

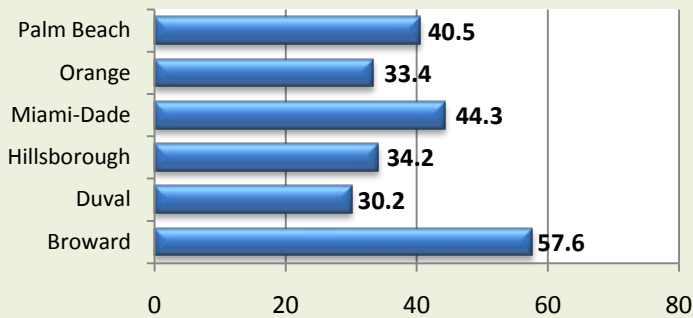
WalkSafe



The Issue

Pedestrian-struck accidents are a leading cause of death and injury in children. Miami-Dade County has one of the highest pedestrian-hit-by-car (PHBC) rates in Florida.

PHBC Rate/100,000 Residents (Ages 5-14) for Selected Florida Counties, 2008



Source: Agency for Health Care Administration (2008)

The Cost

From both public health and economic perspectives, child pedestrian injuries in Florida come at a great cost.

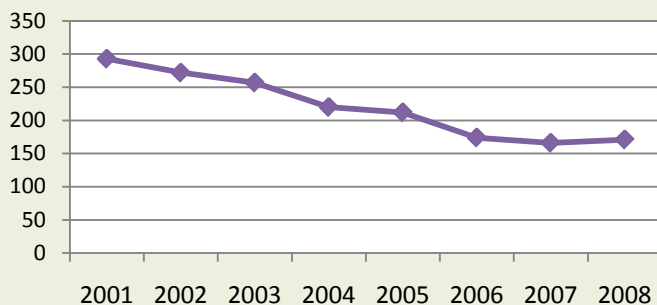
From 2005 to 2007:

- 441 pedestrians-hit-by-cars ages 5-13 were hospitalized.
- Approximately \$20 million in hospital costs were attributed to 5-13 year old pedestrians-hit-by-cars.

The Response

Since the development of WalkSafe in 2001, there has been a **42% decrease** in the total number of child pedestrian-hit-by-car (PHBC) injuries in Miami-Dade.

PHBCs (Ages 0-14) in Miami-Dade County, 2000-2008



Source: Florida DHSMV Crash Data (2001-2008)

The Mission

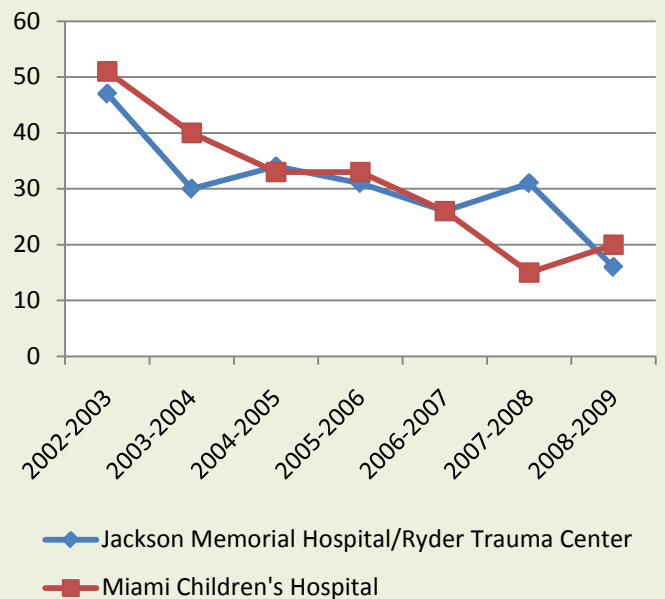
The WalkSafe™ program aims to:

- Improve pediatric pedestrian safety
- Increase physical activity levels of children
- Improve walking environments around elementary schools



The Impact

Since 2002, there has been a **63% decrease** in the amount of children hit by cars that are seen at level-one trauma centers in Miami-Dade County.



WalkSafe™ Program Implementation State of Florida, 2009-2010

Number of Schools Participated	311
Number of Students Educated	190,612
Number of Teachers Trained	7,599



The 5-E Model

Education: *Implementing a 3-day classroom curriculum in elementary schools (K–5th grade).* (**Partners:** Miami-Dade County Public School Board, Jayne Greenberg, PhD, District Director of Physical Education and Health Literacy)

Engineering: *Assessing accident sites and creating engineering modification reports.* (**Partners:** Miami-Dade County Metropolitan Planning Organization, Department of Public Works, and Community Traffic safety Teams)

Enforcement: *Increasing the surveillance and safety around elementary schools.* (**Partners:** Police departments, School Board Police, and crossing guards)

Evaluation: *Evaluating the efficacy and effectiveness of all program components.* (**Partners:** Department of Health, Miami-Dade County Metropolitan Planning Organization, and University of Miami WalkSafe™ Research Office)

Encouragement: *Encouraging walking as a mode of transportation and advocating for prioritization of pedestrian safety and health.* (**Partners:** Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Consortium for a Healthier Miami-Dade, Community Traffic Safety Teams, The Children’s Trust, Injury Free Coalition, and Miami-Dade Injury Prevention Coalition)



Research Accomplishments

- Elementary school children showed increased knowledge of pedestrian safety skills after receiving the WalkSafe™ educational component and retained knowledge over an eight month period.
- Identification of social and cultural barriers of walking to and from school among the African-American, Hispanic, and Haitian groups residing in Miami-Dade County.
- WalkSafe has studied the transfer of educational pedestrian knowledge to behavioral change among elementary school children before and after the intervention.
- WalkSafe has begun to evaluate if children are walking more to and from school after participating in the program. This would result in increased daily physical activity levels and positive health outcomes.
- WalkSafe has expanded in 11 other high-risk counties in the State of Florida and is being replicated in New Haven, CT and Trenton, NJ.



WalkSafe has received grant support from:

Florida Department of Transportation
 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 Florida Bureau of Emergency Medical services
 Safe Routes to School and Transportation Enhancement
 The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis
 Florida Department of Health
 Nike (Back Your Block)
 The Children’s Trust
 FedEx



For more information please visit us at:

www.walksafe.us



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