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U.S. Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Traffic Safety Facts 2003

Pedalcyclists

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National Center for Statistics and Analysis of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

"The 622 pedalcyclist deaths in 2003 accounted for 1 percent of all traffic fatalities during the year."

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 49,000 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 2003, 622 pedalcyclists were killed and an additional 46,000 were injured in traffic crashes. Pedalcyclist deaths accounted for 1 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 2003 was 24 percent lower than the 816 fatalities reported in 1993. The highest number of pedalcyclist fatalities ever recorded in the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) was 1,003 in 1975.

Pedalcyclists accounted for 11 percent of all nonmotorist traffic fatalities in 2003. Pedestrians accounted for 86 percent, and the remaining 3 percent were skateboard riders, roller skaters, etc.

Figure 1. Trends in Pedalcyclist and Total Traffic Fatalities, 1993-2003

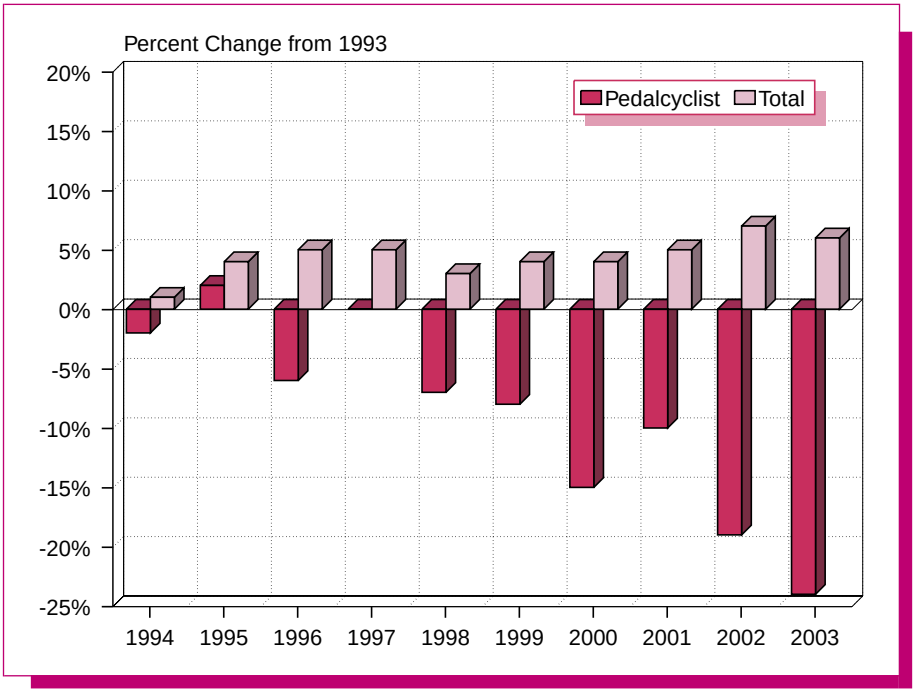

Table 1. Nonoccupant Traffic Fatalities, 1993-2003

Year	Pedalcyclist	Pedestrian	Other	Total
1993	816	5,649	111	**6,576**
1994	802	5,489	107	**6,398**
1995	833	5,584	109	**6,526**
1996	765	5,449	154	**6,368**
1997	814	5,321	153	**6,288**
1998	760	5,228	131	**6,119**
1999	754	4,939	149	**5,842**
2000	693	4,763	141	**5,597**
2001	732	4,901	123	**5,756**
2002	665	4,851	114	**5,630**
2003	622	4,749	140	**5,511**

"More than one-fifth of the pedalcyclists killed in traffic crashes in 2003 were between 5 and 15 years old."

Pedalcyclist fatalities occurred more frequently in urban areas (69 percent), at nonintersection locations (71 percent), between the hours of 5:00 PM and 9:00 PM (31 percent), and during the months of June, July, and August (35 percent).

In 1993, the average age of pedalcyclists killed in traffic crashes was 27.8 years; in 2003 the average age of those killed was 35.8 years, and the average age of those injured was 26.5 years.

Pedalcyclists under age 16 accounted for 23 percent of all pedalcyclists killed and 37 percent of those injured in traffic crashes in 2003. In comparison, pedalcyclists under age 16 accounted for 38 percent of all those killed in 1993.

Pedalcyclists 25 years of age and older have made up an increasing proportion of all pedalcyclist deaths since 1993. The proportion of pedalcyclist fatalities age 25 to 64 was 1.4 times as high in 2003 as in 1993 (57 percent and 41 percent, respectively).

More than one-fifth (23 percent) of the pedalcyclists killed in traffic crashes in 2003 were between 5 and 15 years old. The pedalcyclist fatality rate for this age group in 2003 was 3.1 per million population — about 50 percent higher than the rate for all pedalcyclists (2.1 per million population). The injury rate for this age group was 382 per million population, compared with 159 per million population for pedalcyclists of all ages.

"Alcohol Involvement was reported in more than one-third of the pedalcyclist fatalities in 2003."

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 2003. In 32 percent of the crashes, either the driver or the cyclist was reported to have a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of 0.08 grams per deciliter (g/dl) or higher. Lower alcohol levels (BAC 0.01 to 0.07 g/dl) were reported in an additional 7 percent. More than one-fourth (28 percent) of the pedalcyclists killed had a BAC of 0.01 g/dl or higher, and almost one-fourth (24 percent) had a BAC of 0.08 g/dl or higher.

Most of the pedalcyclists killed or injured in 2003 were males (88 percent and 78 percent, respectively), and most were between the ages of 5 and 44 years (62 percent and 84 percent, respectively).

In 2003, the pedalcyclist fatality rate per capita was almost 8 times as high for males as for females, and the injury rate per capita was more than 3 times as high for males as for females.

Table 2. Pedalcyclists Killed and Injured and Fatality and Injury Rates by Age and Sex, 2003

Age (years)	Male			Female			Total		
	Killed	Population (thousands)	Fatality Rate*	Killed	Population (thousands)	Fatality Rate*	Killed	Population (thousands)	Fatality Rate*
0-4	5	10,105	0.49	0	9,664	0.00	5	19,769	0.25
5-9	28	10,120	2.77	10	9,655	1.04	38	19,775	1.92
10-15	90	12,966	6.94	12	12,346	0.97	102	25,312	4.03
16-20	41	10,544	3.89	10	9,936	1.01	51	20,480	2.49
21-24	22	8,530	2.58	1	8,077	0.12	23	16,607	1.38
25-34	49	20,222	2.42	7	19,650	0.36	56	39,873	1.40
35-44	103	22,134	4.65	13	22,237	0.58	116	44,371	2.61
45-54	107	20,044	5.34	10	20,761	0.48	117	40,805	2.87
55-64	60	13,424	4.47	5	14,475	0.35	65	27,900	2.33
65-69	9	4,526	1.99	1	5,221	0.19	10	9,746	1.03
70-79	27	6,923	3.90	3	9,121	0.33	30	16,044	1.87
80+	5	3,500	1.43	0	6,629	0.00	5	10,130	0.49
Unknown	4	—	—	0	—	—	4	—	—
Total	**550**	**143,037**	**3.85**	**72**	**147,773**	**0.49**	**622**	**290,810**	**2.14**

Age (years)	Male			Female			Total		
	Injured	Population (thousands)	Injury Rate*	Injured	Population (thousands)	Injury Rate*	Injured	Population (thousands)	Injury Rate*
0-4	**	10,105	11	**	9,664	6	**	19,769	8
5-9	3,000	10,120	325	1,000	9,655	90	4,000	19,775	210
10-15	10,000	12,966	782	3,000	12,346	238	13,000	25,312	516
16-20	5,000	10,544	437	2,000	9,936	154	6,000	20,480	300
21-24	2,000	8,530	224	1,000	8,077	76	3,000	16,607	152
25-34	4,000	20,222	206	2,000	19,650	105	6,000	39,873	156
35-44	6,000	22,134	249	1,000	22,237	56	7,000	44,371	152
45-54	3,000	20,044	166	1,000	20,761	29	4,000	40,805	96
55-64	1,000	13,424	109	**	14,475	14	2,000	27,900	59
65-69	**	4,526	76	**	5,221	***	**	9,746	35
70-79	1,000	6,923	115	**	9,121	32	1,000	16,044	68
80+	**	3,500	85	**	6,629	3	**	10,130	31
Total	**36,000**	**143,037**	**251**	**10,000**	**147,773**	**71**	**46,000**	**290,810**	**159**

* Rate per million population.
** Less than 500 injured.
*** Less than 0.5 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, NPO-101, 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/ncsa. To report a safety-related problem or to inquire about motor vehicle safety information, contact the Auto Safety Hotline at 1-800-424-9393.

Other fact sheets available from the National Center for Statistics and Analysis are *Overview*, *Alcohol*, *Occupant Protection*, *Older Population*, *Speeding*, *Young Drivers*, *Pedestrians*, *Children*, *Large Trucks*, *Motorcycles*, *School Transportation-Related Crashes*, *State Traffic Data*, and *State Alcohol Estimates*. 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*.

Table 3. Pedalcyclist Traffic Fatalities and Fatality Rates by State, 2003

State	Total Traffic Fatalities	Resident Population (thousands)	Pedalcyclist Fatalities	Percent of Total	Pedalcyclist Fatalities per Million Population
Alabama	1,001	4,501	12	1.2	2.67
Alaska	95	649	4	4.2	6.17
Arizona	1,120	5,581	16	1.4	2.87
Arkansas	627	2,726	1	0.2	0.37
California	4,215	35,484	106	2.5	2.99
Colorado	632	4,551	3	0.5	0.66
Connecticut	294	3,483	2	0.7	0.57
Delaware	142	817	1	0.7	1.22
District of Columbia	67	563	0	0.0	0.00
Florida	3,169	17,019	101	3.2	5.93
Georgia	1,603	8,685	18	1.1	2.07
Hawaii	135	1,258	6	4.4	4.77
Idaho	293	1,366	2	0.7	1.46
Illinois	1,453	12,654	17	1.2	1.34
Indiana	834	6,196	7	0.8	1.13
Iowa	441	2,944	3	0.7	1.02
Kansas	471	2,724	5	1.1	1.84
Kentucky	928	4,118	5	0.5	1.21
Louisiana	894	4,496	10	1.1	2.22
Maine	207	1,306	1	0.5	0.77
Maryland	649	5,509	7	1.1	1.27
Massachusetts	462	6,433	11	2.4	1.71
Michigan	1,283	10,080	32	2.5	3.17
Minnesota	657	5,059	6	0.9	1.19
Mississippi	871	2,881	8	0.9	2.78
Missouri	1,232	5,704	9	0.7	1.58
Montana	262	918	2	0.8	2.18
Nebraska	293	1,739	2	0.7	1.15
Nevada	368	2,241	10	2.7	4.46
New Hampshire	127	1,288	2	1.6	1.55
New Jersey	747	8,638	11	1.5	1.27
New Mexico	439	1,875	3	0.7	1.60
New York	1,491	19,190	37	2.5	1.93
North Carolina	1,531	8,407	19	1.2	2.26
North Dakota	105	634	0	0.0	0.00
Ohio	1,277	11,436	8	0.6	0.70
Oklahoma	668	3,512	3	0.4	0.85
Oregon	512	3,560	8	1.6	2.25
Pennsylvania	1,577	12,365	20	1.3	1.62
Rhode Island	104	1,076	1	1.0	0.93
South Carolina	968	4,147	12	1.2	2.89
South Dakota	203	764	1	0.5	1.31
Tennessee	1,193	5,842	4	0.3	0.68
Texas	3,675	22,119	49	1.3	2.22
Utah	309	2,351	2	0.6	0.85
Vermont	69	619	1	1.4	1.62
Virginia	943	7,386	10	1.1	1.35
Washington	600	6,131	10	1.7	1.63
West Virginia	394	1,810	1	0.3	0.55
Wisconsin	848	5,472	12	1.4	2.19
Wyoming	165	501	1	0.6	2.00
U.S. Total	**42,643**	**290,810**	**622**	**1.5**	**2.14**
Puerto Rico	493	3,879	14	2.8	3.61

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