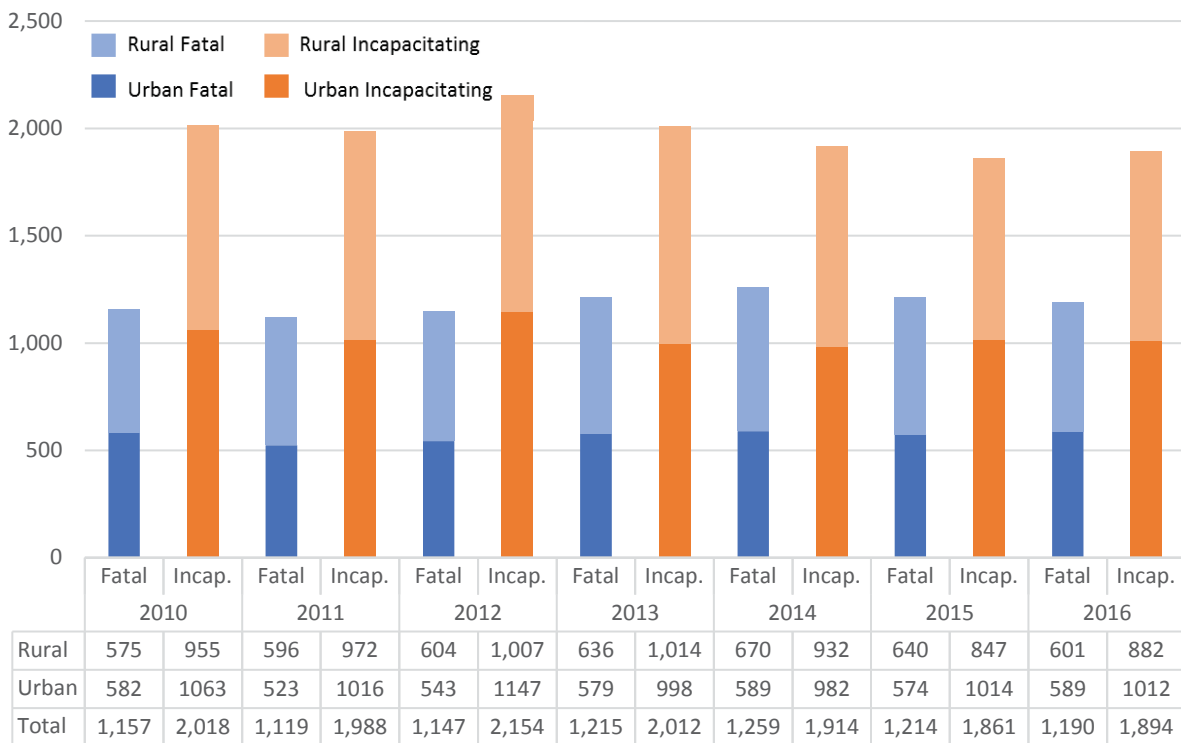


## Impaired Driving

Impaired driving was the most common factor among fatal crashes in Texas from 2010–2015. In addition, the rates of alcohol-impaired fatal crashes often exceed national rates. The Impaired Driving EA includes those crashes where at least one driver was identified as having been drinking, having taken medication, been under the influence of alcohol or drugs, a blood alcohol content greater than zero, or a positive drug test. Impaired driving was identified as a factor for 8,301 fatal crashes (39 percent of all fatal crashes) and 13,841 serious injury crashes (15 percent of serious injury crashes) from 2010–2016. Crash counts by year are shown in Figure 13. These crashes resulted in to 9,389 fatalities (39 percent of all fatalities) and 19,495 serious injuries (17 percent of all serious injuries).



**Figure 13. Fatal and Serious Injury Impaired Driving Crashes, 2010–2016.**

Key points for fatal and serious injury crashes from 2010–2015:

- Male drivers ages 16 to 60 years and female drivers ages 21 to 25 years of age were overrepresented for drivers involved in fatal and severe crashes who were identified as impaired.
- Impaired driving crashes occurred equally in rural (50 percent) and urban (50 percent) areas.
- The majority of impaired driving crashes occurred on the state system (65 percent). Of those that occurred on the state system, 48 percent were on arterials, 28 percent were on freeways or freeway frontage roads, and 24 percent were on collector roadways. For

crashes that occurred off the state system (35 percent), 43 percent were on local roadways, 32 percent were on arterials, and 22 percent were on collector roadways.

- The majority (70 percent) of impaired crashes occurred on weekends at night from 9:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.
- Nearly 60 percent of impaired driving crashes also involved a single vehicle running off the road or a head-on crash type. About 26 percent involved speeding while 24 percent involved an intersection.

The Impaired Driving EA team identified 5 strategies and 29 countermeasures to address these strategies. Table 5 presents the strategies while Appendix C contains both the strategies and countermeasures.

*Table 5. Strategies for the Impaired Driving Emphasis Area*

Number	Strategy
1	Use data systems to identify alcohol licensed and permitted locations within a community and Alcoholic Beverage Code violation history at these locations to determine any correlation with alcohol related crashes.
2	Increase education for all road users on the impact of impaired driving and its prevention.
3	Increase officer contacts with impaired drivers through regular traffic enforcement.
4	Improve mobility options for impaired road users.
5	Increase data, training, and resources for prosecutors and officers in the area of drugged driving.