

Florida

TRAFFIC SAFETY FACTS

October 2010

FATALITIES



Report Compiled by the
Florida Department of
Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles



2009 Florida Quick Facts:

Definitions:

Traffic Fatality – The death of a person as a direct result of a traffic crash within thirty days of the crash occurrence.

Fatal Crash – A traffic crash that results in one or more fatalities within thirty days of occurrence.

Rate (per 100,000 Population)

- Fatality Rate..... 13.6
- Average Fatalities per Day..... 7
- Mileage Death Rate (per 100 million Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT))..... 1.3

	Fatalities	Fatal Crashes
2009	2,563	2,372
2008	2,983	2,764
Percent Change	-14.1%	-14.2%



Executive Summary

Fewer Americans were killed in 2009 in automobile crashes than at any time since the 1950s, but the nation can do better—much better, according to a growing number of highway safety advocates and transportation officials pushing the USA to adopt a goal of zero traffic fatalities.

The approach is called Toward Zero Deaths, based on a philosophy that even one road death is morally and ethically unacceptable. The goal: to alter behaviors that cause fatalities, such as speeding, drunken or distracted driving, and the lack of seat belt use. Speeding is a factor in more than 31 percent of road deaths, drunken driving in 32 percent and distracted driving in approximately 16 percent. Fifty-five percent of those killed in passenger vehicles were not wearing seat belts, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Last year, 33,963 people died in traffic crashes in the USA, an 8.9 percent decline from 2008 and the lowest total since 1954, according to the Department of Transportation. The fatality rate of 1.16 deaths per 100 million vehicle miles traveled was the lowest since the government started tracking it in 1966.

Florida ended 2009 with 2,563 (7.5 percent of the national total) traffic crash fatalities, the lowest in 18 years. While the number of crash fatalities is similar to 1992's number, the Sunshine State's population grew by five percent over the last five years.

Multiple factors influence the numbers: the economic downturn likely accounted for some of the recent decline as people drove less, (down 2 percent from 2005); technological safety advances in automobiles; and the passing of the primary seatbelt law in Florida effective July 1, 2009. The declining trends are also a testament to the emphasis that law enforcement agencies, safety advocates and businesses have placed on saving lives on our roadways.

Some positive trends include:

- Crash-related fatalities on Florida roadways decreased 14 percent between 2008 and 2009, from 2,983 to 2,563. This is the fourth consecutive year that traffic fatalities have decreased.
- The number of deaths per 100 million miles traveled dropped to 1.3 last year – the lowest the state has ever reported. As a note of comparison, the rate was 5.8 deaths per 100 million miles 40 years ago.
- Alcohol-related traffic fatalities fell by 14 percent between 2008 and 2009 from 1,169 to 1,004.
- Motorcycle fatalities (drivers and passengers) down 24 percent between 2008 and 2009 from 532 to 402.

- Bicyclist and passenger fatalities decreased 15 percent between 2008 and 2009 from 118 to 100.
- Pedestrian fatalities decreased four percent between 2008 and 2009 from 502 to 482.
- Fatalities of teen drivers and passengers, ages 15 – 19, fell significantly by more than 20 percent between 2008 and 2009 from 193 to 153. Teen drivers continue to over represent in terms of crash frequency, posting the highest rate of crash involvement of any age cohort at 381 per 10,000 licensed drivers.

DHSMV will continue to work with our safety partners to add to the momentum we have gained in recent years so that we continue to see crashes, deaths, and injuries decline in the years to come.

The following information will give some insight into traffic crashes involving fatalities that occurred during 2009 on Florida roadways.

What is the definition of a fatal crash?

- A traffic crash that results in one or more fatalities within thirty days of occurrence.

What is the definition of a traffic fatality?

- The death of a person as a direct result of a traffic crash within thirty days of the crash occurrence.

Who are involved in fatal crashes in Florida?

- In 2009, fatalities of people age 25 to 34 account for 16 percent of all fatalities.
- An additional sixteen percent of those killed fall into the 45 to 54 year old category.
- Our older citizens, 65 years old and older, account for 15 percent of the fatalities.
- Teenagers and children under the age of 19 make up 12 percent of the total fatalities.
- Approximately 71 percent of all fatalities were male and approximately 29 were female.

(continued)



Executive Summary *(continued)*

What types of roadways are involved in fatalities?

- Two-lane highways claim the lives of people more than any other roadway, at almost 38 percent.
- Four-lane roadways are responsible for almost 33 percent of fatalities.
- Almost 20 percent of fatalities take place on six-lane roadways.

What actions by drivers contribute to a fatal crash?

- Careless driving accounts for almost 20 percent of the fatal crashes.
- Being under the influence of alcohol contributes to fatal crashes almost 19 percent of the time.
- Just over 10 percent of fatal crashes are caused by the failure to yield the right-of-way.

What day of the week and month of the year is the most deadly?

- March is the most deadly month of the year with 9.4 percent of all fatal crashes occurring during this month.
- December accounts for 9.06 percent of all fatal crashes.
- Saturday is the most deadly day with just over 19 percent of fatal crashes occurring on this day.
- Just over 16 percent of fatal crashes happen on Sunday.

Are fatal crashes happening more during the day or at night?

- Just over 40 percent of fatal crashes occur when it is light outside.
- Almost 29 percent of fatal crashes happen when it is dark, but the street is illuminated.
- Just over 26 percent of fatal crashes occur when it is dark and no light present.

Are there other factors that contribute to fatal crashes in Florida?

Yes, alcohol is a factor in almost 40 percent of fatalities. Of the 2,563 fatalities in 2009, 1,004 of them had been drinking prior to the fatal crash.

What counties in Florida have the highest number of fatalities?

The largest counties have the highest number of fatalities. The statewide fatality rate is approximately 13.6 fatalities per every 100,000 people. The following counties accounted for 1,289 fatalities, or over half of the state's 2,563 recorded fatalities: Miami-Dade-260 (rate-10.5), Broward-189 (rate-10.8) Palm Beach-151 (rate-11.7), Orange-142 (rate-12.7), Hillsborough-141 (rate-11.7), Pinellas-104 (rate-11.1), Duval-114 (rate-12.5), Polk-94 (rate-16.1), and Volusia-94 (rate-18.5).

Over the last ten years, are fatalities increasing or decreasing?

Between 2000 and 2009, 31,256 individuals have died on Florida highways with the year 2005 having the greatest number with 3,533 fatalities. Over the last ten years, Florida's population has increased by 17.7 percent, however, between the last five years, fatalities have decreased by just over 27 percent. In 2009 traffic fatalities decreased 14 percent over the previous year.

Do seatbelts keep a person from dying in a traffic crash?

Yes! In 2009, Florida experienced 1,555 traffic deaths of drivers and passengers in seatbelt equipped vehicles. Of these deaths, 59 percent of them, or 917 people not wearing their seatbelt were killed.



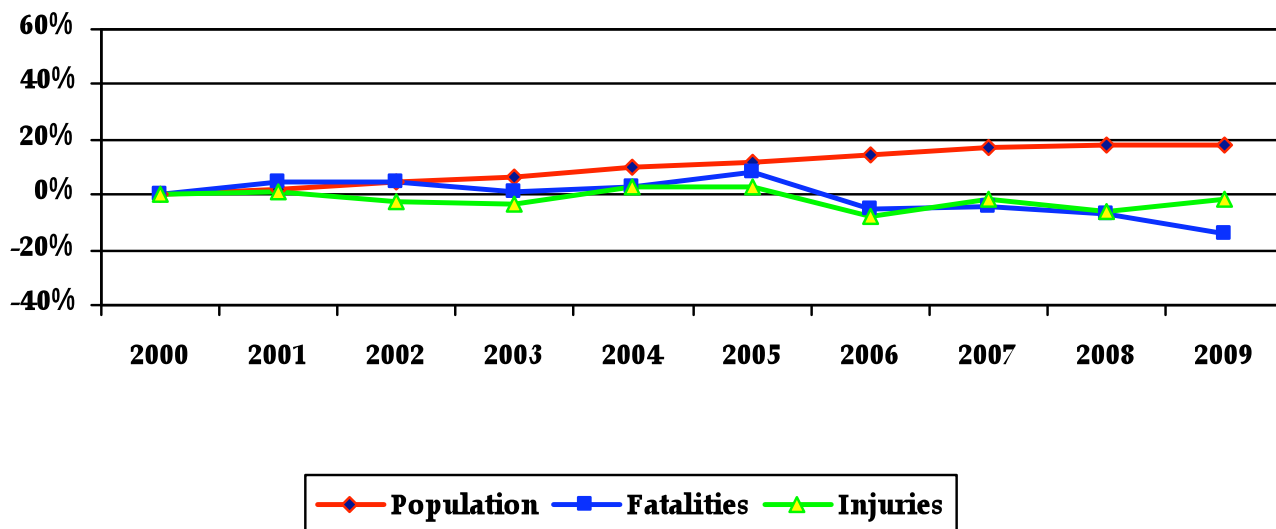
Ten-Year History (2000-2009)

During the last ten years, 31,256 people have died on Florida highways and an additional 2,202,494 have been injured.

Fatalities have decreased by 436 or 14.1 percent, as the state's population has increased by 17.7 percent.

Year	Florida Population		Fatalities		Injuries	
	#	% Change	#	% Change	#	% Change
2000	15,982,824	2,999			231,588	
2001	16,330,224	2.2	3,013	.5	234,600	1.3
2002	16,674,608	4.3	3,143	4.3	229,611	-2.1
2003	17,071,508	6.8	3,179	1.1	221,639	-3.5
2004	17,516,732	9.6	3,257	2.5	227,192	2.5
2005	17,872,296	11.8	3,533	8.5	233,930	3.0
2006	18,349,132	14.8	3,365	-4.8	214,914	-8.1
2007	18,680,367	16.9	3,221	-4.3	212,149	-1.3
2008	18,807,219	17.7	2,983	-7.4	199,657	-5.9
2009	18,818,998	17.7	2,563	-14.1	197,214	-1.2

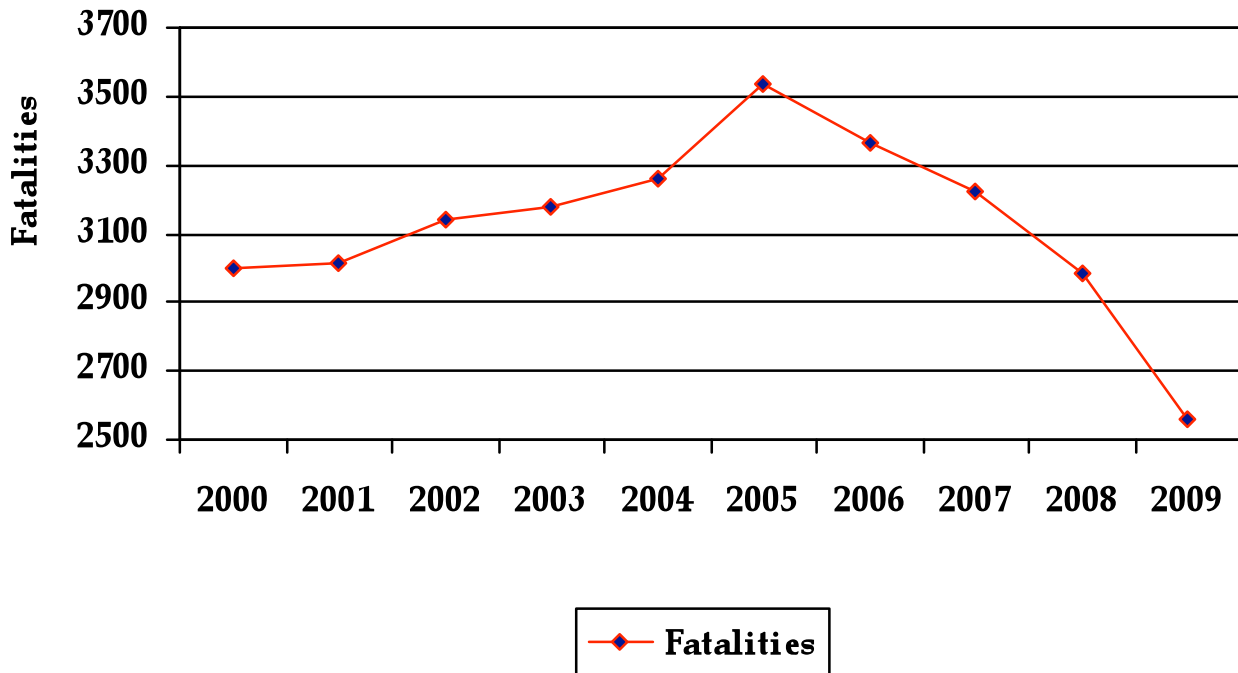
Cumulative Percentage Change Since 2000



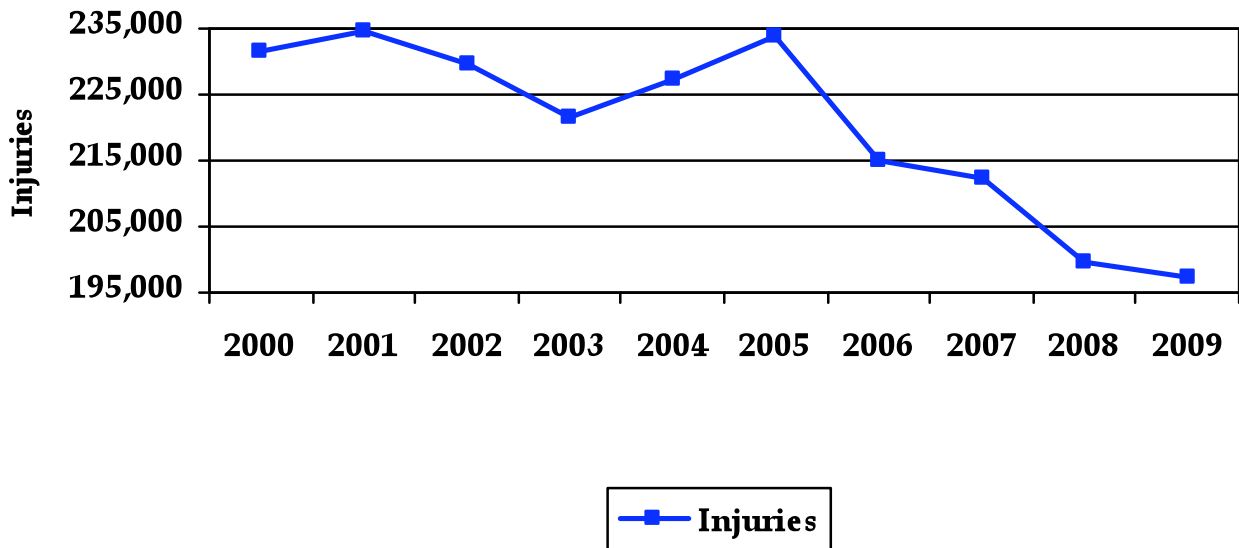
Fatalities and Injuries: During this ten-year period, fatalities have decreased. In 2009, the lowest number of fatalities (2,563) were reported and 2005 had the highest with 3,533.

During this same time, the injuries have decreased with 2009 having the lowest (197,214) and 2001 having the highest at (234,600).

Fatalities (2000 - 2009)



Injuries (2000 - 2009)



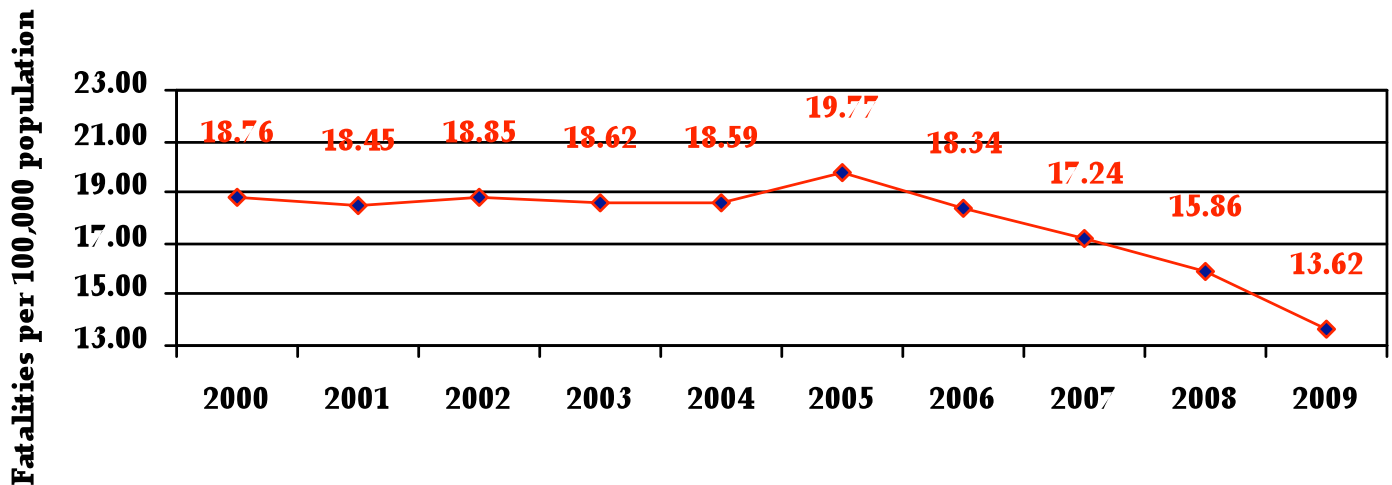
Fatality and Injury Rates:

During this ten-year period, the fatality rate ranged from 13.62 to 19.77 fatalities per 100,000 population. During this

same time, the injury rate has decreased from 1,449 injuries per 100,000 population in 2000 to 1,048 injuries per 100,000 population in 2009.

Year	Population	Fatalities		Injuries	
		#	Rate	#	Rate
2000	15,982,824	2,999	18.76	231,588	1449
2001	16,330,224	3,013	18.45	234,600	1437
2002	16,674,608	3,143	18.85	229,611	1377
2003	17,071,508	3,179	18.62	221,639	1298
2004	17,516,732	3,257	18.59	227,192	1297
2005	17,872,296	3,533	19.77	233,930	1309
2006	18,349,132	3,365	18.34	214,914	1171
2007	18,680,367	3,221	17.24	212,149	1136
2008	18,807,219	2,983	15.86	199,657	1062
2009	18,818,998	2,563	13.62	197,214	1048

Fatality Rate (per 100,000 Population)



Fatality Characteristics

Lighting Conditions for Fatal Crashes

Fatal crashes occurred 40.5 percent of the time in the daylight hours.

	Light Condition						Total
	Dawn	Daylight	Dusk	Dark (Street Light)	Dark (No Light)	Unknown	
Fatal Crashes	46	960	50	685	927	4	2,372
% of Total	1.9%	40.5%	2.1%	28.9%	26.4%	.2%	100%

Day of the week of Fatal Crashes

Saturday had the largest percentage of fatal crashes with 19 percent.

	Days of Week							Total
	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.	
Fatal Crashes	297	284	262	319	377	452	381	2,372
% of Total	12.6%	12%	11%	13.5%	15.9%	19%	16%	100%

Month of the Year of Fatalities

March had the largest percentage of fatal crashes with 9.4 percent.

	Months of Year												Total
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	
Fatal Crashes	205	199	224	214	195	190	170	180	162	209	209	215	2,372
% of Total	8.7%	8.4%	9.4%	9%	8.2%	8%	7.2%	7.6%	6.8%	8.8%	8.8%	9.1%	100%

Number of Roadway Lanes of Fatalities

Almost 38 percent of fatal crashes occurred on two-lane roadways and just under 33 percent occurred on six-lane roadways

	# of Roadway Lane								Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8+	
Fatal Crashes	28	894	43	777	30	458	9	133	2,372
% of Total	1.2%	37.7%	1.8%	32.7%	1.3%	19.3%	.4%	5.6%	100%



Fatality Characteristics: *(continued)*

Alcohol-Under influence Involvement

Of the 2,563 fatalities in 2009, 1,004 (39.2 percent) had been drinking prior to the fatal crash.

Fatalities	2009
Alcohol Related Fatalities	1,004
Total Fatalities	2,563
% Drinking	39.2%

Types of Fatalities

Of the 2,563 fatalities in 2009, 43.7 percent were drivers, 14.6 percent were motorcyclists, 3.9 percent were bicyclists, 19 percent were passengers, and 18.8 percent were pedestrians.

Types of Fatalities	Number Killed
Drivers Killed	1,120
Motorcyclists Killed	376
Bicyclists Killed	99
Passengers Killed	486
Pedestrians Killed	482
Total Fatalities	2,563



Fatality Characteristics: *(continued)*

Age of Fatal Crash Victims

During the time-period of 2005 through 2009:

- Those ages 19 and younger accounted for twelve percent of the total fatalities.
- Young adults ages 20 to 24 were responsible for fourteen percent of the fatalities.

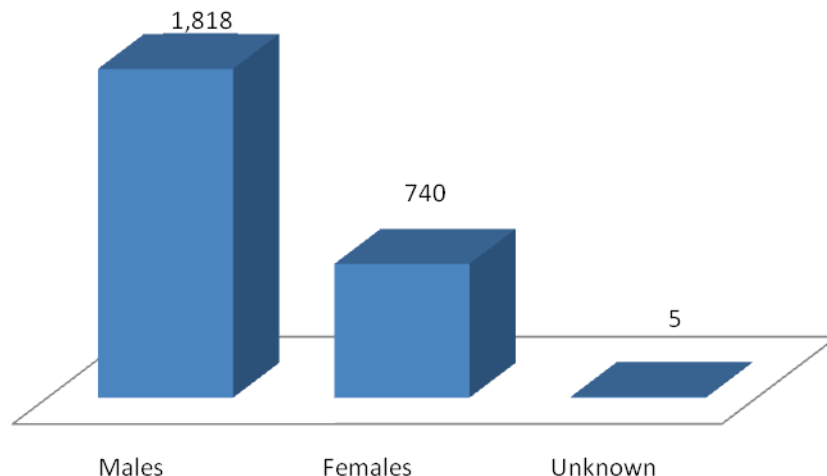
- Two age groups tied with the highest percentage of fatalities, ages 25 to 34 and 45 to 54 both had 16 percent of the total number of fatalities.
- People ages 35-44 had the second highest percentage of fatalities with 15 percent.
- Those individuals age 85 and older accounted for 3 percent of the total.

Fatalities by Age Group

Age Group	Year					% of 5 Yr. Total
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	
0-4	45	30	37	33	25	1%
5-9	48	28	36	22	21	1%
10-14	41	44	41	24	27	1%
15-19	379	315	306	251	196	9%
20-24	455	496	449	401	336	14%
25-34	552	549	525	502	404	16%
35-44	546	501	482	450	366	15%
45-54	527	483	511	491	429	16%
55-64	316	339	301	323	285	10%
65-74	219	217	186	186	207	6%
75-84	228	196	192	168	156	6%
85-89	78	60	61	54	53	2%
90+	25	29	26	30	27	1%
Unknown	74	78	68	48	31	2%
Total	3,533	3,365	3,221	2,983	2,563	*

Fatalities by Gender

During 2009, of the 2,563 people killed in fatal crashes, 1,818 (70.9 percent) were males and 740 (28.9 percent) were females. Five (.2 percent) were unknown.



Florida Five-Year Trend Data

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	% 5-Yr Change
Fatalities:						
Motor Vehicle	3,533	3,365	3,221	2,983	2,563	-27%
Injuries:						
Motor Vehicle	233,930	214,914	212,149	199,658	197,214	-16%
Crashes:						
Motor Vehicle	268,605	256,200	256,206	243,342	235,778	-12%
Roadway Miles:						
All Public (Centerline)	120,556	121,995	121,526	121,386	121,446	1%
State System (Centerline)	12,040	12,067	12,062	12,084	12,088	0.4%
State System (Lane)	41,473	41,916	42,082	42,432	42,633	3%
Licensed Drivers:	15,272,680	15,491,878	15,579,603	15,556,658	15,553,387	2%
Vehicles/ Registrations	15,062,993	15,612,161	14,858,332	15,966,287	14,983,437	-1%
Vehicle Miles Traveled (millions)	200,974	203,783	205,421	198,494	196,402	-2%
Population	17,872,296	18,349,132	18,680,367	18,807,219	18,818,998	5%
Tourists	83,600,000	83,900,000	84,500,000	84,200,000	80,900,000	-3%



FIVE-YEAR FATALITY HISTORY BY COUNTY*
(Florida, 2005-2009)

COUNTY	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	COUNTY	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
ALACHUA	36	43	57	42	30	LEON	42	28	22	31	29
BAKER	11	17	6	12	13	LEVY	29	13	15	9	13
BAY	33	46	35	22	28	LIBERTY	1	4	4	2	2
BRADFORD	8	8	11	8	7	MADISON	15	11	20	9	10
BREVARD	94	98	99	81	54	MANATEE	70	56	58	55	37
BROWARD	263	256	253	228	189	MARION	105	67	66	87	61
CALHOUN	6	4	4	3	5	MARTIN	26	32	26	30	33
CHARLOTTE	45	32	30	24	28	MIAMI-DADE	336	347	310	271	260
CITRUS	26	32	23	23	33	MONROE	23	23	21	20	23
CLAY	32	27	27	15	16	NASSAU	13	20	27	21	16
COLLIER	55	56	54	34	39	OKALOOSA	39	25	25	26	21
COLUMBIA	29	29	28	36	26	OKEECHOBEE	20	19	14	9	14
DE SOTO	18	18	7	9	9	ORANGE	194	184	186	170	142
DIXIE	11	11	8	3	4	OSCEOLA	68	65	52	55	50
DUVAL	156	144	166	120	114	PALM BEACH	195	212	206	198	151
ESCAMBIA	70	37	64	63	38	PASCO	83	96	99	88	79
FLAGLER	20	30	16	31	16	PINELLAS	107	120	114	114	104
FRANKLIN	2	3	2	3	3	POLK	143	159	106	133	94
GADSDEN	28	22	14	25	13	PUTNAM	22	24	23	20	20
GILCHRIST	4	3	6	11	3	ST. JOHNS	42	20	35	39	26
GLADES	4	8	3	13	5	ST. LUCIE	53	51	44	33	38
GULF	2	1	6	2	6	SANTA ROSA	19	25	25	15	27
HAMILTON	3	4	4	6	7	SARASOTA	58	55	61	42	40
HARDEE	9	6	7	10	8	SEMINOLE	39	39	48	42	23
HENDRY	30	23	14	17	16	SUMTER	22	25	26	17	21
HERNANDO	31	33	40	37	31	SUWANNEE	26	22	20	11	11
HIGHLANDS	33	21	24	21	16	TAYLOR	6	4	13	6	6
HILLSBOROUGH	207	191	183	182	141	UNION	3	10	4	5	6
HOLMES	3	9	3	6	4	VOLUSIA	134	122	108	109	94
INDIAN RIVER	32	27	23	26	23	WAKULLA	4	4	4	10	6
JACKSON	16	19	18	16	27	WALTON	31	23	22	17	18
JEFFERSON	8	12	7	8	6	WASHINGTON	13	11	10	12	6
LAFAYETTE	2	1	1	2	1	UNKNOWN	0	0	0	0	0
LAKE	75	57	58	61	43	STATEWIDE	3,533	3,365	3,221	2,983	2,563
LEE	150	121	106	77	80						

