

Crash Data

PEDESTRIANS

Pedestrians are the second largest category of motor vehicle deaths, after occupants, and account for about 13 percent of motor vehicle deaths. The problem is worst among the elderly.

Pedestrian deaths are principally an urban problem. Many pedestrians are killed at crosswalks, sidewalks, median strips, and traffic islands. Physical separations like overpasses, underpasses, and barriers can reduce the problem. Warning signs and pavement markings at intersections also can be effective. And because there's a higher ratio of pedestrian deaths to injuries where speed limits are higher, lowering the limits could reduce pedestrian deaths.

Vehicle factors count, too, because the most serious injuries often result from pedestrians being thrown onto the hoods, windshields, or tops of vehicles. Serious injuries to people's head, pelvis, and legs are common, and their severity could be mitigated by improving vehicle designs and materials.

The following facts are based on analysis of data from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Fatality Analysis Reporting System:

- 5,307 pedestrians died in 1997, down 2 percent from 1996. Since 1975, 13 to 17 percent of motor vehicle deaths have been pedestrians.
- Pedestrian deaths per 100,000 people decreased 43 percent between 1975 and 1997 (from 3.5 to 2.0 per 100,000).
- Pedestrian deaths per 100,000 people 0-9 years old decreased 74 percent between 1975 and 1997. Children this age used to have the second highest pedestrian death rate but now have the lowest.
- Fifty-three percent of pedestrians age 16 and older killed in nighttime motor vehicle crashes in 1997 had blood alcohol concentrations at or above 0.10 percent. Thirty-nine percent had no alcohol in their blood.
- Seventeen percent of pedestrian deaths occur in hit-and-run crashes.
- Sixty-eight percent of all pedestrian deaths in 1997 were males.
- People age 65 and older have about twice as many pedestrian deaths per 100,000 people as younger groups, even though the rate among elderly people has been declining since at least 1950.
- At age 80 and older, the 1997 pedestrian death rate among men was more than 3 times as high as at age 74 and younger.

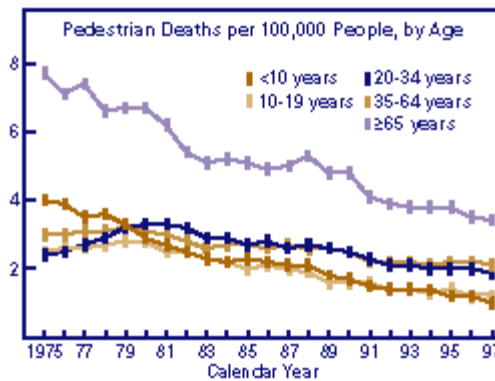
WHERE THEY DIED

- Sixty-eight percent of pedestrian deaths in 1997 occurred in urban areas. However, the ratio of deaths to injuries is higher in rural areas because of higher impact speeds on rural roads.
- Thirty-three percent of pedestrian deaths among people age 65 and older in 1997 occurred at intersections. This compares with 12 percent of pedestrian deaths among children age 4 and younger.

younger.

WHEN THEY DIED

- Fatal pedestrian-motor vehicle collisions occur most often between 6 and 9 pm.
- Pedestrian deaths are more likely to occur on Friday and Saturday than on other days.



Year	Pedestrian Deaths		
	Male	Female	Total
1975	5,196	2,319	7,516
1976	5,120	2,307	7,427
1977	5,331	2,400	7,732
1978	5,494	2,296	7,790
1979	5,701	2,391	8,092
1980	5,613	2,454	8,067
1981	5,459	2,332	7,791
1982	5,144	2,186	7,330
1983	4,775	2,060	6,835
1984	5,016	2,006	7,022
1985	4,671	2,133	6,804
1986	4,771	2,004	6,775
1987	4,777	1,967	6,744
1988	4,756	2,111	6,867
1989	4,594	1,959	6,553
1990	4,495	1,986	6,481
1991	3,986	1,815	5,801
1992	3,867	1,679	5,546
1993	3,936	1,711	5,647
1994	3,757	1,732	5,489
1995	3,866	1,728	5,594
1996	3,758	1,652	5,410
1997	3,615	1,659	5,274

Note: Total includes gender unknowns

Distribution of Pedestrian Deaths by Time of Day, 1997	
Time of Day	Percent
Midnight-3 am	10
3 am-6 am	6
6 am-9 am	9
9 am-Noon	6
Noon-3 pm	8
3 pm-6 pm	13
6 pm-9 pm	25
9 pm-Midnight	21

Distribution of Pedestrian Deaths by Day of Week, 1997	
Day of Week	Percent
Sunday	13
Monday	12
Tuesday	13
Wednesday	13
Thursday	13
Friday	17
Saturday	18

Percent of Pedestrians ≥16 Years with Blood Alcohol Concentrations ≥ 0.10 Percent Killed in Nighttime Crashes	
Year	Percent
1980	58
1981	60
1982	61
1983	62
1984	62
1985	59
1986	60

Percent Distribution of Nighttime Pedestrian Deaths by Age and Blood Alcohol Concentration, 1997			
	Blood Alcohol Concentration:		
	0.00	0.01-0.09	≥ 0.10
16-34 years	36	7	57
≥ 35 years	42	8	51

1987	54
1988	56
1989	58
1990	58
1991	56
1992	57
1993	58
1994	49
1995	53
1996	53
1997	51

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