Health Organization (WHO)
- World Medical Association
- American Medical Association (AMA)
- British Medical Association
- European Commission
- European Transport Safety Council
- Canadian Medical Association
- American Automobile Association (AAA)
- Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB)
- National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine
- Centre for Addiction and Mental Health
- Association for the Advancement of Automotive Medicine
- AB-InBev Foundation



Questions

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