



YOUNG DRIVERS

The Young Drivers Challenge Area focuses on improving the safety of drivers identified as being 15 to 20 years of age, mirroring the ages represented by the state's GDL provisions.

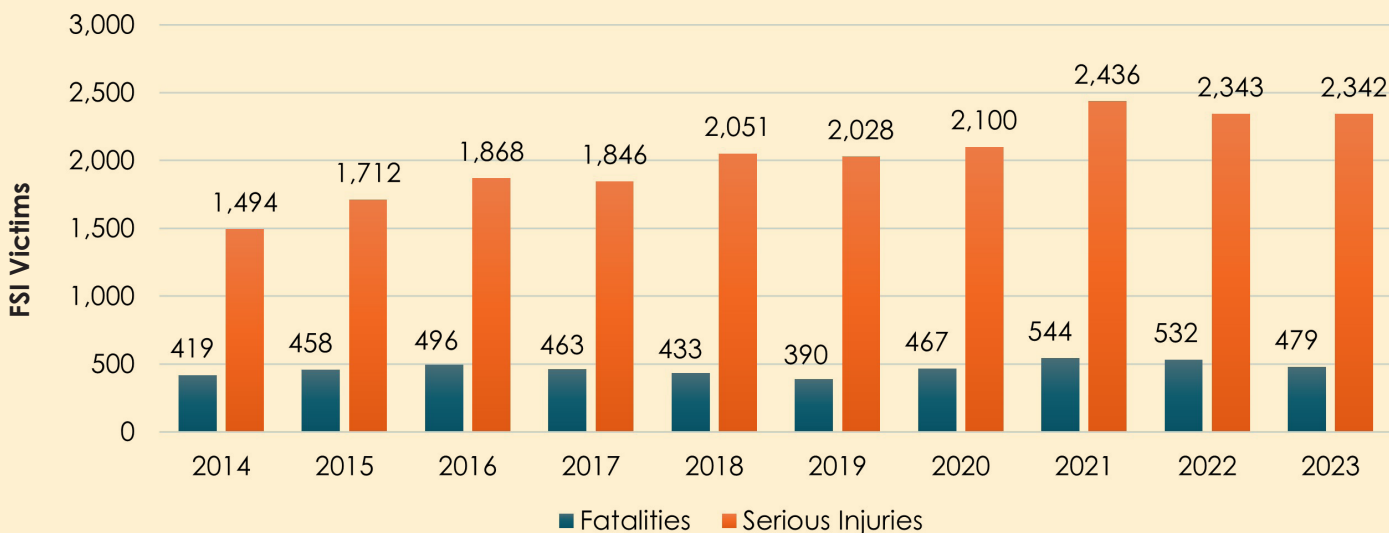
Defined as: All fatalities and serious injuries involved in a crash related to Young Drivers

Young Drivers Fatal and Serious Injury (FSI) Victims

24,901

13% of statewide FSI victims

FSI Victims by Year



Top Three Challenge Area Overlaps

Young Drivers FSI crashes also involve:



44%

Lane Departures



40%

Speed Management/
Aggressive Driving



29%

Intersections

Crashes often involve more than one factor and overlap with multiple Challenge Areas. See related fact sheets for overlapping Challenge Areas, as addressing one Challenge Area can improve the safety outcomes of the others.

Share of FSI Victims: State Highways vs. Local Roads



35%
State
Highways

VS

65%
Local
Roads



Share of FSI Victims: Rural vs. Urban Roads¹



30%
Rural
Roads

VS

70%
Urban
Roads



Source: All crash data is from Statewide Integrated Reporting System (SWITRS) 2014–2023 unless otherwise noted.

1. Rural and urban data determined by 2020 US Census "Urban Areas" dataset. FSI crashes with unknown geolocation were excluded.

For more information,
visit the SHSP Crash
Data Dashboard:

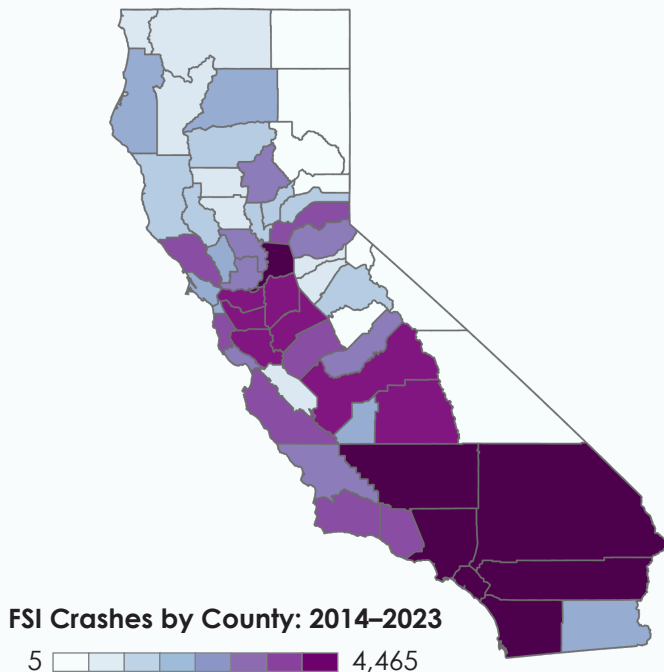




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FSI Crash Frequency and FSI Crash Rate by County

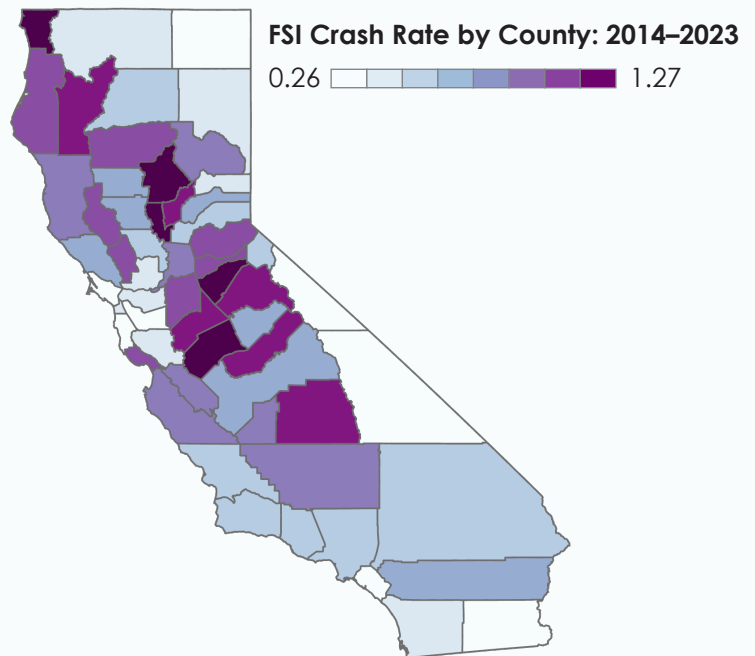
FSI Crash Frequency



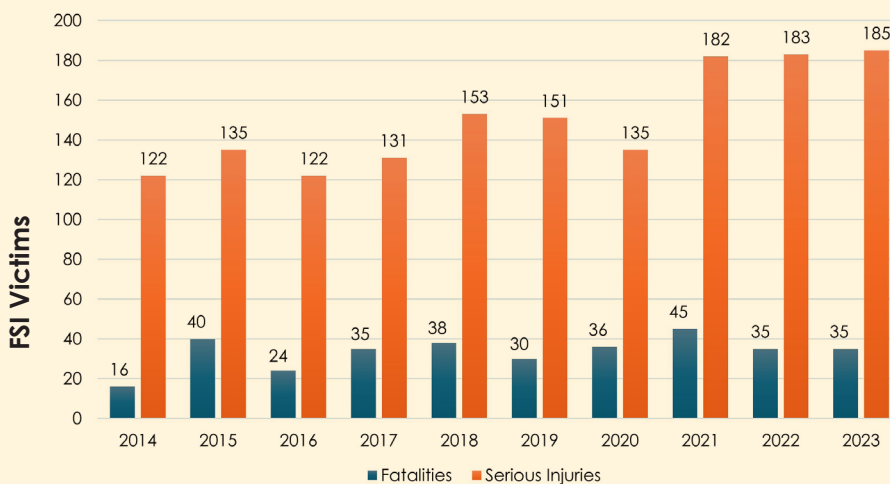
DVMT Source: Highway Performance Monitoring System

FSI Crash Rate

FSI Crashes per HMVMT (Hundred Million Vehicle Miles Traveled)



Yearly Trend for FSI Victims in Tribal Areas^{1,2}



Young Drivers make up **13%** of tribal area FSI victims.

Since 2014, FSI victims in tribal areas increased by **59%**, versus the overall statewide increase of **47%**.

Source: All crash data is from SWITRS (2014–2023) unless otherwise noted.

1. Tribal boundaries provided by University of California, Berkeley's Safe Transportation Research and Education Center.

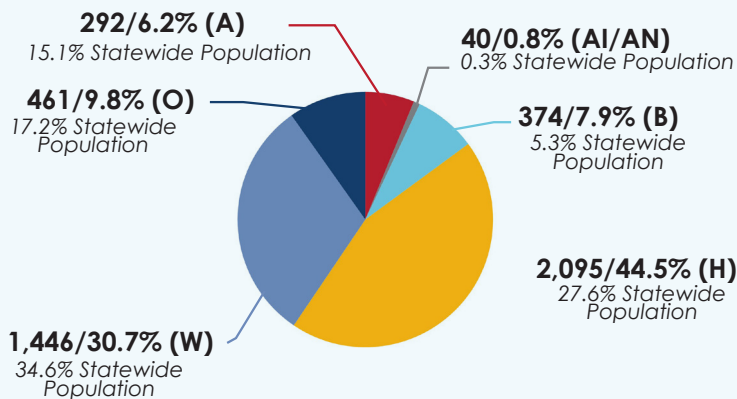
2. Tribal areas defined as areas within 5 miles of tribal boundaries.



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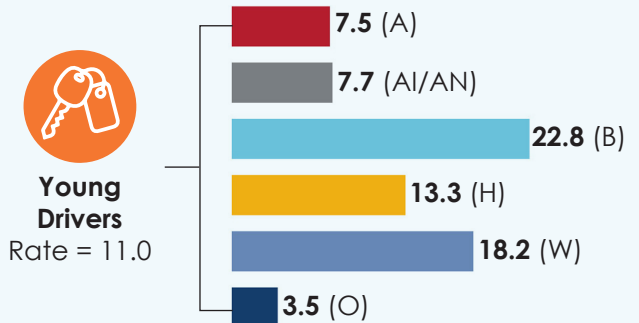
Race/Ethnicity in Traffic Fatalities

Distribution of California Traffic Fatalities by Race/Ethnicity



Fatality Rate by Race/Ethnicity

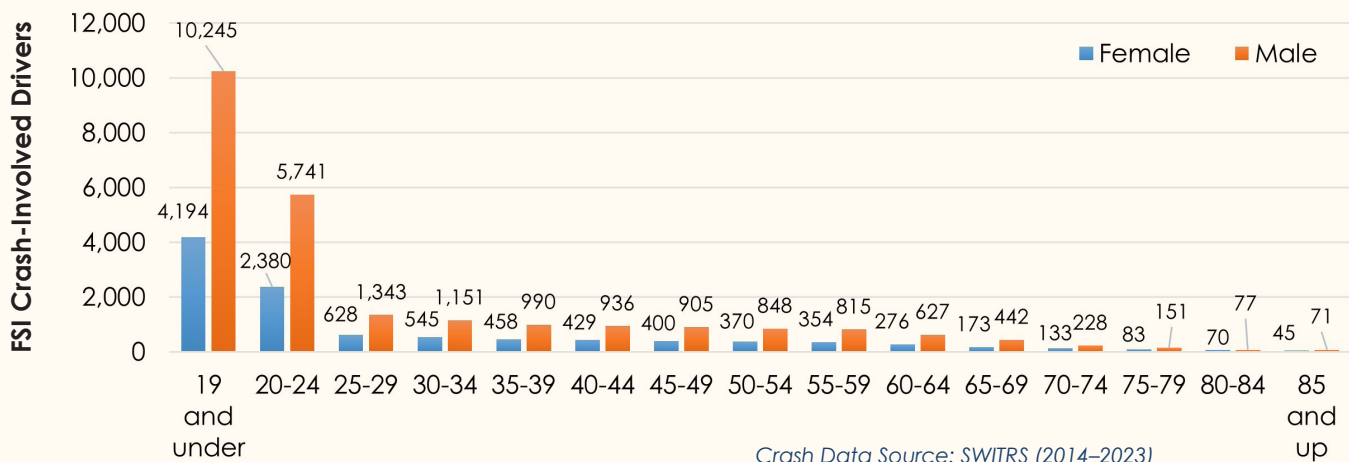
(Fatality Rate per 100,000 Population)



Asian (A) American Indian/Alaskan Native (AI/AN) Black (B) Hispanic (H) White (W) Other (O)

Comparison of Crash-Involved Drivers by Age and Sex

Male drivers are **2.3x** as likely to be involved in a Young Drivers FSI crash



Income Impact in Traffic Fatalities^{1,2,3}

Increased Rate of Fatalities in Disadvantaged Communities Versus Non-Disadvantaged Communities

Statewide
Fatalities



40%
Higher

Young Drivers
Fatalities



34%
Higher

1. Income data is available for the Census Tracts where a traffic fatality occurs and not the individual (i.e. this data represents the income information of the Census Tracts where the crash occurred and not the income of the crash victim).

2. Disadvantaged communities were determined using 2023 ACS 5-Year estimate data for median household income at Census Tract level. The 2023 ACS 5-Year Estimate data was used to determine fatality rates per 100,000 population.

3. Assembly Bill 1550 stipulates that 80% of statewide median household income to be used as threshold for disadvantaged communities. 2023 threshold is \$77,067.

Source: US Census Bureau 2023 ACS 5-Year Estimate data and FARS 2014–2023



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Top Three Crash Types*



26%

Broadside



23%

Hit Object



13%

Rear End

Top Three Primary Crash Factors*



21%

Unsafe
Speed



20%

Improper
Turning



16%

Under the
Influence

Potential Countermeasures to Mitigate Young Drivers FSI Crashes

These countermeasures have been selected as data-backed strategies to improve traffic safety within the Young Drivers Challenge Area. See related fact sheets for overlapping Challenge Areas, as addressing one Challenge Area can improve the safety outcomes of other Challenge Areas.



Education and Outreach
Programs for Parents and
Guardians of Young Drivers²



Electronic Monitoring
Tool Use for Parents and
Guardians of Young Drivers²



Enhanced Graduated
Driver Licensing
(GDL) Programs and
Restrictions²



Graduated Driver
Licensing (GDL)
Passenger Limits for
Young Drivers²

Countermeasure References and Resources

1. [28 Proven Safety Countermeasures](#), supported by Caltrans and FHWA
2. [NHTSA Countermeasures that Work, 2023](#)
3. [Caltrans Local Roadway Safety Manual \(Version 1.7, April 2024\)](#)

Source: All crash data is from SWITRS unless otherwise noted.

*Percentages are calculated based on a total of 20,139 Young Drivers FSI crashes.