

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

Traffic Safety Crisis Report

Distracted Driving, Accident Statistics & A Call to Action

Prepared by Concerned Citizens of Miami-Dade County | June 03, 2026

Focus Areas: Kendale Lakes, FL & Surrounding Areas | City of Miami | Miami-Dade County

www.miamipublicsafety.com

Introduction

Miami-Dade County is facing a serious and growing traffic safety crisis. Each day, hundreds of crashes occur across our communities — many of them preventable. Distracted driving, primarily caused by mobile phone use, has become one of the leading causes of accidents on our roads. This report compiles current data, dangerous intersection information, and community observations to bring attention to this urgent public safety issue and demand meaningful action from our elected officials and law enforcement.

Section 1: Local Area Overview — Kendale Lakes, FL & Surrounding Areas

Kendale Lakes, FL (ZIP 33193) is a densely populated suburban community in Miami-Dade County. The surrounding ZIP codes form one of the busiest residential and commercial corridors in South Florida. Below are the key ZIP codes and their community associations:

ZIP Code	Community / Area	Key Roadways
33193	Kendale Lakes, FL	SW 152nd St, SW 137th Ave, Turnpike
33175	Westchester / Tamiami	SW 8th St (Calle Ocho), SW 107th Ave
33183	Kendall	Killian Dr, SW 88th St, SW 127th Ave
33184	Westchester West	SW 40th St, SW 117th Ave
33185	Kendall Lakes	SW 152nd St, Kendall Dr
33186	Kendall South	SW 168th St, SW 127th Ave
33194	Tamiami West	SW 8th St, Tamiami Trail
33196	Kendale Lakes	SW 147th Ave, SW 104th St

Section 2: Most Dangerous Intersections Near ZIP 33193 (Kendall Area)

■ SW 117th Avenue & SW 152nd Street — Kendall

This intersection has gained notoriety for its high accident rate. Located near busy shopping plazas and restaurants, it attracts significant traffic during peak hours. Drivers attempting to beat red lights, making improper turns, or failing to yield right-of-way have contributed to the high number of collisions at this location.

■ SW 137th Avenue & SW 152nd Street — Kendall

As the Kendall area continues to grow rapidly, this intersection has seen a sharp increase in accidents. Its proximity to several schools, parks, and residential neighborhoods creates high volumes of pedestrian and bicycle traffic, creating additional hazards for drivers. Growing population and vehicle congestion make navigation increasingly dangerous.

■ NW 107th Avenue & NW 12th Street — Miami-Dade

Consistently ranked as one of the most dangerous intersections in the county. Heavy traffic from nearby shopping centers, schools, and residential areas creates high vehicle, pedestrian, and cyclist volumes. The combination of congestion, speeding, and distracted driving has led to numerous accidents, many resulting in serious injuries.

Source: Most Dangerous Traffic Intersections In Miami-Dade County — prosperlaw.com

Link: <https://prosperlaw.com/most-dangerous-traffic-intersections-in-miami-dade-county/>

Section 3: Miami-Dade County — Accident Statistics (10-Year Overview)

The scale of Miami-Dade's traffic problem is alarming. The following statistics reflect data collected from the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (FLHSMV) and other verified sources:

Statistic	Figure	Year/Period
Daily crashes — Miami-Dade average	~165 crashes/day	2019–2025
Daily crashes — pandemic low	~141 crashes/day	2020
Daily crashes — peak period	170–175 crashes/day	2021–2023
Daily crashes — 2025 estimate	~152 crashes/day	2025
Total crashes — Miami-Dade	59,994 crashes	2024
Traffic fatalities — Miami-Dade	300 deaths	2024
Florida traffic fatality increase	+43%	2013–2023
Florida total crashes	331,903 crashes	2024
Florida traffic deaths	2,589 deaths	2024
Florida total injuries	214,197 people injured	2024

Sources:

- Miami Car Accident Statistics & Trends (2026) — [injurylawyers.com](https://www.injurylawyers.com/miami/car-accident-lawyer/miami-car-accident-statistics/)
<https://www.injurylawyers.com/miami/car-accident-lawyer/miami-car-accident-statistics/>
- Top Florida Counties for Traffic Fatalities — [dontgethittwice.com](https://www.dontgethittwice.com/blog/2025/march/top-florida-counties-for-traffic-fatalities-rank/)
<https://www.dontgethittwice.com/blog/2025/march/top-florida-counties-for-traffic-fatalities-rank/>
- Miami Car Accident Statistics — [bernsteinandmaryanoff.com](https://www.bernsteinandmaryanoff.com/blog/miami-car-accident-statistics/)
<https://www.bernsteinandmaryanoff.com/blog/miami-car-accident-statistics/>
- Florida DHSMV Crash Dashboard (Official Government Data) <https://www.flhsmv.gov/resources/crash-citation-reports/>

Section 4: Leading Causes of Accidents in Miami-Dade

#	Cause	Description
1	Distracted Driving	Texting, phone use, GPS, apps while driving — the fastest-growing cause
2	Speeding	Exceeding limits, aggressive driving on I-95, Palmetto, and local roads
3	Impaired Driving	Alcohol and drugs — especially at night and weekends
4	Reckless Driving	Tailgating, unsafe lane changes, weaving through traffic

5	Running Red Lights	Failure to obey traffic signals, running stop signs
6	Failure to Yield	Particularly at Miami's busy crosswalks and intersections
7	Drowsy Driving	Falling asleep at the wheel — underreported and dangerous
8	Weather Conditions	Heavy rain, flooding, poor visibility — common in South Florida
9	Vehicle Defects	Faulty brakes, tire failures, mechanical issues

Source: Miami-Dade Car Accident Statistics — payerlawgroup.com

<https://www.payerlawgroup.com/blog/miami-dade-car-accident-statistics/>

Source: Miami Traffic & Car Accident Statistics 2026 — myfloridalitigators.com

<https://myfloridalitigators.com/miami-high-risk-traffic-areas-car-accident-statistics/>

Section 5: City of Miami — Key Areas & Traffic Safety Concerns

The following neighborhoods and communities within the City of Miami and Miami-Dade County experience significant traffic safety challenges:

Neighborhood / Area	ZIP Code(s)	Notable Traffic Concern
Downtown Miami	33128, 33132	High pedestrian volume, aggressive driving
Brickell	33129, 33131	High-rise density, ride-share congestion
Wynwood	33127	Nightlife traffic, impaired driving risk
Little Havana	33125, 33135	Calle Ocho corridor, heavy foot traffic
Coral Gables	33134, 33146	School zones, pedestrian crossings
Hialeah	33010, 33012	High crash volume, congested streets
Doral	33122, 33172	Rapid growth, heavy commercial traffic
Homestead	33030, 33032	Highway accidents, rural road hazards
Miami Beach	33139, 33140	Tourist traffic, DUI incidents, pedestrians
North Miami	33161, 33162	Pedestrian fatalities, speeding corridors
South Beach	33139	Nightlife-related accidents, cyclist safety
Aventura	33160, 33180	Mall traffic congestion, intersection accidents
Tamiami / Westchester	33144, 33174	SW 8th St corridor, distracted driving
Kendall / Kendall West	33183, 33193	Suburban sprawl, intersection accidents
Fontainebleau	33172, 33178	Commercial corridor accidents
Cutler Bay / Palmetto Bay	33157, 33158	Growing suburbs, school zone safety

Section 6: The Distracted Driving & Phone Epidemic

Distracted driving — overwhelmingly driven by smartphone use — has become the defining road safety crisis of our generation. The technology is deliberately engineered to be addictive, and its impact on our roads is measurable and deadly.

Key Facts:

- Smartphones and GPS devices have contributed to a rising number of distracted driving incidents, particularly rear-end and side-impact collisions.
- Distracted driving caused 277 deaths in Florida in a recent measured year — and is a growing problem as devices become more ingrained in everyday habits.
- Miami-Dade County averaged 165 crashes every day between 2019 and 2025.

- Distracted driving has been identified as the #1 cause of fatal traffic accidents in neighboring Broward County.
- It is now illegal to text while driving in Florida under the 'Put It Down' campaign launched by FDOT specifically for South Florida.
- Despite the law, enforcement remains inconsistent and phone use behind the wheel is visibly widespread.
- Drivers using handheld phones are 4x more likely to be involved in a crash — comparable to drunk driving risk levels.

Sources:

1. Distracted Driving in Miami: Causes & Prevention Tips — reypadron.com
<https://www.reypadron.com/role-of-distracted-driving-in-miami-car-accidents/>
2. Driver Behavior Study in Florida — injuredinflorida.com <https://www.injuredinflorida.com/research/driver-behavior-in-florida/>
3. Miami Distracted Driving Lawyer Resource — injuryattorneyfla.com <https://www.injuryattorneyfla.com/distracted-driving.html>
4. Florida 'Put It Down' Distracted Driving Campaign — FDOT <https://www.fdot.gov/> (search: Put It Down campaign)

Section 7: Official Data Sources for Further Research

The following official government and institutional sources provide verified, up-to-date traffic and accident data for Miami-Dade County and the State of Florida:

Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (FLHSMV)

Official crash data, annual reports, and real-time crash dashboard by county.

URL: <https://www.flhsmv.gov/resources/crash-citation-reports/>

Miami-Dade County Open Data Portal — Traffic Accidents

Live and historical traffic accident data provided by the Miami-Dade Police Department. Filterable by location and date.

URL: <https://opendata.miamidade.gov/datasets/traffic-accidents>

Florida Target Zero — Traffic Safety Dashboard

City-level traffic accident data including Miami and all Miami-Dade municipalities.

URL: <https://targetzero.com/florida-traffic-safety-dashboard/>

Miami Road Safety Overview — Safe Roads USA

Comprehensive overview of Miami's road safety challenges and contributing factors.

URL: <https://www.makeroadssafe.org/miami-road-safety-overview/>

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)

Federal crash data, distracted driving reports, and national statistics.

URL: <https://www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/distracted-driving>

Letter to the Mayor of Miami

June 03, 2026

The Honorable Mayor of the City of Miami

Miami City Hall

3500 Pan American Drive

Miami, Florida 33133

Dear Mayor,

We, the concerned residents and citizens of Miami-Dade County, write to you today with both urgency and deep respect for the office you hold. We are witnessing a traffic safety crisis unfolding on the streets of our community every single day — and we believe it demands your immediate personal attention and decisive action.

The statistics are alarming. Miami-Dade County records an average of 165 car crashes every day. In 2024 alone, there were nearly 60,000 crashes in our county, resulting in 300 deaths and thousands of serious injuries. Traffic fatalities across Florida have risen by 43% over the past decade. These are not just numbers — they are our neighbors, our family members, our children.

The primary driver of this crisis is distracted driving, overwhelmingly caused by mobile phone use. We see it every day at every intersection: drivers with their eyes on screens instead of the road. People failing to go when traffic lights turn green. Drivers rolling through stop signs without slowing. Rear-end collisions at red lights that were entirely avoidable. Our streets have become increasingly dangerous not because of road conditions alone, but because of a behavioral epidemic that is being driven, quite literally, by smartphone addiction.

However, Mayor, we must bring to your attention a matter that goes beyond the behavior of ordinary citizens — one that strikes at the very heart of public trust in our institutions. We, the people of Miami, are witnessing a deeply troubling and increasingly common pattern: police officers violating the very traffic laws they are sworn to enforce.

On a regular basis, residents are observing Miami police vehicles running red lights without emergency lights activated. Officers rolling through stop signs without coming to a complete stop. Police cars making illegal turns and lane changes in non-emergency situations. These violations are occurring in full view of the public — in our neighborhoods, at our intersections, in front of our children.

Mayor, this matters enormously — not merely as a legal issue, but as a matter of moral authority and community leadership. When law enforcement officers routinely disregard the same traffic laws they issue citations for, it sends a powerful and destructive message to the public: that traffic laws are

optional, and that some people are above them. This perception directly undermines the very enforcement efforts that are supposed to make our roads safer.

Our police officers are not just enforcers of the law — they are, and must be, its most visible examples. When a child watches a police car run a red light with no emergency lights on, what lesson do they learn? When a driver who has just received a ticket for rolling a stop sign then watches an officer do the same moments later, what trust is built? The answer is none. The answer is erosion — of respect, of compliance, and of community safety.

We are not writing this letter to attack our police department or to diminish the dedication of the many officers who serve this community with honor. We write because we believe in accountability, and because accountability must begin at the top. We respectfully request the following actions:

- A formal internal review of traffic law compliance by Miami Police Department vehicles, including the installation of dashcam monitoring for non-emergency traffic behavior.
- Clear and enforceable departmental policies requiring officers to obey all traffic laws when not responding to an active emergency with lights and sirens activated.
- Community transparency — regular public reporting on traffic violations involving police vehicles and how they are addressed.
- A renewed 'Lead by Example' initiative in which Miami Police partner with schools and community groups to visibly demonstrate safe driving behaviors.
- Increased enforcement of distracted driving laws across all of Miami-Dade, including dedicated patrols at the most dangerous intersections identified in this report.
- A public awareness campaign specifically targeting phone use while driving, with particular focus on Kendale Lakes, FL and other high-accident corridors.

Mayor, the people of Miami are watching — and more importantly, they are hoping. They hope that their leaders will take this crisis seriously. They hope that the streets their children walk and the roads their families drive will be made safer through courageous, consistent, and visible leadership. We believe you have the power and the platform to make that happen.

We respectfully request a public response to the concerns raised in this letter, and we stand ready as concerned citizens to support any meaningful initiative that prioritizes the safety of every person on the roads of Miami-Dade County.

Respectfully submitted,

Concerned Citizens of Miami-Dade County

Kendale Lakes, FL and Surrounding Communities

Contact for response: Miami City Hall | 3500 Pan American Drive, Miami, FL 33133 Online:
<https://www.miamigov.com/Government/Mayor> Community Website: www.miamipublicsafety.com

This report was compiled using publicly available data from verified government and legal sources. All statistics are sourced as cited. This document is intended for public awareness and civic advocacy purposes only. For the most current crash data, visit the Florida DHSMV at flhsmv.gov or the Miami-Dade Open Data Portal. Community resource: www.miamipublicsafety.com