

# Trends in NFL Player Representation from SEC Schools (2011–2025)

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## Abstract

The NCAA SEC is one of the premier conferences in college football from recent years, but how much is each program represented in the draft? Our data was collected from Pro-Football-Reference.com which is a database that tracks every NFL players stats, awards, drafting, and teams during college and NFL. Our analysis examines the number of draftees from each SEC football program during 3, 5 year spans (2011-2015, 2016-2020, 2021-2025) and examine comparisons and trends within the graphs to further analyze the popularity and production of each program in terms of outputting NFL talent. The results yielded two common trends within the data that the number of draftees per program within the years 2011 and 2025, either the program yielded a quadratic trend peaking within those late 2010s years or an exponential trend where draft representation only grew from 2011 to 2015.

### #1. Introduction

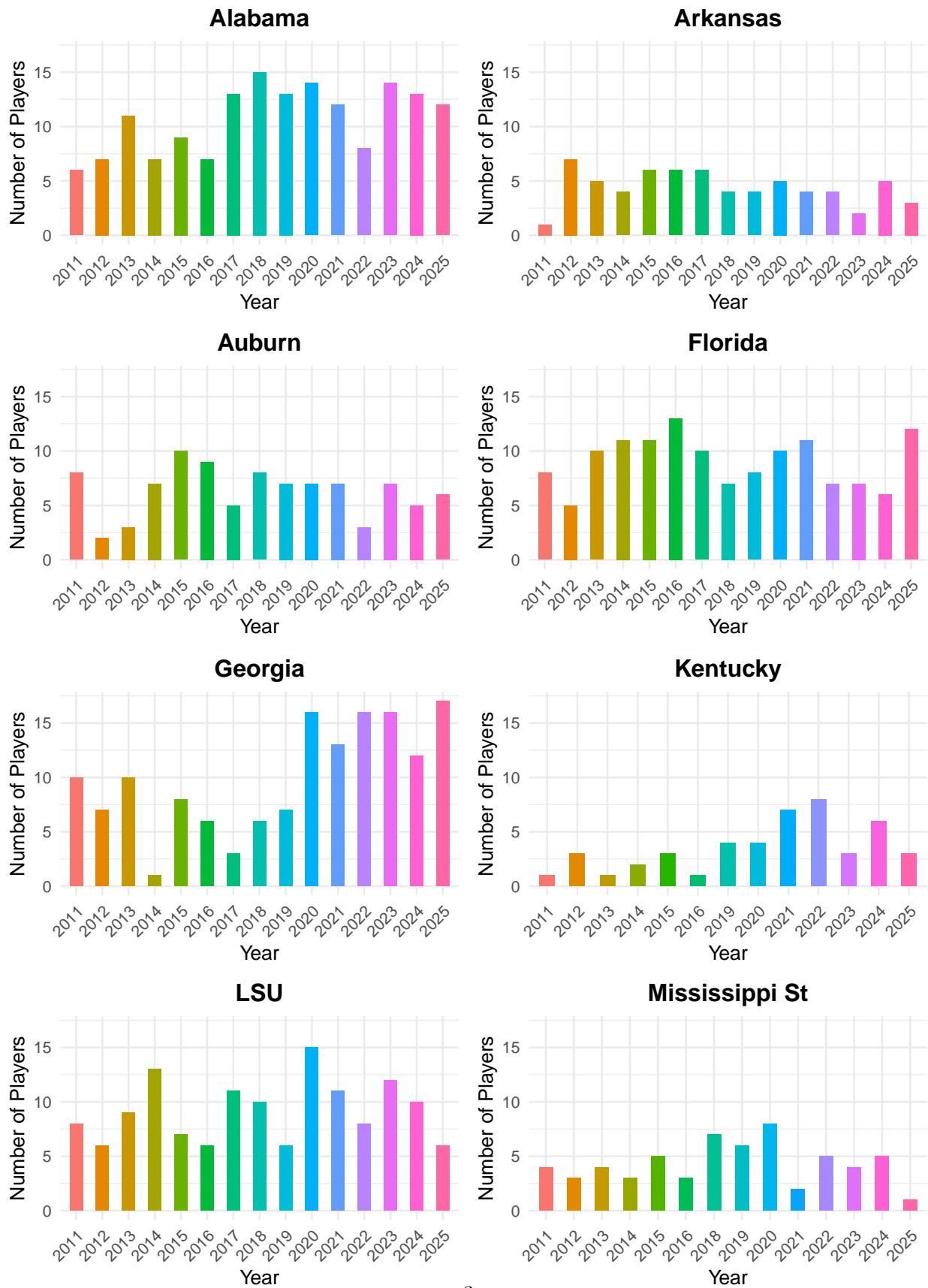
The NFL is the highest viewed sport in the U.S. as it has been nicknamed Americas sport by the media. In turn college football also exudes major viewer retention and support since the players in college are the future of the NFL, also college students love to support their school. Over the last 15 years there has been one NCAA football conference that has prominently outputted the most NFL talent, that being the South Eastern Conference (SEC). Numerous factors apply when it comes to recruitment, such as head coach prestige, academic prestige, and program prestige, all these factors apply but the most important factor is players drafted. Powerhouses like Alabama and Georgia have remained constant machines when fostering NFL talent, but over recent years LSU and Texas have provided incredible NFL talent. From 2011 to the present year 2025 the SEC has remained a constant pool of NFL talent as they are the programs that every high school football player strives to be apart and compete with the talent within the SEC. The trends for each SEC program in terms of draft representation will differ considering that each program competes against all the other programs within the SEC, therefore more recruits will strive to attend the programs that are winning and the programs that create the most NFL talent. Therefore, if we can analyze the trends for each SEC program in terms of draft representation we can comprehend how each program performed during the period 2011-2025 and which programs grew in draft representation along with which programs withered in draft representation.

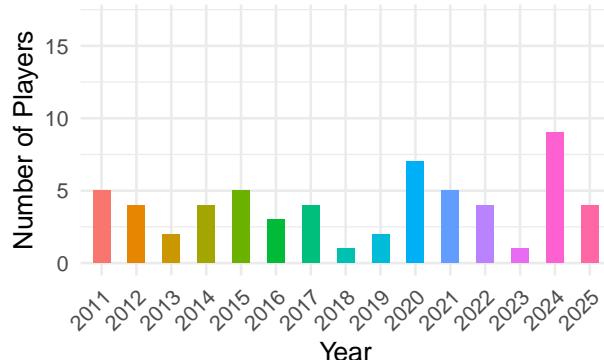
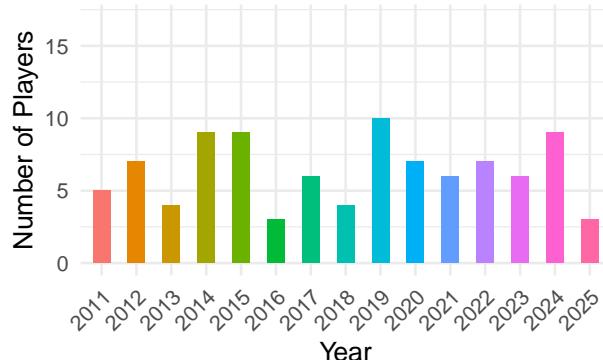
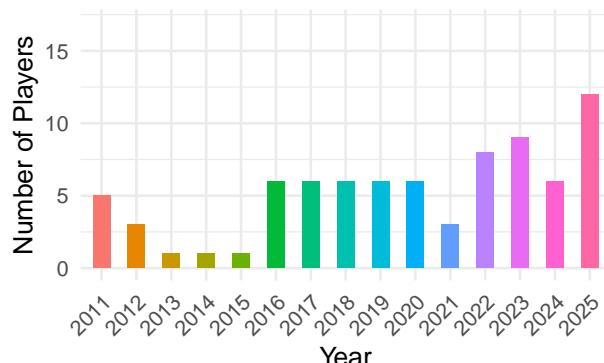
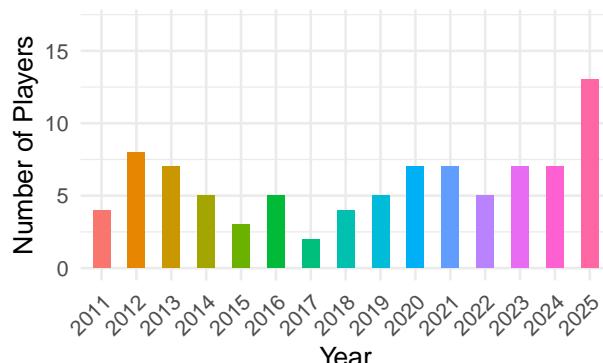
## Data

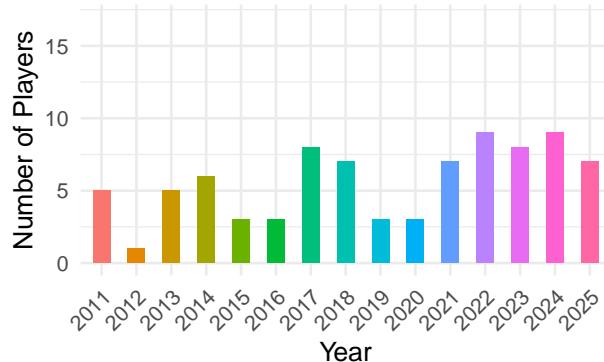
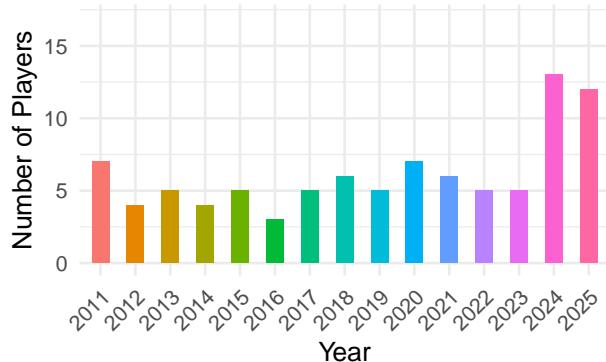
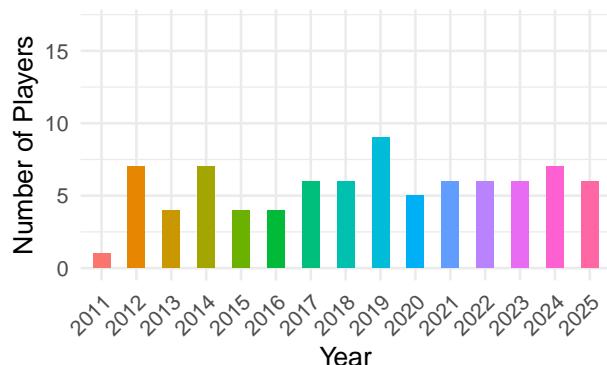
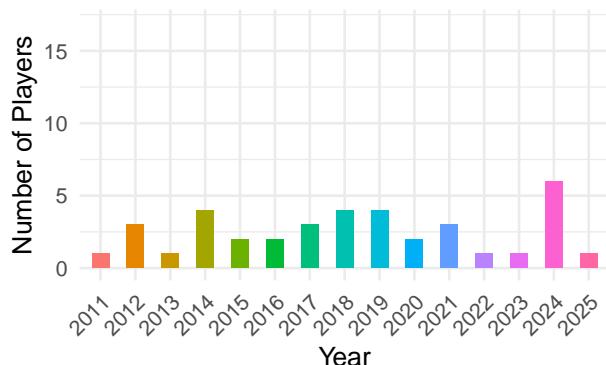
The data set used for this analysis, “College\_Dataset.xlsx,” contains information on NFL players and the colleges they attended. The data was obtained from Pro-Football-Reference, a reliable source that collects and publishes official NFL statistics, including player backgrounds and school affiliations. Relevant variables include each player’s name, the college they attended, and the range of years they played in the NFL. During the cleaning process, unnecessary columns such as AP1, PB, St, wAV, Ht, and Wt were removed, keeping

only the relevant variables. Additionally, since the data set included players from earlier eras, we extracted the starting year from each player's career range and filtered the data to include only those who began their NFL careers in 2011 or later. The data is entirely real and will not be generated through any randomized simulation.

## Visualization & Analysis



**Missouri****Oklahoma****Ole Miss****South Carolina**

**Tennessee****Texas****Texas A&M****Vanderbilt**

```
## # A tibble: 237 x 3
##   School     Start Players
##   <chr>     <int>   <int>
## 1 Alabama     2011      6
## 2 Alabama     2012      7
## 3 Alabama     2013     11
## 4 Alabama     2014      7
## 5 Alabama     2015      9
## 6 Alabama     2016      7
## 7 Alabama     2017     13
## 8 Alabama     2018     15
## 9 Alabama     2019     13
## 10 Alabama    2020     14
## 11 Alabama    2021     12
## 12 Alabama    2022      8
## 13 Alabama    2023     14
## 14 Alabama    2024     13
## 15 Alabama    2025     12
## 16 Arkansas   2011      1
## 17 Arkansas   2012      7
## 18 Arkansas   2013      5
## 19 Arkansas   2014      4
## 20 Arkansas   2015      6
## 21 Arkansas   2016      6
## 22 Arkansas   2017      6
## 23 Arkansas   2018      4
```

## 24 Arkansas	2019	4
## 25 Arkansas	2020	5
## 26 Arkansas	2021	4
## 27 Arkansas	2022	4
## 28 Arkansas	2023	2
## 29 Arkansas	2024	5
## 30 Arkansas	2025	3
## 31 Auburn	2011	8
## 32 Auburn	2012	2
## 33 Auburn	2013	3
## 34 Auburn	2014	7
## 35 Auburn	2015	10
## 36 Auburn	2016	9
## 37 Auburn	2017	5
## 38 Auburn	2018	8
## 39 Auburn	2019	7
## 40 Auburn	2020	7
## 41 Auburn	2021	7
## 42 Auburn	2022	3
## 43 Auburn	2023	7
## 44 Auburn	2024	5
## 45 Auburn	2025	6
## 46 Florida	2011	8
## 47 Florida	2012	5
## 48 Florida	2013	10
## 49 Florida	2014	11
## 50 Florida	2015	11
## 51 Florida	2016	13
## 52 Florida	2017	10
## 53 Florida	2018	7
## 54 Florida	2019	8
## 55 Florida	2020	10
## 56 Florida	2021	11
## 57 Florida	2022	7
## 58 Florida	2023	7
## 59 Florida	2024	6
## 60 Florida	2025	12
## 61 Georgia	2011	10
## 62 Georgia	2012	7
## 63 Georgia	2013	10
## 64 Georgia	2014	1
## 65 Georgia	2015	8
## 66 Georgia	2016	6
## 67 Georgia	2017	3
## 68 Georgia	2018	6
## 69 Georgia	2019	7
## 70 Georgia	2020	16
## 71 Georgia	2021	13
## 72 Georgia	2022	16
## 73 Georgia	2023	16
## 74 Georgia	2024	12
## 75 Georgia	2025	17
## 76 Kentucky	2011	1
## 77 Kentucky	2012	3

## 78 Kentucky	2013	1
## 79 Kentucky	2014	2
## 80 Kentucky	2015	3
## 81 Kentucky	2016	1
## 82 Kentucky	2019	4
## 83 Kentucky	2020	4
## 84 Kentucky	2021	7
## 85 Kentucky	2022	8
## 86 Kentucky	2023	3
## 87 Kentucky	2024	6
## 88 Kentucky	2025	3
## 89 LSU	2011	8
## 90 LSU	2012	6
## 91 LSU	2013	9
## 92 LSU	2014	13
## 93 LSU	2015	7
## 94 LSU	2016	6
## 95 LSU	2017	11
## 96 LSU	2018	10
## 97 LSU	2019	6
## 98 LSU	2020	15
## 99 LSU	2021	11
## 100 LSU	2022	8
## 101 LSU	2023	12
## 102 LSU	2024	10
## 103 LSU	2025	6
## 104 Mississippi St	2011	4
## 105 Mississippi St	2012	3
## 106 Mississippi St	2013	4
## 107 Mississippi St	2014	3
## 108 Mississippi St	2015	5
## 109 Mississippi St	2016	3
## 110 Mississippi St	2018	7
## 111 Mississippi St	2019	6
## 112 Mississippi St	2020	8
## 113 Mississippi St	2021	2
## 114 Mississippi St	2022	5
## 115 Mississippi St	2023	4
## 116 Mississippi St	2024	5
## 117 Mississippi St	2025	1
## 118 Missouri	2011	5
## 119 Missouri	2012	4
## 120 Missouri	2013	2
## 121 Missouri	2014	4
## 122 Missouri	2015	5
## 123 Missouri	2016	3
## 124 Missouri	2017	4
## 125 Missouri	2018	1
## 126 Missouri	2019	2
## 127 Missouri	2020	7
## 128 Missouri	2021	5
## 129 Missouri	2022	4
## 130 Missouri	2023	1
## 131 Missouri	2024	9

## 132 Missouri	2025	4
## 133 Oklahoma	2011	5
## 134 Oklahoma	2012	7
## 135 Oklahoma	2013	4
## 136 Oklahoma	2014	9
## 137 Oklahoma	2015	9
## 138 Oklahoma	2016	3
## 139 Oklahoma	2017	6
## 140 Oklahoma	2018	4
## 141 Oklahoma	2019	10
## 142 Oklahoma	2020	7
## 143 Oklahoma	2021	6
## 144 Oklahoma	2022	7
## 145 Oklahoma	2023	6
## 146 Oklahoma	2024	9
## 147 Oklahoma	2025	3
## 148 Ole Miss	2011	5
## 149 Ole Miss	2012	3
## 150 Ole Miss	2013	1
## 151 Ole Miss	2014	1
## 152 Ole Miss	2015	1
## 153 Ole Miss	2016	6
## 154 Ole Miss	2017	6
## 155 Ole Miss	2018	6
## 156 Ole Miss	2019	6
## 157 Ole Miss	2020	6
## 158 Ole Miss	2021	3
## 159 Ole Miss	2022	8
## 160 Ole Miss	2023	9
## 161 Ole Miss	2024	6
## 162 Ole Miss	2025	12
## 163 South Carolina	2011	4
## 164 South Carolina	2012	8
## 165 South Carolina	2013	7
## 166 South Carolina	2014	5
## 167 South Carolina	2015	3
## 168 South Carolina	2016	5
## 169 South Carolina	2017	2
## 170 South Carolina	2018	4
## 171 South Carolina	2019	5
## 172 South Carolina	2020	7
## 173 South Carolina	2021	7
## 174 South Carolina	2022	5
## 175 South Carolina	2023	7
## 176 South Carolina	2024	7
## 177 South Carolina	2025	13
## 178 Tennessee	2011	5
## 179 Tennessee	2012	1
## 180 Tennessee	2013	5
## 181 Tennessee	2014	6
## 182 Tennessee	2015	3
## 183 Tennessee	2016	3
## 184 Tennessee	2017	8
## 185 Tennessee	2018	7

## 186 Tennessee	2019	3
## 187 Tennessee	2020	3
## 188 Tennessee	2021	7
## 189 Tennessee	2022	9
## 190 Tennessee	2023	8
## 191 Tennessee	2024	9
## 192 Tennessee	2025	7
## 193 Texas	2011	7
## 194 Texas	2012	4
## 195 Texas	2013	5
## 196 Texas	2014	4
## 197 Texas	2015	5
## 198 Texas	2016	3
## 199 Texas	2017	5
## 200 Texas	2018	6
## 201 Texas	2019	5
## 202 Texas	2020	7
## 203 Texas	2021	6
## 204 Texas	2022	5
## 205 Texas	2023	5
## 206 Texas	2024	13
## 207 Texas	2025	12
## 208 Texas A&M	2011	1
## 209 Texas A&M	2012	7
## 210 Texas A&M	2013	4
## 211 Texas A&M	2014	7
## 212 Texas A&M	2015	4
## 213 Texas A&M	2016	4
## 214 Texas A&M	2017	6
## 215 Texas A&M	2018	6
## 216 Texas A&M	2019	9
## 217 Texas A&M	2020	5
## 218 Texas A&M	2021	6
## 219 Texas A&M	2022	6
## 220 Texas A&M	2023	6
## 221 Texas A&M	2024	7
## 222 Texas A&M	2025	6
## 223 Vanderbilt	2011	1
## 224 Vanderbilt	2012	3
## 225 Vanderbilt	2013	1
## 226 Vanderbilt	2014	4
## 227 Vanderbilt	2015	2
## 228 Vanderbilt	2016	2
## 229 Vanderbilt	2017	3
## 230 Vanderbilt	2018	4
## 231 Vanderbilt	2019	4
## 232 Vanderbilt	2020	2
## 233 Vanderbilt	2021	3
## 234 Vanderbilt	2022	1
## 235 Vanderbilt	2023	1
## 236 Vanderbilt	2024	6
## 237 Vanderbilt	2025	1

## # A tibble: 16 x 15

```

## # Groups: School [16]
##   School      '2011→2012' '2012→2013' '2013→2014' '2014→2015' '2015→2016'
##   <chr>       <dbl>     <dbl>     <dbl>     <dbl>     <dbl>
## 1 Alabama      16.7      57.1     -36.4     28.6     -22.2
## 2 Arkansas     600       -28.6     -20       50       0
## 3 Auburn       -75       50       133.      42.9     -10
## 4 Florida      -37.5     100      10        0       18.2
## 5 Georgia      -30       42.9     -90       700     -25
## 6 Kentucky     200       -66.7     100      50     -66.7
## 7 LSU          -25       50       44.4     -46.2    -14.3
## 8 Mississippi St -25       33.3     -25       66.7     -40
## 9 Missouri     -20       -50       100      25     -40
## 10 Oklahoma    40        -42.9     125       0     -66.7
## 11 Ole Miss    -40       -66.7     0        0      500
## 12 South Carolina 100      -12.5     -28.6    -40      66.7
## 13 Tennessee   -80       400       20      -50      0
## 14 Texas        -42.9     25       -20       25     -40
## 15 Texas A&M  600      -42.9      75     -42.9      0
## 16 Vanderbilt  200      -66.7     300     -50      0
##   '2016→2017' '2017→2018' '2018→2019' '2019→2020' '2020→2021' '2021→2022'
##   <dbl>     <dbl>     <dbl>     <dbl>     <dbl>     <dbl>
## 1 85.7       15.4     -13.3      7.69     -14.3    -33.3
## 2 0          -33.3      0         25      -20      0
## 3 -44.4      60        -12.5      0        0     -57.1
## 4 -23.1      -30        14.3      25       10     -36.4
## 5 -50         100       16.7     129.     -18.8    23.1
## 6 NA          NA         NA        0        75     14.3
## 7 83.3       -9.09     -40       150     -26.7    -27.3
## 8 NA          NA        -14.3     33.3    -75      150
## 9 33.3       -75       100       250     -28.6    -20
## 10 100        -33.3     150      -30     -14.3    16.7
## 11 0          0          0        0      -50     167.
## 12 -60        100       25        40      0     -28.6
## 13 167.       -12.5     -57.1      0       133.    28.6
## 14 66.7       20        -16.7     40     -14.3    -16.7
## 15 50          0         50     -44.4     20      0
## 16 50          33.3      0      -50      50     -66.7
##   '2022→2023' '2023→2024' '2024→2025'
##   <dbl>     <dbl>     <dbl>
## 1 75         -7.14     -7.69
## 2 -50        150       -40
## 3 133.      -28.6      20
## 4 0          -14.3     100
## 5 0          -25        41.7
## 6 -62.5      100       -50
## 7 50         -16.7     -40
## 8 -20        25        -80
## 9 -75        800      -55.6
## 10 -14.3     50       -66.7
## 11 12.5      -33.3     100
## 12 40          0        85.7
## 13 -11.1     12.5     -22.2
## 14 0          160      -7.69
## 15 0          16.7     -14.3

```

## 16 0 500 -83.3

These preliminary visualizations support our future analysis by allowing us to compare the number of NFL players produced by various SEC colleges across different time periods. By examining the bar plots, we can identify early patterns of growth or decline in player representation for each school. In later stages of the analysis, we will compare these bar plots in greater detail to draw conclusions about which colleges have shown the most progress or decline in producing NFL players over the years. Further visualizations we discussed implementing include histograms that display the trends for each collegiate program within the conference during the year 2011-2025 time period.

## Analysis

For the analysis, we plan to use descriptive statistics and visual models to track changes in the number of NFL players from each SEC school over the three time periods. We'll look at the overall trend for each school using a simple linear regression, which will help show whether the number of NFL players from that school is going up or down over time. We'll also use percentage change calculations to measure growth rates and rank the schools based on overall gains or declines. These methods should make it clear which schools have built a stronger NFL presence over time. We expect that powerhouse programs like Alabama and Georgia will show a steady growth, while schools like Vanderbilt and Auburn may show slight growth or even a decline. For further analysis discussing the histograms hopefully the year by year displays for each collegiate program in the conference will further contribute to our theory of steady growth for the elite programs while the lesser known programs won't display such trends. We expect to find that most if not all programs within the conference will display some form of growth within the 2011-2025 time period and then a variation of growth and decay during the covid year as not all programs held the same appeal during the pandemic. With big name schools such as Alabama, Georgia and Texas will display steady growth and the values will remain relatively high compared to lesser known schools such as Auburn and Vanderbilt.

## Contributions

Omar Sepulveda: Gathered data sets, completed data section, code used to clean data set, code for the visuals, completed analysis section, and wrote step by step process in README.md

Riccardo Gutierrez: Gathered data sets, completed abstract section, and contributed to visualization and analysis section.

Naomi Menard: Completed introduction, gathered data sets, contributed to data, visuals/code , and analysis section.