

Traffic Safety Facts 1994

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

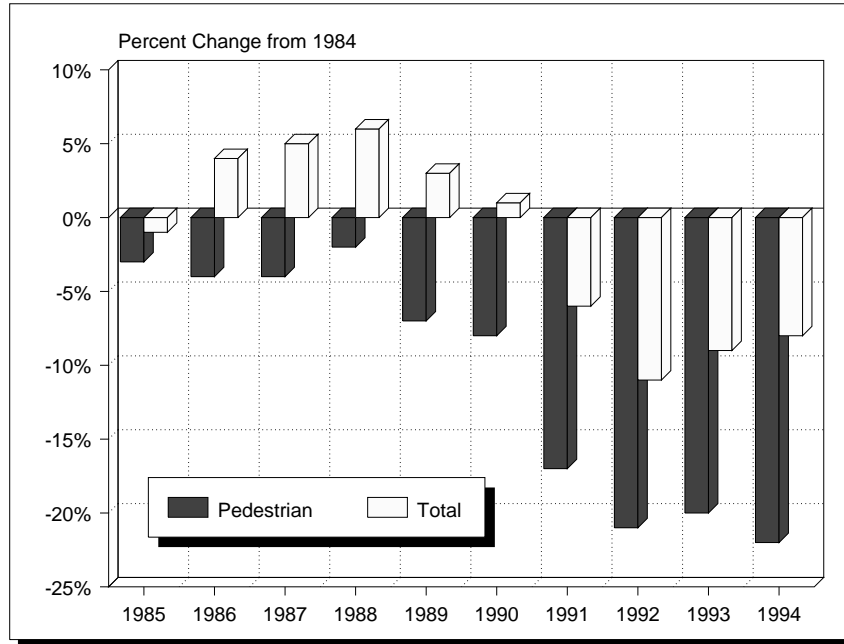


Pedestrians



In 1994, 5,472 pedestrians were killed in traffic crashes in the United States. This was the lowest annual number ever reported (1927 was the first year in which pedestrian fatalities were reported). The 5,472 deaths in 1994 represent a decrease of 22 percent from the 7,025 pedestrians killed in 1984.

Figure 1. Trends in Pedestrian and Total Traffic Fatalities, 1984-1994



“In 1994, 5,472 pedestrians died in traffic crashes—the lowest number of pedestrian deaths ever reported.”

On average, a pedestrian is killed in a traffic crash every 96 minutes.

Most pedestrian fatalities in 1994 occurred in urban areas (71 percent), at nonintersection locations (80 percent), in normal weather conditions (89 percent), and at night (62 percent).

Almost 70 percent of the 1994 pedestrian fatalities were males. The male pedestrian fatality rate per 100,000 population was 2.94—more than double the rate for females (1.30 per 100,000 population) (see Table 4).

More than one-third of all children between the ages of 5 and 9 years who were killed in traffic crashes were pedestrians. One-fourth of the traffic fatalities under age 16 were pedestrians.

Almost half of the 806 pedestrian fatalities under 16 years of age were killed in crashes that occurred between 4:00 PM and 8:00 PM.

Table 1. Pedestrian Fatalities by Age Group, 1994

Age Group (years)	Total Traffic Fatalities	Pedestrian Fatalities	Percentage of Total Fatalities
0-4	940	234	25
5-9	853	292	34
10-15	1,599	280	18
16-20	5,717	270	5
21-24	4,229	282	7
25-29	3,881	370	10
30-34	3,704	474	13
35-39	3,257	479	15
40-44	2,676	418	16
45-49	2,236	321	14
50-54	1,790	290	16
55-59	1,398	240	17
60-64	1,353	217	16
65-69	1,517	238	16
70+	5,412	1,011	19
Unknown	114	56	--
Total	40,676	5,472	13

“More than one-third of children between 5 and 9 years old killed in traffic crashes were pedestrians.”

Older pedestrians (ages 70+) accounted for 19 percent of all pedestrian fatalities, and the death rate for this group, both males and females, was 4.36 per 100,000 population—higher than for any other age group.

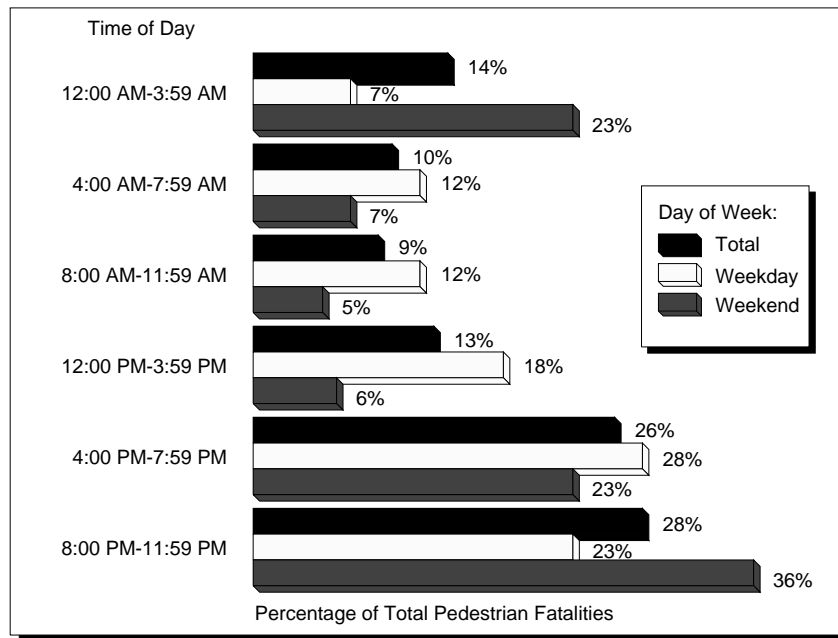
Pedestrian fatalities accounted for 85.7 percent of all nonoccupant fatalities in 1994. The 802 pedalcyclist fatalities accounted for 12.6 percent, and the remaining 1.7 percent were skateboard riders, roller skaters, etc.

Table 2. Nonoccupant Traffic Fatalities, 1984-1994

Year	Pedestrian	Pedalcyclist	Other	Total
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	5,649	816	111	6,576
1994	5,472	802	109	6,383

Almost one-half of all pedestrian fatalities occurred on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday: 17 percent, 18 percent, and 14 percent, respectively.

Figure 2. Pedestrian Fatalities by Time of Day and Day of Week, 1994



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

For 74 percent of the pedestrians killed in traffic crashes during 1994, police reported one or more factors related to the pedestrian’s behavior. The factors most often noted were “walking, playing, working, standing, etc., in the roadway” (33 percent) and “improper crossing of the roadway or intersection” (33 percent).

Alcohol involvement—either for the driver or the pedestrian—was reported in 46 percent of the traffic crashes that resulted in pedestrian fatalities. Of the pedestrians involved, 30 percent were intoxicated, with blood alcohol concentrations (BAC) of 0.10 grams per deciliter (g/dl) or greater. The intoxication rate for the drivers involved was 13 percent, less than half that for the pedestrians. In 5.6 percent of the crashes, both the driver and the pedestrian were intoxicated.

In 1994, the highest rate of intoxication for pedestrians killed in traffic crashes was reported for pedestrians 25 to 34 years old. Intoxication rates by age group were as follows: 16 to 20 years, 25.4 percent; 21 to 24 years, 45.7 percent; 25 to 34 years, 50.8 percent; 35 to 44 years, 49.1 percent; 45 to 54 years, 39.9 percent; 55 to 64 years, 33.3 percent; 65 years and older, 9.6 percent.

For all pedestrian fatalities 16 years of age or older, the reported intoxication rate in 1994 was 34.3 percent, 10.9 percent lower than the 38.5 percent intoxication rate reported for the same group in 1984. The youngest and oldest age groups of pedestrian fatalities showed the largest decreases in intoxication rates over this period: 37 percent for those 16 to 20 years old, and 19 percent for those 65 years and older.

In contrast, the intoxication rates for pedestrian fatalities in the 25 to 34 year and in the 35 to 44 year age groups decreased by only 4 percent over the same period.

Table 3. Alcohol Involvement in Fatal Pedestrian Crashes, 1994

	No Driver Alcohol Involvement	Driver Alcohol Involvement, BAC 0.01–0.09 g/dl	Driver Alcohol Involvement, BAC 0.10 g/dl or Greater	Total
No Pedestrian Alcohol Involvement	54.3%	3.1%	6.2%	3,418 63.6%
Pedestrian Alcohol Involvement, BAC 0.01–0.09 g/dl	4.6%	0.7%	1.1%	346 6.4%
Pedestrian Alcohol Involvement, BAC 0.10 g/dl or Greater	22.2%	2.8%	7.0%	1,616 30.1%
Total	4,342 80.7%	346 6.5%	692 12.9%	5,380 100.1%

“The intoxication rate for drivers involved in fatal pedestrian crashes was less than half that for the pedestrians.”

Table 4 presents summary statistics for 1994 pedestrian fatalities by age and sex, and Table 5 presents detailed data by state.

Table 4. Pedestrian Fatalities and Fatality Rates by Age and Sex, 1994

Age (years)	Male			Female			Total		
	Fatalities	Population (thousands)	Fatality Rate*	Fatalities	Population (thousands)	Fatality Rate*	Fatalities	Population (thousands)	Fatality Rate*
<5	148	10,094	1.47	86	9,632	0.89	234	19,726	1.19
5-9	196	9,656	2.03	96	9,202	1.04	292	18,858	1.55
10-15	179	11,450	1.56	101	10,905	0.93	280	22,355	1.25
16-20	188	8,965	2.10	82	8,530	0.96	270	17,495	1.54
21-24	221	7,536	2.93	61	7,311	0.83	282	14,847	1.90
25-34	637	20,676	3.08	207	20,677	1.00	844	41,353	2.04
35-44	670	20,647	3.25	227	21,010	1.08	897	41,657	2.15
45-54	439	14,571	3.01	172	15,281	1.13	611	29,852	2.05
55-64	305	9,983	3.06	152	11,032	1.38	457	21,015	2.17
65-69	146	4,500	3.24	92	5,471	1.68	238	9,971	2.39
70-79	306	6,445	4.75	230	8,870	2.59	536	15,315	3.50
80+	263	2,530	10.40	212	5,342	3.97	475	7,872	6.03
Unknown	44	0	--	9	0	--	**56	0	--
Total	3,742	127,076	2.94	1,727	133,265	1.30	5,472	260,341	2.10

* Rate per 100,000 population.

** Includes three fatalities of unknown sex.

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 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 5. Pedestrian Fatalities and Fatality Rates by State, 1994

State	Total Traffic Fatalities	Resident Population (thousands)	Pedestrian Fatalities	Percent of Total	Pedestrian Fatalities per 100,000 Population
Alabama	1,083	4,219	81	7.5	1.9
Alaska	85	606	12	14.1	2.0
Arizona	903	4,075	148	16.4	3.6
Arkansas	610	2,453	55	9.0	2.2
California	4,226	31,431	843	19.9	2.7
Colorado	585	3,656	51	8.7	1.4
Connecticut	310	3,275	63	20.3	1.9
Delaware	112	570	18	16.1	3.2
District of Columbia	69	706	23	33.3	3.3
Florida	2,687	13,953	531	19.8	3.8
Georgia	1,426	7,055	163	11.4	2.3
Hawaii	122	1,179	26	21.3	2.2
Idaho	249	1,133	8	3.2	0.7
Illinois	1,554	11,752	232	14.9	2.0
Indiana	974	5,752	80	8.2	1.4
Iowa	478	2,829	24	5.0	0.8
Kansas	442	2,554	22	5.0	0.9
Kentucky	778	3,827	54	6.9	1.4
Louisiana	838	4,315	103	12.3	2.4
Maine	188	1,240	20	10.6	1.6
Maryland	651	5,006	129	19.8	2.6
Massachusetts	440	6,041	85	19.3	1.4
Michigan	1,419	9,496	182	12.8	1.9
Minnesota	644	4,567	53	8.2	1.2
Mississippi	791	2,669	54	6.8	2.0
Missouri	1,089	5,278	85	7.8	1.6
Montana	202	856	11	5.4	1.3
Nebraska	271	1,623	17	6.3	1.0
Nevada	294	1,457	54	18.4	3.7
New Hampshire	119	1,137	11	9.2	1.0
New Jersey	761	7,904	165	21.7	2.1
New Mexico	447	1,654	72	16.1	4.4
New York	1,658	18,169	397	23.9	2.2
North Carolina	1,431	7,070	184	12.9	2.6
North Dakota	88	638	8	9.1	1.3
Ohio	1,371	11,102	127	9.3	1.1
Oklahoma	687	3,258	52	7.6	1.6
Oregon	490	3,086	69	14.1	2.2
Pennsylvania	1,441	12,052	171	11.9	1.4
Rhode Island	63	997	16	25.4	1.6
South Carolina	847	3,664	108	12.8	2.9
South Dakota	154	721	23	14.9	3.2
Tennessee	1,214	5,175	97	8.0	1.9
Texas	3,186	18,378	436	13.7	2.4
Utah	342	1,908	40	11.7	2.1
Vermont	77	580	2	2.6	0.3
Virginia	930	6,552	102	11.0	1.6
Washington	638	5,343	83	13.0	1.6
West Virginia	356	1,822	29	8.1	1.6
Wisconsin	712	5,082	49	6.9	1.0
Wyoming	144	476	4	2.8	0.8
U.S. Total	40,676	260,341	5,472	13.5	2.1
Puerto Rico	598	* 3,622	205	34.3	5.7

* 1993 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.