

# DANGEROUS BY DESIGN

## Florida State Report

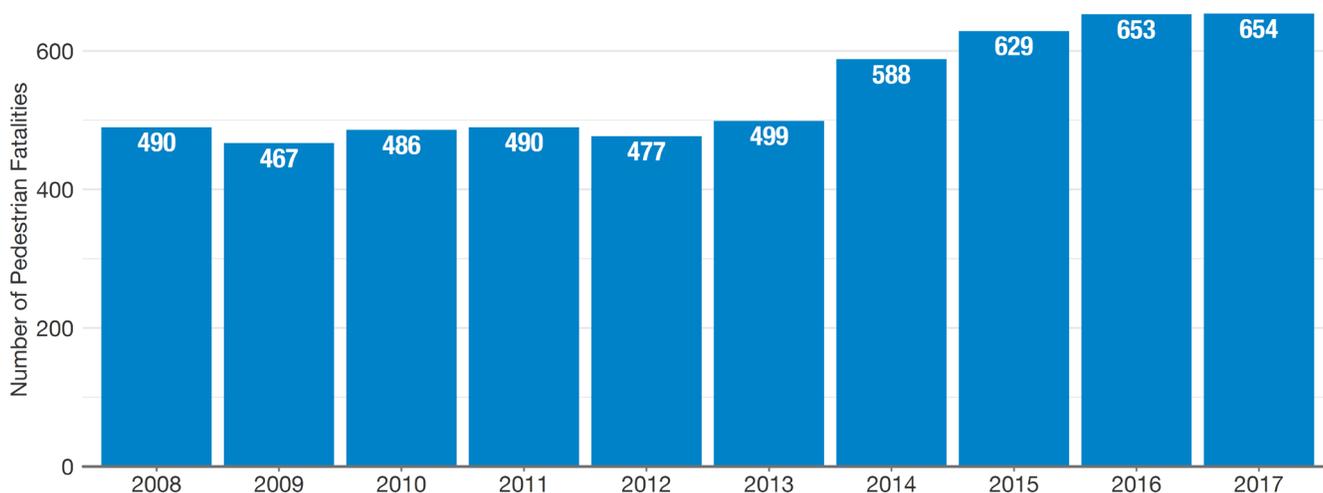
When we design streets to move cars as quickly as possible instead of prioritizing the safety of all people, the consequences can be deadly, especially for people walking. **Between 2008 and 2017, drivers struck and killed 5,433 people walking in Florida.** Over the past decade, the number of people struck and killed by drivers while walking increased by 35.4 percent nationwide, and in Florida, pedestrian deaths increased by 33.5 percent during this time period. Figure 1 shows pedestrian fatalities over the past decade in the state.



**1<sup>st</sup>**  
**Most Dangerous State by the Pedestrian Danger Index (PDI)**

The PDI calculates how deadly it is for people to walk in a state based on the number of people struck and killed by drivers while walking, controlled for the number of people that walk to work.

Figure 1. Pedestrian Fatalities in Florida, 2008-2017



In *Dangerous by Design 2019*, Smart Growth America’s biannual report on pedestrian safety, Florida ranked as the most dangerous state for people walking, using our “Pedestrian Danger Index” (PDI), which measures the number of people struck and killed while walking, controlling for population size and walking rates. Between 2008-2017, Florida received a PDI score of 182.0, compared to a national PDI of 55.3. This supplemental state report ranks the most dangerous metro areas for people walking in Florida.

Figure 2. Pedestrians as a Share of Motor Vehicle-Related Fatalities

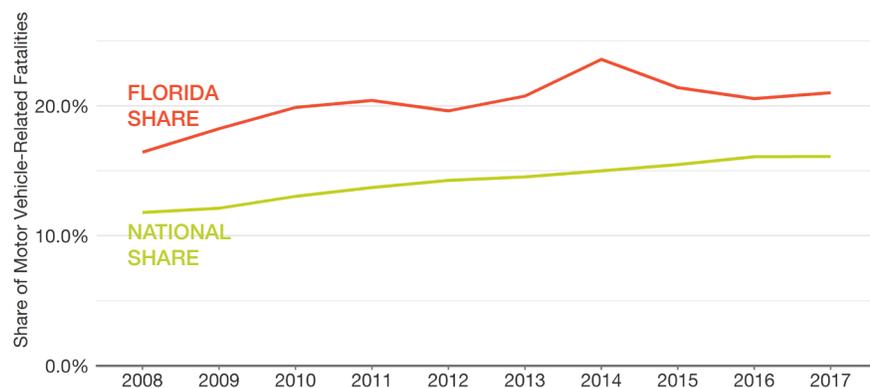


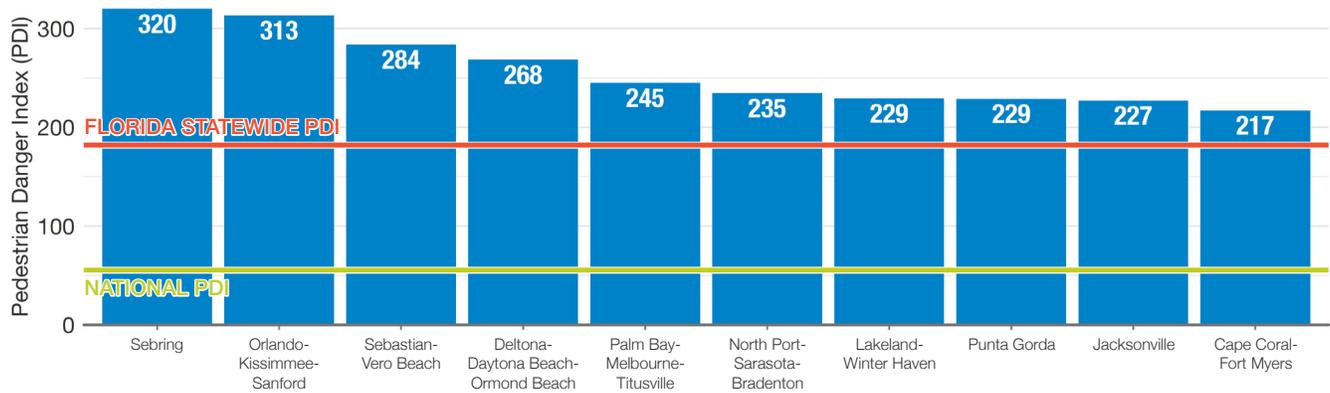
Figure 3. State vs. National Share

In Florida, **20.2%** of vehicle-related fatalities between 2008-2017 were pedestrians

compared to **14.2%** in the U.S. as a whole

- Pedestrians
- Other

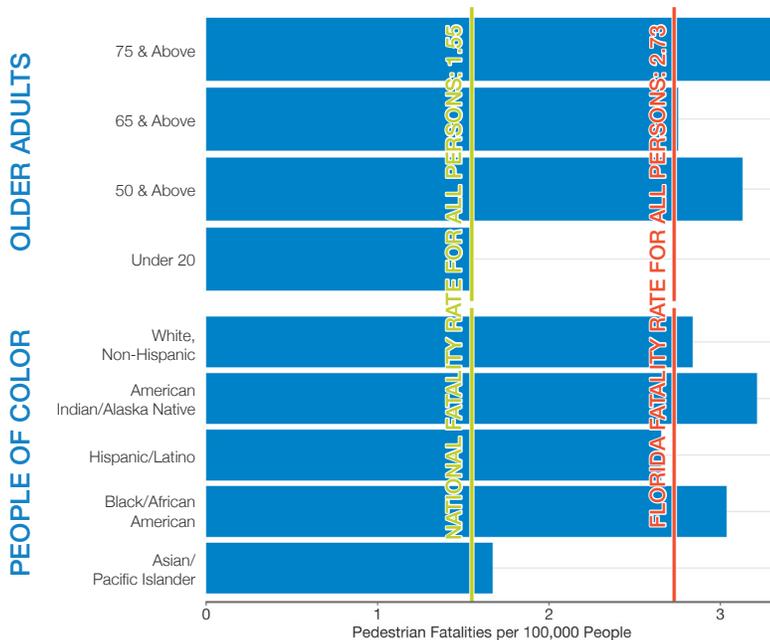
Figure 4. Most Dangerous Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) in Florida for Pedestrians



## VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Although people of all ages, races, ethnicities, and income levels suffer the consequences of dangerous street design, some neighborhoods and groups of people bear a larger share of the burden than others. Nationwide, drivers disproportionately strike and kill older adults, people of color, and people walking in low-income communities.

Figure 5. Pedestrian Fatalities per 100,000 People



Florida is the 29<sup>th</sup> most dangerous state for older adults. Between 2008-2017, adults over 50 were 32.3% more likely to be struck and killed while walking compared to people under 50.

### Moving toward zero

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) believes that one fatality is one too many. They are working to make their streets safer through the following initiatives:

- FDOT adopted a **Complete Streets policy** in 2014 to balance the needs and safety of all people who use the street. 75 local and regional agencies in the state have also passed Complete Streets policies.
- FDOT launched a **Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Coalition** to bring together federal, state, local, and private partners, safety advocates, and others committed to reducing traffic deaths and serious injuries.
- FDOT updated its **Pedestrian and Bicycle Strategic Safety Plan** in 2017.
- FDOT is also working in 21 priority counties to introduce **targeted safety improvements** for people walking and biking.

For more information, visit <http://www.fdot.gov/safety>.

For more information go to: <https://smartgrowthamerica.org/dangerous-by-design/>

Data from the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration's Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) and the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey 2012-2016 5-year estimates