



# Pedestrians

A pedestrian, as defined for the purpose of this Traffic Safety Fact Sheet publication, is any person on foot, walking, running, jogging, hiking, sitting or lying down who is involved in a motor vehicle traffic crash. For the purpose of this Traffic Safety Fact Sheet a traffic crash is an incident that involves one or more vehicles where at least one vehicle is in-transport and the crash originates on a public traffic way. Crashes that occurred exclusively on private property, including parking lots and driveways, were excluded.

In 2009, 4,092 pedestrians were killed and an estimated 59,000 were injured in traffic crashes in the United States. On average, a pedestrian was killed every two hours and injured every nine minutes in traffic crashes.

The 4,092 pedestrian fatalities in 2009 were a decrease of 7 percent from 2008 and a decrease of 14 percent from 2000. In 2009, pedestrian deaths accounted for 12 percent of all traffic fatalities, and made up 3 percent of all the people injured in traffic crashes. Over 90 percent of the pedestrian fatalities occurred in single-vehicle crashes.

*In 2009, 4,092 pedestrians died in traffic crashes — a 7-percent decrease from the number reported in 2008.*

Table 1  
**Total Fatalities and Pedestrian Fatalities in Traffic Crashes, 2000-2009**

Year	Total Fatalities	Pedestrian Fatalities	Percent of Total Fatalities
2000	41,945	4,763	11
2001	42,196	4,901	12
2002	43,005	4,851	11
2003	42,884	4,774	11
2004	42,836	4,675	11
2005	43,510	4,892	11
2006	42,708	4,795	11
2007	41,259	4,699	11
2008	37,423	4,414	12
2009	33,808	4,092	12

Almost three-fourths (72%) of pedestrian fatalities occurred in an urban setting versus a rural setting. Similarly, three-fourths (76%) of pedestrian fatalities occurred at non-intersections versus at intersections. Almost 90 percent of pedestrian fatalities occurred during normal weather conditions, compared to rain, snow and fog. A majority of the pedestrian fatalities, almost 70 percent, occurred during the nighttime. Between 2008 and 2009 all these percentages stayed relatively level.

*In 2009, pedestrian deaths accounted for 12 percent of all traffic fatalities in motor vehicle traffic crashes. Since 2000, the number of pedestrian fatalities has decreased by 14 percent.*

Table 2

**Percentage of Pedestrian Fatalities in Relation to Land Use, Non-Motorist Location, Weather and Time of Day**

Pedestrians Killed	Percentage of Pedestrians Killed	
	2008	2009
<b>Land Use</b>		
Rural	28%	28%
Urban	72%	72%
<b>Non-Motorist Location</b>		
Intersection	24%	24%
Non-Intersection	76%	76%
<b>Weather</b>		
Normal	89%	89%
Rain	8%	9%
Snow	1%	1%
Fog	1%	1%
<b>Time of Day</b>		
Daytime	30%	31%
Nighttime	70%	69%

## Age

Older pedestrians (age 65+) accounted for 19 percent (775) of all pedestrian fatalities and an estimated 8 percent (5,000) of all pedestrians injured in 2009.

In 2009, the fatality rate for older pedestrians (age 65+) was 1.96 per 100,000 population – higher than the rate for all the other ages.

In 2009, one-fifth (19%) of all children between the ages of 5 and 9 who were killed in traffic crashes were pedestrians. Children age 15 and younger accounted for 7 percent of the pedestrian fatalities in 2009 and 25 percent of all pedestrians injured in traffic crashes.

Table 3

### Motor Vehicle Traffic Crash Fatalities and Injuries and Pedestrians Killed or Injured, by Age Group, 2009

Age Group (Years)	Total Killed	Pedestrians Killed	Percentage of Total Killed
<5	430	93	22
5-9	380	72	19
10-15	728	111	15
16-20	3,932	232	6
21-24	3,287	272	8
25-29	3,284	282	9
30-34	2,405	257	11
35-39	2,328	263	11
40-44	2,498	342	14
45-49	2,822	412	15
50-54	2,575	401	16
55-59	2,055	321	16
60-64	1,726	237	14
65-69	1,307	198	15
70-74	1,067	166	16
75-79	981	146	15
80+	1,929	265	14
Unknown	74	22	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>33,808</b>	<b>4,092</b>	<b>12</b>
Age Group (Years)	Total Injured	Pedestrians Injured	Percentage of Total Injured
<5	47,000	2,000	4
5-9	60,000	5,000	8
10-15	96,000	8,000	8
16-20	313,000	6,000	2
21-24	246,000	5,000	2
25-29	234,000	5,000	2
30-34	177,000	3,000	2
35-39	161,000	3,000	2
40-44	153,000	3,000	2
45-49	171,000	4,000	3
50-54	158,000	4,000	2
55-59	119,000	4,000	3
60-64	92,000	2,000	2
65-69	65,000	2,000	3
70-74	46,000	1,000	3
75-79	32,000	1,000	4
80+	44,000	1,000	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,217,000</b>	<b>59,000</b>	<b>3</b>

*In 2009, one-fifth of the children between the ages of 5 and 9 killed in traffic crashes were pedestrians.*

## Gender

More than two-thirds (69%) of the pedestrians killed in 2009 were males. In 2009, the male pedestrian fatality rate per 100,000 population was 1.86 — more than double the rate for females (0.82 per 100,000 population). In 2009, the male pedestrian injury rate per 100,000 population was 21, compared with 18 for female.

Table 4

**Pedestrians Killed and Injured and Fatality and Injury Rates by Age and Sex, 2009**

Age (Years)	Male			Female			Total		
	Killed	Population (thousands)	Fatality Rate*	Killed	Population (thousands)	Fatality Rate*	Killed	Population (thousands)	Fatality Rate*
<5	57	10,887	0.52	36	10,413	0.35	93	21,300	0.44
5-9	47	10,536	0.45	25	10,074	0.25	72	20,610	0.35
10-15	71	12,340	0.58	40	11,767	0.34	111	24,107	0.46
16-20	165	11,166	1.48	67	10,578	0.63	232	21,744	1.07
21-24	196	8,861	2.21	76	8,339	0.91	272	17,200	1.58
25-34	390	21,224	1.84	149	20,343	0.73	539	41,566	1.30
35-44	424	20,857	2.03	181	20,673	0.88	605	41,530	1.46
45-54	582	21,973	2.65	231	22,619	1.02	813	44,592	1.82
55-64	395	16,782	2.35	163	18,005	0.91	558	34,787	1.60
65-74	227	9,593	2.37	137	11,199	1.22	364	20,792	1.75
75-84	181	5,447	3.32	120	7,700	1.56	301	13,148	2.29
85 +	64	1,783	3.59	46	3,848	1.20	110	5,631	1.95
<b>Total<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>2,814</b>	<b>151,449</b>	<b>1.86</b>	<b>1,277</b>	<b>155,557</b>	<b>0.82</b>	<b>4,092</b>	<b>307,007</b>	<b>1.33</b>
Age (Years)	Male			Female			Total		
	Injured	Population (thousands)	Injury Rate*	Injured	Population (thousands)	Injury Rate*	Injured	Population (thousands)	Injury Rate*
<5	1,000	10,887	12	1,000	10,413	7	2,000	21,300	9
5-9	3,000	10,536	27	2,000	10,074	19	5,000	20,610	23
10-15	4,000	12,340	33	4,000	11,767	32	8,000	24,107	33
16-20	3,000	11,166	28	3,000	10,578	26	6,000	21,744	27
21-24	3,000	8,861	33	2,000	8,339	22	5,000	17,200	28
25-34	4,000	21,224	18	5,000	20,343	22	8,000	41,566	20
35-44	4,000	20,857	18	2,000	20,673	9	6,000	41,530	14
45-54	4,000	21,973	18	4,000	22,619	19	8,000	44,592	18
55-64	3,000	16,782	16	3,000	18,005	15	5,000	34,787	16
65-74	2,000	9,593	19	1,000	11,199	12	3,000	20,792	15
75-84	1,000	5,447	16	1,000	7,700	16	2,000	13,148	16
85 +	**	1,783	**	**	3,848	**	1,000	5,631	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,000</b>	<b>151,449</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>27,000</b>	<b>155,557</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>59,000</b>	<b>307,007</b>	<b>19</b>

\* Rate per 100,000 population

\*\* Less than 500 injured, injury rate not shown

<sup>1</sup>Total killed includes 22 of unknown age.**Source:** Fatalities—Fatality Analysis Reporting System, NHTSA. Injured—General Estimates System, NHTSA. Population—Bureau of the Census.

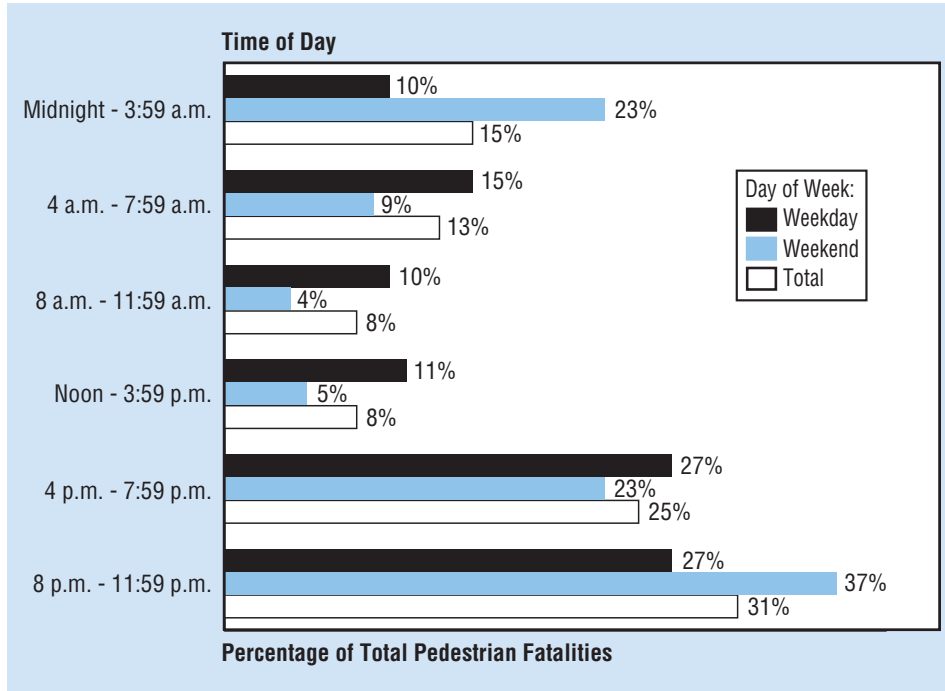
*Forty percent of all young (under 16) pedestrian fatalities occurred between 3 and 7 p.m.*

**Time of Day and Day of Week**

Thirty-six percent of the 354 young (under age 16) pedestrian fatalities occurred in crashes between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Nearly one-half (48%) of all pedestrian fatalities occurred on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday (16%, 17%, and 15%, respectively).

Figure 1  
**Pedestrian Fatalities by Time of Day and Day of Week, 2009**



## Alcohol Involvement

Alcohol involvement — either for the driver or for the pedestrian — was reported in 48 percent of the traffic crashes that resulted in pedestrian fatalities. Of the pedestrians involved, 35 percent had a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 grams per deciliter (g/dL) or higher. Of the drivers involved in fatal crashes, only 13 percent had a BAC of .08 g/dL or higher, less than two-thirds the rate for the pedestrians. In 6 percent of the crashes, both the driver and the pedestrian had a BAC of .08 g/dL or higher.

Table 5  
**Alcohol Involvement in Crashes That Resulted in Pedestrian Fatalities, 2009**

	No Driver Alcohol Involvement		Driver Alcohol Involvement, BAC=.01-.07		Driver Alcohol Involvement, BAC=.08+		Total	
<b>No Pedestrian Alcohol Involvement</b>	2,098	52%	95	2%	278	7%	2,471	61%
<b>Pedestrian Alcohol Involvement, BAC .01-.07</b>	123	3%	7	0%	30	1%	160	4%
<b>Pedestrian Alcohol Involvement, BAC=.08+</b>	1,085	27%	86	2%	237	6%	1,408	35%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,306</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>4,039</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Note:** The alcohol levels in this table are determined using the alcohol levels of the pedestrians killed and the involved drivers (killed and other)

*Alcohol involvement—either for the driver or the pedestrian—was reported in 48 percent of all pedestrian fatalities.*

Table 6

**Alcohol Involvement for Pedestrians Killed in Fatal Crashes by Age, 2000 and 2009**

Age (Years)	2000					2009				
	Number of Fatalities	% With BAC=.00	% With BAC=.01-.07	% With BAC=.08+	% With BAC=.01+	Number of Fatalities	% With BAC=.00	% With BAC=.01-.07	% With BAC=.08+	% With BAC=.01+
16-20	263	69	6	25	31	232	70	6	24	30
21-24	227	46	6	48	54	272	46	5	49	54
25-34	616	42	5	53	58	539	45	6	49	55
35-44	881	42	6	52	58	605	44	4	52	56
45-54	739	50	5	45	50	813	48	4	48	52
55-64	470	66	4	29	34	558	65	4	31	35
65-74	399	79	5	15	21	364	83	3	13	17
75-84	431	90	3	7	10	301	91	3	6	9
85 +	166	93	2	5	7	110	94	0	5	6
<b>Total*</b>	<b>4,192</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>3,794</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>41</b>

\*Excludes pedestrians under 16 years old and pedestrians of unknown age.

### Important Safety Reminders

- Drivers are required to yield the right-of-way to pedestrians crossing streets in marked or unmarked crosswalks in most situations. They need to be especially careful at intersections where the failure to yield right-of-way often occurs when drivers are turning onto another street and a pedestrian is in their path.
- When possible, cross the street at a designated crosswalk. Always stop and look left, right, and left again before crossing. If a parked vehicle is blocking the view of the street, stop at the edge line of the vehicle and look around it before entering the street.
- Increase visibility at night by carrying a flashlight when walking and by wearing retro-reflective clothing that helps to highlight body movements.
- It is much safer to walk on a sidewalk, but if you must walk in the street, walk facing traffic.

### For more information:

Information on traffic fatalities is available from the National Center for Statistics and Analysis (NCSA), NVS-424, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590. NCSA can be contacted at 800-934-8517 or via the following e-mail address: [ncsaweb@dot.gov](mailto:ncsaweb@dot.gov). General information on highway traffic safety can be accessed by Internet users at [www.nhtsa.gov/NCSA](http://www.nhtsa.gov/NCSA). To report a safety-related problem or to inquire about motor vehicle safety information, contact the Vehicle Safety Hotline at 888-327-4236.

Other fact sheets available from the National Center for Statistics and Analysis are *Alcohol-Impaired Driving*, *Bicyclists and Other Cyclists*, *Children*, *Large Trucks*, *Motorcycles*, *Occupant Protection*, *Older Population*, *Overview*, *Passenger Vehicles*, *Race and Ethnicity*, *Rural/Urban Comparisons*, *School Transportation-Related Crashes*, *Speeding*, *State Alcohol Estimates*, *State Traffic Data*, and *Young Drivers*. Detailed data on motor vehicle traffic crashes are published annually in *Traffic Safety Facts: A Compilation of Motor Vehicle Crash Data from the Fatality Analysis Reporting System and the General Estimates System*. The fact sheets and annual Traffic Safety Facts report can be accessed online at [www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/CATS/index.aspx](http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/CATS/index.aspx).

Table 7

**Motor Vehicle Traffic Crash Fatalities, Pedestrian Traffic Fatalities, and Fatality Rates by State, 2009**

State	Total Traffic Fatalities	Resident Population (thousands)	Pedestrian Fatalities	Percent of Total	Pedestrian Fatalities per 100,000 Population
Alabama	848	4,709	64	7.5	1.36
Alaska	64	698	9	14.1	1.29
Arizona	807	6,596	120	14.9	1.82
Arkansas	585	2,889	36	6.2	1.25
California	3,081	36,962	563	18.3	1.52
Colorado	465	5,025	47	10.1	0.94
Connecticut	223	3,518	26	11.7	0.74
Delaware	116	885	15	12.9	1.69
Dist of Columbia	29	600	14	48.3	2.33
Florida	2,558	18,538	466	18.2	2.51
Georgia	1,284	9,829	150	11.7	1.53
Hawaii	109	1,295	16	14.7	1.24
Idaho	226	1,546	10	4.4	0.65
Illinois	911	12,910	111	12.2	0.86
Indiana	693	6,423	50	7.2	0.78
Iowa	372	3,008	21	5.6	0.70
Kansas	386	2,819	22	5.7	0.78
Kentucky	791	4,314	41	5.2	0.95
Louisiana	821	4,492	107	13.0	2.38
Maine	159	1,318	11	6.9	0.83
Maryland	547	5,699	113	20.7	1.98
Massachusetts	334	6,594	48	14.4	0.73
Michigan	871	9,970	118	13.5	1.18
Minnesota	421	5,266	42	10.0	0.80
Mississippi	700	2,952	58	8.3	1.96
Missouri	878	5,988	68	7.7	1.14
Montana	221	975	15	6.8	1.54
Nebraska	223	1,797	9	4.0	0.50
Nevada	243	2,643	35	14.4	1.32
New Hampshire	110	1,325	8	7.3	0.60
New Jersey	583	8,708	157	26.9	1.80
New Mexico	361	2,010	39	10.8	1.94
New York	1,156	19,541	306	26.5	1.57
North Carolina	1,314	9,381	146	11.1	1.56
North Dakota	140	647	4	2.9	0.62
Ohio	1,021	11,543	85	8.3	0.74
Oklahoma	738	3,687	31	4.2	0.84
Oregon	377	3,826	35	9.3	0.91
Pennsylvania	1,256	12,605	134	10.7	1.06
Rhode Island	83	1,053	16	19.3	1.52
South Carolina	894	4,561	89	10.0	1.95
South Dakota	131	812	4	3.1	0.49
Tennessee	989	6,296	70	7.1	1.11
Texas	3,071	24,782	344	11.2	1.39
Utah	244	2,785	19	7.8	0.68
Vermont	74	622	5	6.8	0.80
Virginia	757	7,883	73	9.6	0.93
Washington	492	6,664	61	12.4	0.92
West Virginia	356	1,820	21	5.9	1.15
Wisconsin	561	5,655	38	6.8	0.67
Wyoming	134	544	2	1.5	0.37
<b>U.S. Total</b>	<b>33,808</b>	<b>307,007</b>	<b>4,092</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>1.33</b>
Puerto Rico	365	3,967	109	29.9	2.75

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