



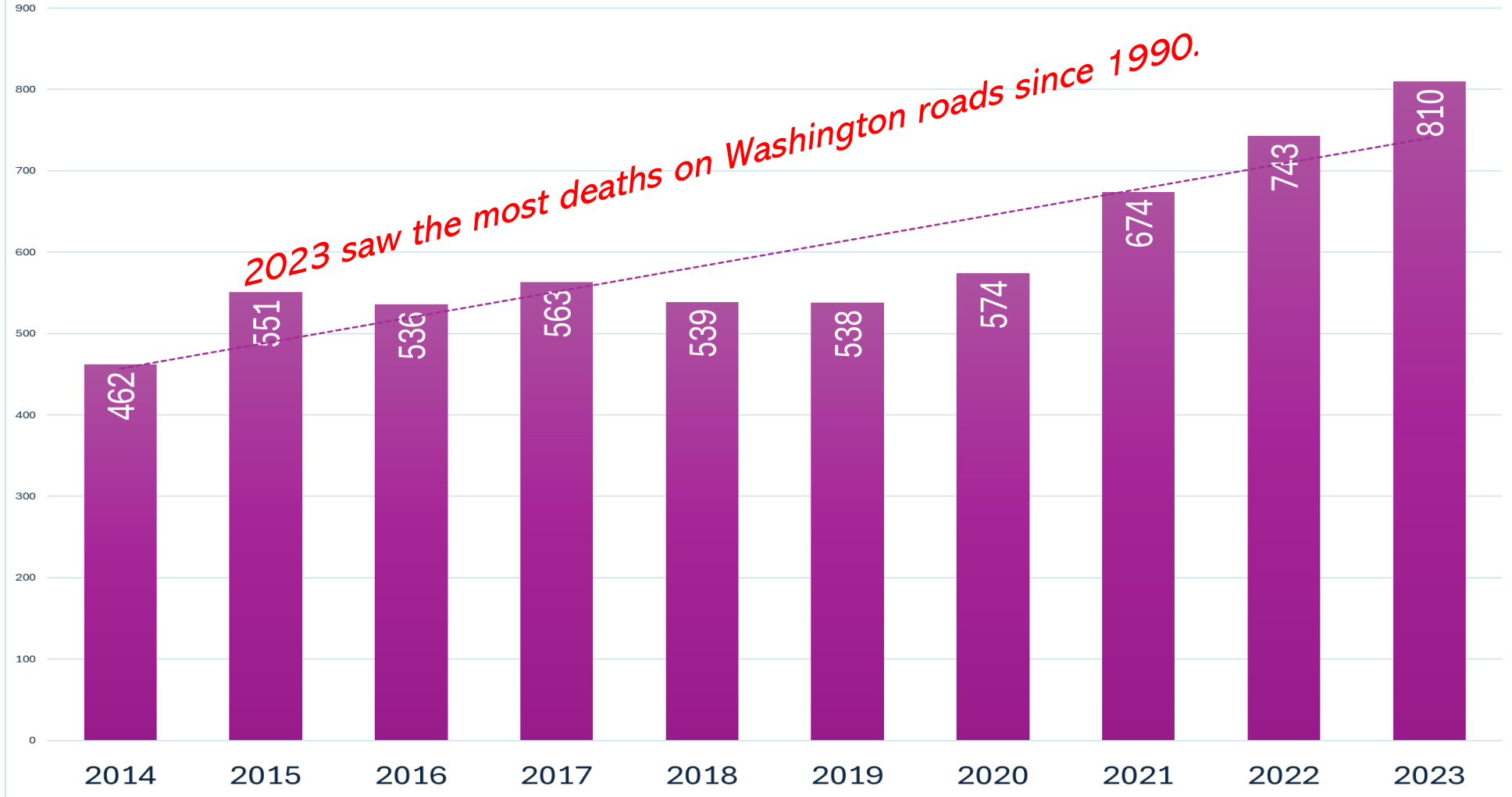
Intersection Between Impaired Driving and Speed

Penny Rarick

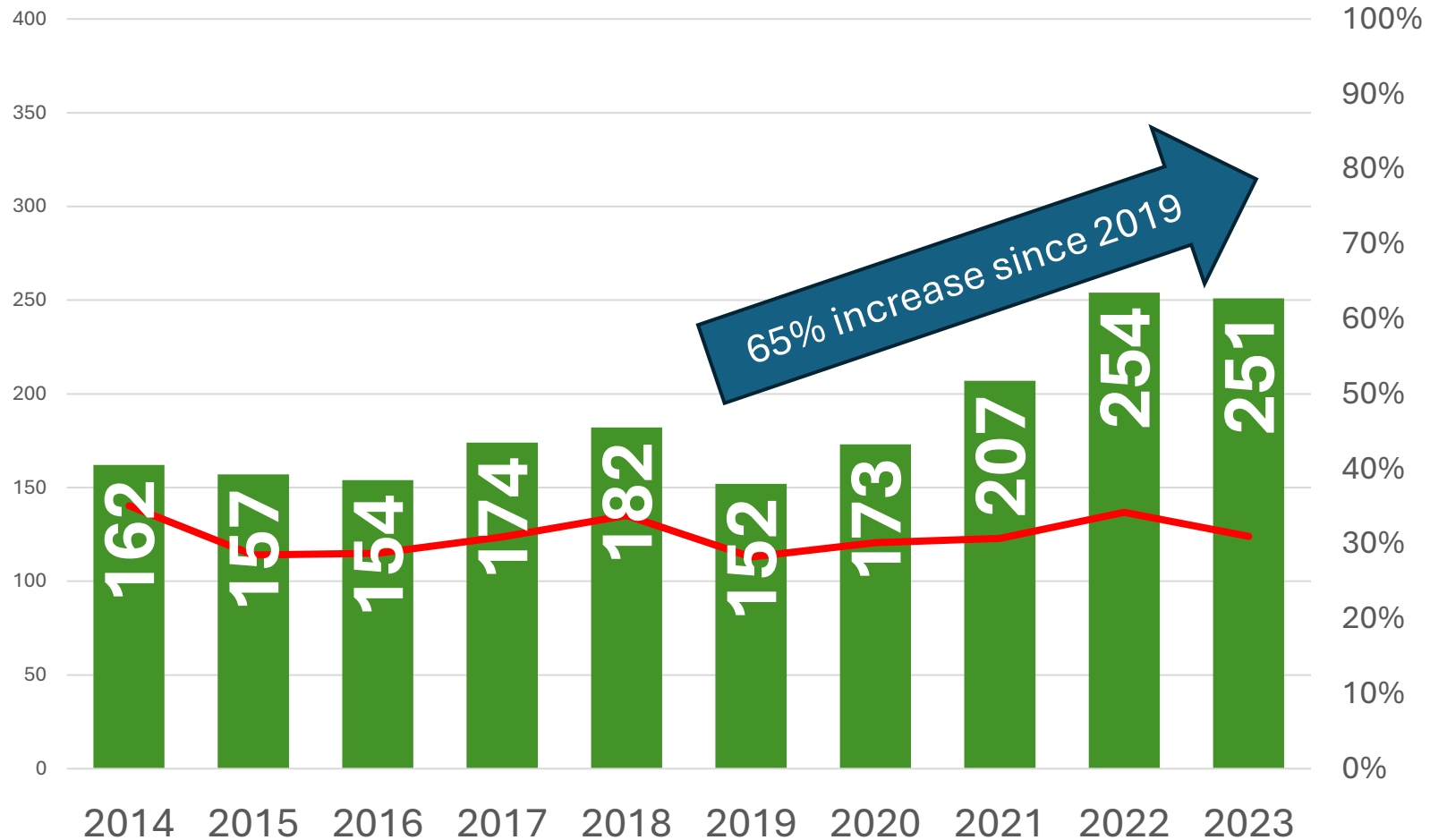
Program Manager, Impaired Driving

June 10, 2024

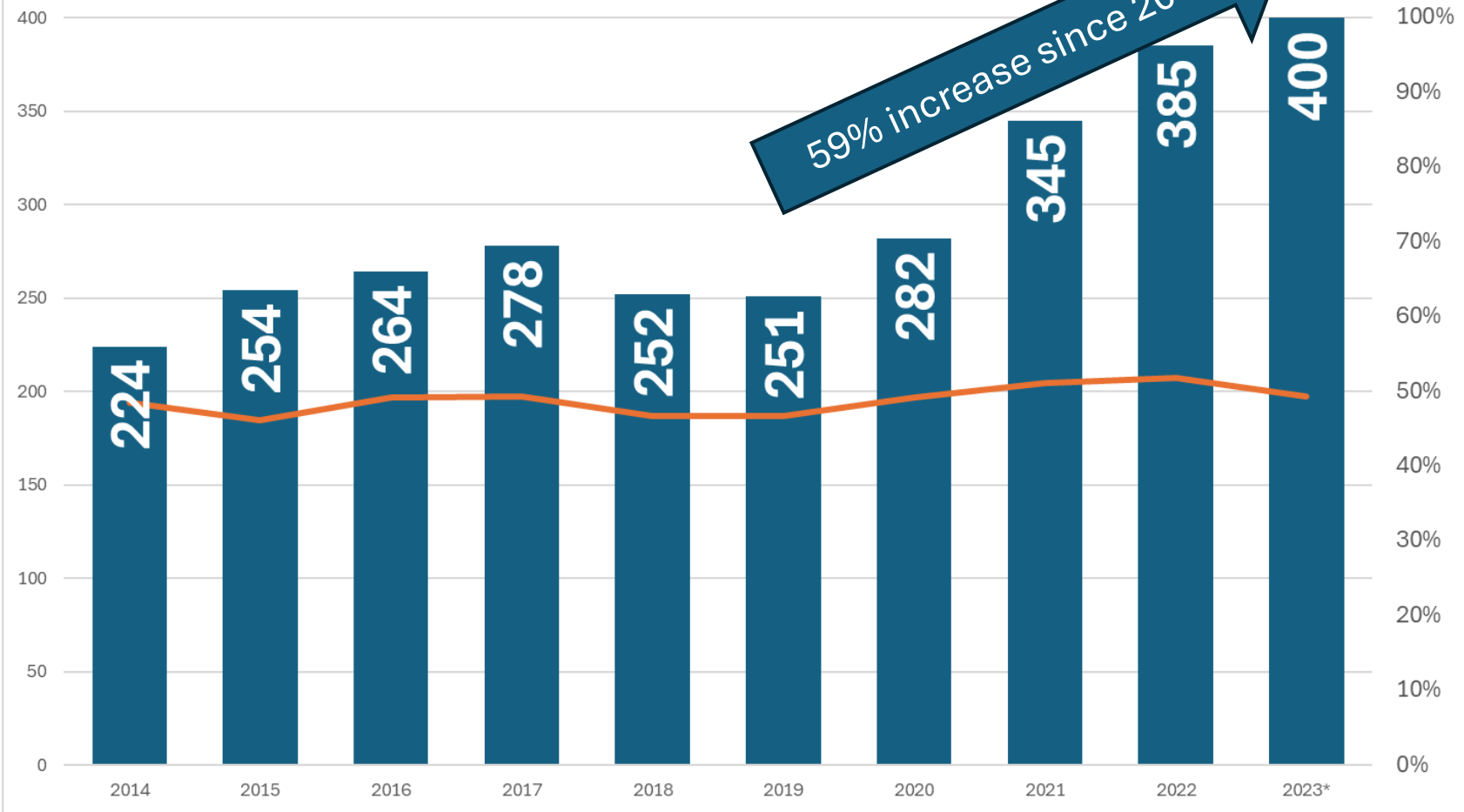
Washington Traffic Fatalities, 2014-2023 (2023 is preliminary)



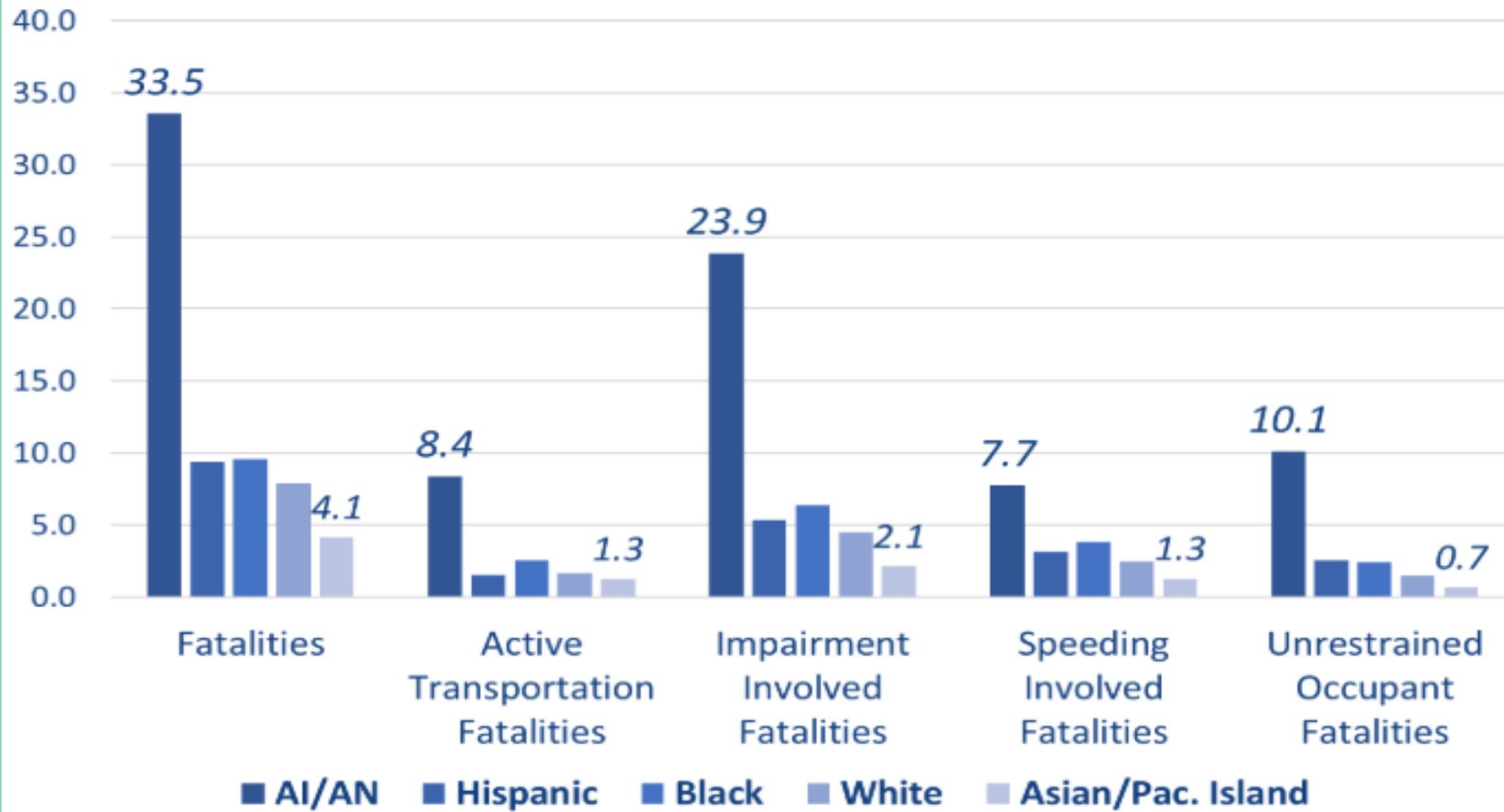
Washington Traffic Fatalities involving a Speeding Driver and percentage of total, 2014-2023 (2023 numbers are preliminary)



Washington Traffic Fatalities Involving an Impaired Driver and Percentage of Total, 2014-2023 (2023 is preliminary)



Traffic Fatality Rate per 100,000 Population by Race 2018-2022



Impaired Driving

- Impairment due to alcohol and other drug use continues to be the number one risk factor involved in fatal crashes - approximately 50 percent of all fatal crashes annually.
- Drivers ages 21-30 make up one-third of impaired drivers in fatal crashes and another 21 percent are ages 31-40. Combined, these age groups (21-40) make up more than half of impaired drivers involved in fatal crashes.
- Overall, alcohol (alone or in combination with other drugs) continues to be the most prevalent impairing substance found among drivers in fatal crashes. Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) averages remain high at 0.155 in 2022 and remains steady at 0.154 in 2023.
- While Washington State has a legal per say blood alcohol concentration limit of 0.08, there is evidence to suggest that impairment begins well before .08. Crash risk doubles before a person reaches 0.07 percent BAC. From 2020-2022, 15 percent of alcohol positive drivers involved in fatal crashes had a BAC of less than 0.08.
- 2022: 46% of pedestrian fatalities involved impaired users, 18% involved impaired drivers.

Impaired Driving

Cannabis and Alcohol

- Drivers positive for delta-9 THC often also positive for alcohol/other drugs (80%).
- Majority (80%) of these drivers are male; over one-third aged 16-25.

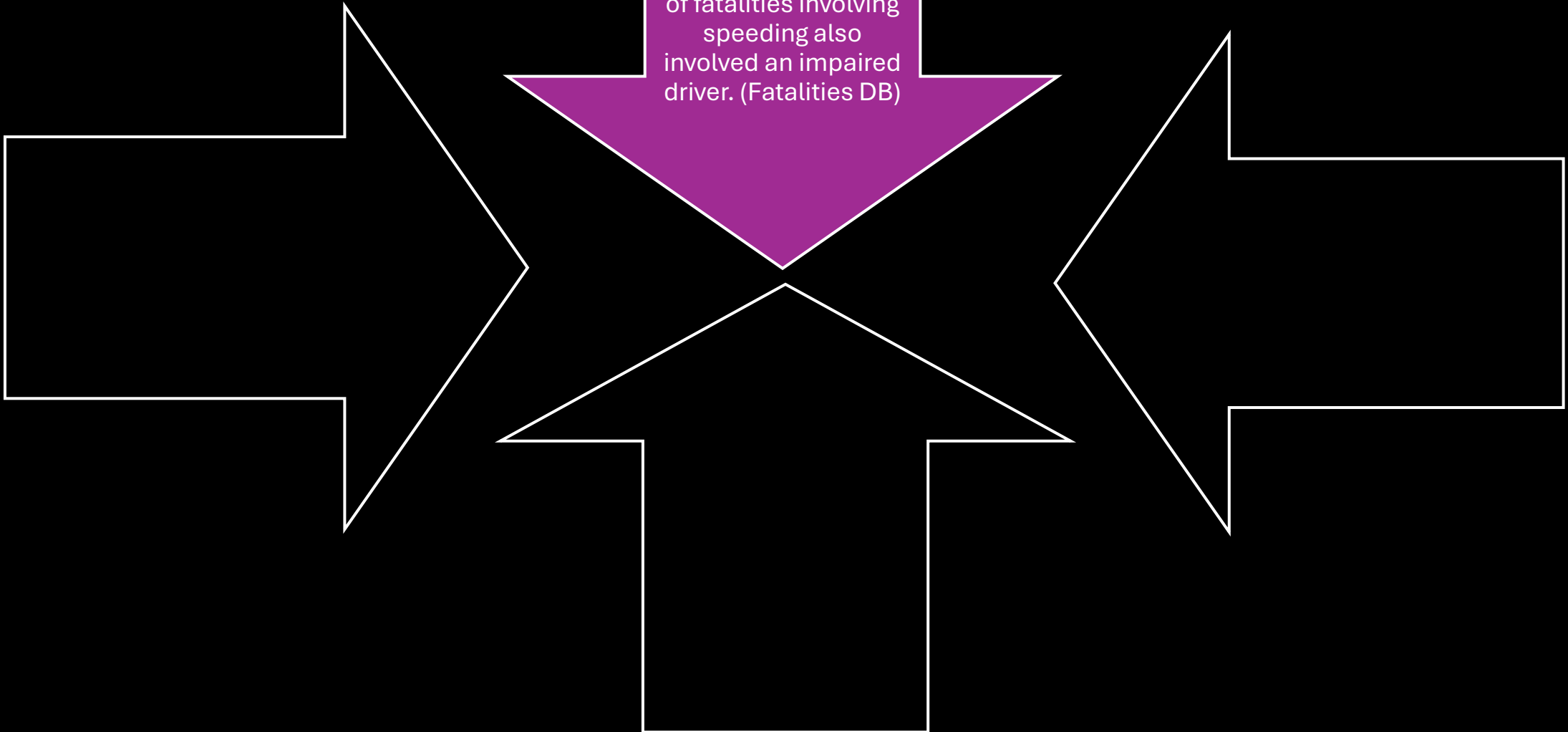
Youth and Cannabis Use:

- Rural youth more likely to use cannabis and ride with impaired drivers compared to urban peers.
- Rural youth with friends using cannabis have 33 times higher rate of current use.
- Higher likelihood of binge drinking, and THC vape use among rural youth.

[Data Dashboards - Washington Traffic Safety Commission](#)

2012-2022

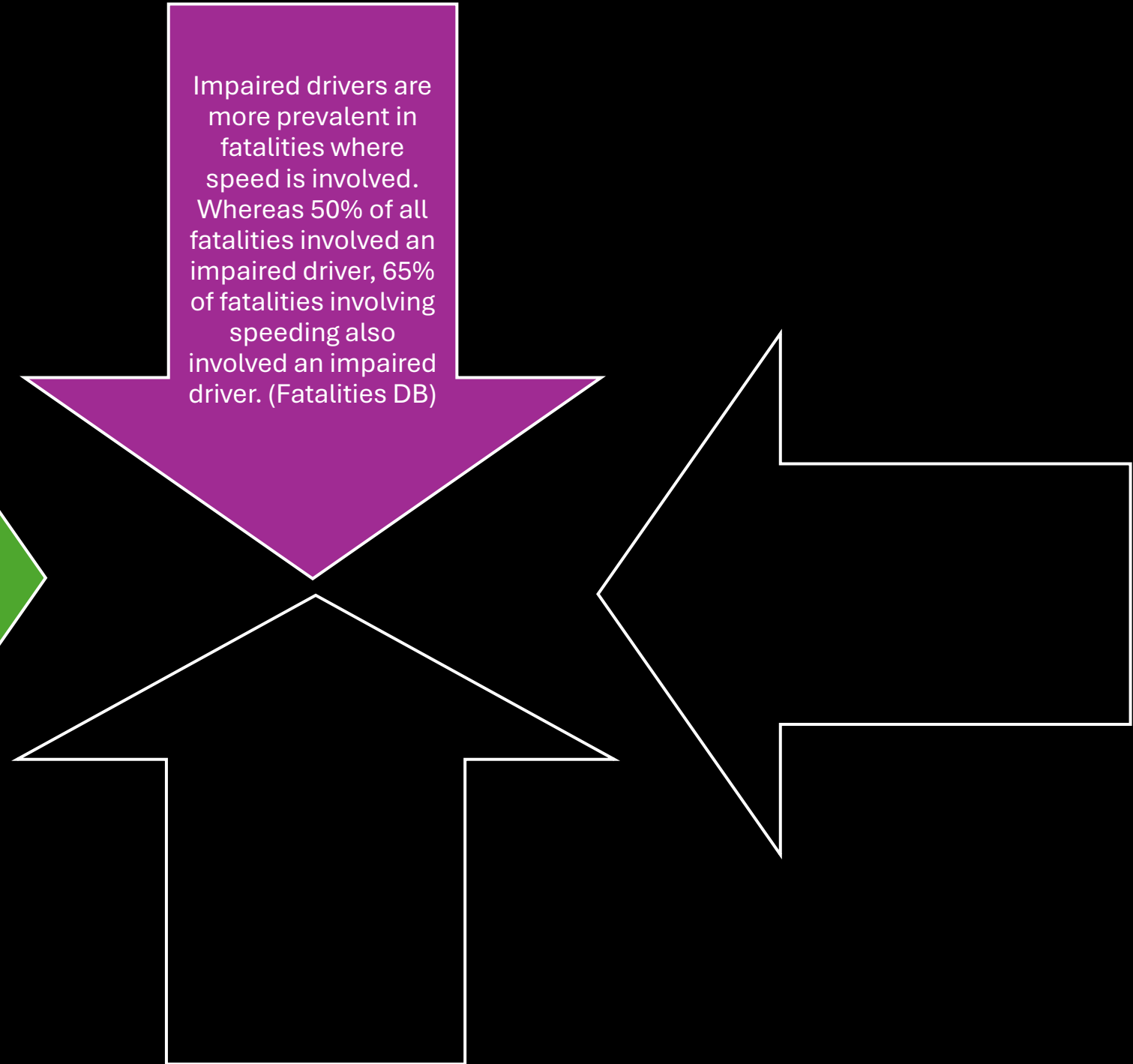
Impaired drivers are more prevalent in fatalities where speed is involved. Whereas 50% of all fatalities involved an impaired driver, 65% of fatalities involving speeding also involved an impaired driver. (Fatalities DB)



2012-2022

Fatal crashes involving impaired drivers and speed are more prevalent on county roads. Whereas 27% of all fatal crashes occur on county roads, 35% occur on county roads involving an impaired driver and speed. (Fatal Crash DB)

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Unrestrained fatalities were more prevalent in fatal crashes involving an impaired driver and speed. Whereas 21% of all fatalities were unrestrained, 33% were unrestrained when an impaired driver and speed were involved. (Fatalities DB)

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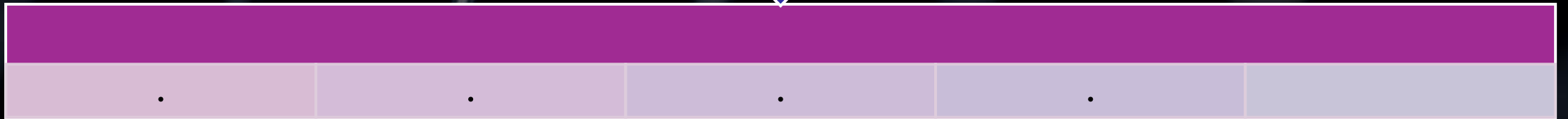
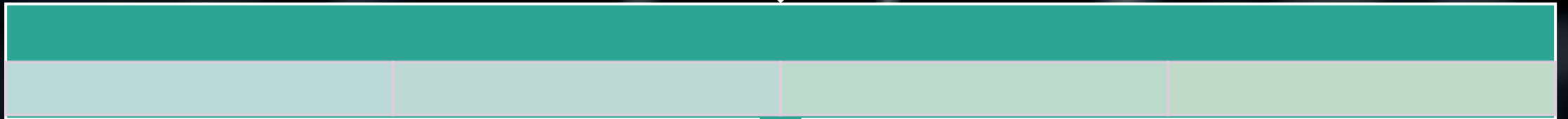
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Fatalities involving an impaired drivers and speed are concentrated between the ages of 21 and 35. (Fatalities DB)

2012-2022

Of speeding drivers involved in a crash, 62% were positive for drugs and/or alcohol. (Drivers DB)



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Of those speeding drivers who were positive for drugs and/or alcohol: (Drivers DB)

35% were unrestrained.	24% had been in a crash in the past five years.	38% were between the ages of 21 and 30.	29% did not have a valid license (i.e., suspended, not licensed, expired)
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The number of impaired drivers involved in fatal crashes who were speeding has increased year-over-year since 2018, from 96 to 139 (Impairment DB)



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Among impaired drivers involved in a fatal crash that were speeding: (Impairment DB)

82% were male.

36% had a BAC twice the legal limit (.16) or greater.

39% were positive for alcohol only.

32% were poly-drug (with alcohol) positive.

42% were positive for delta-9 THC with no other drugs.

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Questions



Thank you!

Penny Rarick

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