

IDENTIFYING FLORIDA'S TEEN TRAFFIC SAFETY CHALLENGES

Nationally, teen drivers were involved in approximately 1,512,475 crashes resulting in 7,910 fatalities and 451,006 serious injuries in 2023¹. Florida has more than 900,000 registered teen drivers², aged 15 to 19. In Florida, teen drivers were involved in 80,865 crashes resulting in 323 fatalities and 1,785 serious injuries in 2023. Nationally, drivers aged 16 and 17 have the highest crash rates of any age group, while in Florida, teens aged 18 and 19 have the highest crash rates. Peer pressure is an especially potent contributing factor to crashes involving a teen driver.

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 fatalities and serious injuries involving these teen drivers.

Teen drivers lack driving experience, making them more likely to underestimate dangerous situations and follow other vehicles too closely. From 2019 to 2023, more than one-third of all fatalities, serious injuries, and crashes involving a teen driver in Florida occurred at intersections, where the mix of traffic, pedestrians, signs, and signals can be especially challenging for inexperienced drivers. The Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) laws help new drivers develop essential skills and experience before receiving full driving privileges. In states with the strongest GDL laws, these measures have been highly effective in reducing fatalities and serious injuries among teen drivers.

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic significantly altered travel behavior, leading to historic lows in vehicle miles traveled across Florida, as many people limited trips to essential travel. This shift had a major impact on the number of fatalities, serious injuries, and crashes, in some cases, causing abrupt shifts from previous trends. Florida will continue to monitor these trends to determine whether the 2020 data represents an outlier or signals the start of a new trend in teen driver safety.

ANALYZING FLORIDA'S TEEN TRAFFIC SAFETY DATA³

Annual Fatalities, Serious Injuries, and Crashes Involving a Teen Driver

Florida's population and daily vehicle miles traveled (VMT) continue to grow, contributing to an overall increase in annual roadway fatalities. However, while fatalities have been gradually declining, the number of serious injuries on Florida's roadways has dropped by 19 percent since 2018, outpacing the 7 percent decrease in total crashes over the same period.

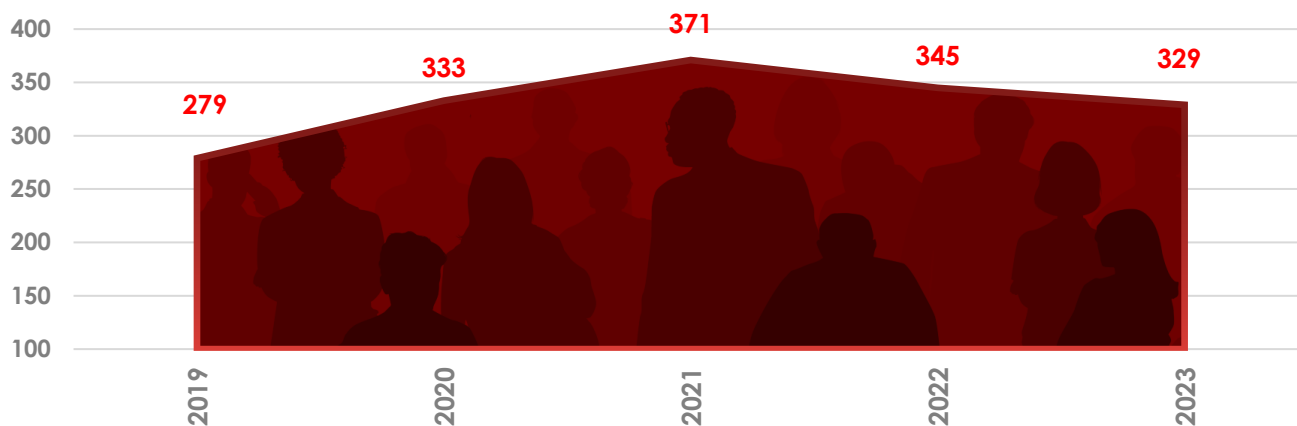
¹ Source: NHTSA, [Fatality Analysis Reporting System](#) (FARS), (May 2025)

² Source: FLHSMV, [Driver and Vehicle Report Statistics](#), (January 2025)

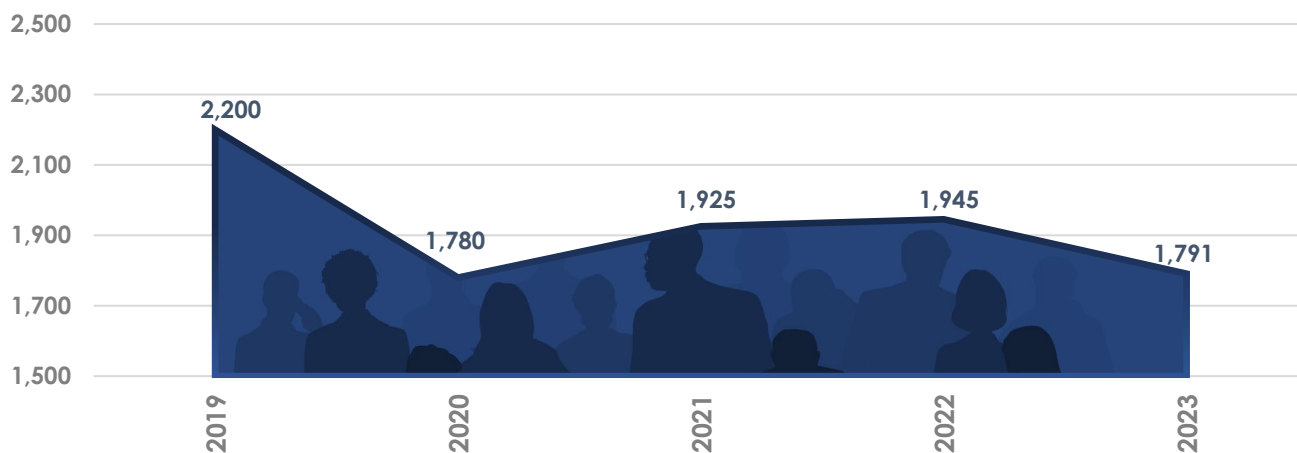
³ Data provided by FLHSMV in February 2025 for the period of 2019-2023. Data includes all fatalities, serious injuries, and crashes involving a teen driver, unless otherwise noted.

- › Florida's number of fatalities involving a teen driver, like overall statewide fatalities, peaked in 2021 and then declined by 11 percent in 2023. However, the number of teen driver-related fatalities remains 18 percent higher than in 2019.
- › Serious injuries involving teen drivers have decreased by nearly 19 percent, mirroring the overall statewide trend in serious injury reductions. The increased adoption and advancements in vehicle safety technology (e.g., lane departure warnings and automatic braking) could play a significant role in this decline.
- › In general, teens are more likely to be involved in a crash while riding with a passenger if that passenger is another teen.

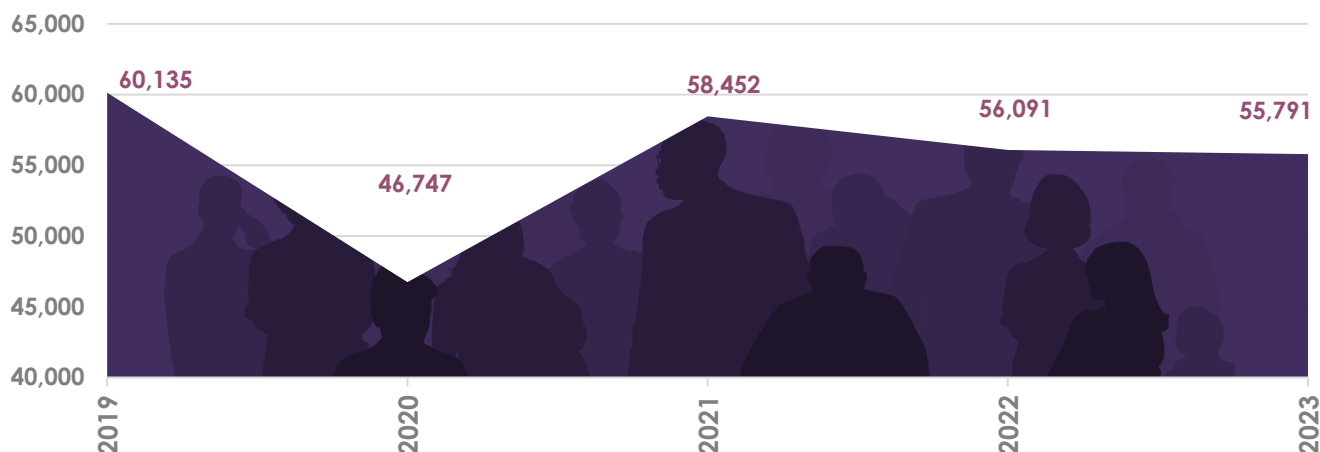
Fatalities In Crashes Involving Teen Drivers, Florida - Annually (2019-2023)



Serious Injuries In Crashes Involving Teen Drivers, Florida - Annually (2019-2023)



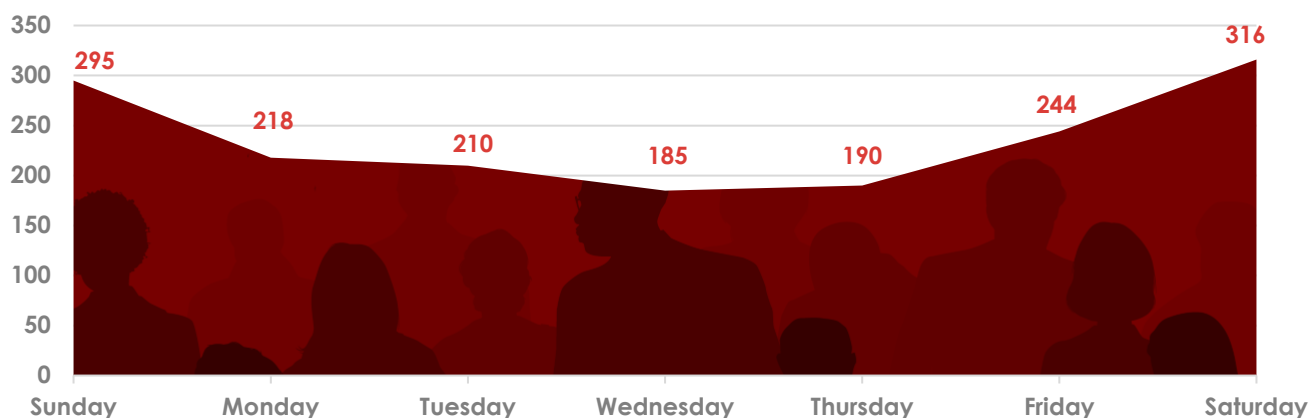
Crashes Involving Teen Drivers, Florida - Annually (2019-2023)



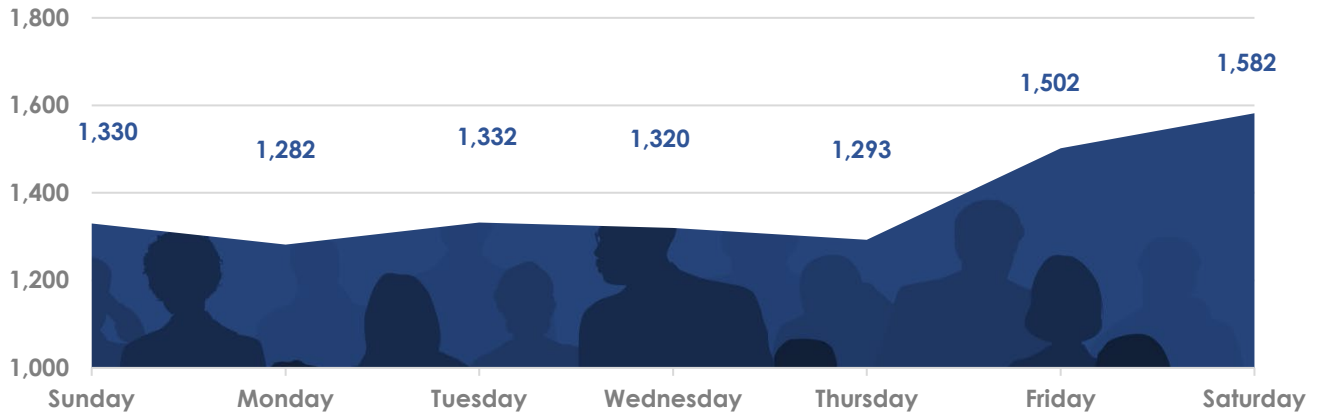
Fatalities, Serious Injuries, and Crashes Involving a Teen Driver – Day of Week

- › The substantial increase in fatalities on Saturday and Sunday, may indicate that teens are likely 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 Monday through Friday, with Friday experiencing the highest crash rate. However, on average, crashes on Saturdays and Sundays result in 23 percent and 35 percent more fatalities, respectively.

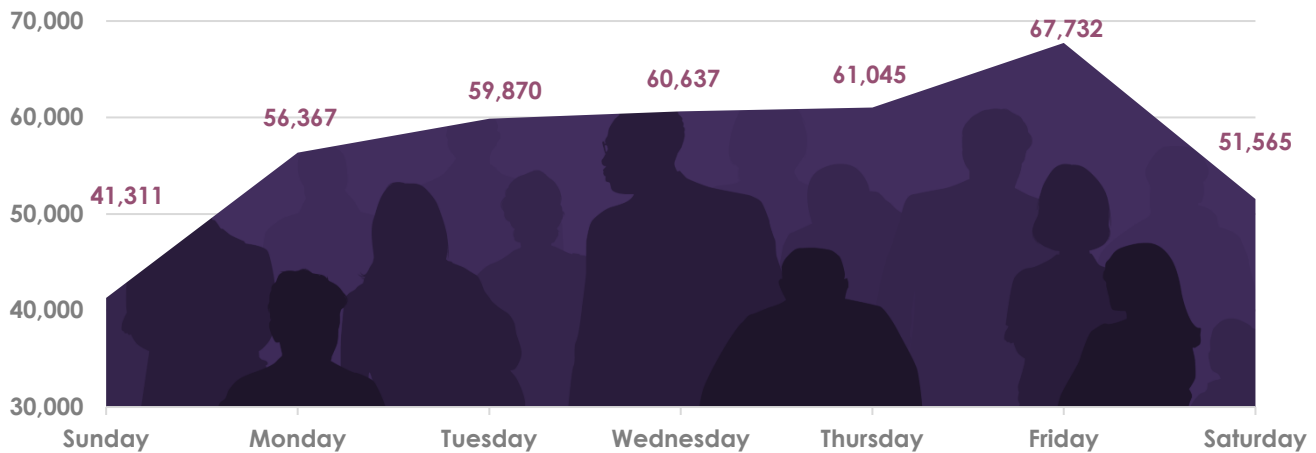
Fatalities in Crashes Involving Teen Drivers, Florida - Day of Week (2019-2023)



Serious Injuries in Crashes Involving Teen Drivers, Florida - Day of Week (2019-2023)



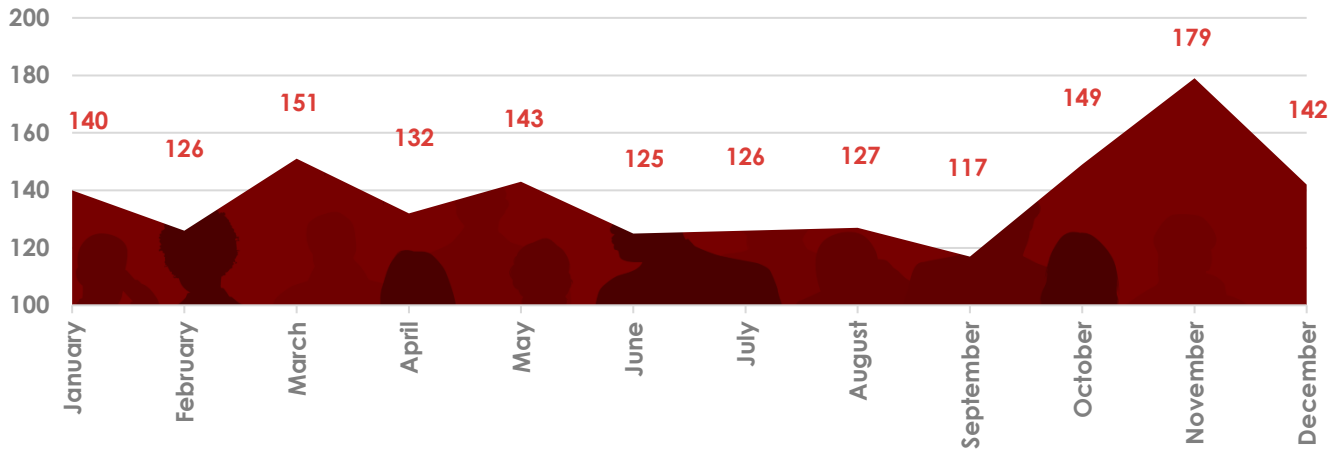
Crashes Involving Teen Drivers, Florida - Day of Week (2019-2023)



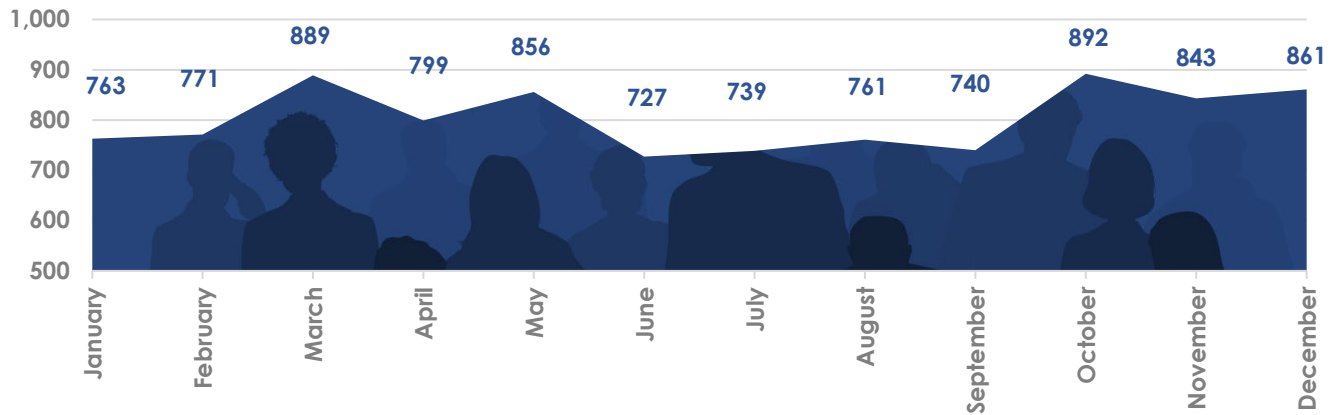
Monthly Fatalities, Serious Injuries, and Crashes Involving a Teen Driver

- › The highest rates of fatalities involving a teen driver occur in March, October, and November. These months align with major high school activities like Prom and holiday breaks.
- › The lowest rates of crashes and serious injuries involving teen drivers occur during the months of July, August, and September. These months also correspond with summer break and the start of the new school year, 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 Memorial Day to Labor Day. However, Florida’s crash data suggests this may not be 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 in other states. This trend is well aligned with Florida’s overall monthly fatality, serious injury, and crash trends.

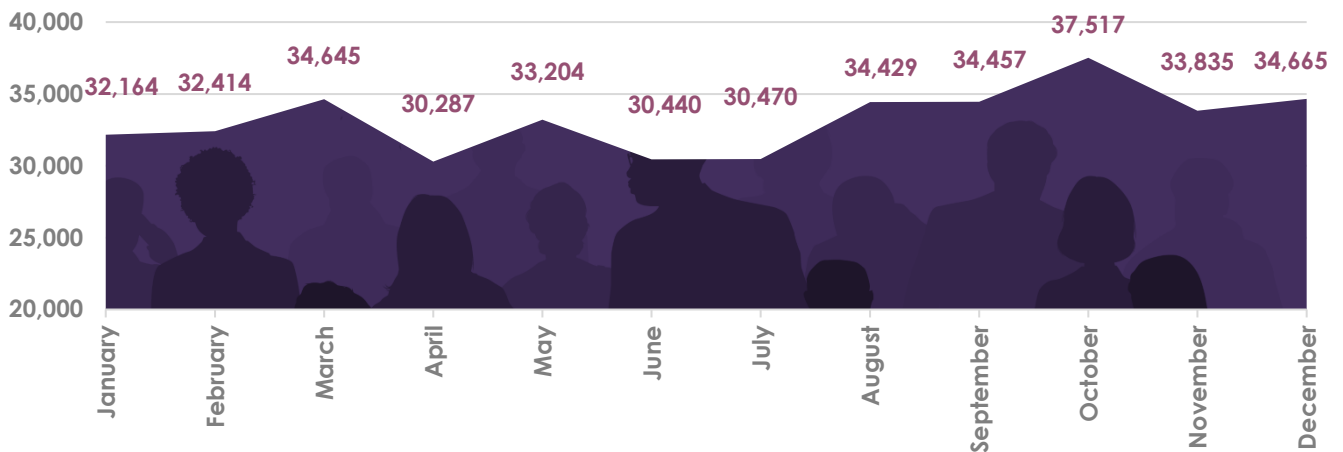
Fatalities In Crashes Involving Teen Drivers, Florida - Monthly (2019-2023)



Serious Injuries In Crashes Involving Teen Drivers, Florida - Monthly (2019-2023)



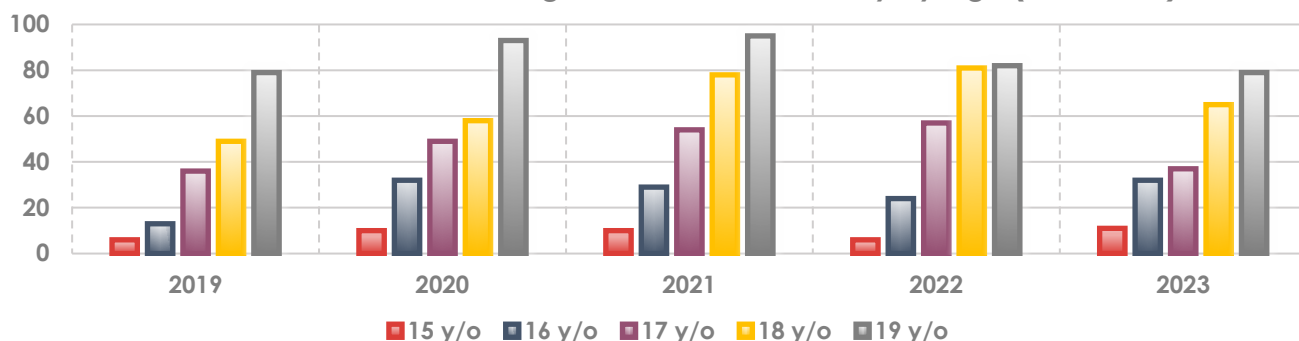
Crashes Involving Teen Drivers, Florida - Monthly (2019-2023)



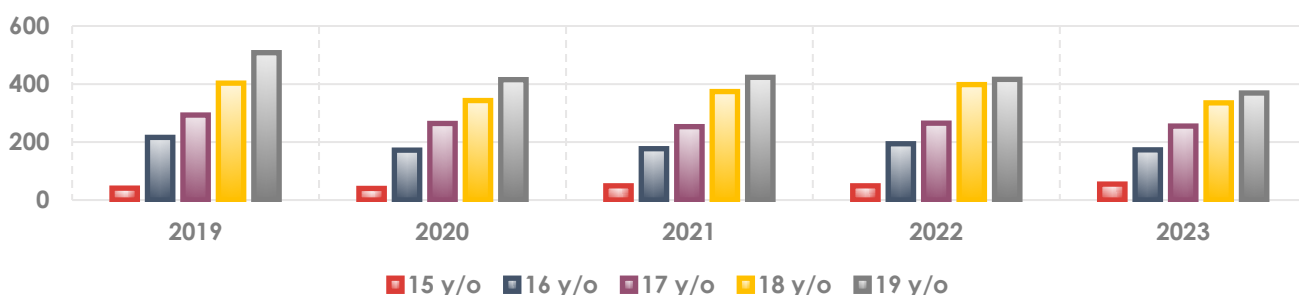
Annual Teen Driver Involved Fatalities, Serious Injuries, and Crashes by Age

- According to traffic crash data, 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 to this phenomenon.

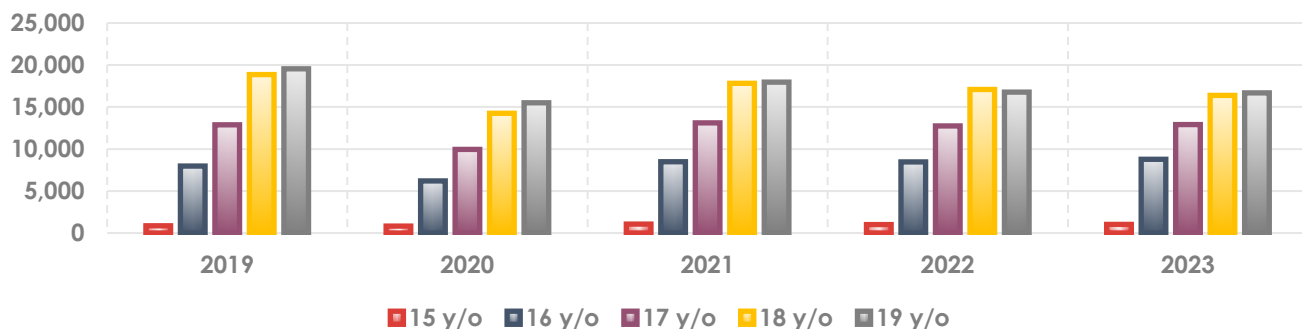
Fatalities in Crashes Involving Teen Drivers - Annually by Age (2019-2023)



Serious Injuries in Crashes Involving Teen Drivers - Annually by Age (2019-2023)



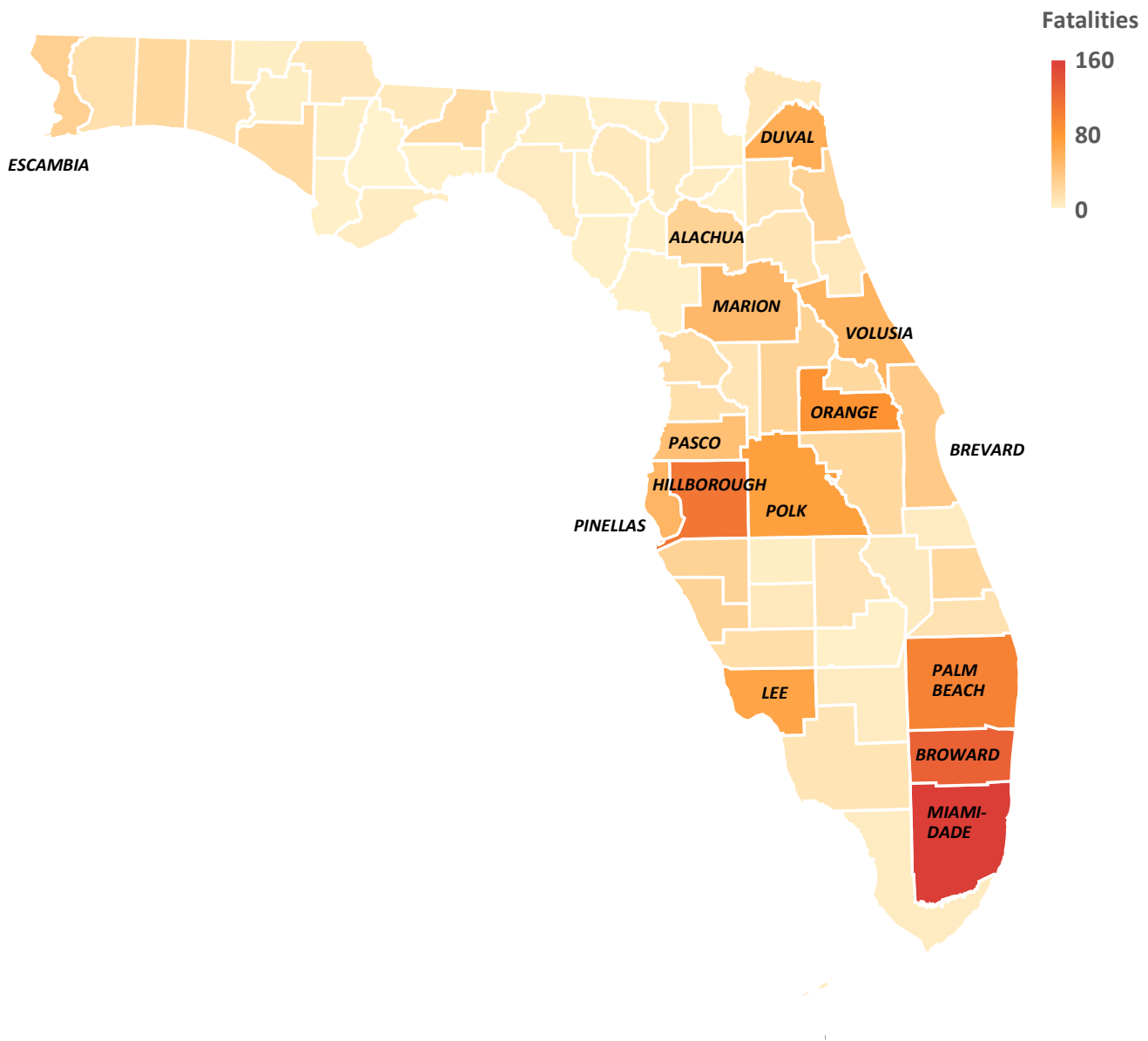
Crashes Involving Teen Drivers, Florida - Annually by Age (2019-2023)



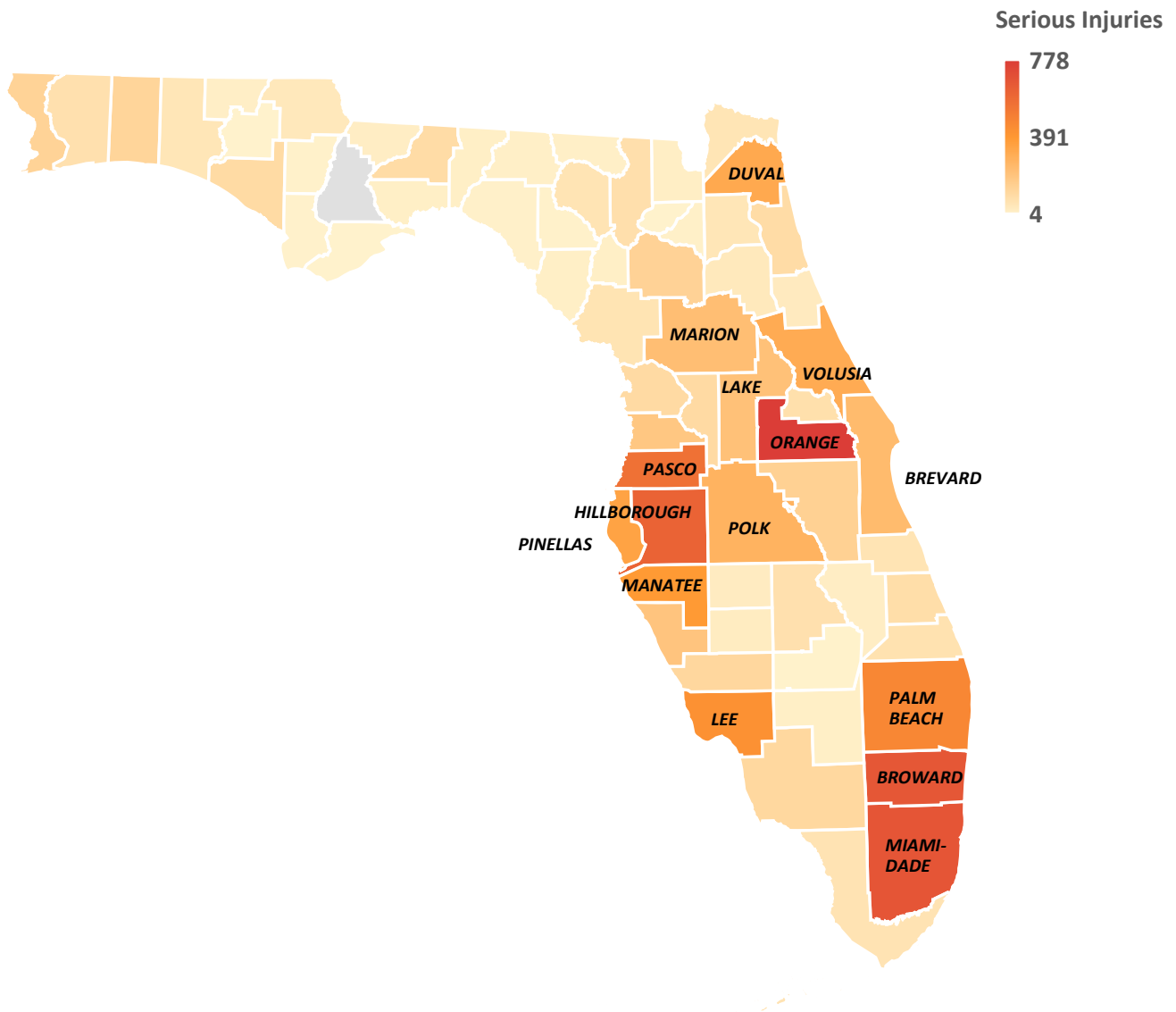
Annual Teen Driver Involved Fatalities, Serious Injuries, and Crashes by County

- Most of Florida's fatalities and serious injuries 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, Polk, Lee, and Duval counties).
- Miami-Dade County ranks highest in total number of fatalities and 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 (2019-2023)
Top 15 Highlighted

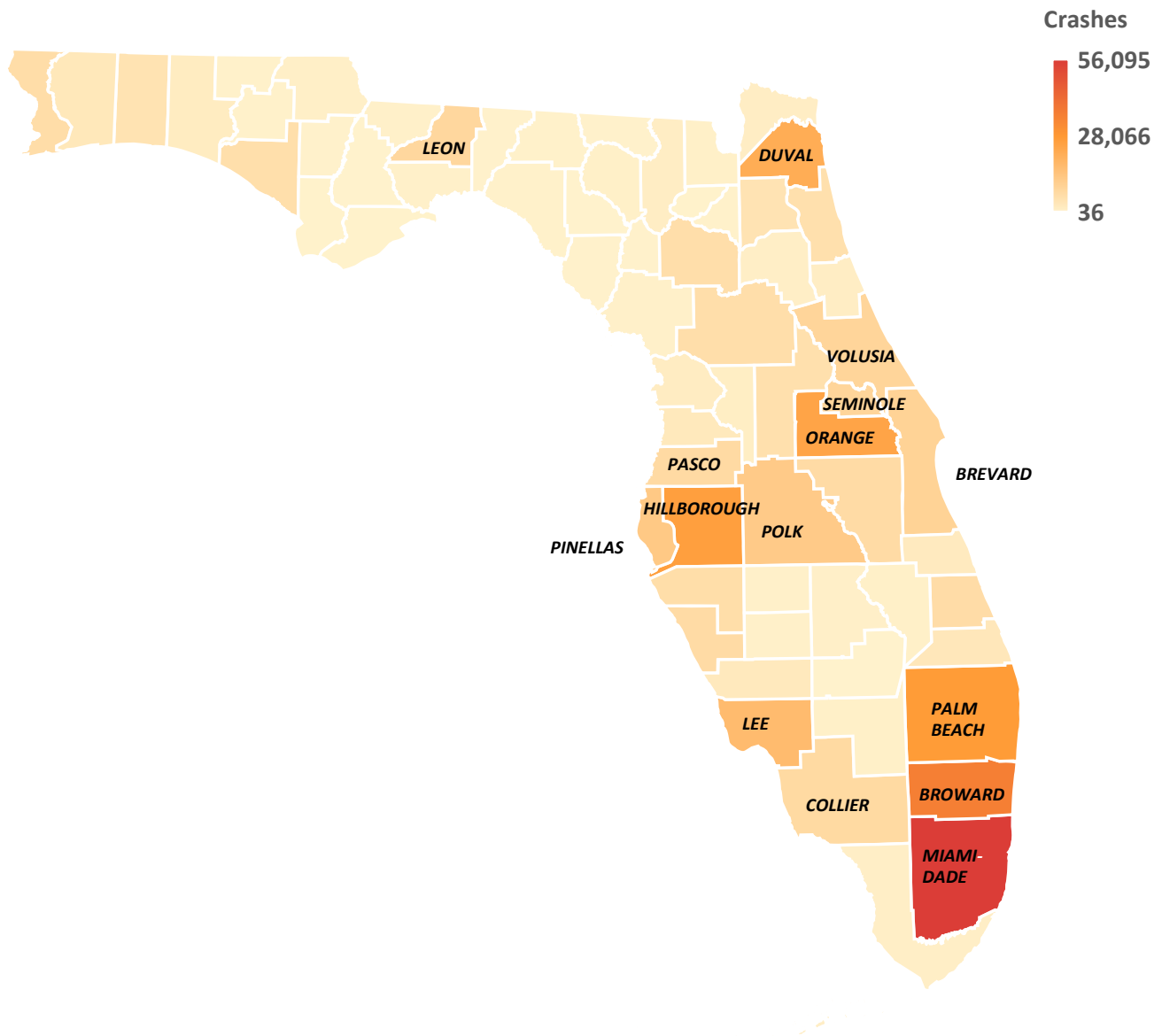


Serious Injuries in Crashes Involving Teen Drivers, Florida – by County (2019-2023)
Top 15 Highlighted



Crashes Involving Teen Drivers, Florida – by County (2019-2023)

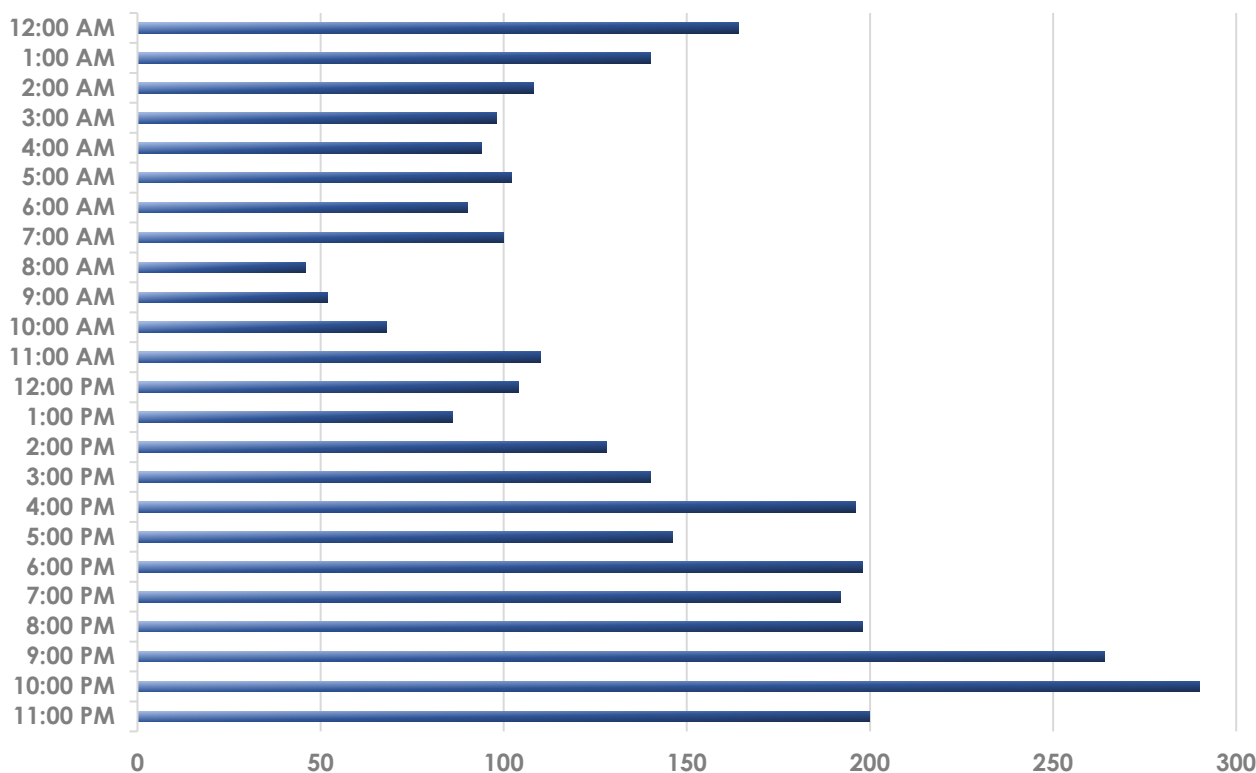
Top 15 Highlighted



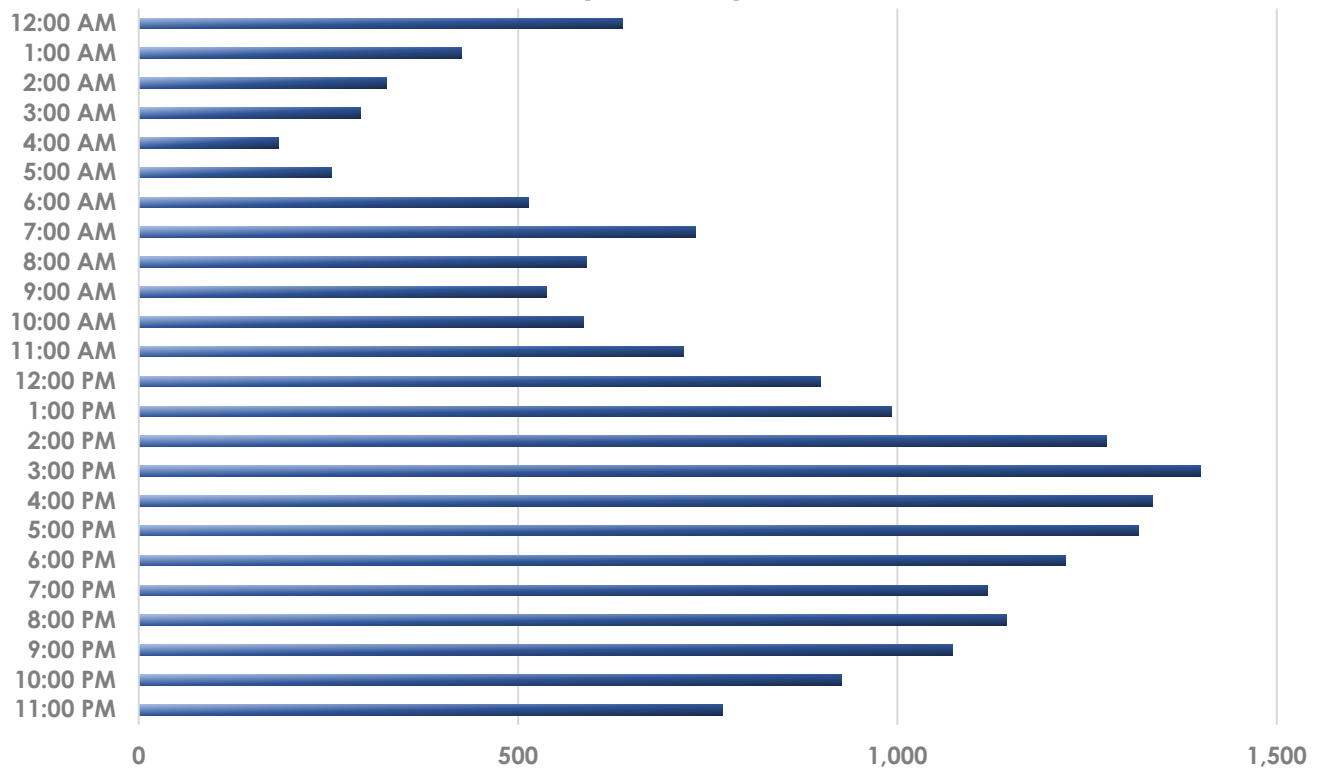
Average Teen Driver Involved Fatalities, Serious Injuries, and Crashes by Time of Day

- Florida's crash data indicates that most crashes involving a teen driver occur between 4:00 PM and 10:00 PM. This timeframe aligns with the end of the school day and the end of extracurricular activities when most teens are on the road. This trend aligns with overall crash trends in Florida and is likely exacerbated by afternoon commutes and higher traffic volumes.
- While the average number of crashes is relatively low between midnight and 5:00 AM, the number of fatalities remains high starting at 6:00 PM and only begins to decline after 1:00 AM. 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.

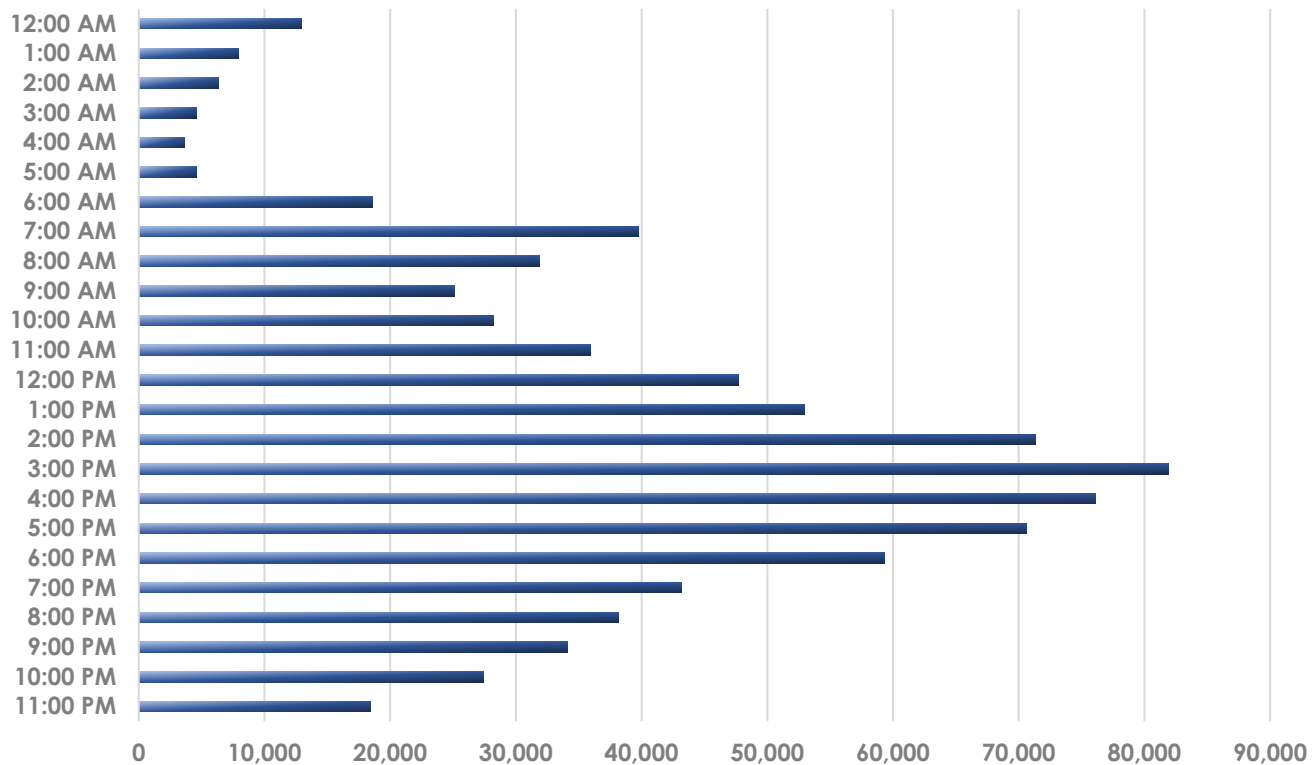
Fatalities in Crashes Involving Teen Drivers, Florida - Time of Day (2019-2023)



Serious Injuries in Crashes Involving Teen Drivers, Florida - Time of Day (2019-2023)



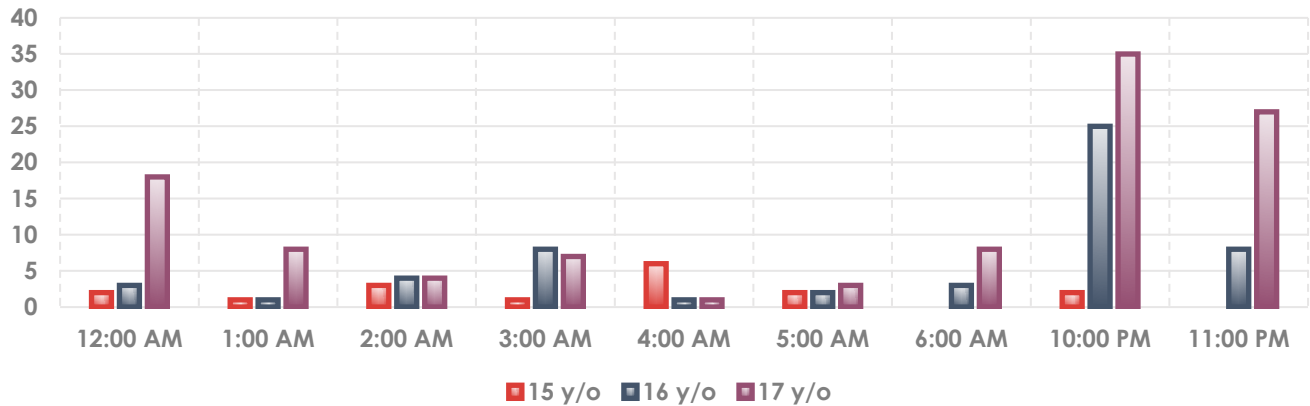
Crashes Involving Teen Drivers, Florida - Time of Day (2019-2023)



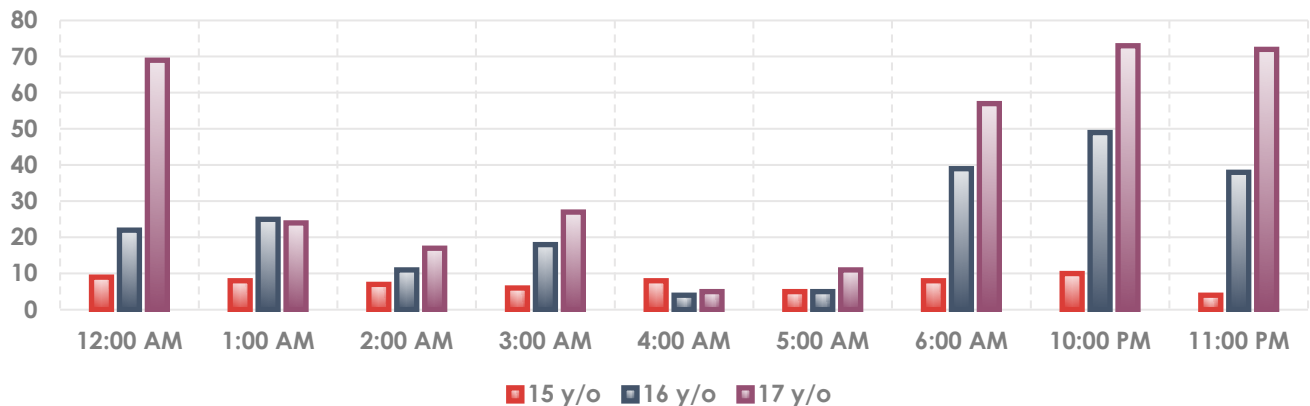
Average Teen Driver Involved Fatalities, Serious Injuries and Crashes by Time of Day (During GDL Restrictions)

- › Florida has nighttime driving restrictions for teen drivers under 18. Restrictions are as follows:
 - › **Learner License (all ages)** can only drive during daylight hours for the first three months of obtaining a learner's license. After three months, they are legally allowed to drive until 10PM. Individuals with a learner's license must always drive accompanied by another licensed driver 21 or older who is seated in the front passenger seat of the vehicle. This includes all 15-year-old drivers.
 - › **16 years old with Driver License** may not drive between 11PM and 6AM unless driving to or from work or accompanied by a licensed driver 21 or older who is seated in the front passenger seat of the vehicle.
 - › **17 years old with Driver License** may not drive between 1AM and 5AM unless driving to or from work or accompanied by a licensed driver 21 or older who is seated in the front passenger seat of the vehicle.
- › Despite GDL restrictions on driving at night for teen drivers aged 15-17, 1.6 percent of crashes, 2.6 percent of serious injuries, and 4.3 percent of fatalities involving teen drivers occurred while teens were in violation of their GDL nighttime driving restriction.

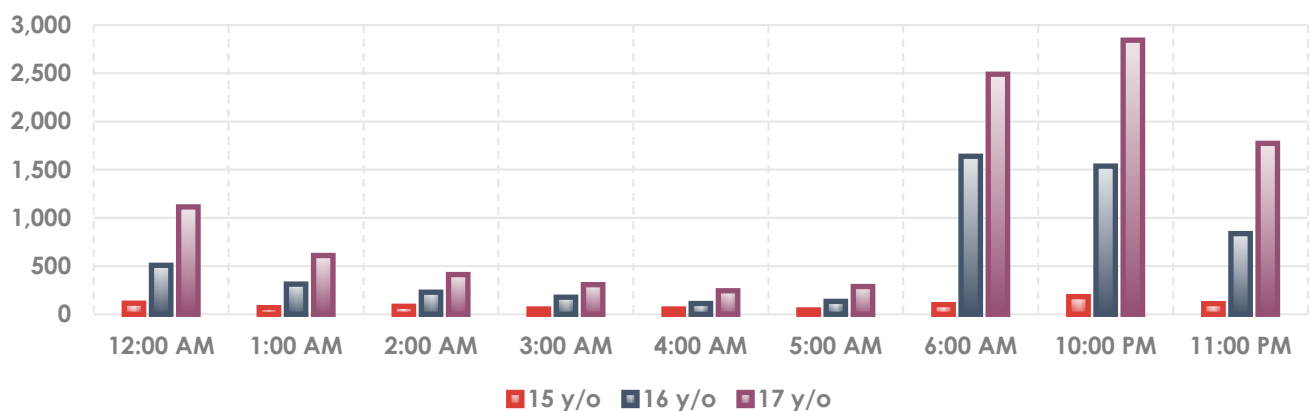
**Fatalities In Crashes Involving Teen Drivers Subject to GDL Restrictions,
Florida – Time of Day During GDL Restrictions (2019-2023)**



**Serious Injuries In Crashes Involving Teen Drivers Subject to GDL
Restrictions, Florida – Time of Day During GDL Restrictions (2019-2023)**



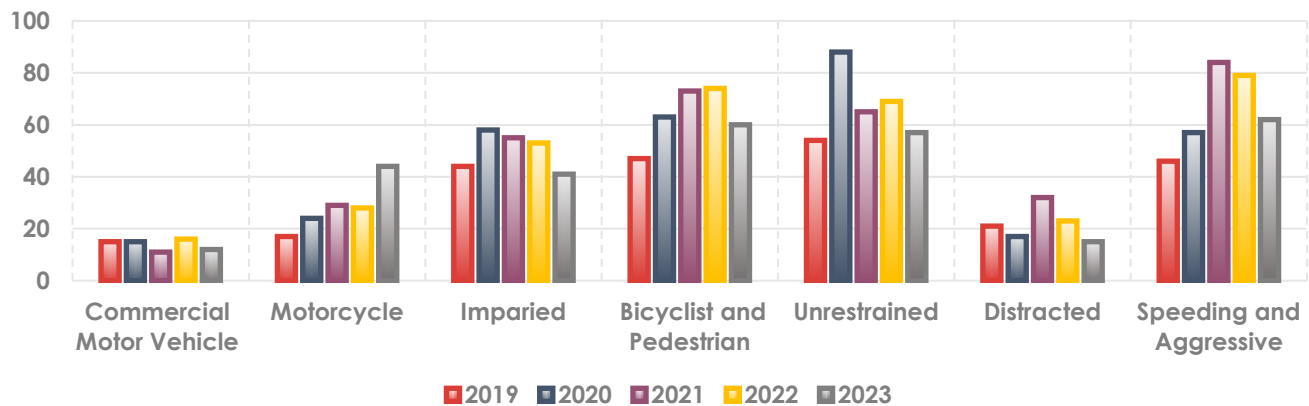
**Crashes Involving Teen Drivers Subject to GDL Restrictions, Florida –
Time of Day During GDL Restrictions (2019-2023)**



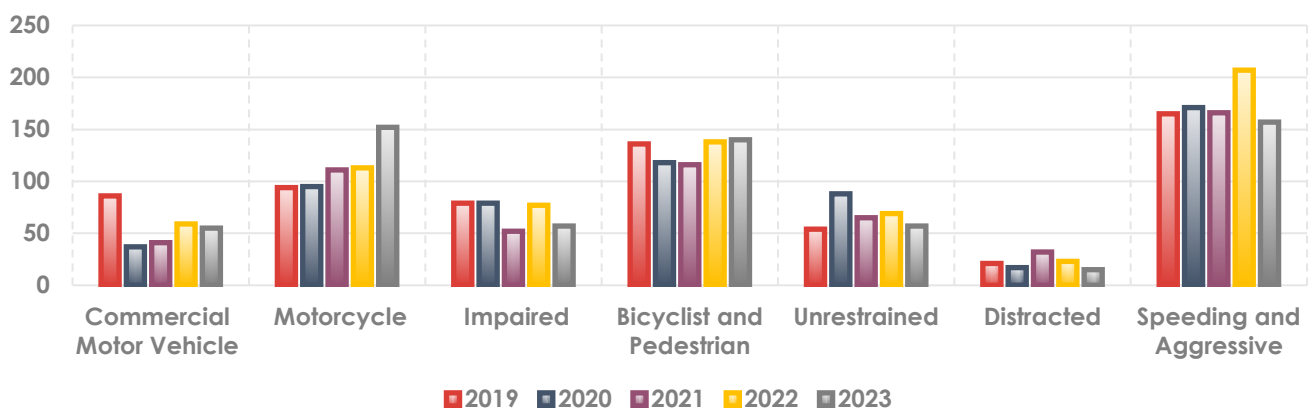
Teen Driver Involved Fatalities, Serious Injuries and Crashes by Contributing Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) Emphasis Area

- Teens have a higher rate of traffic fatalities due to factors such as impairment, lack of safety belt use, speeding, aggressive driving, and collisions with pedestrians and bicyclists. Inexperienced teen drivers may underestimate the fatal consequences of high-risk behaviors like impaired driving, driving unrestrained, speeding, and aggressive driving. Additionally, teen drivers are more likely to be involved in fatal crashes with pedestrians and bicyclists due to their limited experience in observing their surroundings, particularly at busy intersections, while also focusing on the complex task of driving.
- Distracted driving, speeding, and aggressive driving are the most common contributing factors in teen-involved crashes, as identified in the SHSP Emphasis Areas. In 2023, over 17 percent of crashes involving a teen driver were attributed to distraction.

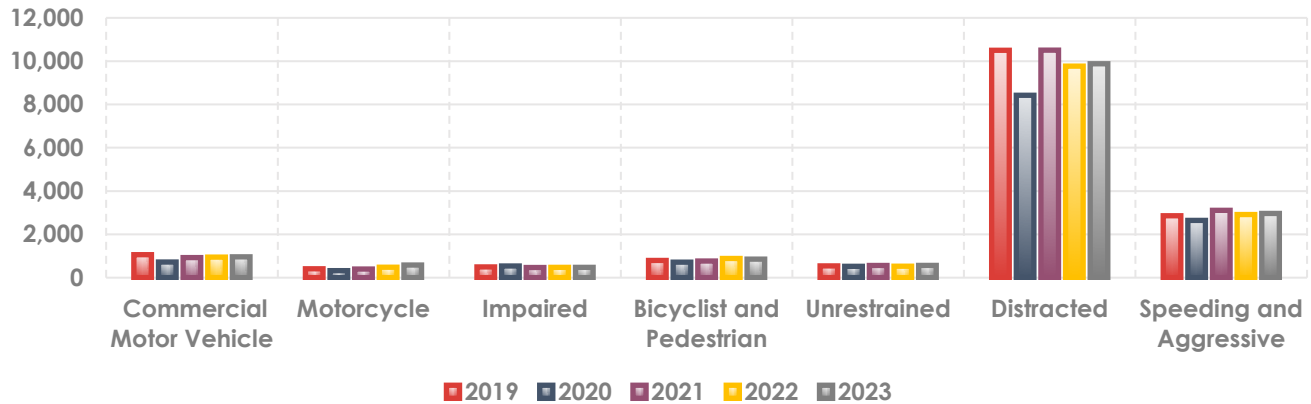
Teen Driver Involved Fatalities by Contributing SHSP Emphasis Area (2019-2023)



Teen Driver Involved Serious Injuries by Contributing SHSP Emphasis Area (2019-2023)



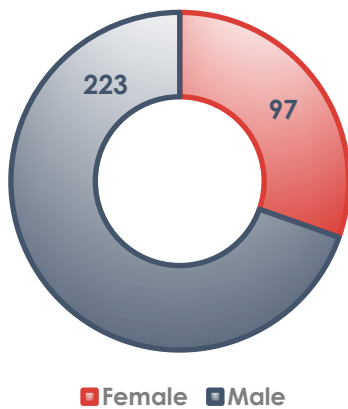
Teen Driver Involved Crashes by Contributing SHSP Emphasis Area (2019-2023)



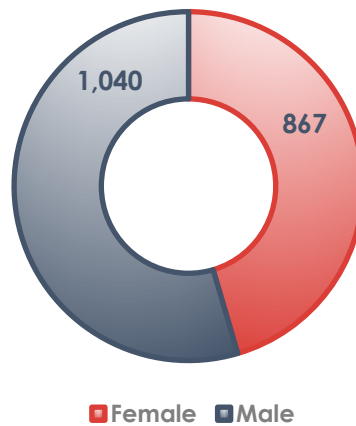
Average Annual Teen Driver Involved Fatalities, Serious Injuries, and Crashes by Gender

- Similar to overall statewide fatalities, male teen drivers are significantly more likely to be involved in fatal crashes than female teen drivers. However, both male and female teen drivers have comparable rates of serious injuries and crashes, indicating that male teen drivers may engage in riskier behaviors that increase the likelihood of fatalities.

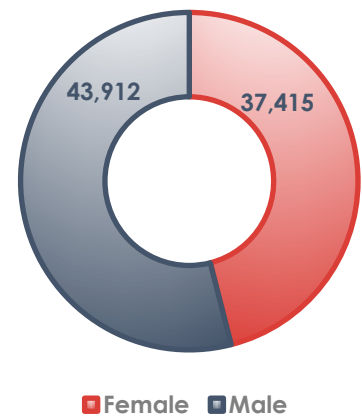
Average Annual Fatalities In Crashes Involving Teen Drivers, Florida – Annually by Gender (2019-2023)



Average Annual Serious Injuries In Crashes Involving Teen Drivers, Florida – Annually by Gender (2019-2023)



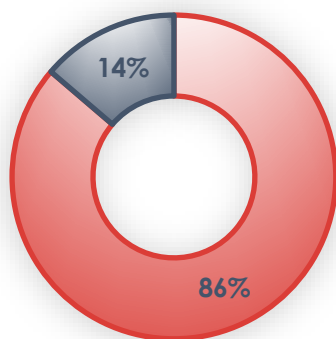
Average Annual Crashes Involving Teen Drivers, Florida – Annually by Gender (2019-2023)



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

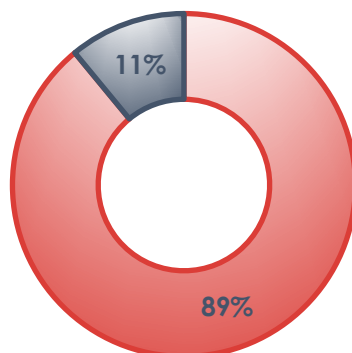
- As expected, Florida's rural communities experience fewer fatalities, serious injuries, and crashes involving teen drivers. With higher population, more drivers, and greater daily vehicle miles traveled, urban areas have an increased likelihood of crashes.

Fatalities In Crashes Involving Teen Drivers, Florida – Urban/Rural (2019-2023)



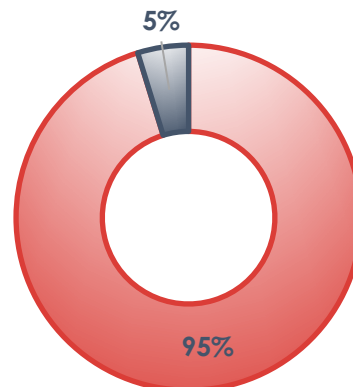
■ Urban ■ Rural

Serious Injuries In Crashes Involving Teen Drivers, Florida – Urban/Rural (2019-2023)



■ Urban ■ Rural

Crashes Involving Teen Drivers, Florida – Urban/Rural (2019-2023)

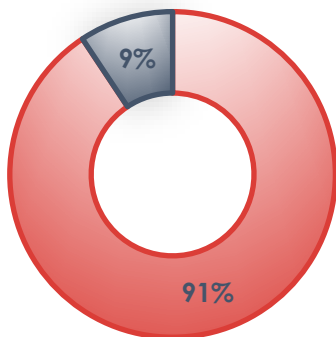


■ Urban ■ Rural

Average Fatalities, Serious Injuries, and Crashes Involving Teen Drivers by Residence

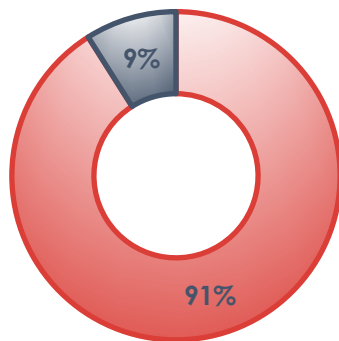
- Overwhelmingly, teens that are Florida residents are the ones involved in traffic fatalities, serious injuries, and crashes.

Fatalities In Crashes Involving Teen Drivers, Florida – Resident/Non-resident (2019-2023)



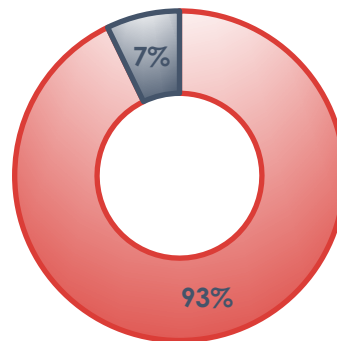
■ Resident ■ Non-Resident

Serious Injuries In Crashes Involving Teen Drivers, Florida – Resident/Non-resident (2019-2023)



■ Resident ■ Non-Resident

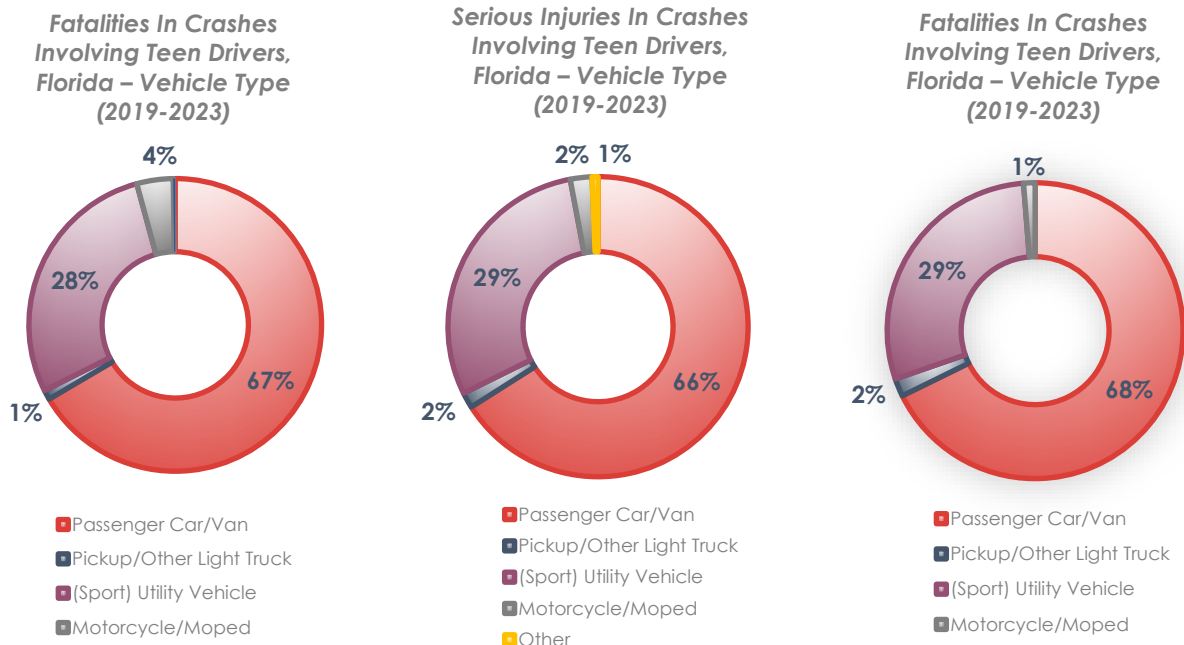
Crashes Involving Teen Drivers, Florida – Resident/Non-resident (2019-2023)



■ Resident ■ Non-Resident

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

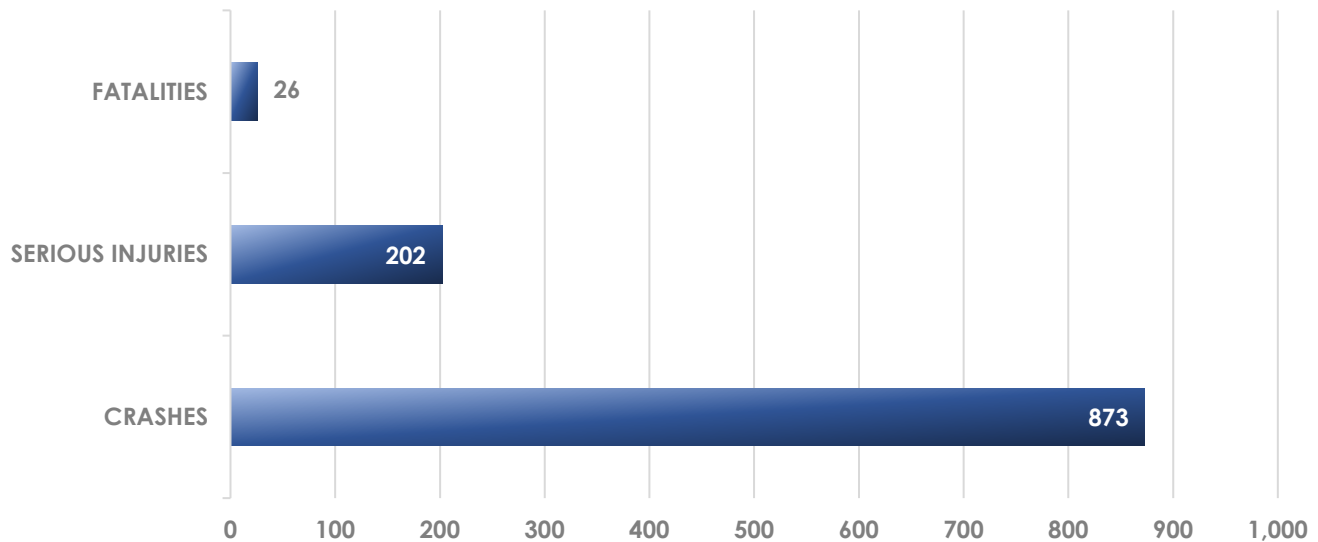
- › In crashes resulting in fatalities and serious injuries involving Florida's teens, they were most often driving a passenger car, van, or SUV. This trend aligns with Florida's overall vehicle registration rates, as teens typically share a family vehicle due to limited income and savings.
- › The fatality rate per crash (i.e., the number of teens killed per number of crashes) is significantly higher for teens riding motorcycles than any other vehicle type, even though motorcycles account for a small percentage of overall fatalities, serious injuries, and crashes. In other words, teens riding a motorcycle are far more likely to be involved in a crash, especially one resulting in a fatality or serious injury, compared to those driving a passenger car or van.



Average Fatalities, Serious Injuries, and Crashes Involving Teen Drivers Riding a Motorcycle Without a Helmet

- From 2019 to 2023, over 79 percent of teens involved in motorcycle crashes were not wearing a helmet, despite the legal requirement for riders under 21 to do so.
- Of the teens involved in a motorcycle crash while not wearing a helmet, 26 of them died and another 202 were seriously injured.

Fatalities, Serious Injuries, and Crashes Involving Teen Motorcycle Riders not Wearing a Helmet (2019-2023)



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, outreach efforts, and extensive education of teens, parents, caregivers, law enforcement, and other relevant stakeholders on safe driving behaviors.
- › Strengthening Florida's teen driving laws through advocacy and policy efforts, including enhancing the state's GDL 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 partnership of over 47 organizations dedicated to helping teens leverage the proven principles of GDL. The FTSDC is affiliated with state and local government agencies, law enforcement, public health organizations, traffic safety and injury prevention groups, academia, businesses, as well as teens, parents, and crash victims. The FTSDC's ultimate goal is to eliminate 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.

FLORIDA'S TRAFFIC SAFETY COALITIONS

- › [Traffic Records Coordinating Committee](#)
- › [Florida Impaired Driving Coalition](#)
- › [Florida's Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Coalition](#)
- › [Motorcycle Safety Coalition](#)
- › [Florida Occupant Protection Coalition](#)
- › [Safe Mobility for Life Coalition](#)