

Florida's Impaired Driving Traffic Safety Facts

2021 Data

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Why Focus on Impaired Driving?

Despite impressive efforts to reduce traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries in Florida, impaired driving crashes continue to be a barrier to reaching our goal of zero fatalities on our roadways.

In 2021, 3,741 people died in traffic crashes on Florida's roadways, which represents the highest annual total over the past decade. Among those fatalities, 1,219 (33%) died in impaired driving crashes. Florida has observed an overall increasing trend in annual traffic fatalities over the past ten years, with an increase of 1,327 fatalities from 2012 to 2021. Similarly, the number of fatalities resulting from impaired driving crashes increased by about 40 percent over the past ten years.

In terms of the percentage of traffic fatalities involving impaired driving, there is a clear decreasing trend from 2012 to 2018, followed by an upward trend until 2020. In 2021, this percentage reached 33%.

Impaired Driving Crashes

In this fact sheet, a traffic crash is classified as an impaired driving crash if the crash report indicated that (a) the driver had a positive blood alcohol concentration (BAC), or the results of a drug test are positive, or (b) the responding officer indicated "suspected alcohol-use" of the driver in the report, or suspected drug-use, or (c) the driver refused a test for alcohol- or drug-use.

Table 1. Fatalities in Impaired Driving Crashes (2012–2021)

Year	Total Fatalities	Traffic Fatalities in Impaired Driving Crashes	% of Impaired Driving Traffic Fatalities
2012	2,414	874	36.2%
2013	2,402	868	36.1%
2014	2,500	852	34.1%
2015	2,940	937	31.9%
2016	3,178	1,024	32.2%
2017	3,116	988	31.7%
2018	3,137	966	30.8%
2019	3,191	1,029	32.2%
2020	3,343	1,133	33.9%
2021	3,741	1,219	32.5%



Source: Crash data were obtained from Florida's Signal Four Analytics on May 1, 2023

Fatalities and Serious Injuries in Impaired Driving Crashes by Month

Broken down by month, March had the highest number of fatalities resulting from impaired driving crashes, followed by December and May, for 2016 to 2021. Overall, approximately 32% of Florida's traffic fatalities involved impaired driving. A similar pattern was observed for serious injuries over the same time period, with March, December, and April having more serious injuries as a result of impaired driving compared to other months.

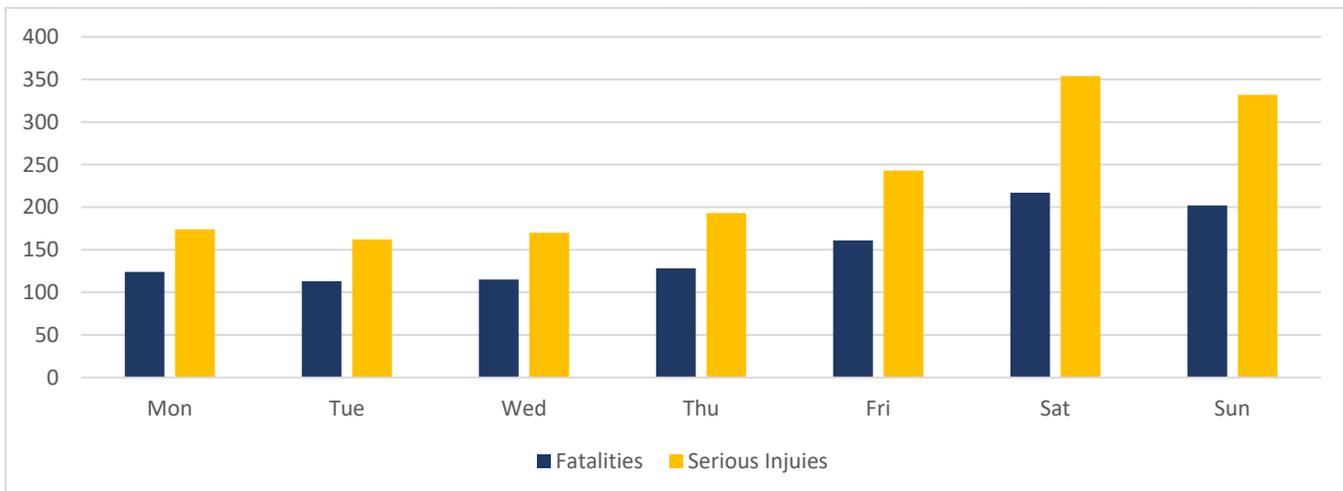
Figure 1. Fatalities and Serious Injuries in Impaired Driving Crashes by Month (2016–2021)



Traffic Fatalities in Impaired Driving Crashes by Day of Week

In Florida, fatalities resulting from impaired driving crashes were most frequent on Saturdays from 2016 to 2021. While traffic fatalities in drug-impaired crashes remained relatively consistent throughout the week, fatality numbers in alcohol-impaired and alcohol- and drug-impaired traffic crashes demonstrated a clear pattern, in that weekends had significantly more fatalities than weekdays. Serious injuries also occurred with the greatest frequency over the weekend (Friday–Sunday).

Figure 2. Fatalities and Serious Injuries in Impaired Driving Crashes by Day of Week (2016-2021)



Fatalities and Serious Injuries in Impaired Driving Crashes by Time of Day

From 2016 to 2021 in Florida, fatalities resulting from impaired driving crashes were more frequent in the evening and early morning hours, with the highest number of fatalities occurring from 2:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m. Relative to all traffic crash fatalities in the state, a significant proportion of fatalities in impaired driving crashes occurred between midnight and 5:00 a.m., with more than 43% of fatalities involving alcohol/drugs. A similar pattern was observed for serious injuries in impaired driving crashes, which occurred with the greatest frequency from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Figure 3. Fatalities and Serious Injuries in Impaired Driving Crashes by Time of Day (2016–2021)

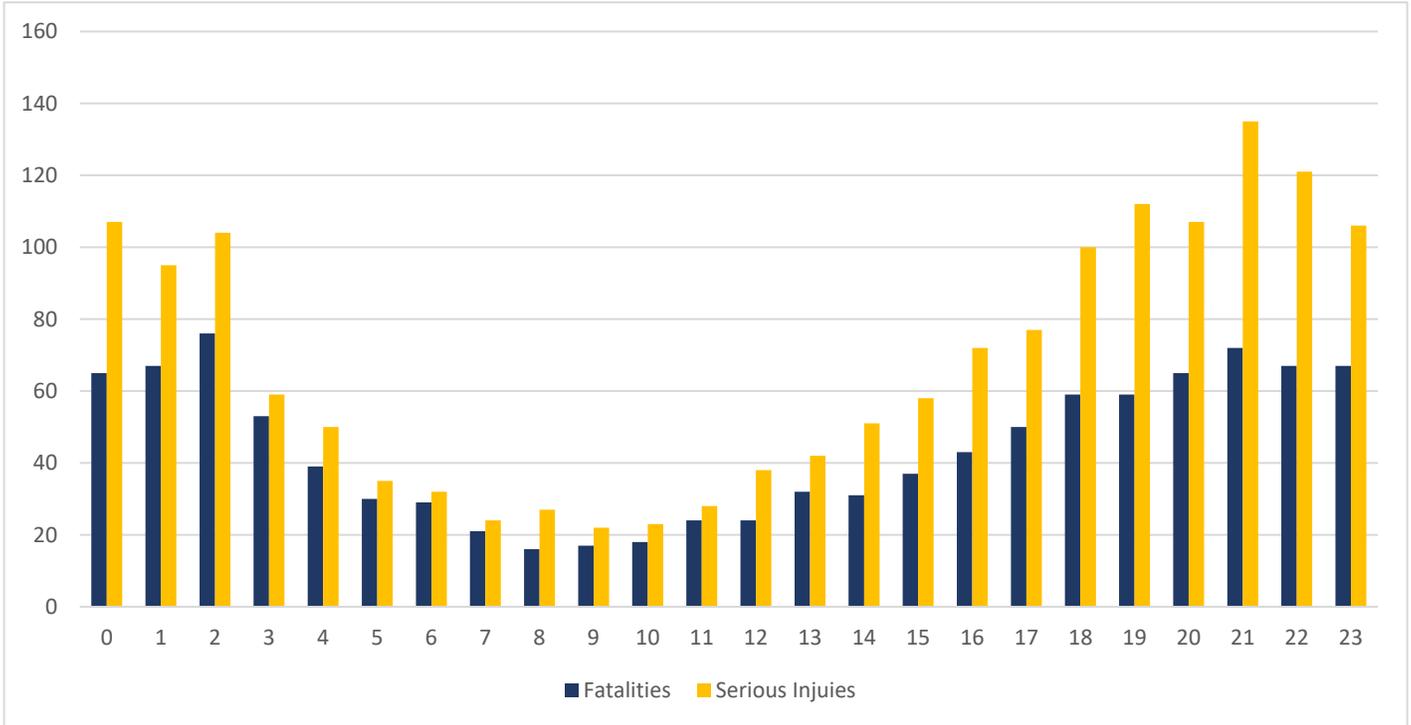
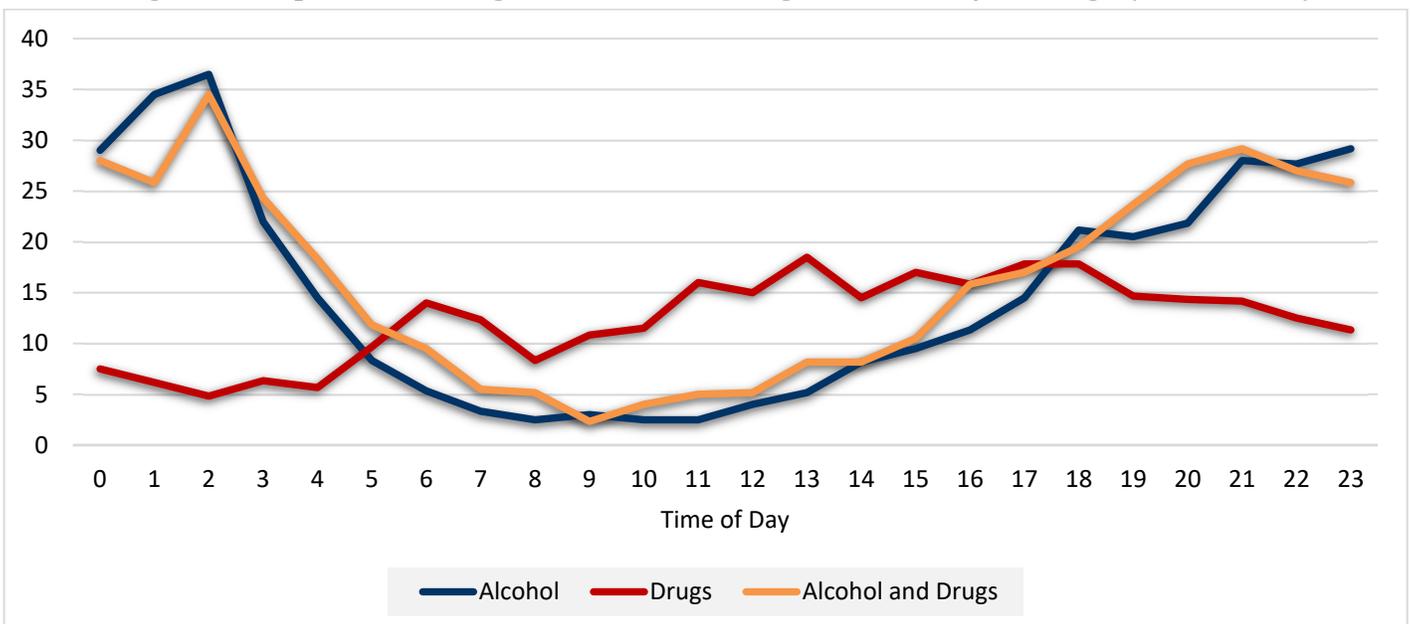


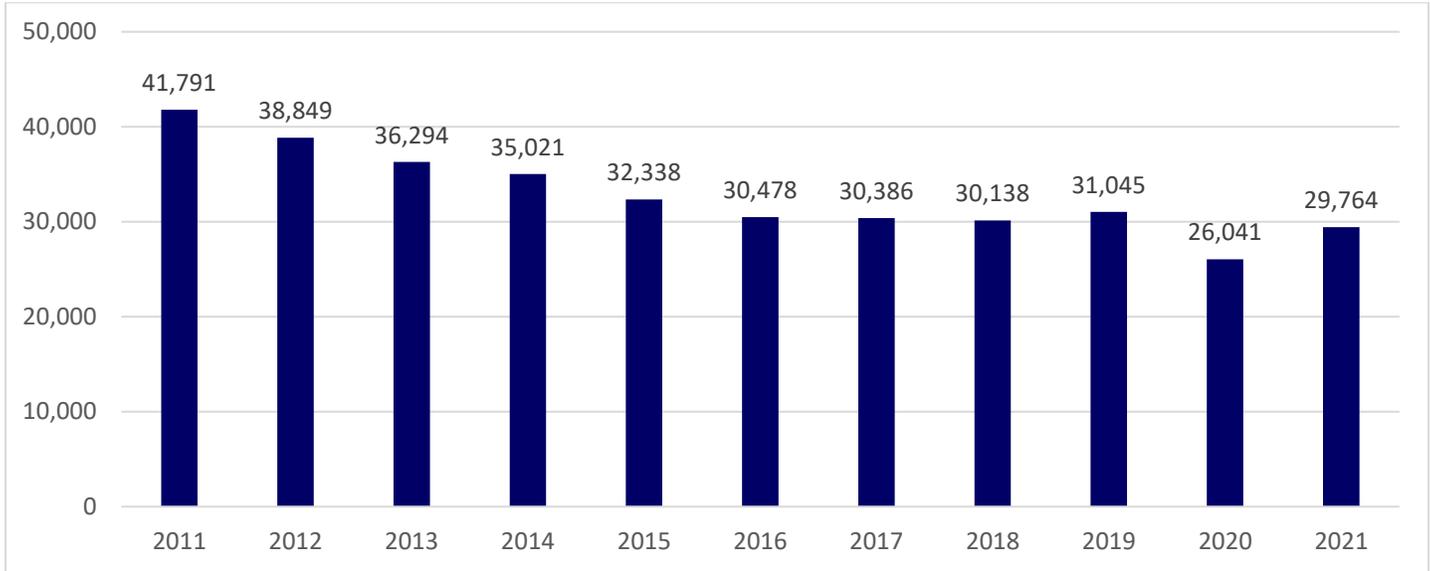
Figure 4. Impaired Driving Fatalities Involving Alcohol and/or Drugs (2016–2021)



Total Breath Tests Administered

The number of breath tests administered in Florida using the Intoxilyzer 8000 decreased by almost 30% from 2011 to 2021.

Figure 5. Total Breath Tests Administered Using Intoxilyzer 8000, Florida (2011-2021)

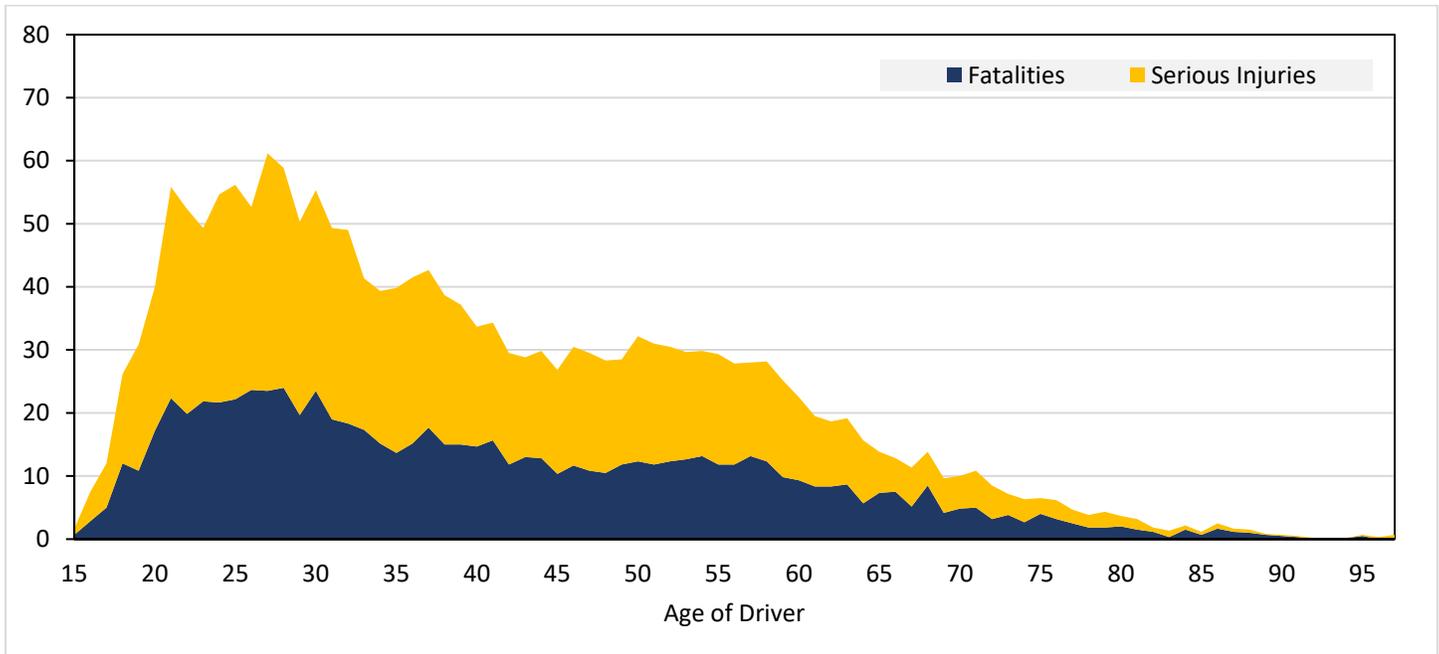


Source: <https://www.fdle.state.fl.us/Alcohol-Testing-Program/Intoxilyzer-8000-Records/Subject-Test-Statistics/>

Driver Fatalities and Serious Injuries in Impaired Driving Crashes by Age

Throughout Florida, from 2016 to 2021, fatalities resulting from impaired driving crashes were observed most frequently among young drivers (i.e., ages 20 to 30); however, it should also be noted that a significant proportion of driver fatalities for the 21-24 age category (about 54%) involved impairment. Following a peak (1,295) in the 21 to 29 age group, the frequency of fatally injured drivers in impaired driving crashes decreased as the age of the group increased.

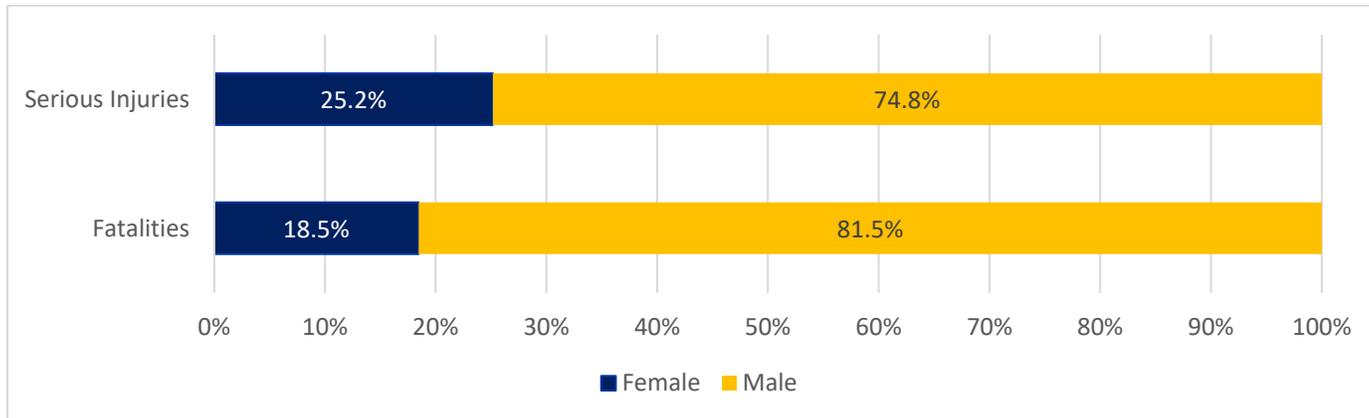
Figure 6. Age of Seriously or Fatally Injured Drivers in Impaired Driving Crashes



Driver Fatalities in Impaired Driving Crashes by Gender

From 2016 to 2021, the majority of fatally injured drivers in Florida impaired driving crashes were male (81.5%); while still a majority, a lower proportion (74.8%) of drivers experiencing serious injuries were male.

Figure 7. Fatalities and Serious Injuries in Impaired Driving Crashes by Gender (2016-2021)



Proportion of Impaired Drivers by Vehicle Type in Fatal Crashes

Passenger cars were the most frequently observed vehicle type, followed by motorcycles and (sport) utility vehicles, in fatal traffic crashes in Florida. Notably, the proportion of fatalities involving impairment was significantly higher among pickup truck drivers. When delineated by gender, distinct patterns emerged, as males accounted for a higher proportion of fatalities across most vehicle types, with the exception of pickup trucks. Overall, about 91% of drivers involved in an impaired driving crash were local residents.

Table 2. Proportion of Impaired Drivers by Vehicle Type in Traffic Fatalities (2016-2021)

Vehicle Type	Alcohol (A)	Drugs (D)	Alcohol and Drugs (AD)	Impaired (A+D+AD)	N
Passenger Car	11.7%	10.0%	13.2%	35.0%	1,587
Motorcycle	12.9%	11.5%	8.9%	33.3%	1,053
(Sport) Utility Vehicle	13.2%	13.4%	14.0%	40.6%	586
Pickup Truck	17.0%	13.6%	16.1%	46.7%	597
Passenger Van	10.9%	10.5%	9.2%	30.5%	73
Medium/Heavy Trucks (more than 10,000 lbs (4,536 kg))	3.4%	16.1%	1.7%	21.3%	37
Moped	5.4%	8.3%	6.5%	20.2%	34
All Terrain Vehicle (ATV)	19.3%	5.0%	11.8%	36.1%	43
Cargo Van (10,000 lbs (4,536 kg) or less)	8.3%	10.4%	12.5%	31.3%	15
Other Light Trucks (10,000 lbs (4,536 kg) or less)	10.6%	14.9%	12.8%	38.3%	18
Grand Total	12.7%	11.3%	12.1%	36.1%	4,043

Figure 8. Proportion of Impaired Drivers by Selected Vehicle Type in Traffic Fatalities (2016–2021)

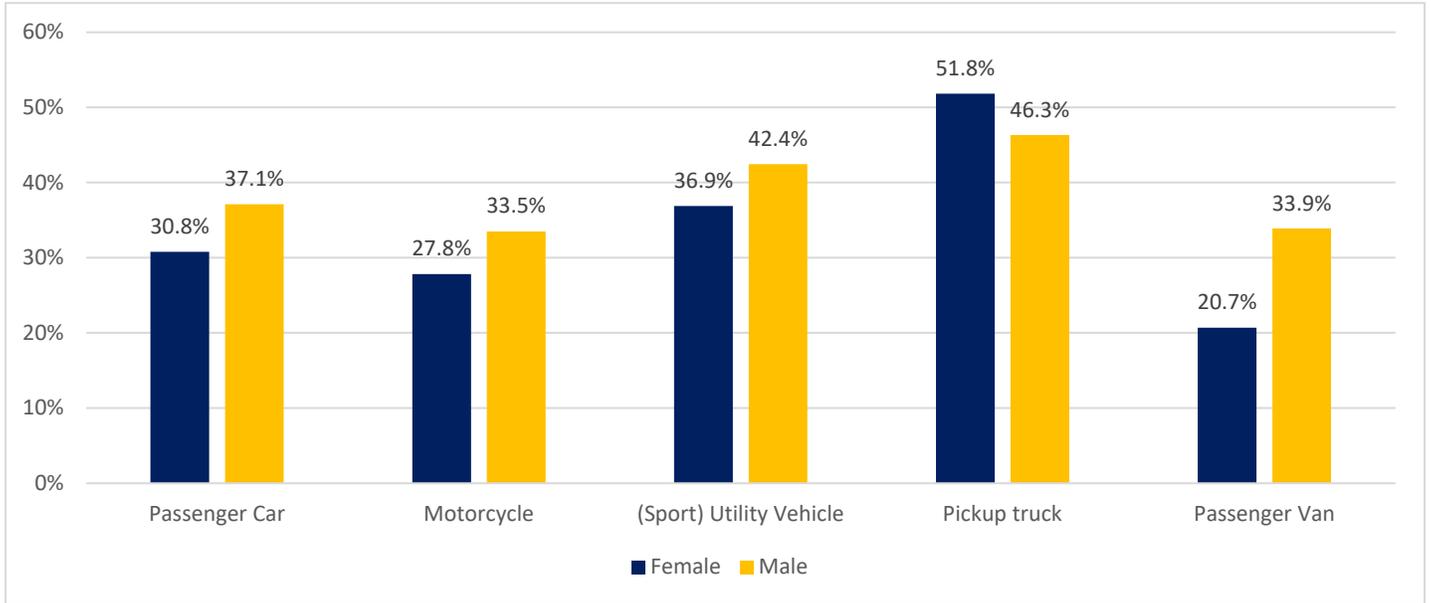


Figure 9. Proportion of Impaired Drivers by Selected Vehicle Type in Serious Injuries (2016–2021)

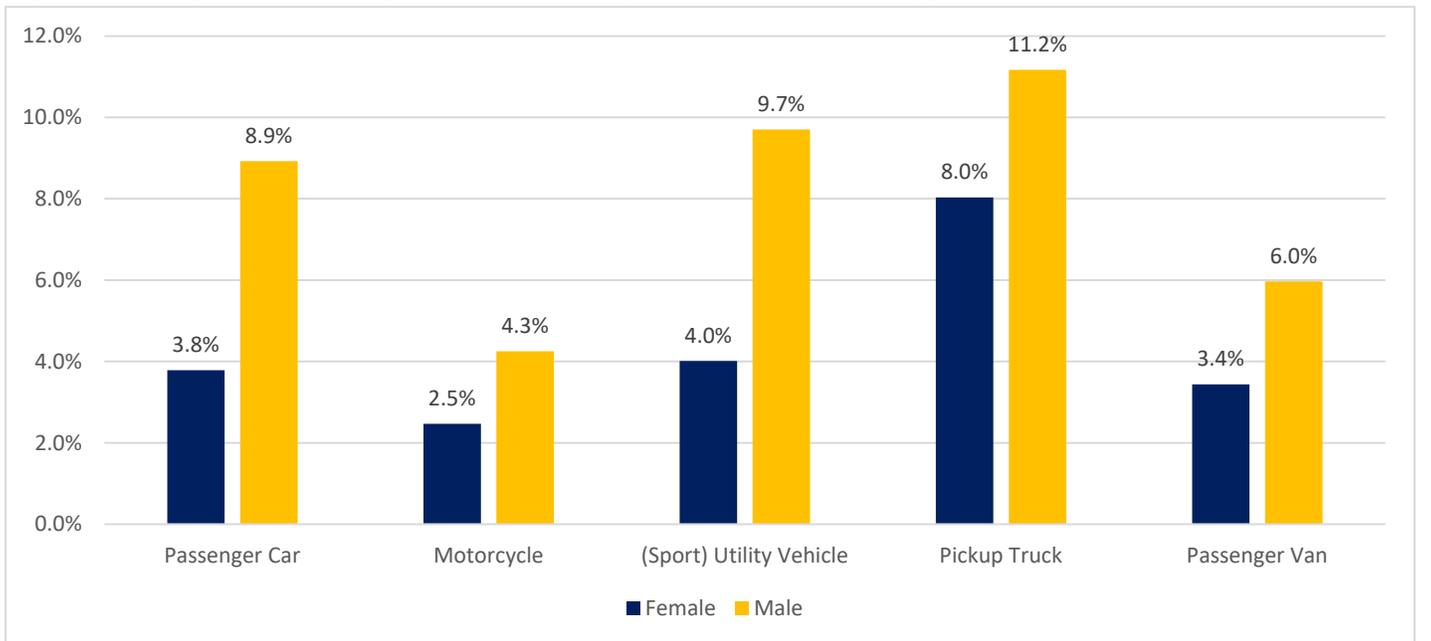


Table 3. Residency of Impaired Drivers in Fatal and Serious Injury Crashes (2016-2021)

Vehicle Type	FL	Non-FL	Total (N)
Passenger Car	95%	5%	100% (5,630)
Motorcycle	93%	7%	100% (1,613)
(Sport) Utility Vehicle	95%	5%	100% (2,190)
Pickup Truck	95%	5%	100% (2,102)
Passenger Van	93%	7%	100% (297)
Grand Total	95%	5%	100% (11,832)

Attacking the Problem

FIDC members and their agencies and/or associations are working to implement the following strategies to reduce the incidents of impaired driving and its consequences in Florida:

Program Management and Strategic Planning

- Expand Florida Impaired Driving Coalition membership to include key partners.

Prevention

- Identify and share model laws that would make over-service of individuals grounds for license action.
- Promote Community Traffic Safety Teams to develop and implement strategies to address impaired driving.

Criminal Justice System

- Identify and share model laws that would increase the existing penalties for chemical test refusals.
- Support codification of a uniform statewide impaired driving diversion program.
- Review proposed and new legislation for compliance with the impaired driving components of the IIJA Act.
- Support a process to link citations to impaired driving court cases.
- Ensure the accuracy of toxicology labs meets minimum recommendations for the toxicological investigation of suspected drug-impaired driving cases.
- Identify and share model laws that would improve the existing process for requesting blood draws to test for impaired driving.

Communication Plan

- Develop a comprehensive, multi-pronged approach to communicate to the public and impaired driving stakeholders the importance of driving sober.

Screening, Assessment, Treatment, and Rehabilitation System

- Develop and share guidelines for a standard DUI program for Florida.
- Develop and share recommendations to remove barriers that prevent impaired drivers from seeking treatment.

Program Evaluation

- Support the Florida Traffic Safety Information System Strategic Plan to address the need for data linkages and integration, data dictionaries, and data formats for various data files used to address highway safety issues including impaired driving crashes, fatalities, and injuries.
- Identify and share strategies to streamline electronic reporting methods.
- Identify the impact of Florida's DUI Diversion Programs on impaired driving arrests.
- Track law enforcement training related to impaired driving.

Florida Impaired Driving Coalition

The Florida Impaired Driving Coalition (FIDC) was formed in 2009 to identify and prioritize the State's most pressing impaired driving issues and develop a strategic plan to maximize its ability to impact these crashes. FIDC members have a working knowledge and understanding of Florida's impaired driving system and how its parts interrelate.

The Florida Impaired Driving Strategic Plan (IDSP) identifies six key areas where FIDC will focus its efforts over the next five years:

- Program Management and Strategic Planning
- Prevention
- Criminal Justice System
- Communication
- Screening, Assessment, Treatment, and Rehabilitation System
- Program Evaluation

Florida Impaired Driving Coalition Members

AAA	Florida Dept. of Law Enforcement, Alcohol Testing Program	Florida Safety Council	State Attorney's Office
Advocate Program, Inc., Fl.	Florida Dept. of Transportation	Florida Sheriff's Association	Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD)
Association of Community Corrections	Florida DRE Program	Florida TSRP Program	University of Miami, Division of Toxicology
DUI Counterattack, Hillsborough, Inc.	Florida Highway Patrol	International Association of Chiefs of Police	University of North Florida, Institute of Police Technology and Management
Florida Dept. of Business and Professional Regulation	Florida Police Chiefs Association	Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)	University of South Florida, Center for Urban Transportation Research
Florida Dept. of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles	Florida Restaurant & Lodging Association	Multiple Florida Police Departments	
		Multiple Florida Sheriff's Offices	