



Traffic Safety Facts 1999

Pedalcyclists



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).

More than 46,000 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 1999, 750 pedalcyclists were killed and an additional 51,000 were injured in traffic crashes. Pedalcyclist deaths accounted for 2 percent of all traffic fatalities, and pedalcyclists made up 2 percent of all the people injured in traffic crashes during the year.

The number of pedalcyclist fatalities in 1999 was 10 percent lower than the 832 fatalities reported in 1989. The highest number of pedalcyclist fatalities ever recorded in the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) was 1,003 in 1975.

In 1989, the average age of pedalcyclists killed in traffic crashes was 24.4 years; in 1999 the average age of those killed was 32.4 years, and the average age of those injured was 23.5 years.

Pedalcyclists accounted for 13 percent of all nonmotorist traffic fatalities in 1999. Pedestrians accounted for 85 percent, and the remaining 3 percent were skateboard riders, roller skaters, etc.

“The 750 pedalcyclist deaths in 1999 accounted for 2 percent of all traffic fatalities during the year.”

Figure 1. Trends in Pedalcyclist and Total Traffic Fatalities, 1989-1999

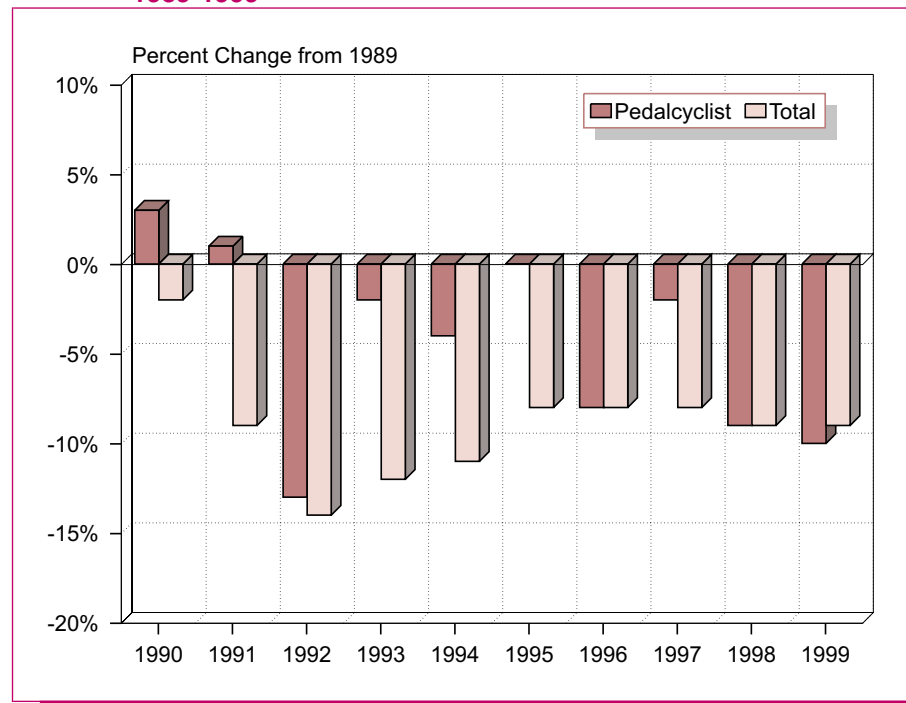


Table 1. Nonoccupant Traffic Fatalities, 1989-1999

Year	Pedestrian	Pedalcyclist	Other	Total
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	5,649	816	111	6,576
1994	5,489	802	107	6,398
1995	5,584	833	109	6,526
1996	5,449	765	154	6,368
1997	5,321	814	153	6,288
1998	5,228	760	131	6,119
1999	4,906	750	149	5,805

“More than one-fourth of the pedalcyclists killed in traffic crashes in 1999 were between 5 and 15 years old.”

Pedalcyclist fatalities occurred more frequently in urban areas (64 percent), at nonintersection locations (70 percent), between the hours of 5:00 PM and 9:00 PM (37 percent), and during the months of July, August, and September (34 percent).

Most of the pedalcyclists killed or injured in 1999 were males (88 percent and 80 percent, respectively), and most were between the ages of 5 and 44 years (72 percent and 88 percent, respectively).

The pedalcyclist fatality rate per capita was more than 7 times as high for males as for females, and the injury rate per capita was more than 4 times as high for males as for females.

Pedalcyclists under age 16 accounted for 29 percent of all pedalcyclists killed and 44 percent of those injured in traffic crashes in 1999.

In comparison, pedalcyclists under age 16 accounted for 46 percent of all those killed in 1989.

Pedalcyclists 25 years of age and older have made up an increasing proportion of all pedalcyclist deaths since 1989. The proportion of pedalcyclist fatalities age 25 to 64 was 1.6 times as high in 1999 as in 1989 (48 percent and 29 percent, respectively).

More than one-fourth (28 percent) of the pedalcyclists killed in traffic crashes in 1999 were between 5 and 15 years old. The pedalcyclist fatality rate for this age group was 4.8 per million population — nearly double the rate for all pedalcyclists (2.7 per million population). The injury rate for this age group was 510 per million population, compared with 188 per million population for pedalcyclists of all ages.

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 1999. In 31 percent of the crashes, either the driver or the cyclist was intoxicated, with blood alcohol concentrations (BAC) of 0.10 grams per deciliter (g/dl) or greater. Lower alcohol levels (BAC 0.01 to 0.09 g/dl) were reported in an additional 7 percent. More than one-fourth (27 percent) of the pedalcyclists killed had a BAC of 0.01 g/dl or greater, and more than one-fifth (22 percent) were intoxicated.

“Alcohol Involvement was reported in more than one-third of the pedalcyclist fatalities in 1999.”

Table 2. Pedalcyclists Killed and Injured and Fatality and Injury Rates by Age and Sex, 1999

Age (years)	Male			Female			Total		
	Killed	Population (thousands)	Fatality Rate*	Killed	Population (thousands)	Fatality Rate*	Killed	Population (thousands)	Fatality Rate*
0-4	3	9,683	0.31	3	9,259	0.32	6	18,942	0.32
5-9	67	10,208	6.56	15	9,739	1.54	82	19,947	4.11
10-15	104	11,974	8.69	22	11,395	1.93	126	23,369	5.39
16-20	67	10,187	6.58	6	9,638	0.62	73	19,826	3.68
21-24	31	7,185	4.31	5	6,943	0.72	36	14,128	2.55
25-34	66	18,826	3.51	9	19,110	0.47	75	37,936	1.98
35-44	132	22,254	5.93	15	22,558	0.66	147	44,813	3.28
45-54	88	17,499	5.03	8	18,303	0.44	96	35,802	2.68
55-64	35	11,150	3.14	8	12,239	0.65	43	23,389	1.84
65-69	20	4,337	4.61	2	5,111	0.39	22	9,447	2.33
70-79	30	6,919	4.34	0	9,182	0.00	30	16,101	1.86
80+	11	3,054	3.60	0	5,938	0.00	11	8,992	1.22
Unknown	3	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
Total	657	133,277	4.93	93	139,414	0.67	750	272,691	2.75

Age (years)	Male			Female			Total		
	Injured	Population (thousands)	Injury Rate*	Injured	Population (thousands)	Injury Rate*	Injured	Population (thousands)	Injury Rate*
0-4	**	9,683	36	**	9,259	3	**	18,942	20
5-9	5,000	10,208	464	2,000	9,739	201	7,000	19,947	336
10-15	12,000	11,974	1,007	3,000	11,395	291	15,000	23,369	658
16-20	5,000	10,187	461	1,000	9,638	79	5,000	19,826	275
21-24	4,000	7,185	518	**	6,943	59	4,000	14,128	292
25-34	5,000	18,826	289	2,000	19,110	84	7,000	37,936	185
35-44	5,000	22,254	241	1,000	22,558	48	6,000	44,813	144
45-54	3,000	17,499	175	1,000	18,303	31	4,000	35,802	102
55-64	1,000	11,150	96	**	12,239	30	1,000	23,389	62
65-69	**	4,337	43	**	5,111	23	**	9,447	32
70-79	**	6,919	29	**	9,182	4	**	16,101	15
80+	**	3,054	45	**	5,938	3	**	8,992	17
Total	41,000	133,277	308	10,000	139,414	74	51,000	272,691	188

* Rate per million population.

** Less than 500 injured.

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. NCSA information can also be obtained by telephone or by fax-on-demand at 1-800-934-8517. FAX messages should be sent to (202) 366-7078. General information on highway traffic safety can be accessed by Internet users at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/nrsa>. To report a safety-related problem or to inquire about motor vehicle safety information, contact the Auto Safety Hotline at 1-800-424-9393.

Table 3. Pedalcyclist Traffic Fatalities and Fatality Rates by State, 1999

State	Total Traffic Fatalities	Resident Population (thousands)	Pedalcyclist Fatalities	Percent of Total	Pedalcyclist Fatalities per Million Population
Alabama	1,138	4,370	3	0.3	0.69
Alaska	76	620	2	2.6	3.23
Arizona	1,024	4,778	26	2.5	5.44
Arkansas	604	2,551	6	1.0	2.35
California	3,559	33,145	112	3.1	3.38
Colorado	626	4,056	5	0.8	1.23
Connecticut	301	3,282	3	1.0	0.91
Delaware	100	754	1	1.0	1.33
District of Columbia	41	519	1	2.4	1.93
Florida	2,918	15,111	123	4.2	8.14
Georgia	1,508	7,788	22	1.5	2.82
Hawaii	98	1,185	1	1.0	0.84
Idaho	278	1,252	4	1.4	3.19
Illinois	1,456	12,128	28	1.9	2.31
Indiana	1,013	5,943	14	1.4	2.36
Iowa	490	2,869	6	1.2	2.09
Kansas	537	2,654	7	1.3	2.64
Kentucky	814	3,961	10	1.2	2.52
Louisiana	924	4,372	29	3.1	6.63
Maine	181	1,253	1	0.6	0.80
Maryland	590	5,172	6	1.0	1.16
Massachusetts	414	6,175	6	1.4	0.97
Michigan	1,382	9,864	26	1.9	2.64
Minnesota	625	4,776	8	1.3	1.68
Mississippi	927	2,769	6	0.6	2.17
Missouri	1,094	5,468	7	0.6	1.28
Montana	220	883	3	1.4	3.40
Nebraska	295	1,666	4	1.4	2.40
Nevada	350	1,809	8	2.3	4.42
New Hampshire	141	1,201	1	0.7	0.83
New Jersey	727	8,143	23	3.2	2.82
New Mexico	460	1,740	10	2.2	5.75
New York	1,548	18,197	43	2.8	2.36
North Carolina	1,505	7,651	28	1.9	3.66
North Dakota	119	634	0	0.0	0.00
Ohio	1,430	11,257	18	1.3	1.60
Oklahoma	739	3,358	10	1.4	2.98
Oregon	414	3,316	3	0.7	0.90
Pennsylvania	1,549	11,994	18	1.2	1.50
Rhode Island	88	991	0	0.0	0.00
South Carolina	1,065	3,886	12	1.1	3.09
South Dakota	150	733	0	0.0	0.00
Tennessee	1,285	5,484	9	0.7	1.64
Texas	3,518	20,044	44	1.3	2.20
Utah	360	2,130	7	1.9	3.29
Vermont	90	594	3	3.3	5.05
Virginia	877	6,873	10	1.1	1.45
Washington	634	5,756	9	1.4	1.56
West Virginia	395	1,807	3	0.8	1.66
Wisconsin	745	5,250	18	2.4	3.43
Wyoming	189	480	3	1.6	6.25
U.S. Total	41,611	272,691	750	1.8	2.75
Puerto Rico	558	3,890	15	2.7	3.86

Note: Totals may not equal sum of components due to independent rounding.

Sources: Fatalities — Fatality Analysis Reporting System, NHTSA. Population — Bureau of the Census.