



Traffic Safety Facts 2003

Pedestrians



“In 2003, 4,749 pedestrians died in traffic crashes — 16 percent below the number reported in 1993.”

In 2003, 4,749 pedestrians were killed in traffic crashes in the United States — a decrease of 16 percent from the 5,649 pedestrians killed in 1993.

On average, a pedestrian is killed in a traffic crash every 111 minutes.

There were 70,000 pedestrians injured in traffic crashes in 2003.

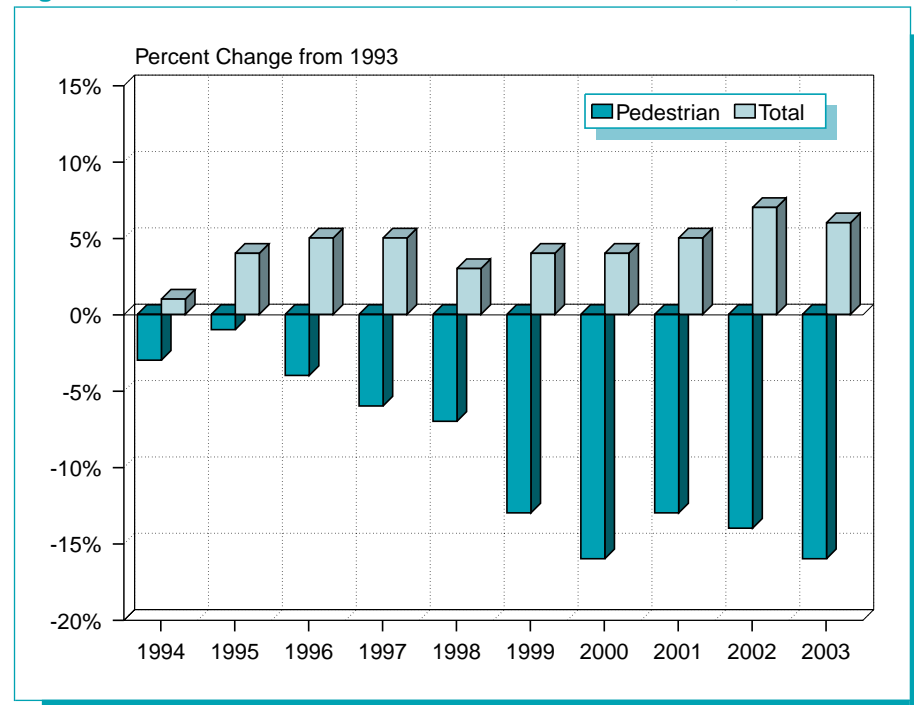
On average, a pedestrian is injured in a traffic crash every 8 minutes.

Most pedestrian fatalities in 2003 occurred in urban areas (72 percent), at nonintersection locations (79 percent), in normal weather conditions (89 percent), and at night (65 percent).

More than two-thirds (69 percent) of the 2003 pedestrian fatalities were males. In 2003, the male pedestrian fatality rate per 100,000 population was 2.27 — more than double the rate for females (1.01 per 100,000 population). The male pedestrian injury rate per 100,000 population in 2003 was 30, compared with 19 for females (see Table 5).

In 2003, almost one-fourth (22 percent) of all children between the ages of 5 and 9 years who were killed in traffic crashes were pedestrians. Nearly one-fifth (17 percent) of all traffic fatalities under age 16 were pedestrians, and 7 percent of all the people under age 16 who were injured in traffic crashes were pedestrians.

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



Older pedestrians (ages 70+) accounted for 16 percent of all pedestrian fatalities and 6 percent of all pedestrians injured in 2003. In 2003, the death rate for this group, both males and females, was 2.95 per 100,000 population — higher than for any other age group.

Table 1. Pedestrians Killed and Injured by Age Group, 2003

Age Group (years)	Total Killed	Pedestrians Killed	Percentage of Total Killed
0–4	607	112	18
5–9	591	131	22
10–15	1,372	200	15
16–20	6,002	298	5
21–24	4,360	263	6
25–29	3,591	297	8
30–34	3,112	268	9
35–39	3,162	375	12
40–44	3,559	469	13
45–49	3,137	418	13
50–54	2,651	359	14
55–59	2,127	304	14
60–64	1,625	238	15
65–69	1,321	201	15
70+	5,309	773	15
Unknown	117	43	—
Total	42,643	4,749	11
Age Group (years)	Total Injured	Pedestrians Injured	Percentage of Total Injured
0–4	62,000	2,000	4
5–9	85,000	7,000	8
10–15	143,000	10,000	7
16–20	482,000	6,000	1
21–24	313,000	5,000	2
25–29	291,000	5,000	2
30–34	252,000	5,000	2
35–39	243,000	6,000	2
40–44	227,000	5,000	2
45–49	201,000	4,000	2
50–54	168,000	4,000	2
55–59	122,000	2,000	2
60–64	89,000	2,000	2
65–69	65,000	2,000	3
70+	145,000	4,000	3
Total	2,889,000	70,000	2

“Almost one-fourth of the children between 5 and 9 years old killed in traffic crashes in 2003 were pedestrians.”

Pedestrian fatalities accounted for 86 percent of all nonoccupant fatalities in 2003. The 622 pedalcyclist fatalities accounted for 11 percent, and the remaining 3 percent were skateboard riders, roller skaters, etc.

Table 2. Nonoccupant Traffic Fatalities, 1993-2003

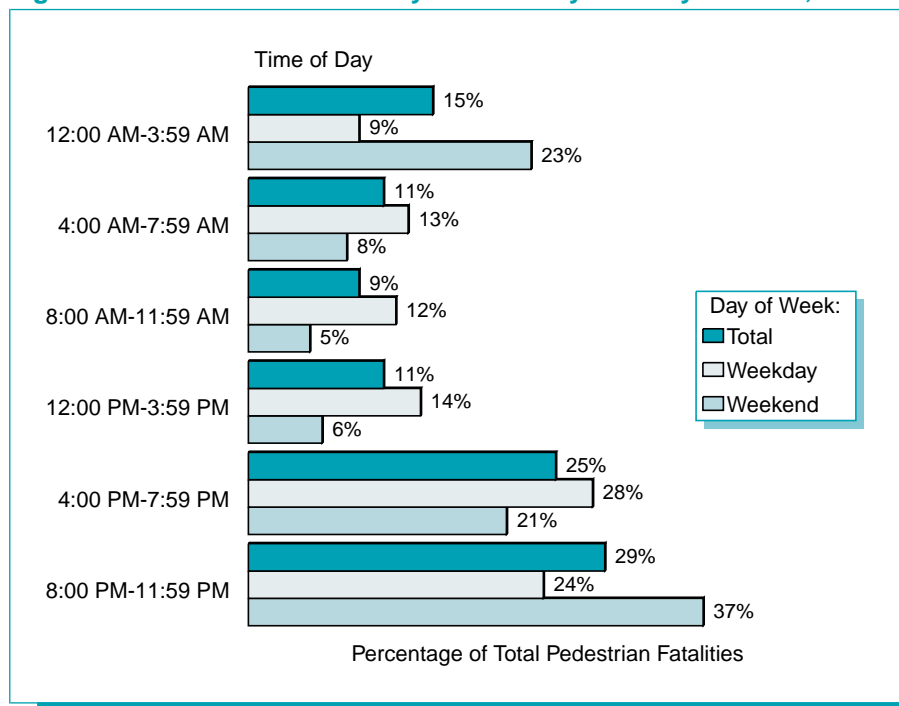
Year	Pedestrian	Pedalcyclist	Other	Total
1993	5,649	816	111	6,576
1994	5,489	802	107	6,398
1995	5,584	833	109	6,526
1996	5,449	765	154	6,368
1997	5,321	814	153	6,288
1998	5,228	760	131	6,119
1999	4,939	754	149	5,842
2000	4,763	693	141	5,597
2001	4,901	732	123	5,756
2002	4,851	665	114	5,630
2003	4,749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

“Forty-four percent of all young pedestrian fatalities (under 16) occurred between 3 and 7 PM.”

Forty-four percent of the 443 pedestrian fatalities under 16 years of age were killed in crashes that occurred between 3:00 PM and 7:00 PM.

Nearly one-half (48 percent) of all pedestrian fatalities occurred on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday: 16 percent, 18 percent, and 13 percent, respectively.

Figure 2. Pedestrian Fatalities by Time of Day and Day of Week, 2003



Alcohol involvement — either for the driver or for the pedestrian — was reported in nearly one-half (46 percent) of the traffic crashes that resulted in pedestrian fatalities. Of the pedestrians involved, 34 percent had a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of 0.08 grams per deciliter (g/dl) or higher. Of the drivers involved, only 13 percent had a BAC of 0.08 g/dl or higher, less than one-half the rate for the pedestrians. In 6 percent of the crashes, both the driver and the pedestrian had a BAC of 0.08 g/dl or higher,

Table 3. Alcohol Involvement in Fatal Pedestrian Crashes, 2003

	No Driver Alcohol Involvement	Driver Alcohol Involvement, BAC 0.01-0.07 g/dl	Driver Alcohol Involvement, BAC 0.08 g/dl or Greater	Total
No Pedestrian Alcohol Involvement	54%	2%	7%	2,902 62%
Pedestrian Alcohol Involvement, BAC 0.01-0.07 g/dl	3%	0%	1%	193 4%
Pedestrian Alcohol Involvement, BAC 0.08 g/dl or Greater	26%	1%	6%	1,568 34%
Total	3,900 84%	154 3%	608 13%	4,662 100%

“Alcohol involvement — either for the driver or for the pedestrian — was reported in nearly one-half of all pedestrian fatalities.”

Table 4. Alcohol Involvement for Pedestrians Killed in Fatal Crashes by Age, 1993 and 2003

Age (years)	1993		2003		Change in Percentage, 1993-2003
	Number of Fatalities	Percentage with BAC 0.08 g/dl or Greater	Number of Fatalities	Percentage with BAC 0.08 g/dl or Greater	
16-20	284	32	298	29	-9
21-24	292	55	263	54	-2
25-34	944	57	565	48	-16
35-44	908	55	844	53	-4
45-54	577	44	777	44	0
55-64	476	30	542	29	-3
Over 64	1,259	13	974	10	-23
Total*	4,740	39	4,263	36	-8

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

Table 5. Pedestrians 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	74	10,105	0.73	38	9,664	0.39	112	19,769	0.57
5-9	84	10,120	0.83	47	9,655	0.49	131	19,775	0.66
10-15	125	12,966	0.96	75	12,346	0.61	200	25,312	0.79
16-20	200	10,544	1.90	98	9,936	0.99	298	20,480	1.46
21-24	198	8,530	2.32	65	8,077	0.80	263	16,607	1.58
25-34	424	20,222	2.10	140	19,650	0.71	565	39,873	1.42
35-44	610	22,134	2.76	234	22,237	1.05	844	44,371	1.90
45-54	561	20,044	2.80	216	20,761	1.04	777	40,805	1.90
55-64	388	13,424	2.89	154	14,475	1.06	542	27,900	1.94
65-69	126	4,526	2.78	75	5,221	1.44	201	9,746	2.06
70-79	225	6,923	3.25	183	9,121	2.01	408	16,044	2.54
80+	202	3,500	5.77	163	6,629	2.46	365	10,130	3.60
Unknown	37	—	—	5	—	—	**43	—	—
Total	3,254	143,037	2.27	1,493	147,773	1.01	4,749	290,810	1.63

Age (years)	Male			Female			Total		
	Injured	Population (thousands)	Injury Rate*	Injured	Population (thousands)	Injury Rate*	Injured	Population (thousands)	Injury Rate*
0-4	2,000	10,105	18	***	9,664	5	2,000	19,769	12
5-9	5,000	10,120	52	2,000	9,655	19	7,000	19,775	36
10-15	5,000	12,966	40	5,000	12,346	38	10,000	25,312	39
16-20	3,000	10,544	32	2,000	9,936	25	6,000	20,480	28
21-24	3,000	8,530	32	2,000	8,077	31	5,000	16,607	31
25-34	6,000	20,222	28	4,000	19,650	22	10,000	39,873	25
35-44	7,000	22,134	31	4,000	22,237	18	11,000	44,371	24
45-54	5,000	20,044	27	3,000	20,761	14	8,000	40,805	20
55-64	3,000	13,424	20	2,000	14,475	14	5,000	27,900	17
65-69	1,000	4,526	17	1,000	5,221	24	2,000	9,746	21
70-79	2,000	6,923	22	1,000	9,121	13	3,000	16,044	17
80+	1,000	3,500	32	***	6,629	6	1,000	10,130	15
Total	42,000	143,037	30	28,000	147,773	19	70,000	290,810	24

* Rate per 100,000 population.

** Includes 2 fatalities of unknown sex.

*** Less than 500.

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

Source: Population — Bureau of the Census projections.

For more information:

Information on pedestrian 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, Pedalcyclists, 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 6. Pedestrian Traffic Fatalities and Fatality Rates by State, 2003

State	Total Traffic Fatalities	Resident Population (Thousands)	Pedestrian Fatalities	Percent of Total	Pedestrian Fatalities per 100,000 Population
Alabama	1,001	4,501	62	6.2	1.38
Alaska	95	649	8	8.4	1.23
Arizona	1,120	5,581	121	10.8	2.17
Arkansas	627	2,726	40	6.4	1.47
California	4,215	35,484	701	16.6	1.98
Colorado	632	4,551	56	8.9	1.23
Connecticut	294	3,483	34	11.6	0.98
Delaware	142	817	19	13.4	2.32
District of Columbia	67	563	18	26.9	3.19
Florida	3,169	17,019	500	15.8	2.94
Georgia	1,603	8,685	156	9.7	1.80
Hawaii	135	1,258	24	17.8	1.91
Idaho	293	1,366	13	4.4	0.95
Illinois	1,453	12,654	188	12.9	1.49
Indiana	834	6,196	62	7.4	1.00
Iowa	441	2,944	18	4.1	0.61
Kansas	471	2,724	25	5.3	0.92
Kentucky	928	4,118	61	6.6	1.48
Louisiana	894	4,496	87	9.7	1.93
Maine	207	1,306	13	6.3	1.00
Maryland	649	5,509	114	17.6	2.07
Massachusetts	462	6,433	86	18.6	1.34
Michigan	1,283	10,080	166	12.9	1.65
Minnesota	657	5,059	53	8.1	1.05
Mississippi	871	2,881	40	4.6	1.39
Missouri	1,232	5,704	78	6.3	1.37
Montana	262	918	10	3.8	1.09
Nebraska	293	1,739	12	4.1	0.69
Nevada	368	2,241	65	17.7	2.90
New Hampshire	127	1,288	19	15.0	1.48
New Jersey	747	8,638	147	19.7	1.70
New Mexico	439	1,875	51	11.6	2.72
New York	1,491	19,190	334	22.4	1.74
North Carolina	1,531	8,407	150	9.8	1.78
North Dakota	105	634	7	6.7	1.10
Ohio	1,277	11,436	99	7.8	0.87
Oklahoma	668	3,512	36	5.4	1.03
Oregon	512	3,560	46	9.0	1.29
Pennsylvania	1,577	12,365	170	10.8	1.37
Rhode Island	104	1,076	13	12.5	1.21
South Carolina	968	4,147	80	8.3	1.93
South Dakota	203	764	10	4.9	1.31
Tennessee	1,193	5,842	96	8.0	1.64
Texas	3,675	22,119	382	10.4	1.73
Utah	309	2,351	28	9.1	1.19
Vermont	69	619	7	10.1	1.13
Virginia	943	7,386	86	9.1	1.16
Washington	600	6,131	75	12.5	1.22
West Virginia	394	1,810	22	5.6	1.22
Wisconsin	848	5,472	54	6.4	0.99
Wyoming	165	501	7	4.2	1.40
U.S. Total	42,643	290,810	4,749	11.1	1.63
Puerto Rico	493	3,879	150	30.4	3.87

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

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