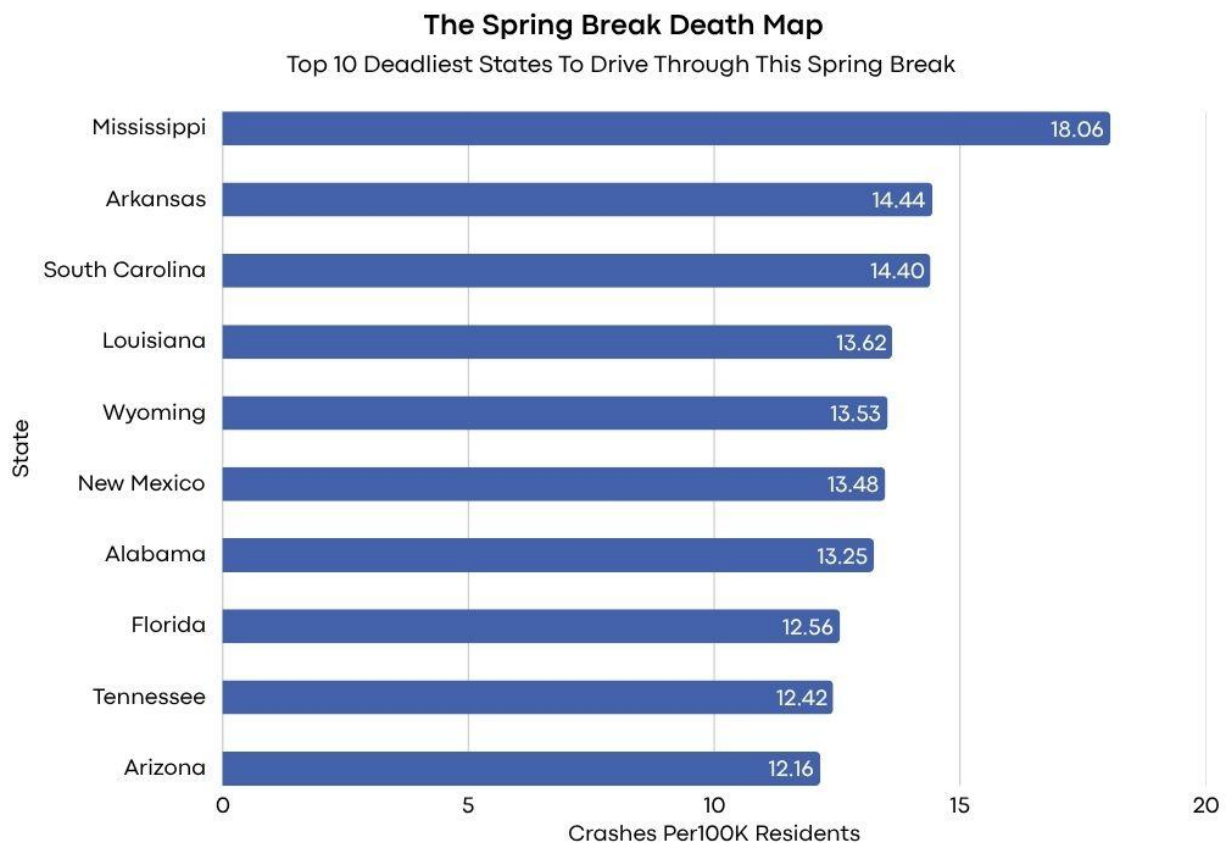


America's Top Spring Break Destination Is Also One of Its Deadliest: Florida Records 2,839 Fatal Crashes in Five Years

Key Highlights

- Florida ranks #8 with 12.56 crashes per 100,000, 52% above the 8.29 average, the most dangerous large state for spring break driving.
- Florida logged 2,839 March–April crashes, the third-highest total behind Texas (2,923) and California (2,901).
- Florida's 12.56 crash rate is nearly four times New York's 3.20 and 31% higher than Texas's 9.58 among top 10 populous states.



Data Source: U.S. DOT FARS Query System, FHWA VMT data, U.S. Census Bureau population data, and Kuzyk Law's

Florida is the nation's top spring break destination, and one of its deadliest. A new 50-state study reveals that the Sunshine State ranks eighth nationally for driving crashes during March and April, with 2,839 crashes over five years and a per-capita rate 52% above the national average. For the millions heading to Florida's beaches this season, the data is a critical reminder to stay safe behind the wheel.

This study was conducted by [Kuzyk Law, Bakersfield Personal Injury Lawyers](#), using FARS (Fatality Analysis Reporting System) data from the U.S. Department of Transportation. For each state, total March–April traffic crashes were aggregated from 2019 to 2023 and converted to a rate per 100,000 residents using 2023 Census population estimates. States were then ranked by the highest per-capita crash rate.

Top 10 Most Dangerous States for Spring Break Driving (Florida Ranks #8)

Rank	State	Population 2023	Total March–April Crashes (2019–2023)	Crashes Per 100K Residents
1	Mississippi	2,939,690	531	18.06
2	Arkansas	3,067,732	443	14.44
3	South Carolina	5,373,555	774	14.40
4	Louisiana	4,573,749	623	13.62
5	Wyoming	584,057	79	13.53
6	New Mexico	2,114,371	285	13.48
7	Alabama	5,108,468	677	13.25
8	Florida	22,610,726	2,839	12.56
9	Tennessee	7,126,489	885	12.42
10	Arizona	7,431,344	904	12.16

Florida's rate of 12.56 spring break crashes per 100,000 residents places it eighth nationally, 0.69 points behind Alabama (#7) and just 0.14 points above Tennessee (#9). What sets Florida apart from the seven states ranked above it is scale: with 22.6 million residents, Florida is by far the most populous state in the top 10, more than three times the size of the next-largest, Arizona (7.4 million). The national average is 8.29 per 100,000, meaning Florida's rate exceeds it by 52%.

States With the Highest Total Spring Break crashes: Florida Ranks 3rd in Total Crashes

Crash Rank	State	Population 2023	Total March–April Crashes (2019–2023)	Crashes Per 100K Residents
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1	Texas	30,503,301	2,923	9.58
2	California	38,965,193	2,901	7.45
3	Florida	22,610,726	2,839	12.56
4	Georgia	11,029,227	1,214	11.01
5	North Carolina	10,835,491	1,142	10.54
6	Arizona	7,431,344	904	12.16
7	Tennessee	7,126,489	885	12.42
8	Ohio	11,785,935	799	6.78
9	South Carolina	5,373,555	774	14.40
10	Pennsylvania	12,961,683	770	5.94

Florida ranks third in the nation in total March–April crashes with 2,839 crashes, trailing only Texas (2,923) and California (2,901) by slim margins. Together, these three states account for 8,663 spring break crashes, roughly 31% of the national total. However, Florida’s per-capita rate of 12.56 is far higher than both Texas (9.58) and California (7.45), making the Sunshine State the most dangerous of the three on a per-resident basis.

Spring Break crash Rates Among the 10 Most Populous States: Florida Leads by a Wide Margin

Rate Rank	State	Population 2023	Total March–April Crashes (2019–2023)	Crashes Per 100K Residents
1	Florida	22,610,726	2,839	12.56
2	Georgia	11,029,227	1,214	11.01
3	North Carolina	10,835,491	1,142	10.54
4	Texas	30,503,301	2,923	9.58
5	California	38,965,193	2,901	7.45
6	Ohio	11,785,935	799	6.78
7	Michigan	10,037,261	654	6.52
8	Illinois	12,549,689	769	6.13
9	Pennsylvania	12,961,683	770	5.94
10	New York	19,571,216	627	3.20

Among the 10 most populous states, Florida’s spring break crash rate of 12.56 per 100,000 leads the group by a significant margin, 1.55 points above second-place Georgia (11.01) and 31% higher than fourth-place Texas (9.58). The gap widens dramatically toward the bottom of the list: Florida’s rate is nearly four times that of New York (3.20), the safest large state, and more than double that of Pennsylvania (5.94) and Illinois (6.13).

Popular Spring Break Destination States: How Florida Compares

National Rank	State	Population 2023	Total March–April Crashes (2019–2023)	Crashes Per 100K Residents
3	South Carolina	5,373,555	774	14.40
8	Florida	22,610,726	2,839	12.56
10	Arizona	7,431,344	904	12.16
13	Georgia	11,029,227	1,214	11.01
17	Texas	30,503,301	2,923	9.58
20	Nevada	3,194,176	275	8.61
27	California	38,965,193	2,901	7.45
43	Hawaii	1,435,138	71	4.95

Among eight major spring break destination states, Florida’s per-capita crash rate of 12.56 is second only to South Carolina (14.40). Florida’s rate is 2.5 times that of Hawaii (4.95), the safest popular destination, and 69% higher than California (7.45), a state that draws comparable spring break crowds. Arizona (12.16) is the only other destination state within one point of Florida’s rate, while Nevada (8.61) and Texas (9.58) trail by substantial margins.

Complete 50-State Spring Break Driving crash Rankings

Rank	State	Population 2023	Total March–April Crashes (2019–2023)	Crashes Per 100K Residents
1	Mississippi	2,939,690	531	18.06
2	Arkansas	3,067,732	443	14.44
3	South Carolina	5,373,555	774	14.40
4	Louisiana	4,573,749	623	13.62
5	Wyoming	584,057	79	13.53
6	New Mexico	2,114,371	285	13.48
7	Alabama	5,108,468	677	13.25
8	Florida	22,610,726	2,839	12.56
9	Tennessee	7,126,489	885	12.42
10	Arizona	7,431,344	904	12.16
11	Kentucky	4,526,154	524	11.58

12	Oklahoma	4,053,824	456	11.25
13	Georgia	11,029,227	1,214	11.01
14	North Carolina	10,835,491	1,142	10.54
15	West Virginia	1,770,071	185	10.45
16	Missouri	6,196,156	613	9.89
17	Texas	30,503,301	2,923	9.58
18	Montana	1,132,812	108	9.53
19	Kansas	2,940,546	280	9.52
20	Nevada	3,194,176	275	8.61
21	South Dakota	919,318	77	8.38
22	Indiana	6,862,199	573	8.35
23	Delaware	1,031,890	86	8.33
24	Oregon	4,233,358	345	8.15
25	Colorado	5,877,610	448	7.62
26	Nebraska	1,978,379	148	7.48
27	California	38,965,193	2,901	7.45
28	North Dakota	783,926	56	7.14
29	Virginia	8,715,698	617	7.08
30	Ohio	11,785,935	799	6.78
31	Michigan	10,037,261	654	6.52
32	Idaho	1,964,726	128	6.51
33	Maryland	6,180,253	397	6.42
34	Iowa	3,207,004	201	6.27
35	Illinois	12,549,689	769	6.13
36	Pennsylvania	12,961,683	770	5.94
37	Wisconsin	5,910,955	342	5.79
38	Utah	3,417,734	197	5.76
39	Washington	7,812,880	424	5.43
40	Connecticut	3,617,176	195	5.39
41	New Hampshire	1,402,054	73	5.21
42	Maine	1,395,722	70	5.02
43	Hawaii	1,435,138	71	4.95
44	Vermont	647,464	31	4.79
45	New Jersey	9,290,841	386	4.15
46	Alaska	733,406	30	4.09

47	Minnesota	5,737,915	220	3.83
48	Massachusetts	7,001,399	265	3.78
49	Rhode Island	1,095,962	41	3.74
50	New York	19,571,216	627	3.20

The full 50-state ranking underscores how Florida combines high volume and high risk. At #8 with a rate of 12.56, the Sunshine State is 3.9 times higher than last-place New York (3.20) and 1.7 times the national median of 7.55. Florida is the only state with a population above 20 million to appear in the top 10, and its 2,839 total crashes nearly equal the combined toll of the bottom 14 states (ranks 37–50), underscoring Florida’s role as the epicenter of spring break driving danger in the United States.

Methodology

This study analyzed five years of FARS (Fatality Analysis Reporting System) data from the U.S. Department of Transportation, filtering for all traffic crashes recorded during the spring break window of March and April from 2019 through 2023. Total crashes for each state were converted to a per-capita rate using 2023 U.S. Census Bureau population estimates. States were then ranked from highest to lowest crash rate per 100,000 residents to identify the most and least dangerous states for spring break driving.

Data Sources

FARS Query System – U.S. Department of Transportation: <https://cdan.dot.gov/query>

VMT 2: <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/policyinformation/statistics.cfm>

Population:

<https://data.census.gov/table?q=population+by+age+by+state>

Research Dataset:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1AQLRj7i1AVOiV17VqQ9xWEeU8LCGiKljj3BhfArhym/edit?gid=0#gid=0>

Study By: <https://kuzyklaw.com/bakersfield/bakersfield-personal-injury-lawyers/>

About Kuzyk Law

Kuzyk Law is a personal injury law firm specializing in representation for car accidents, premises liability, wrongful death, bike, pedestrian, and catastrophic injury claims. With over four decades of experience and a track record serving 100,000+ clients, the firm offers free consultations and no upfront fees.