## Traffic Safety Facts 1993 <br> Pedalcyclists

"Pedalcyclist deaths accounted for 2 percent of all traffic fatalities during 1993."

The first automobile crash in the United States occurred in New York City in 1896, when a motor vehicle collided with a pedalcycle rider (Famous First Facts, by Joseph Kane).

Nearly 42,000 pedalcyclists have died in traffic crashes in the United States since 1932-the first year in which estimates of pedalcyclist fatalities were recorded. The 350 pedalcyclists killed in 1932 accounted for 1.3 percent of the 27,979 persons who died in traffic crashes that year.

In 1993, 814 pedalcyclists were killed in traffic crashes. Pedalcyclist deaths accounted for 2 percent of all traffic fatalities during the year.

The number of pedalcyclist fatalities in 1993 was 3 percent lower than the 839 fatalities reported in 1983. The highest number of pedalcyclist fatalities ever recorded in the Fatal Accident Reporting System (FARS) was 1,003 in 1975.

The average age of pedalcyclist fatalities was 20.8 years in 1983; in 1993 the average age was 27.8 years.

Figure 1. Trends in Pedalcyclist and Total Traffic Fatalities, 1983-1993


Pedalcyclists accounted for 12 percent of all nonmotorist traffic fatalities in 1993. Pedestrians accounted for 86 percent, and the remaining 2 percent were skateboard riders, roller skaters, etc.

Table 1. Nonoccupant Traffic Fatalities, 1983-1993

| Year | Pedestrian | Pedalcyclist | Other | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1983 | 6,826 | 839 | 81 | 7,746 |
| 1984 | 7,025 | 849 | 99 | 7,973 |
| 1985 | 6,808 | 890 | 84 | 7,782 |
| 1986 | 6,779 | 941 | 133 | 7,853 |
| 1987 | 6,745 | 948 | 132 | 7,825 |
| 1988 | 6,870 | 911 | 136 | 7,917 |
| 1989 | 6,556 | 832 | 107 | 7,495 |
| 1990 | 6,482 | 859 | 124 | 7,465 |
| 1991 | 5,801 | 843 | 124 | 6,768 |
| 1992 | 5,549 | 723 | 98 | 6,370 |
| 1993 | 5,638 | 814 | 110 | 6,562 |

"More than one-third of the pedalcyclists killed in traffic crashes in 1993 were between 5 and 15
veaks-old"

Pedalcyclist fatalities occurred more frequently in urban areas ( 60 percent), at nonintersection locations ( 69 percent), between the hours of 4:00 PM and 8:00 PM (34 percent), and during the summer months of June, July, and August ( 39 percent).

Most pedalcyclist fatalities in 1993 were males ( 87 percent), and most were between the ages of 5 and 44 years ( 79 percent).

The pedalcyclist fatality rate per capita was 7 times as high for males as for females.

Pedalcyclists under age 16 accounted for less than one-half (38 percent) of all pedalcyclists killed in traffic crashes in 1993, compared with 53 percent in 1983.

Pedalcyclists 25 years of age and older have made up an increasing proportion of all pedalcyclist deaths since 1983. The proportion of pedalcyclist fatalities age 25 to 64 was twice as high in 1993 as in 1983 (41 percent and 20 percent, respectively).

More than one-third ( 36.1 percent) of the pedalcyclists killed in traffic crashes in 1993 were between 5 and 15 years old. The pedalcyclist fatality rate for this age group was 7.3 per million population-more than twice the rate for all pedalcyclists ( 3.2 per million population).
> "Alcohol involvement -either for the driver or the cyclist-was reported in more than a third of pedalcyclist fatalities in 1993."

For 65 percent of the pedalcyclists killed in traffic crashes in 1993, police reported one or more errors or other factors related to the cyclist's behavior. The factor most often noted was "failure to yield right-of-way," followed by "improper crossing of the roadway or intersection" and "failure to obey traffic signs and traffic control devices." Fewer than half the drivers involved were cited by police for driving errors or other factors related to driver behavior. The factors most often noted for drivers were "driving too fast for conditions or exceeding the speed limit" ( 22 percent), "drivers were inattentive (talking, eating, etc.)" (15 percent), and "vision obscured" (13 percent).

Alcohol involvement-either for the driver or the pedalcyclist-was reported in more than one-third of the traffic crashes that resulted in pedalcyclist fatalities in 1993. In 27.7 percent of the crashes, either the driver or the cyclist was intoxicated, with blood alcohol concentrations (BAC) of 0.10 grams per deciliter ( $\mathrm{g} / \mathrm{dl}$ ) or greater. Lower alcohol levels (BAC 0.01 to $0.09 \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{dl}$ ) were reported in an additional 8.5 percent. Almost one-fourth of the pedalcyclists killed had a BAC of $0.01 \mathrm{~g} / \mathrm{dl}$ or greater, and nearly one-fifth were intoxicated.

Table 2 presents summary statistics for 1993 pedalcyclist fatalities by age and sex, and Table 3 presents detailed data by state.

Table 2. Pedalcyclist Fatalities and Fatality Rates by Age and Sex, 1993

| $\begin{gathered} \text { Age } \\ \text { (years) } \end{gathered}$ | Male |  |  | Female |  |  | Total |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Fatalities | Population (thousands) | Fatality Rate* | Fatalities | Population (thousands) | Fatality Rate* | Fatalities | Population (thousands) | Fatality Rate* |
| <5 | 12 | 10,078 | 1.19 | 4 | 9,625 | 0.42 | 16 | 19,703 | 0.81 |
| 5-9 | 87 | 9,483 | 9.17 | 22 | 9,037 | 2.43 | 109 | 18,520 | 5.89 |
| 10-15 | 153 | 11,283 | 13.56 | 32 | 10,737 | 2.98 | 185 | 22,020 | 8.40 |
| 16-20 | 66 | 8,895 | 7.42 | 2 | 8,451 | 0.24 | 68 | 17,346 | 3.92 |
| 21-24 | 35 | 7,727 | 4.53 | 7 | 7,473 | 0.94 | 42 | 15,200 | 2.76 |
| 25-34 | 129 | 20,958 | 6.16 | 9 | 20,948 | 0.43 | 138 | 41,906 | 3.29 |
| 35-44 | 86 | 20,240 | 4.25 | 14 | 20,590 | 0.68 | 100 | 40,830 | 2.45 |
| 45-54 | 51 | 14,010 | 3.64 | 8 | 14,655 | 0.55 | 59 | 28,665 | 2.06 |
| 55-64 | 37 | 9,932 | 3.73 | 3 | 10,995 | 0.27 | 40 | 20,927 | 1.91 |
| 65-69 | 15 | 4,509 | 3.33 | 4 | 5,511 | 0.73 | 19 | 10,020 | 1.90 |
| 70-79 | 25 | 6,329 | 3.95 | 0 | 8,805 | 0.00 | 25 | 15,134 | 1.65 |
| 80+ | 9 | 2,455 | 3.67 | 0 | 5,183 | 0.00 | 9 | 7,638 | 1.18 |
| Unknown | 4 |  |  | 0 |  |  | 4 |  |  |
| Total | 709 | 125,898 | 5.63 | 105 | 132,010 | 0.80 | 814 | 257,908 | 3.16 |

* Rate per million population.

Source: Population-Bureau of the Census projections.

## For more information:

Information on pedalcyclist traffic fatalities is available from the National Center for Statistics and Analysis, NRD-31, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590. Telephone inquiries should be addressed to Ms. Louann Hall at (202) 366-4198. FAX messages should be sent to (202) 366-7078. To report a safety-related problem or to inquire about motor vehicle safety information, contact the Auto Safety Hotline at 1-800-424-9393.
"Serving the Highway Safety Community by the Numbers"

Table 3. Pedalcyclist Traffic Fatalities and Fatality Rates by State, 1993

| State | Total Traffic Fatalities | Resident Population (thousands) | Pedalcyclist Fatalities | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Percent } \\ & \text { of } \\ & \text { Total } \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | Pedalcyclist Fatalities per Million Population |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Alabama | 1,042 | 4,187 | 7 | 0.7 | 1.67 |
| Alaska | 118 | 599 | 6 | 5.1 | 10.02 |
| Arizona | 801 | 3,936 | 25 | 3.1 | 6.35 |
| Arkansas | 583 | 2,424 | 7 | 1.2 | 2.89 |
| California | 4,163 | 31,211 | 129 | 3.1 | 4.13 |
| Colorado | 559 | 3,566 | 14 | 2.5 | 3.93 |
| Connecticut | 342 | 3,277 | 6 | 1.8 | 1.83 |
| Delaware | 111 | 700 | 1 | 0.9 | 1.43 |
| District of Columbia | 57 | 578 | 1 | 1.8 | 1.73 |
| Florida | 2.635 | 13,679 | 120 | 4.6 | 8.77 |
| Georgia | 1,394 | 6,917 | 22 | 1.6 | 3.18 |
| Hawaii | 134 | 1,172 | 3 | 2.2 | 2.56 |
| Idaho | 227 | 1,099 | 2 | 0.9 | 1.82 |
| Illinois | 1,392 | 11,697 | 28 | 2.0 | 2.39 |
| Indiana | 889 | 5,713 | 9 | 1.0 | 1.58 |
| Iowa | 459 | 2,814 | 4 | 0.9 | 1.42 |
| Kansas | 428 | 2,531 | 4 | 0.9 | 1.58 |
| Kentucky | 871 | 3,789 | 8 | 0.9 | 2.11 |
| Louisiana | 879 | 4,295 | 25 | 2.8 | 5.82 |
| Maine | 185 | 1.229 | 5 | 2.7 | 4.05 |
| Maryland | 665 | 4,965 | 9 | 1.4 | 1.81 |
| Massachusetts | 475 | 6,012 | 13 | 2.7 | 2.17 |
| Michigan | 1,408 | 9,478 | 30 | 2.1 | 3.17 |
| Minnesota | 538 | 4,517 | 9 | 1.7 | 1.99 |
| Mississsippi | 813 | 2643 | 3 | 0.4 | 1.14 |
| Missouri | 947 | 5,234 | 8 | 0.8 | 1.53 |
| Montana | 195 | 839 | 1 | 0.5 | 1.19 |
| Nebraska | 254 | 1,607 | 6 | 2.4 | 3.73 |
| Nevada | 263 | 1,389 | 9 | 3.4 | 6.48 |
| New Hampshire | 121 | 1,125 | 2 | 1.7 | 1.80 |
| New Jersey | 788 | 7,879 | 18 | 2.3 | 2.28 |
| New Mexico | 431 | 1,616 | 5 | 1.2 | 3.09 |
| New York | 1,781 | 18,197 | 42 | 2.4 | 2.31 |
| North Carolina | 1,389 | 6,945 | 31 | 2.2 | 4.46 |
| North Dakota | 89 | 635 | 1 | 1.1 | 1.57 |
| Ohio | 1,482 | 11,091 | 15 | 1.0 | 1.35 |
| Oklahoma | 671 | 3,231 | 7 | 1.0 | 2.17 |
| Oregon | 524 | 3,032 | 15 | 2.9 | 4.95 |
| Pennsylvania | 1,529 | 12,048 | 23 | 1.5 | 1.91 |
| Rhode Island | 74 | 1,000 | 1 | 1.4 | 1.00 |
| South Carolina | 846 | 3,643 | 27 | 3.2 | 7.41 |
| South Dakota | 140 | 715 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.00 |
| Tennessee | 1,171 | 5,099 | 16 | 1.4 | 3.14 |
| Texas | 3,037 | 18,031 | 52 | 1.7 | 2.88 |
| Utah | 303 | 1,860 | 11 | 3.6 | 5.91 |
| Vermont | 110 | 576 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.00 |
| Virginia | 878 | 6,491 | 14 | 1.6 | 2.16 |
| Washington | 661 | 5,255 | 8 | 1.2 | 1.52 |
| West Virginia | 429 | 1,820 | 2 | 0.5 | 1.10 |
| Wisconsin | 714 | 5,038 | 10 | 1.4 | 1.98 |
| Wyoming | 120 | 470 | 0 | 0.0 | 0.00 |
| U.S. Total | 40,115 | 257,908 | 814 | 2.0 | 3.16 |
| Puerto Rico | 600 | * 3,580 | 19 | 3.2 | 5.33 |

* 1992 resident population for Puerto Rico.

Note: Totals may not equal sum of components due to independent rounding.
Sources: Fatalities-Fatal Accident Reporting System, NHTSA. Population-Bureau of the Census.

