



IDENTIFYING FLORIDA'S TEEN TRAFFIC SAFETY CHALLENGES

Nationally, teen drivers were involved in approximately 911,483 crashes resulting in 3,833 fatalities and 364,095 serious injuries in 2019. Florida has more than 400,000 registered teen drivers, age 15 to 19. In Florida, teen drivers were involved in 60,135 crashes resulting in 279 fatalities and 2,200 serious injuries in 2019. Nationally, drivers aged 16 and 17 have the highest crash rates of any age group. Peer pressure is an especially potent contributing factor to teen driver vehicle crashes.

A recent National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) study found:

- Teens were two-and-a-half times more likely to engage in potentially risky behavior when driving with a teenage peer versus driving alone.
- The likelihood increased to three times when traveling with multiple passengers.
- Safety belts were not worn in one-third of the deaths and serious injuries involving these teen drivers.

Teen drivers are inexperienced and therefore more likely to underestimate dangerous situations and allow shorter distances between vehicles. From 2015-2019, more than one third of all Florida teen fatalities, serious injuries and crashes occurred at intersections where the mix of traffic, pedestrians, signs, and signals can be overwhelming, especially for someone who is inexperienced. The Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) laws allow new drivers to gain necessary experience and skills before being allowed full driving privileges. GDL has been very effective in reducing fatalities and serious injuries among teen drivers.

ANALYZING FLORIDA'S TEEN TRAFFIC SAFETY DATA*

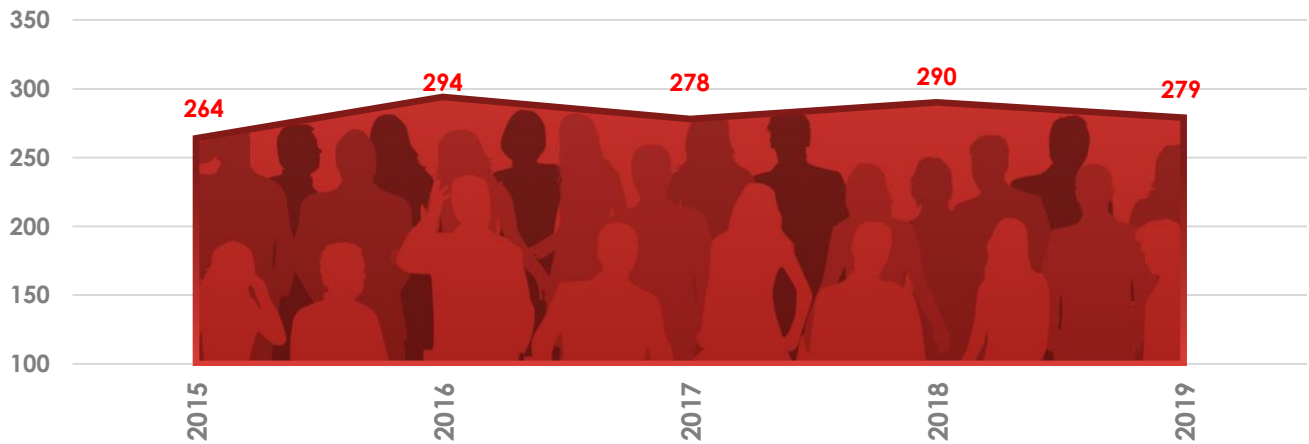
Annual Teen Driver Fatalities, Serious Injuries and Crashes

Florida's population and daily vehicle miles traveled (VMT) continues to rise which has contributed to the rising number of annual fatalities on Florida's roadways. However, while Florida's fatalities continue to trend upward, the number of serious injuries on Florida's roadways have been declining, dropping by 16 percent since 2015, despite a 10 percent increase in the total number of crashes in the same time period.

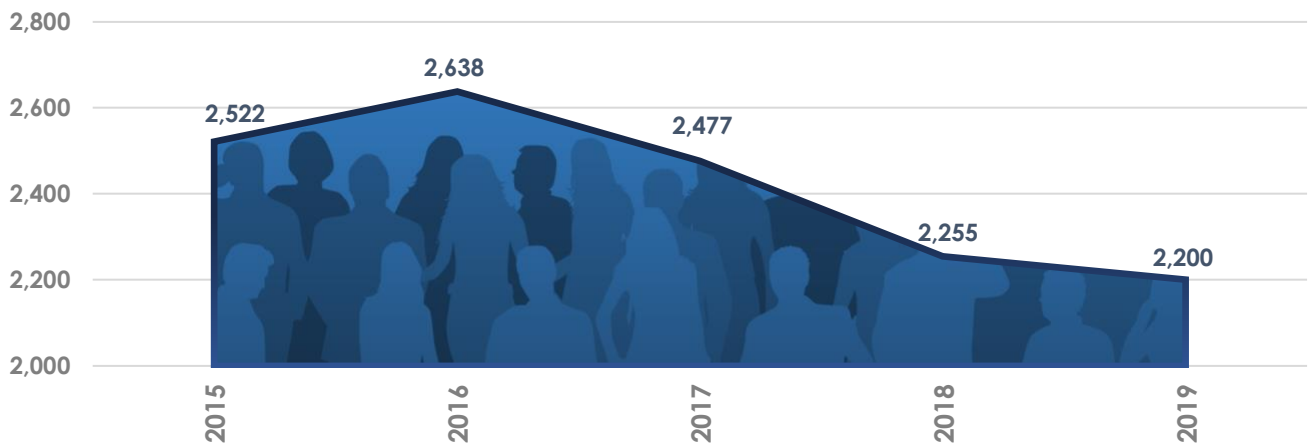
- › Like overall statewide fatalities, Florida's number of teen driver fatalities has increased slightly since 2015 (5 percent), likely tied to Florida's growing population and daily vehicle miles traveled.
- › Serious injuries to teen drivers has declined, like the overall statewide trend in serious injuries. Increased adoption and advancements in vehicle safety technology (e.g. lane departure warnings and automatic braking) are likely factors in fewer serious injuries, despite the increased number of total crashes.
- › In general, teens are more likely to be involved in a crash when driving with other teens in the vehicle.

**Data provided by FLHSMV for the period of 2015-2019. Data includes all fatalities, serious injuries, and crashes involving a teen driver.*

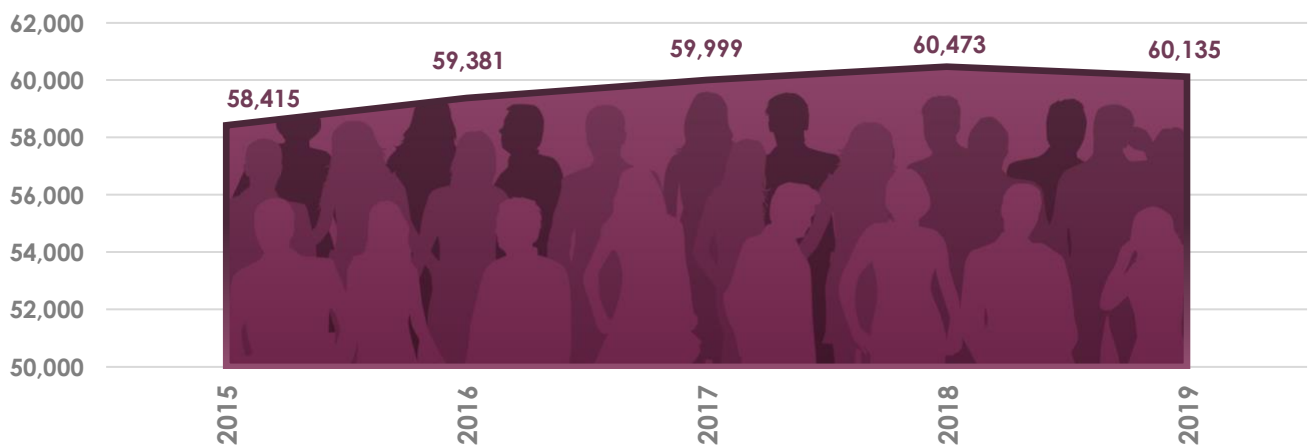
Fatalities In Crashes Involving Teen Drivers, Florida - Annually



Serious Injuries In Crashes Involving Teen Drivers, Florida - Annually



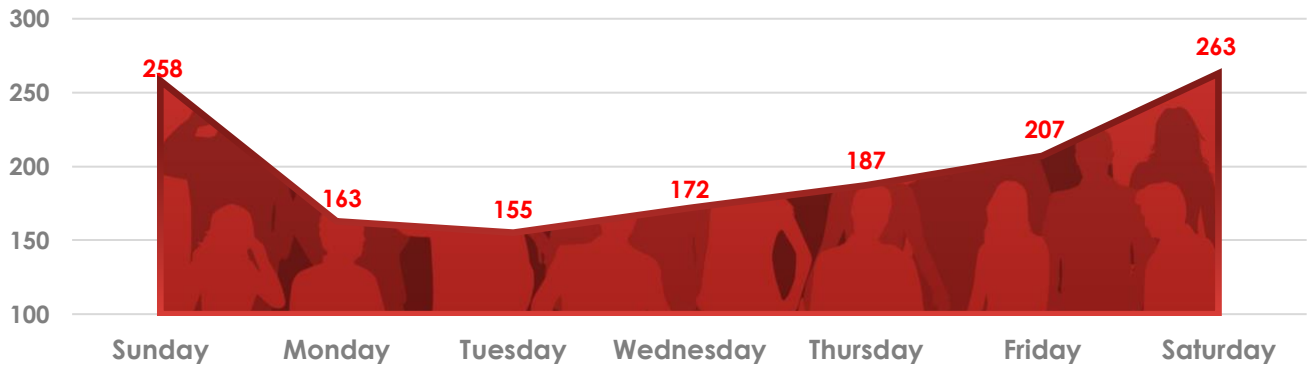
Crashes Involving Teen Drivers, Florida - Annually



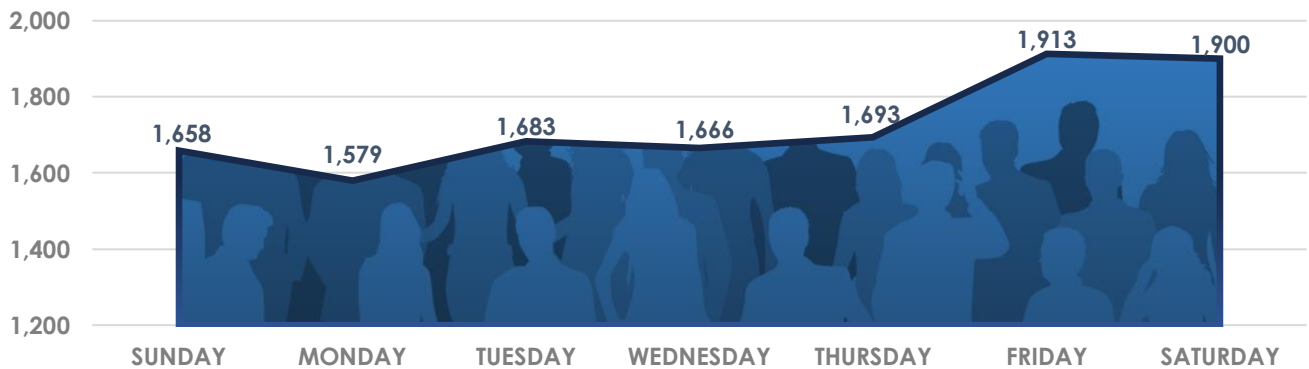
Teen Driver Fatalities, Serious Injuries and Crashes – Day of Week

- › This substantial increase in fatalities on Saturday and Sunday indicates that teens are engaging in far more dangerous driving behaviors on the weekends (including impaired driving after parties, speeding/drag racing, staying out late and driving drowsy, and even experiencing boredom that could lead to more dangerous driving behaviors). Even though fewer crashes happen on the weekend, the rate of fatal crashes is much higher.
- › The highest number of crashes occur from Monday to Friday, with the highest rate of crashes occurring on Fridays. However, Saturday and Sunday experience 27 percent and 24 percent more fatalities, respectively.

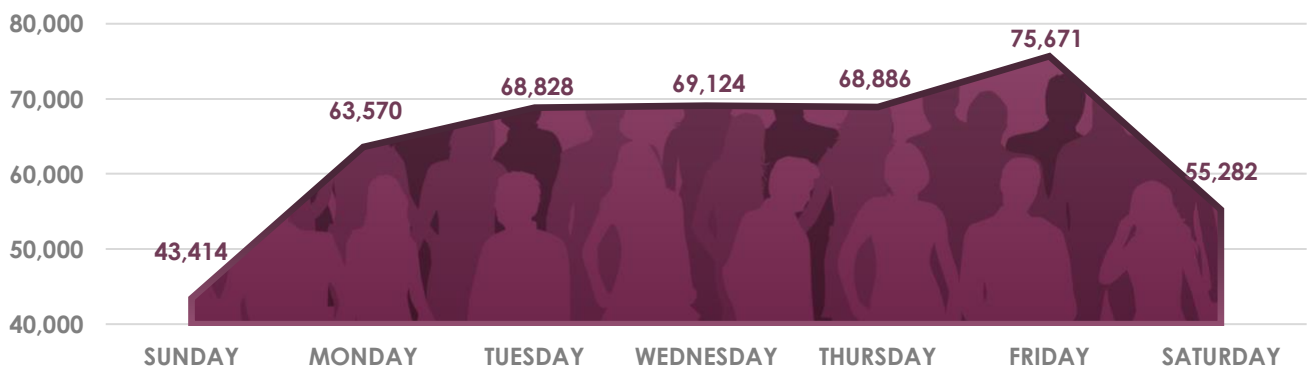
Fatalities In Crashes Involving Teen Drivers, Florida – Weekday



Serious Injuries In Crashes Involving Teen Drivers, Florida – Weekday



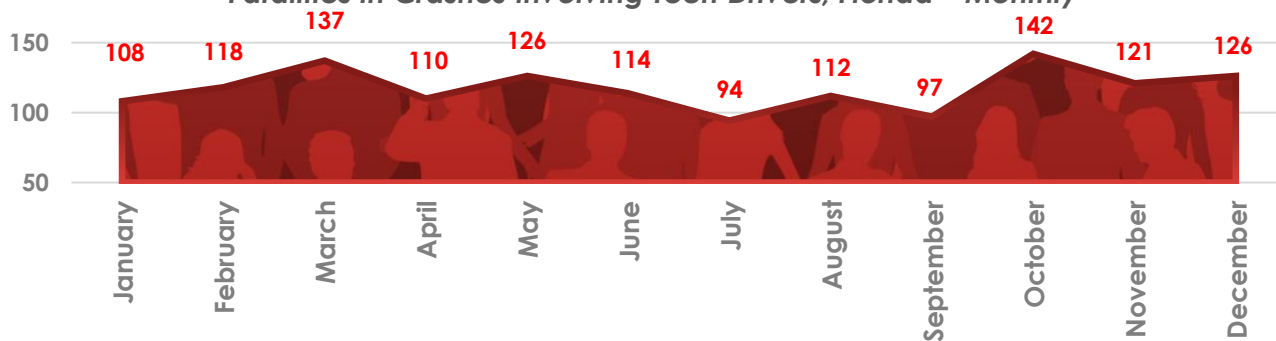
Crashes Involving Teen Drivers, Florida – Weekday



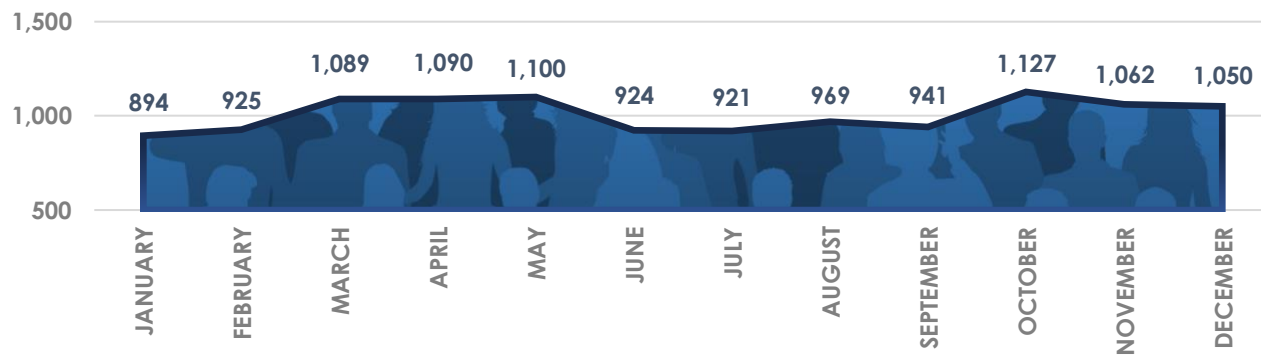
Monthly Teen Driver Fatalities, Serious Injuries and Crashes

- › The highest rates for teen driver fatalities occur in October and March. These months align with Prom and Spring Break, respectively, and these events could be contributors to the high rate of fatalities, as they are both associated with alcohol consumption among teens.
- › The lowest rates of teen driver crashes and serious injuries occur during the months of June, July, January, and February. These months also correspond with summer and winter breaks from school, suggesting teens are driving less during these months (instead of a daily commute while school is in session).
- › The “100 Deadliest Days of Summer” for teens is nationally observed from April to September. However, Florida’s crash data suggests this is not a timeframe when teens in Florida are most often involved in a fatal or serious injury crash, perhaps due to fewer teens driving regularly while not in school, or year-round good weather making summer driving less appealing than other states.

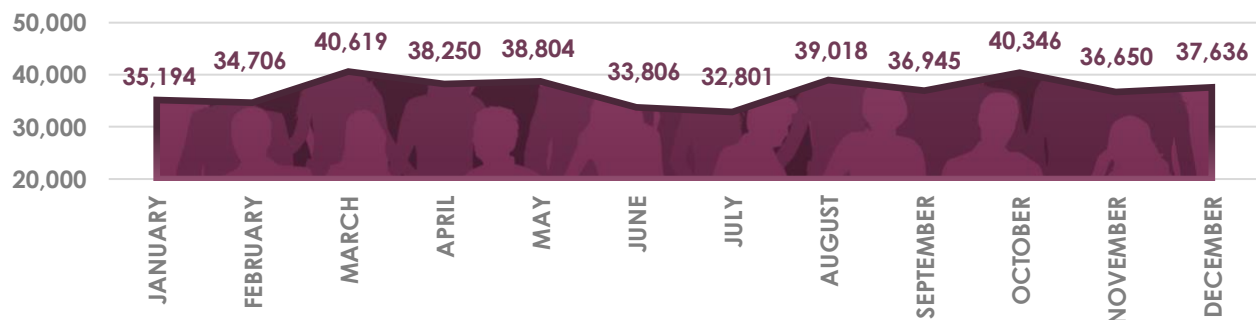
Fatalities In Crashes Involving Teen Drivers, Florida – Monthly



Serious Injuries In Crashes Involving Teen Drivers, Florida – Monthly



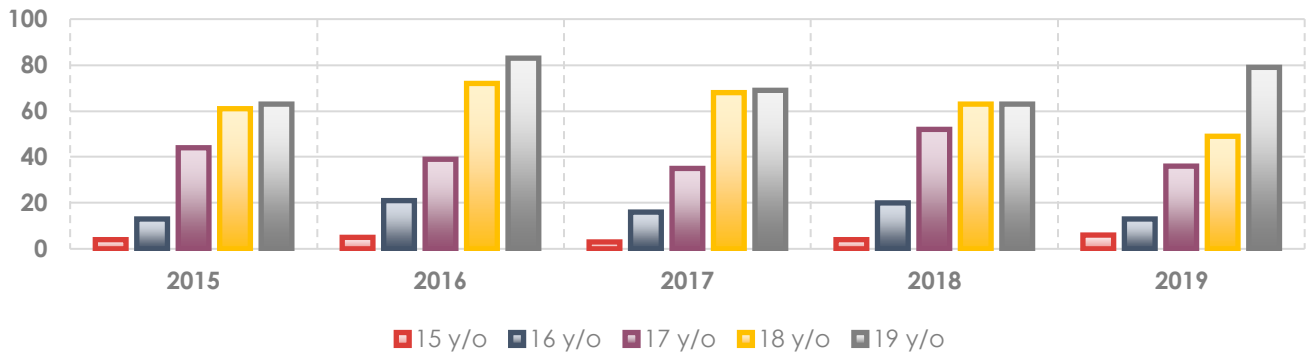
Crashes Involving Teen Drivers, Florida – Monthly



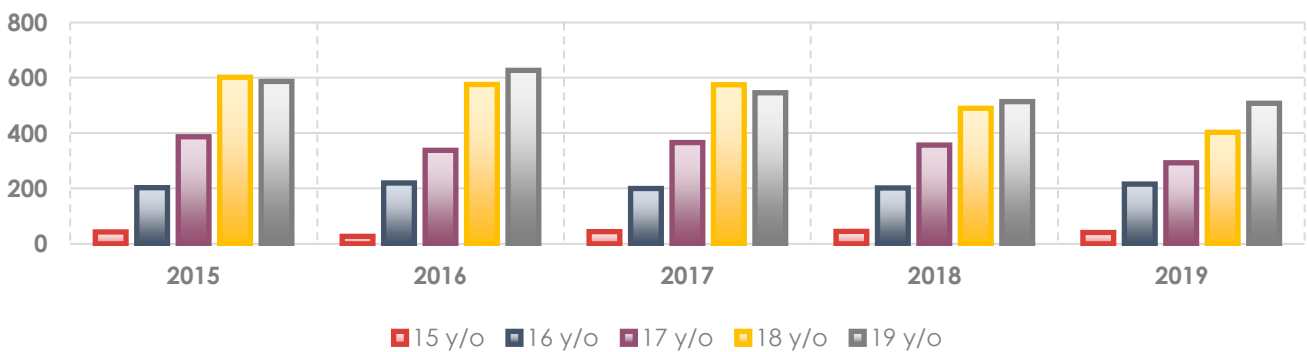
Annual Teen Driver Involved Fatalities, Serious Injuries and Crashes by Age

- › The older a teen gets, the more likely he or she will be involved in a crash and the more likely those crashes will involve a serious injury or fatality.
- › As teens get more freedom they gain a sense of false confidence - becoming less cautious overall or more confident in their ability to multitask, etc. This inflated confidence can lead to increased risk taking, or lack of care in driving situations they may have treated more thoughtfully when earlier in the licensure process. Less adult supervision as teens age through the licensure process can also add into this phenomenon.

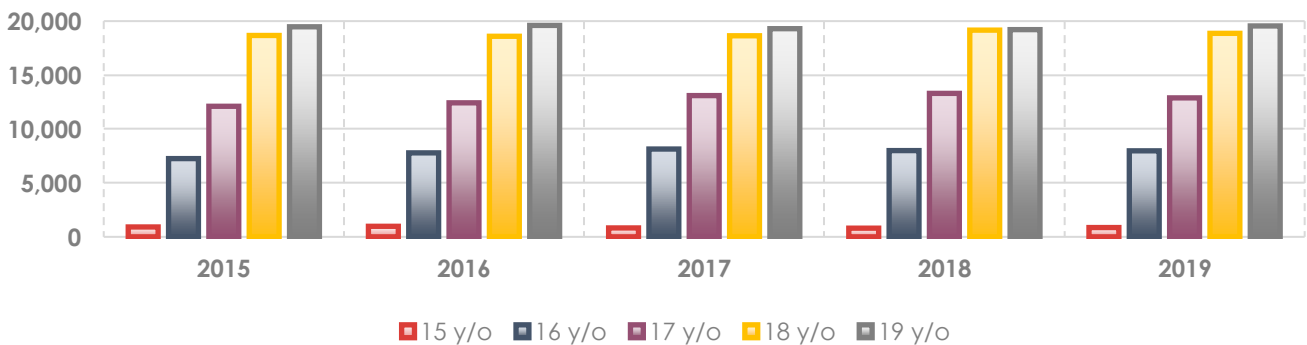
Fatalities In Crashes Involving Teen Drivers, Florida - Annually by Age



Serious Injuries In Crashes Involving Teen Drivers, Florida - Annually by Age



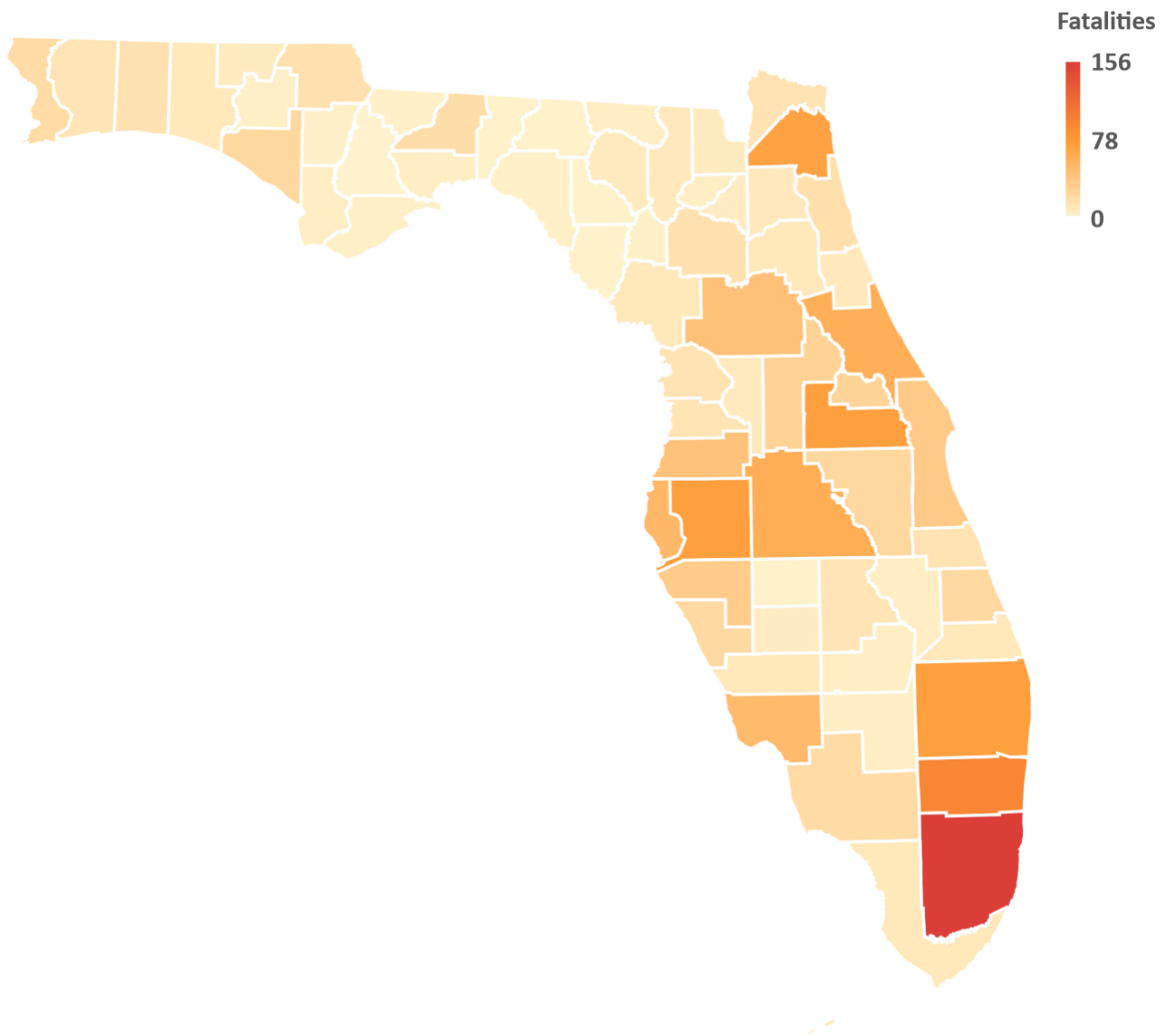
Crashes Involving Teen Drivers, Florida - Annually by Age



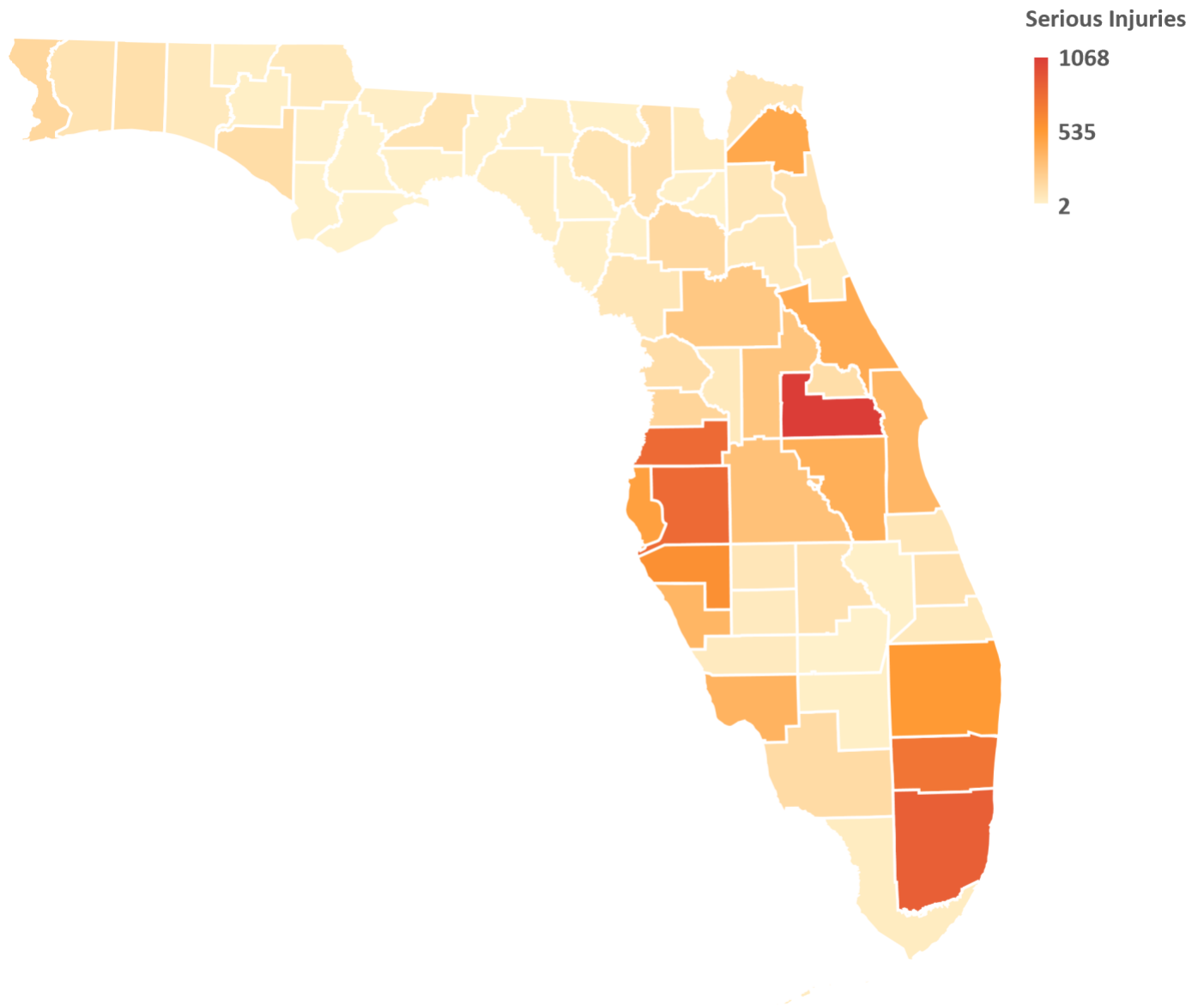
Annual Teen Driver Involved Fatalities, Serious Injuries, and Crashes by County

- › Most of Florida’s fatal and serious injury crashes involving teen drivers are concentrated in Florida’s urbanized areas and along Florida’s major transportation corridors, where there are higher populations, greater population densities, and higher rates of vehicle miles traveled (Miami-Dade, Broward, Hillsborough, Orange, Palm Beach, Duval, Pasco, Palm Beach, and Pinellas counties).
- › Miami-Dade County ranks highest in total number of fatal crashes and total number of crashes involving teen drivers, while Orange County ranks highest in total number of serious injury crashes involving teen drivers.

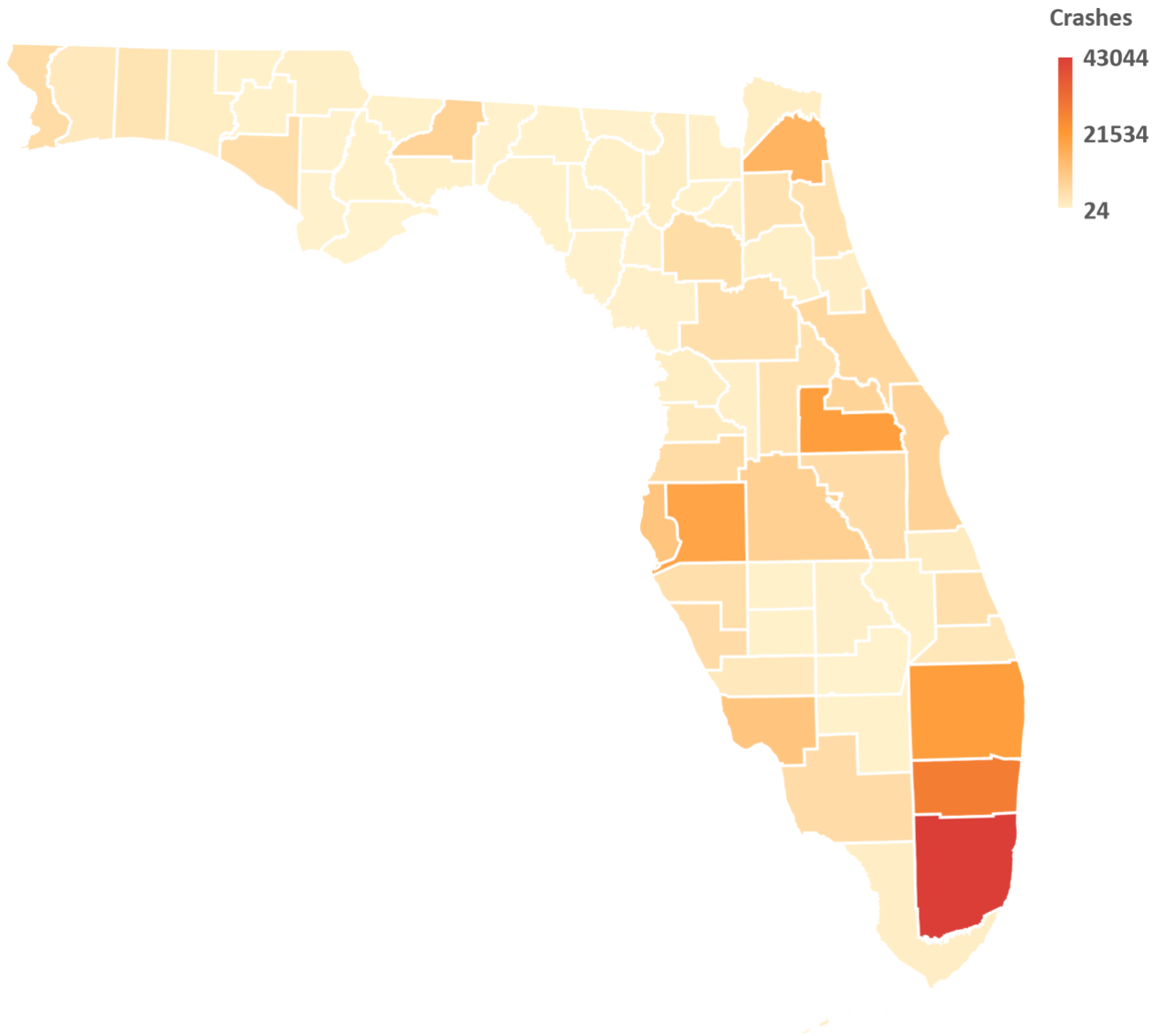
Fatalities In Crashes Involving Teen Drivers, Florida – by County (2019)



Serious Injuries In Crashes Involving Teen Drivers, Florida – by County (2019)



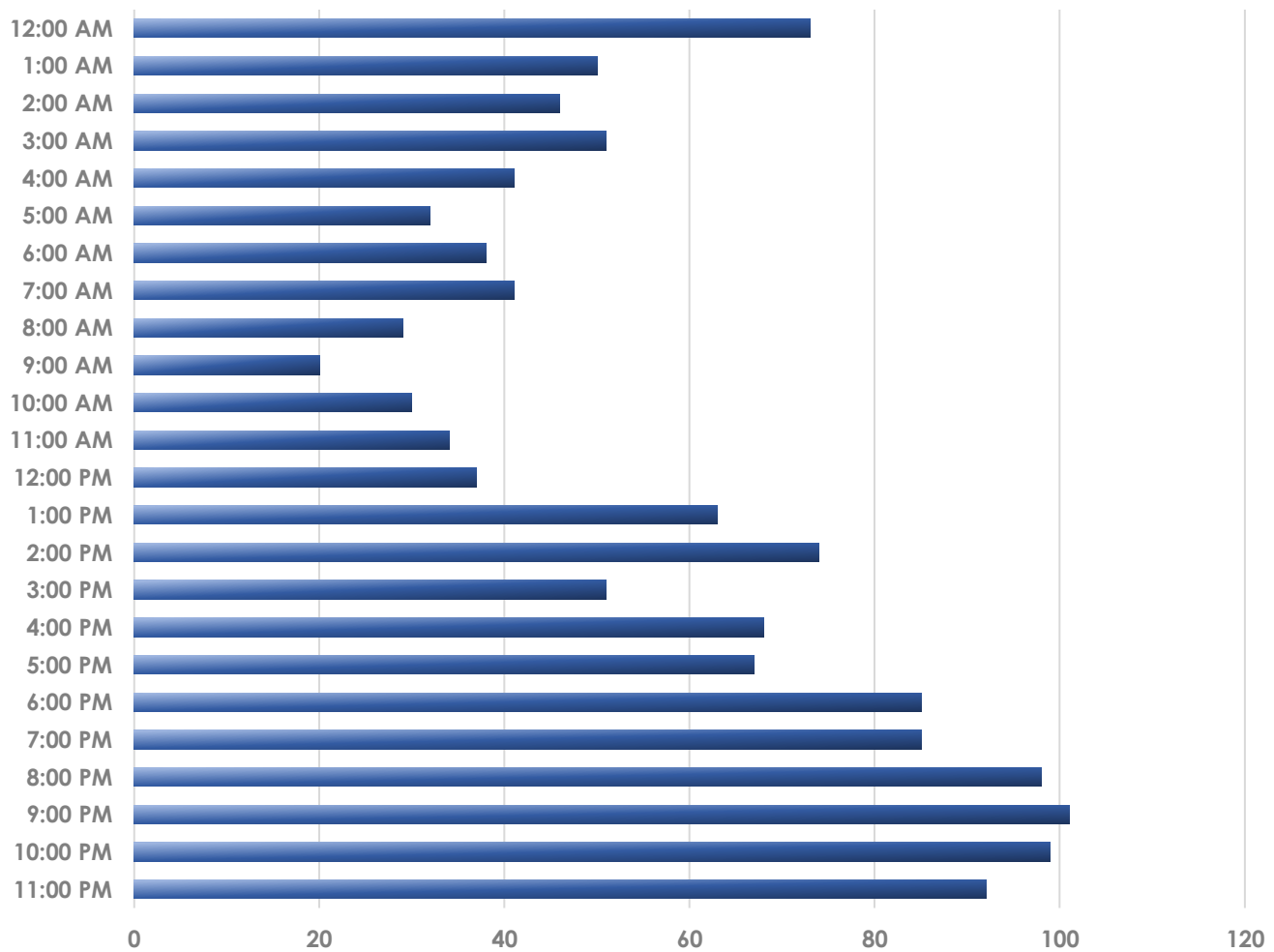
Crashes Involving Teen Drivers, Florida – by County (2019)



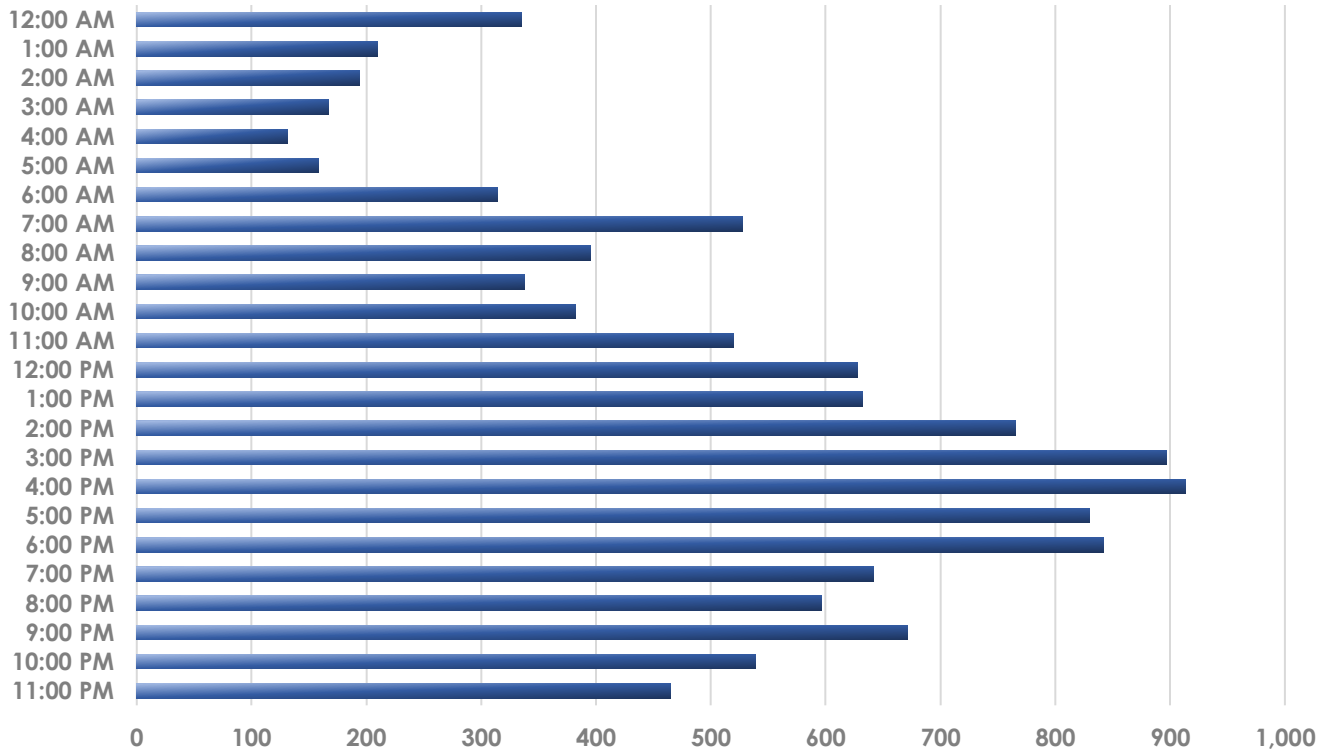
Average Teen Driver Involved Fatalities, Serious Injuries and Crashes by Time of Day

- › Florida’s crash data indicates that most teen driver crashes occur between 2:00 PM and 6:00 PM. This timeframe aligns with the end of the school day and the end of extracurricular activities and is likely when most teens are on the road.
- › While the average number of crashes are relatively low between midnight and 5:00 AM, the number of fatalities remain high starting at 6:00 PM and only begin to decline after midnight. Parental adoption and enforcement of GDL restrictions (not allowing teens to drive during restricted hours) could be contributing to lower instances of overall crashes during this period.

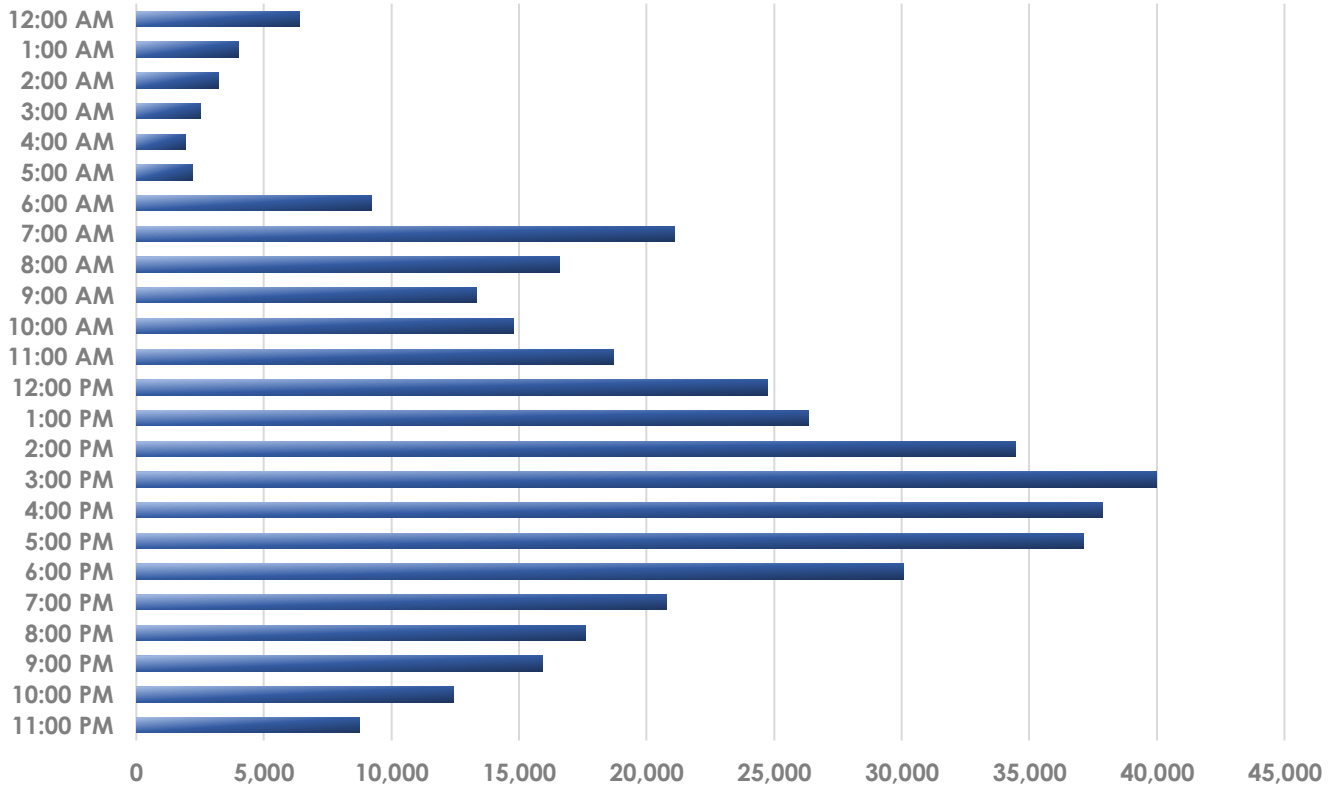
Fatalities In Crashes Involving Teen Drivers, Florida – Time of Day (2015-2019)



Serious Injuries In Crashes Involving Teen Drivers, Florida – Time of Day (2014-2018)



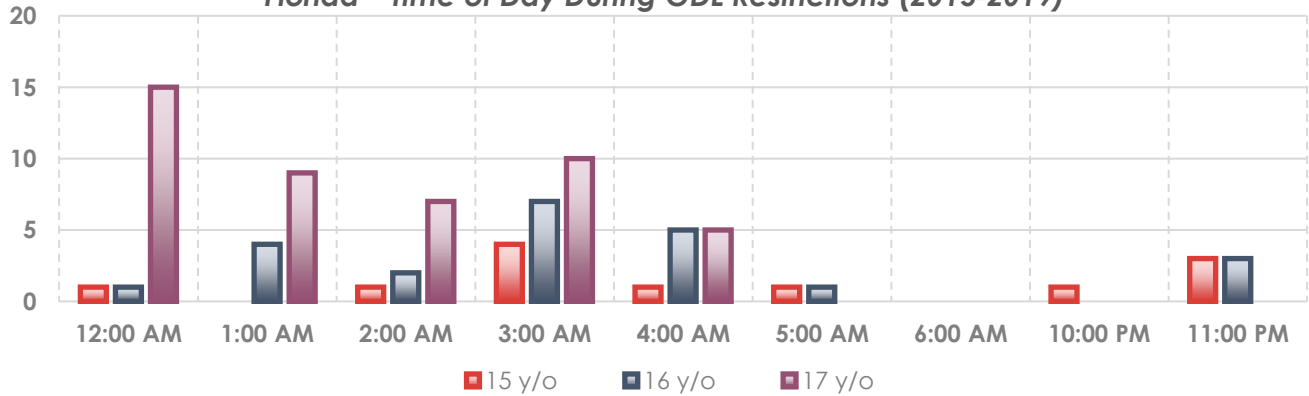
Crashes Involving Teen Drivers, Florida – Time of Day (2014-2018)



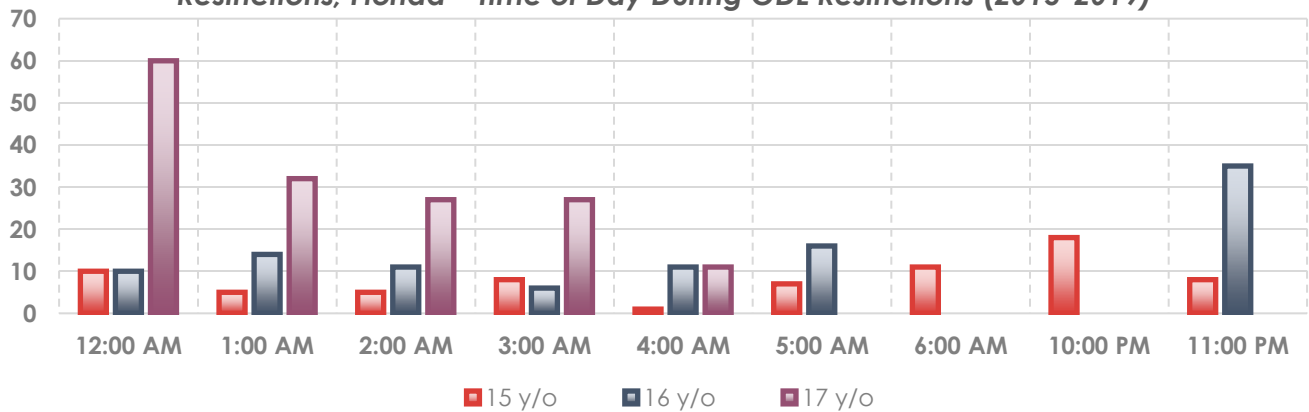
Average Teen Driver Involved Fatalities, Serious Injuries and Crashes by Time of Day (During GDL Restrictions)

- Despite GDL restrictions on driving at night for teen drivers aged 15-17, 1.02 percent of crashes, 2.17 percent of serious injuries, and 4.70 percent of fatalities involving teen drivers occurred while teens were in violation of their GDL curfew.

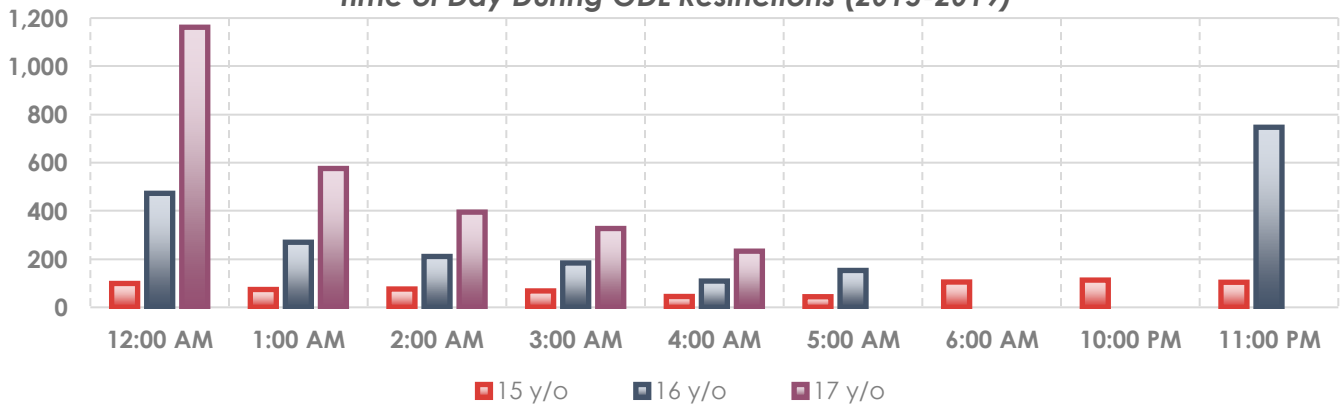
Fatalities In Crashes Involving Teen Drivers Subject to GDL Restrictions, Florida – Time of Day During GDL Restrictions (2015-2019)



Serious Injuries In Crashes Involving Teen Drivers Subject to GDL Restrictions, Florida – Time of Day During GDL Restrictions (2015-2019)

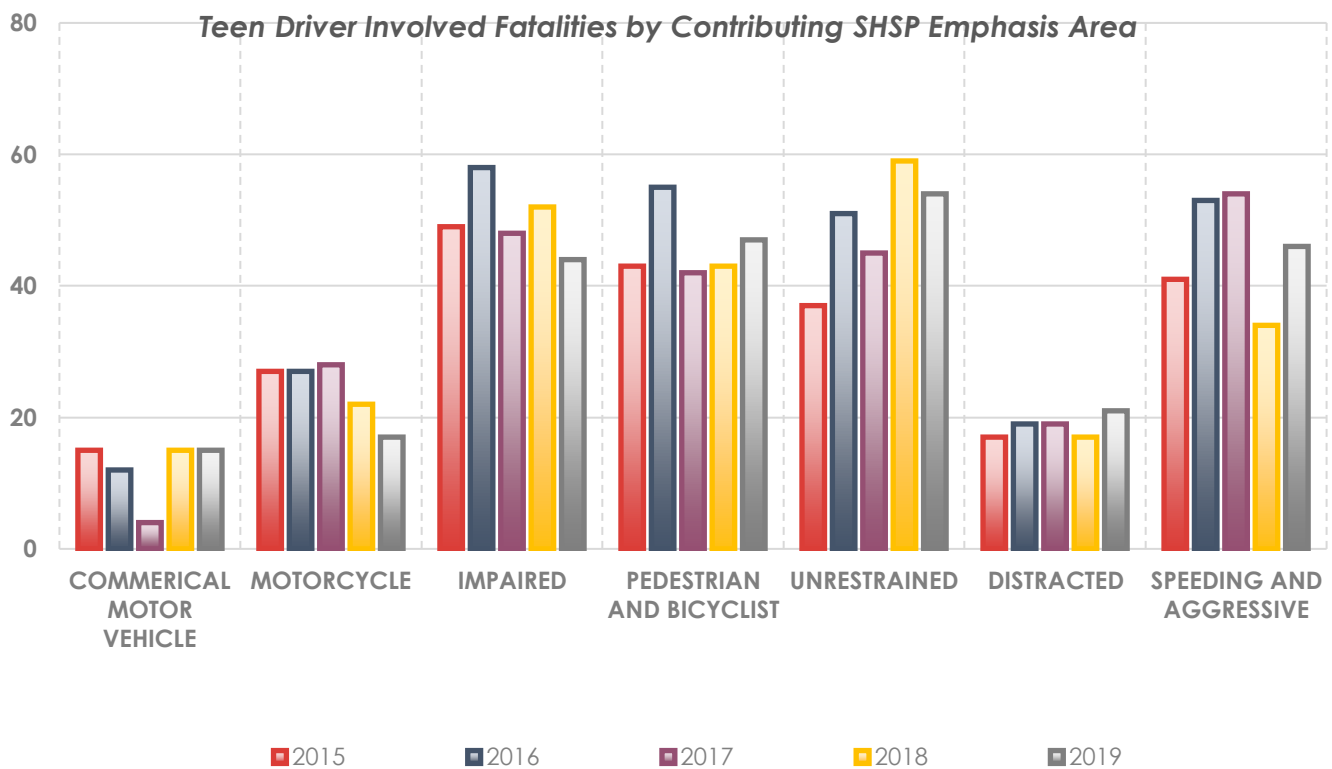


Crashes Involving Teen Drivers Subject to GDL Restrictions, Florida – Time of Day During GDL Restrictions (2015-2019)

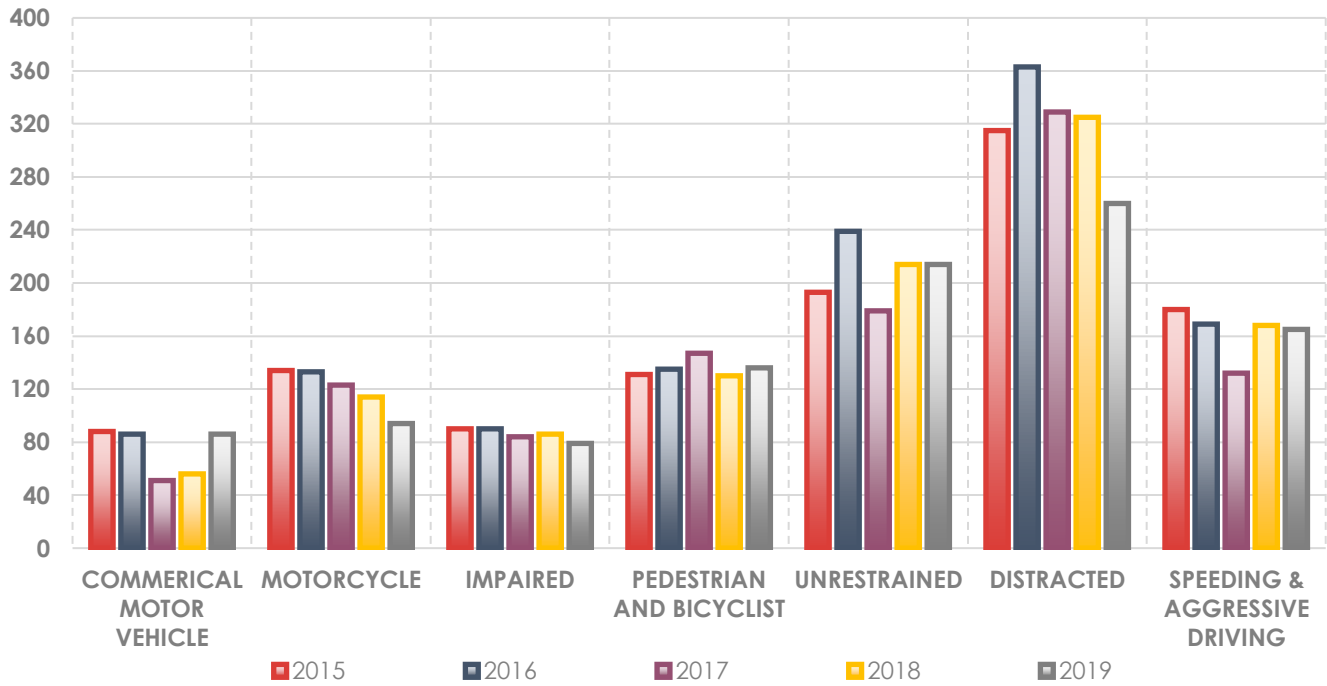


Teen Driver Involved Fatalities, Serious Injuries and Crashes by Contributing Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) Emphasis Area

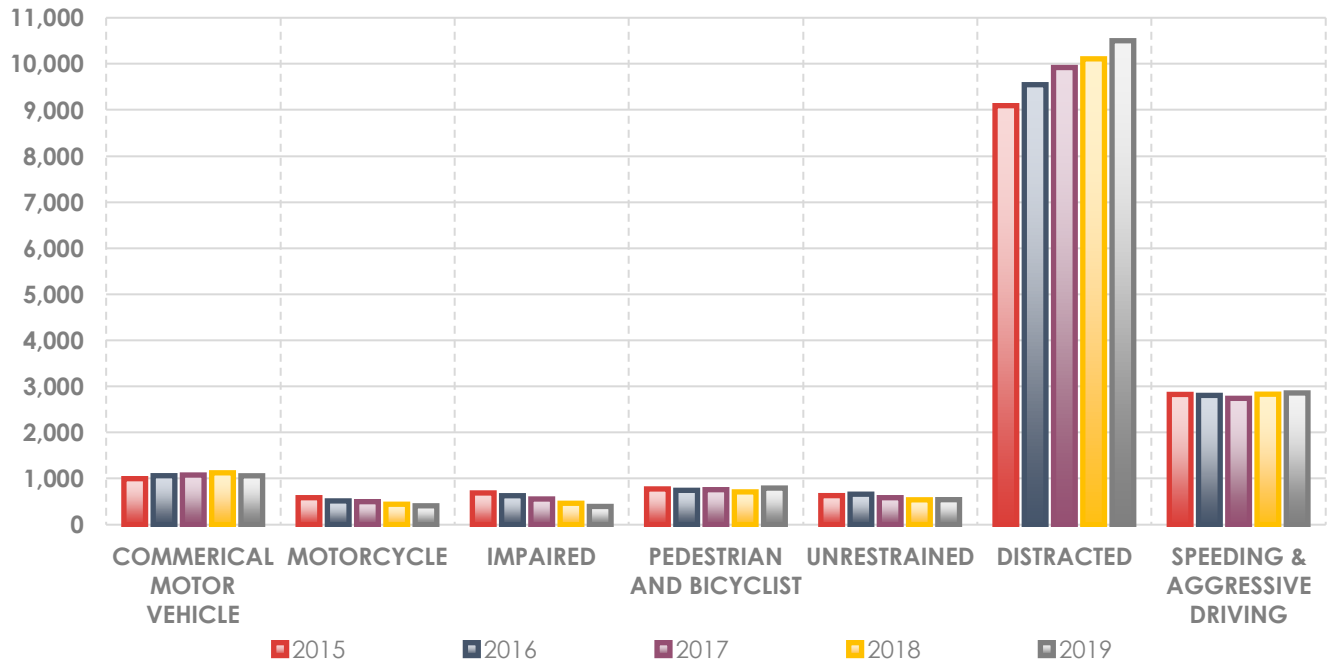
- Teens have a high rate of fatalities involving an impaired teen drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists, teens not wearing a seatbelt, and teens speeding or driving aggressively. Driving impaired, driving unrestrained, and speeding and driving aggressively are all high-risk behaviors and inexperienced teen drivers may underestimate the fatal consequences of these actions. Teen drivers are likely involved in fatal crashes with pedestrians and bicyclists because they have less experience observing their surroundings, especially at busy intersections, while also focusing on the complex task of driving.
- Distracted and Speeding and Aggressive driving are, by far, the most common contributing SHSP Emphasis Areas to teen driver crashes. In 2019, more than 12 percent of all teen driver crashes involved a distracted teen driver.



Teen Driver Involved Serious Injuries by Contributing SHSP Emphasis Area

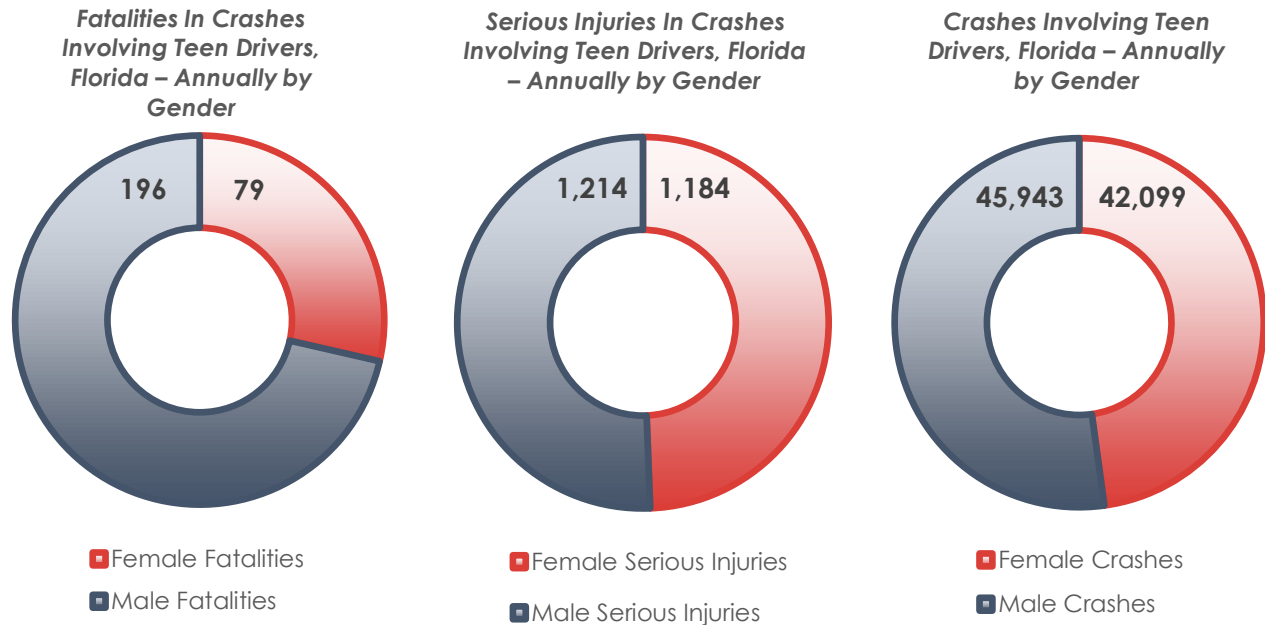


Teen Driver Involved Crashes by Contributing SHSP Emphasis Area



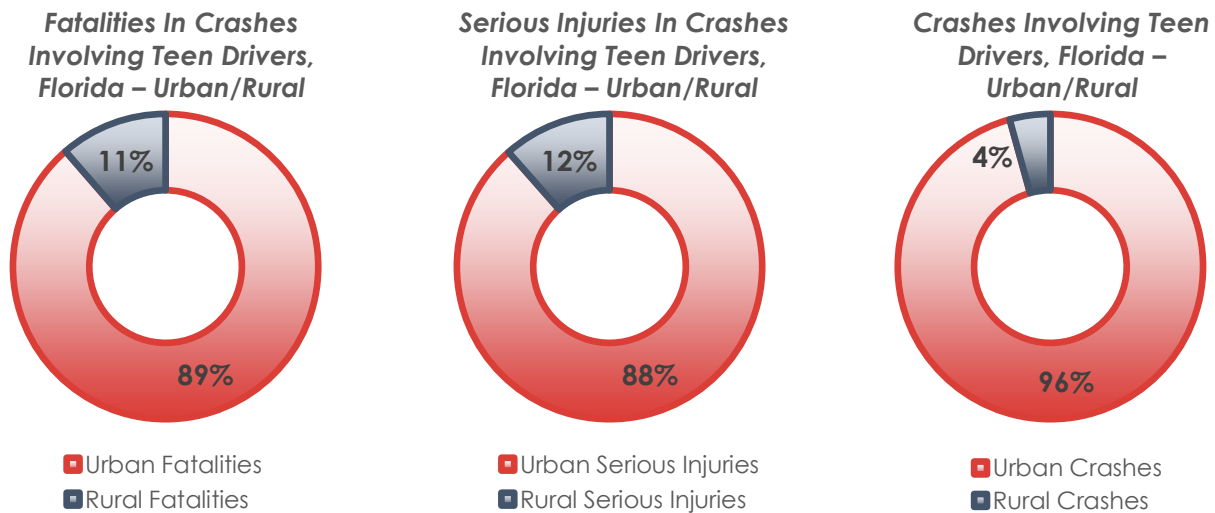
Average Annual Teen Driver Involved Fatalities, Serious Injuries and Crashes by Gender

- › Matching the trend of total statewide fatalities, male teen drivers are overwhelmingly more likely to be involved in a fatal crash than female teen drivers. Male and female teen drivers have similar rates of serious injuries and crashes, suggesting that male teen drivers engage in more dangerous behaviors that are more likely to lead to fatalities.



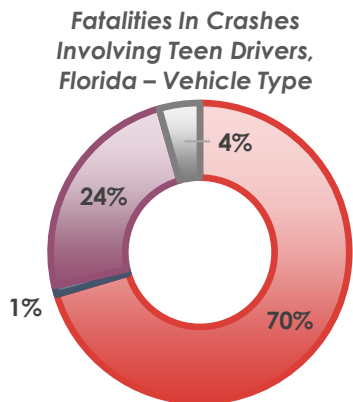
Teen Driver Fatalities, Serious Injuries and Crashes – Urban/Rural

- › Not surprisingly, fewer teen driver fatalities, serious injuries, and crashes occur in Florida’s rural communities. Population, and by extension, the number of drivers and daily vehicle miles traveled are much higher in Florida’s urban areas meaning there is a higher chance of being involved in a crash.

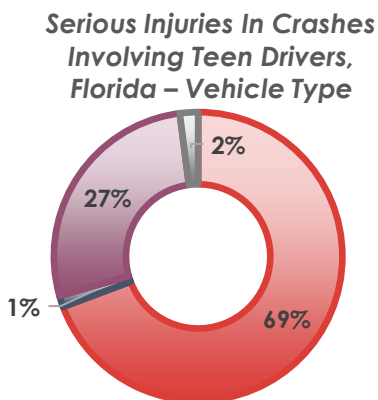


Average Teen Driver Involved Fatalities, Serious Injuries and Crashes by Vehicle Type

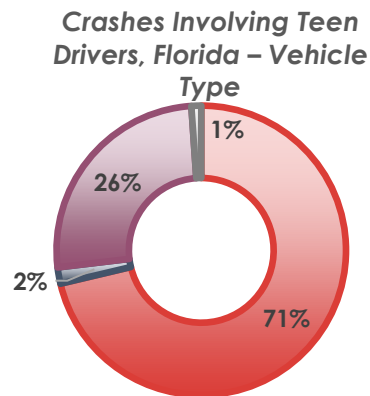
- › In crashes, fatalities and serious injuries involving Florida’s teens, they were most commonly driving a passenger car, van, or SUV, which is consistent with Florida’s overall vehicle registration rates.
- › Teens most often share a family vehicle and due to limited income options and savings, when they do purchase their own vehicle, they typically choose an older, more affordable vehicle that may have fewer integrated safety tools and technologies.
- › The fatality rate per crash (i.e. the number of teens killed per number of crashes) is much higher for teens riding a motorcycle than any other vehicle type.



- Passenger Car/Van
- Pickup/Other Light Truck
- (Sport) Utility Vehicle
- Motorcycle/Moped



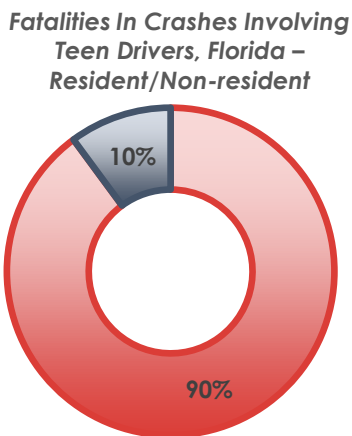
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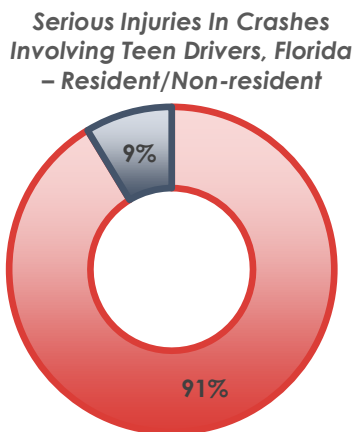
- Passenger Car/Van
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- (Sport) Utility Vehicle
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Average Teen Driver Involved Fatalities, Serious Injuries, and Crashes by Residence

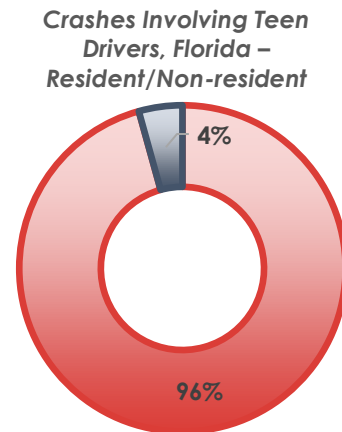
- › Overwhelmingly, teens that are Florida residents are the ones involved in traffic fatalities, serious injuries, and crashes.



- Florida Resident
- Non-Florida Resident



- Florida Resident
- Non-Florida Resident



- Florida Resident
- Non-Florida Resident

IMPLEMENTING FLORIDA'S TEEN TRAFFIC SAFETY SOLUTIONS

Florida's teen traffic safety advocates are focused on:

- › Creating a safe driving culture for teens through targeted marketing and outreach efforts and extensive education of teens, parents, caregivers, law enforcement and other relevant partners about safe driving behaviors.
- › Advancing teen safe driving laws in Florida through advocacy and public policy by strengthening Florida's graduated driver's licensing law and identifying best practices for teen driver education in schools.

FLORIDA TEEN SAFE DRIVING COALITION

- › The Florida Teen Safe Driving Coalition (FTSDC) is a Coalition of more than 47 organizations committed to helping teens leverage the proven principles of Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL). The FTSDC is affiliated with state and local government, law enforcement and public health agencies, traffic safety and injury prevention organizations, academia and businesses. It is also comprised of teens, parents, and crash victims. The goal of the FTSDC is zero teen fatalities, serious injuries, and crashes in Florida.

RESOURCES

- › The Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) - <https://www.fdot.gov/Safety/shsp> - provides a framework for eliminating fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads.
- › The Florida Teen Safe Driving Coalition Website - <https://flteensafedriver.org/> - includes a variety of tools and resources related to teen driver safety.
- › The Florida Traffic Safety Dashboard - <https://signal4analytics.com/> - visualizes general crash statistics in Florida through compiling all traffic crashes reported by law enforcement that meet long form requirements.
- › The Florida Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Crash Dashboard - <https://www.flhsmv.gov/traffic-crash-reports/crash-dashboard/> - displays numeric totals of crashes by crash type, year, and county.