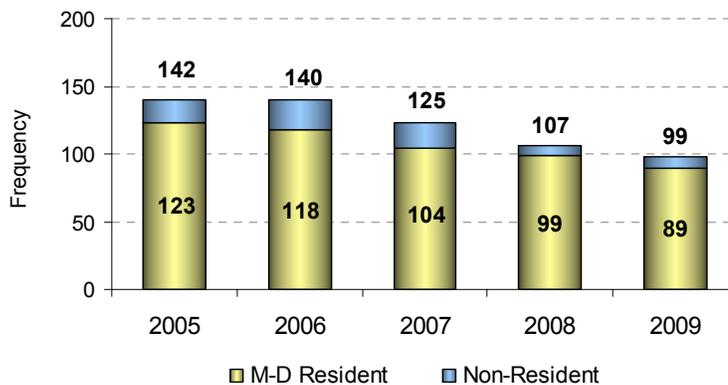


Drivers Fatally Injured in Traffic Crashes: Substance Use, Miami-Dade County, 2005-2009



Motor vehicle traffic deaths are one of the leading causes of death to Miami-Dade County residents. Traffic crash reports from the FL Dept. of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles were analyzed to describe the characteristics of crashes that occurred in Miami-Dade Co. and resulted in driver fatalities during the years 2005-2009. The influence of drug and/or alcohol use on these fatalities is emphasized in this fact sheet.

**Driver Fatalities in Miami-Dade County
by County of Residence, 2005-2009**

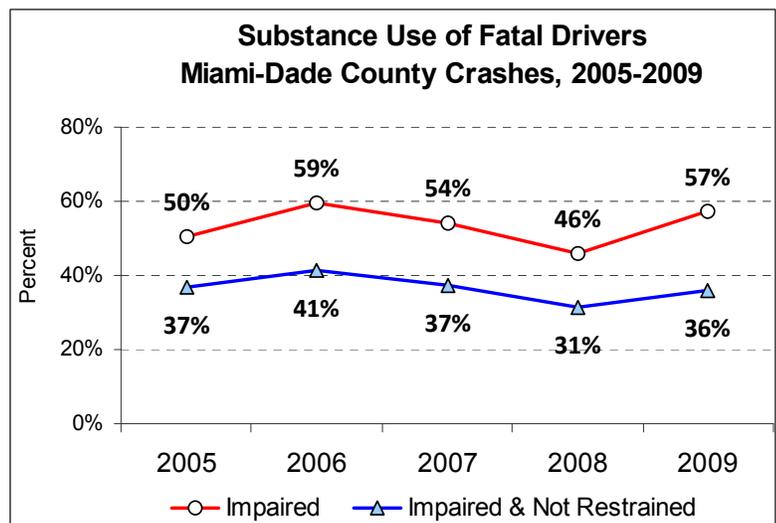


Between 2005-2009, 613 drivers of seat belt-equipped motor vehicles were killed in traffic crashes in the county.

Driver fatalities have declined every year since 2006. Overall, 86% of the victims were residents of Miami-Dade County.

Driver Substance Use

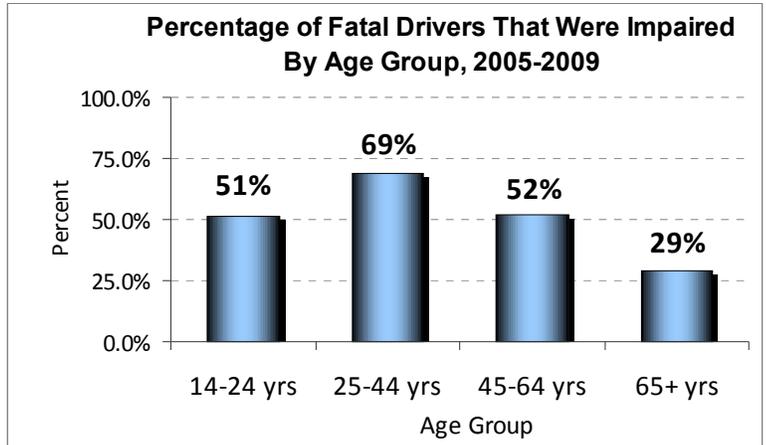
- Over this 5-year period, 53% of drivers fatally injured in a MVC were impaired by either drugs or alcohol (red line).
- More than 1/3 of fatal drivers were both impaired and not restrained (blue line).
- Although there was no significant change over the 5 years for either of these driving behaviors, 2009 did see both increase after two consecutive years of improvement between 2006-2008.



Driver Substance Use

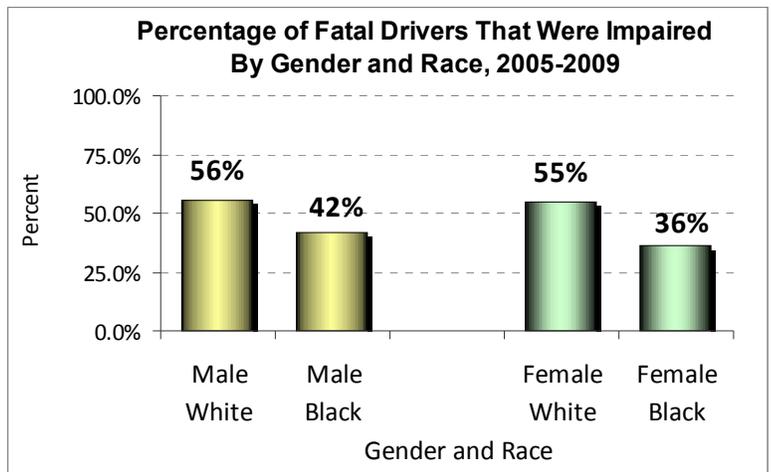
Age of Driver

- Driving while impaired occurred most often among drivers aged 25-44 years, with more than 2 of 3 positive for substance use.
- 51% of drivers under age 25 were impaired.
- Older drivers were least likely to have driven impaired (29%).
- The youngest and oldest age groups saw impaired driver rates fall to their lowest percentages in 2008 (37% and 14% respectively) but then experienced their highest rates in 2009 (62% and 48% respectively).



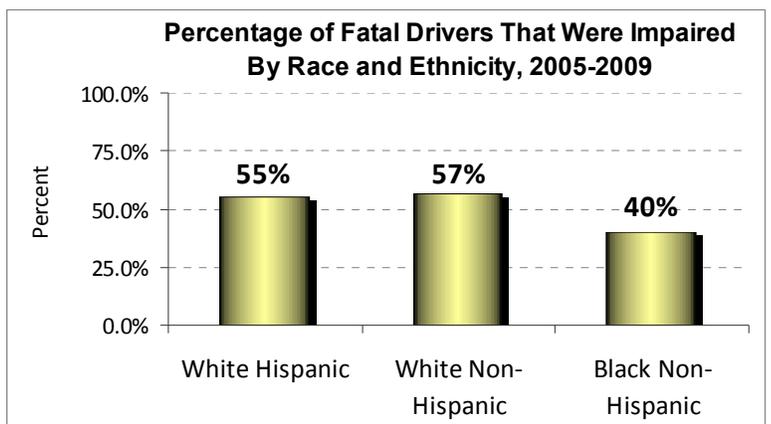
Sex and Race of Driver

- White drivers (males=56%, females=55%) were more likely to have been driving impaired than black drivers (males=42%, females=36%).
- Overall, male drivers (54%) were slightly more likely to be driving impaired than female drivers (51%).
- Both black males and females experienced their lowest impaired driver rate in 2009 but white females had their highest rate (92%) with 12 of 13 fatal victims impaired.



Race & Ethnicity of Driver

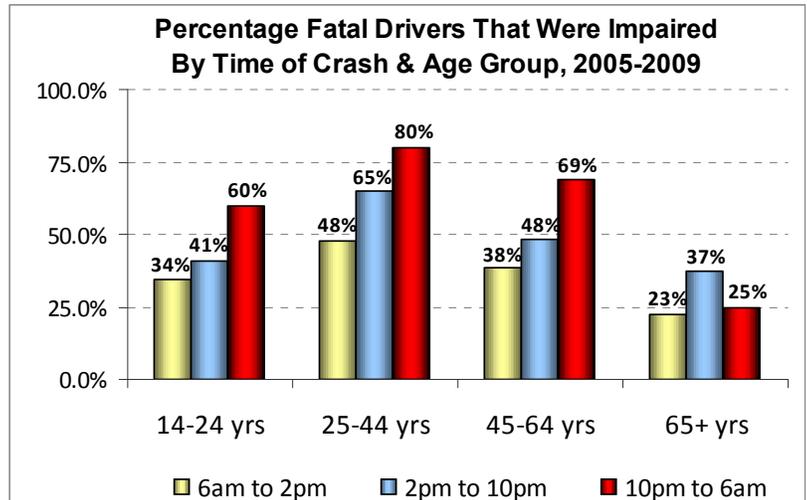
- Black non-Hispanic drivers had the lowest rate of substance use at 40%.
- Black non-Hispanic drivers experienced their lowest impaired driver rate in 2009 (20%) while white non-Hispanic drivers experienced their highest rate in 2009 (75%).



Driver Substance Use

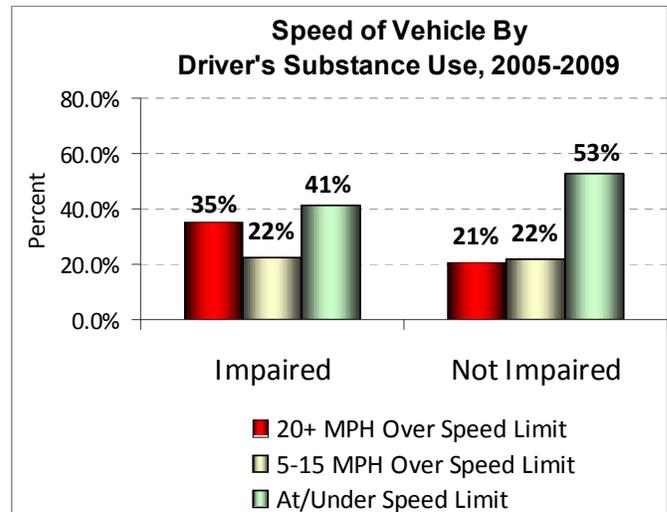
Time of Crash

- Overall, 35% of drivers who died between 6am-2pm, 47% who died between 2pm-10pm and 68% who died between 10pm-6am were impaired.
- As expected, the percentage of drivers that were impaired was greatest in the evening hours for most age groups. The exception was drivers age 65 and older, with 25% of fatalities between 10pm-6am being impaired.
- More than 3 of every 4 fatal drivers aged 25-64 years that crashed between 10pm-6am were impaired.



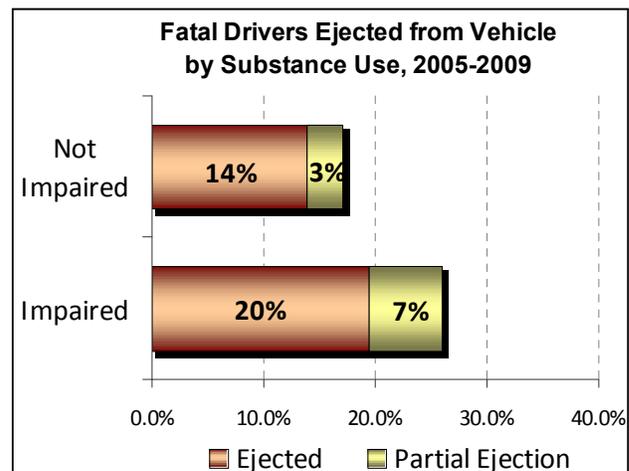
Was Driver Speeding?

- The speed of the vehicle at the time of the crash was estimated by the police for 69% of the crashes.
- 35% of impaired drivers were estimated to be speeding at least 20 MPH over the speed limit compared to 21% of drivers who were not impaired.
- Conversely, 41% of impaired drivers were driving at or under the speed limit compared to 53% of drivers who were not impaired.



Was Driver Ejected From Vehicle?

- More than one-fourth of the impaired drivers were either partially (7%) or completely ejected (20%) from their vehicle after the crash compare to 17% of drivers not impaired. National data shows that more than 75% of people who are ejected during a crash die from their injuries.¹



Residence of Fatal Drivers Testing Positive for Substance Use, 2005-2009

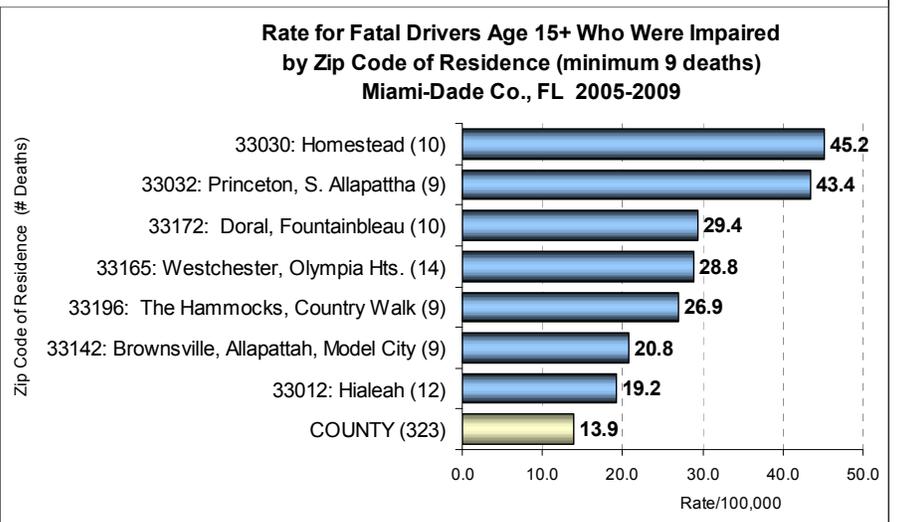
Seven zip codes experienced at least 9 fatalities between 2005-2009 to residents who were driving impaired.

Among these, 33030 (Homestead area, 10 deaths) and 33032 (Princeton area, 9 deaths) had the highest fatality rates for drivers age 15 and older, more than 3-times higher than the county rate.

Three zip codes had fatality rates 2-times greater than the county rate:
 -33172 (Doral area, 10 deaths)
 -33165 (Westchester area, 14 deaths).
 -33196 (The Hammocks area, 9 deaths)

The county roads that were the most frequent site of fatal crashes involving impaired drivers were:

- SR 826 (Palmetto Expy): 22 deaths
- US 1 (S Dixie Hwy): 21 deaths
- SR 821 (FL Turnpike): 17 deaths
- Interstate 95: 14 deaths
- SR 997 (Krome Ave): 13 deaths
- SR 836 (Dolphin Expy): 10 deaths



Preventing Traffic Deaths Due to Impaired Driving

The CDC reports² that effective measures to prevent impaired driving include:

- Aggressively enforcing existing 0.08% BAC laws, minimum legal drinking age laws, and zero tolerance laws for drivers younger than 21 years old in all states.
- Promptly revoking the driver's licenses of people who drive while intoxicated.
- Using sobriety checkpoints.
- Implementing health promotion efforts that use an ecological framework to influence economic, organizational, policy, and school/community action.
- Using multi-faceted community-based approaches to alcohol control and DWI prevention.
- Requiring mandatory substance abuse assessment and treatment for DWI offenders.

1. Dept of Transportation (US), National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). Lives Saved in 2009 by Restraint Use and Minimum-Drinking-Age Laws. Washington (DC): NHTSA; 2010. Available at URL: <http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Pubs/811383.pdf>
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "Injury Prevention & Control: Motor Vehicle Safety" Available at URL: <http://www.cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety>

Produced by the Miami-Dade County Injury Surveillance System

Data Sources: Death Certificates, Office of Vital Statistics, FL Dept. of Health
 Medical Examiner Records, Miami County Medical Examiner Dept.
 Hospital Discharge Data, Agency for Health Care Administration
 PHONE (IFCK): 305-804-7212 (MDCHD): 305-470-5649
 E-MAIL: stephen.dearwater@jhs-miami.org
 WEBSITE: <http://dadehealth.org/injury/INJURYintro.asp>

