

Traffic Safety Facts

2004 Data

Pedalcyclists

"The 725 pedalcyclist deaths in 2004 accounted for 2 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 2004, 725 pedalcyclists were killed and an additional 41,000 were injured in traffic crashes. Pedalcyclist deaths accounted for 2 percent of all traffic fatalities, and pedalcyclists made up 1 percent of all the people injured in traffic crashes during the year.

The number of pedalcyclist fatalities in 2004 was 10 percent lower than the 802 fatalities reported in 1994. The highest number of pedalcyclist fatalities ever recorded in the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) was 1,003 in 1975.

Pedalcyclists accounted for 13 percent of all nonmotorist traffic fatalities in 2004. Pedestrians accounted for 84 percent, and the remaining 2 percent were skateboard riders, roller skaters, etc.

Figure 1
Trends in Pedalcyclist and Total Traffic Fatalities, 1994-2004

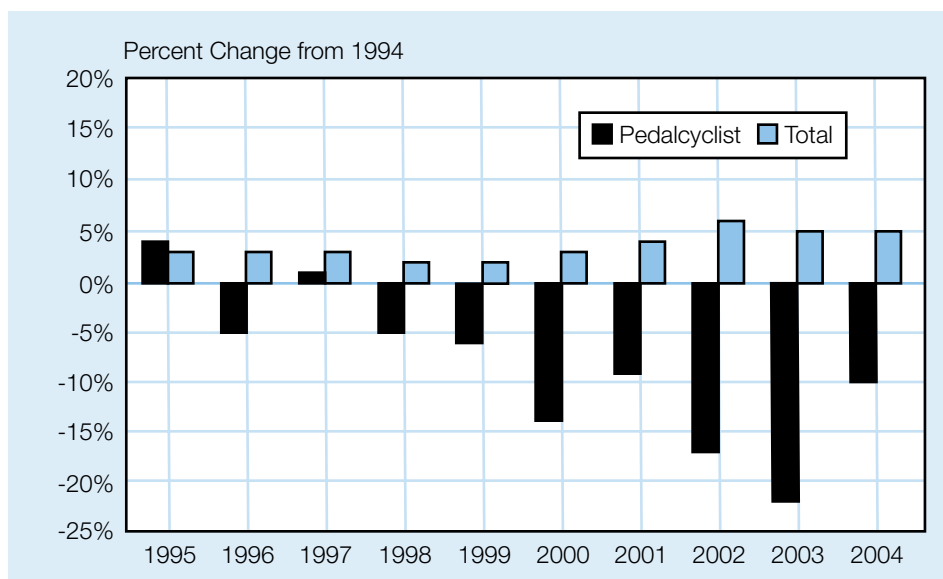


Table 1
Nonoccupant Traffic Fatalities, 1994-2004

Year	Pedalcyclist	Pedestrian	Other	Total
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	629	4,774	140	5,543
2004	725	4,641	128	5,494

“Nearly one-fifth of the pedalcyclists killed in traffic crashes in 2004 were between the ages of 5 and 15.”

Pedalcyclist fatalities occurred more frequently in urban areas (66%), at nonintersection locations (67%), between the hours of 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. (30%), and during the months of June, July, and August (36%).

In 1994, the average age of pedalcyclists killed in traffic crashes was 28.9; in 2004 the average age of those killed was 38.7, and the average age of those injured was 28.6.

Pedalcyclists under age 16 accounted for 21 percent of all pedalcyclists killed and 32 percent of those injured in traffic crashes in 2004. In comparison, pedalcyclists under age 16 accounted for 37 percent of all those killed in 1994.

Pedalcyclists age 25 and older have made up an increasing proportion of all pedalcyclist deaths since 1994. The proportion of pedalcyclist fatalities age 25 to 64 was 1.4 times higher in 2004 than in 1994 (56% and 41%, respectively).

Nearly one-fifth (19%) of the pedalcyclists killed in traffic crashes in 2004 were between the ages of 5 and 15. The pedalcyclist fatality rate for this age group in 2004 was 3.1 per million population — about 24 percent higher than the rate for all pedalcyclists (2.5 per million population). The injury rate for this age group was 286 per million population, compared with 140 per million population for pedalcyclists of all ages.

“Alcohol involvement was reported in more than one-third of the pedalcyclist fatalities in 2004.”

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 2004. In 28 percent of the crashes, either the driver or the cyclist was reported to have a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 grams per deciliter (g/dL) or higher. Lower alcohol levels (BAC .01 to .07 g/dL) were reported in an additional 6 percent. Nearly one-fourth (24%) of the pedalcyclists killed had a BAC of .01 g/dL or higher, and one-fifth (20%) had a BAC of .08 g/dL or higher.

Most of the pedalcyclists killed or injured in 2004 were males (87% and 76%, respectively), and most were between the ages of 5 and 44 (58% and 78%, respectively).

In 2004, the pedalcyclist fatality rate per capita was almost 7 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, 2004

Age	Male			Female			Total		
	Killed	Population (thousands)	Fatality Rate*	Killed	Population (thousands)	Fatality Rate*	Killed	Population (thousands)	Fatality Rate*
0-4	3	10,263	0.29	6	9,808	0.61	9	20,071	0.45
5-9	32	10,029	3.19	11	9,576	1.15	43	19,606	2.19
10-15	79	12,989	6.08	18	12,368	1.46	97	25,357	3.83
16-20	41	10,583	3.87	8	10,011	0.80	49	20,594	2.38
21-24	23	8,698	2.64	2	8,197	0.24	25	16,895	1.48
25-34	52	20,336	2.56	8	19,696	0.41	60	40,032	1.50
35-44	131	22,034	5.95	14	22,075	0.63	145	44,109	3.29
45-54	111	20,453	5.43	19	21,166	0.90	130	41,619	3.12
55-64	62	13,999	4.43	8	15,079	0.53	70	29,079	2.41
65-69	32	4,633	6.91	0	5,324	0.00	32	9,956	3.21
70-79	44	6,893	6.38	1	9,024	0.11	45	15,918	2.83
80 +	15	3,627	4.14	0	6,792	0.00	15	10,420	1.44
Unknown	5	–	–	0	–	–	5	–	–
Total	630	144,537	4.36	95	149,118	0.64	725	293,655	2.47

Age	Male			Female			Total		
	Injured	Population (thousands)	Injury Rate*	Injured	Population (thousands)	Injury Rate*	Injured	Population (thousands)	Injury Rate*
0-4	**	10,263	7.39	**	9,808	6.32	**	20,071	6.87
5-9	2,000	10,029	244.3	1,000	9,576	139.3	4,000	19,606	193.0
10-15	7,000	12,989	514.0	2,000	12,368	195.0	9,000	25,357	358.4
16-20	4,000	10,583	381.0	1,000	10,011	96.22	5,000	20,594	242.6
21-24	2,000	8,698	228.2	1,000	8,197	141.7	3,000	16,895	186.2
25-34	4,000	20,336	205.1	1,000	19,696	52.63	5,000	40,032	130.1
35-44	5,000	22,034	223.0	1,000	22,075	50.54	6,000	44,109	136.7
45-54	4,000	20,453	204.7	1,000	21,166	35.18	5,000	41,619	118.5
55-64	2,000	13,999	136.5	1,000	15,079	46.16	3,000	29,079	89.64
65-69	**	4,633	82.82	**	5,324	12.73	**	9,956	45.35
70-79	1,000	6,893	76.61	**	9,024	8.56	1,000	15,918	38.03
80 +	**	3,627	28.94	**	6,792	***	**	10,420	10.08
Total	31,000	144,537	217.4	10,000	149,118	64.85	41,000	293,655	139.9

* 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, SW., Washington, DC 20590. NCSA information can also be obtained by telephone or by fax-on-demand at 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 www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/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 *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, 2004

State	Total Traffic Fatalities	Resident Population (thousands)	Pedalcyclist Fatalities	Percent of Total	Pedalcyclist Fatalities per Million Population
Alabama	1,154	4,530	6	0.5	1.32
Alaska	101	655	2	2.0	3.05
Arizona	1,150	5,744	27	2.3	4.70
Arkansas	704	2,753	3	0.4	1.09
California	4,120	35,894	110	2.7	3.06
Colorado	665	4,601	11	1.7	2.39
Connecticut	291	3,504	5	1.7	1.43
Delaware	134	830	3	2.2	3.61
Dist of Columbia	43	554	3	7.0	5.42
Florida	3,244	17,397	122	3.8	7.01
Georgia	1,634	8,829	20	1.2	2.27
Hawaii	142	1,263	7	4.9	5.54
Idaho	260	1,393	3	1.2	2.15
Illinois	1,356	12,714	25	1.8	1.97
Indiana	947	6,238	13	1.4	2.08
Iowa	390	2,954	7	1.8	2.37
Kansas	461	2,736	3	0.7	1.10
Kentucky	964	4,146	7	0.7	1.69
Louisiana	904	4,516	12	1.3	2.66
Maine	194	1,317	1	0.5	0.76
Maryland	643	5,558	12	1.9	2.16
Massachusetts	476	6,417	11	2.3	1.71
Michigan	1,159	10,113	21	1.8	2.08
Minnesota	567	5,101	10	1.8	1.96
Mississippi	900	2,903	4	0.4	1.38
Missouri	1,130	5,755	3	0.3	0.52
Montana	229	927	2	0.9	2.16
Nebraska	254	1,747	1	0.4	0.57
Nevada	395	2,335	14	3.5	6.00
New Hampshire	171	1,300	1	0.6	0.77
New Jersey	731	8,699	16	2.2	1.84
New Mexico	521	1,903	4	0.8	2.10
New York	1,493	19,227	40	2.7	2.08
North Carolina	1,557	8,541	25	1.6	2.93
North Dakota	100	634	2	2.0	3.15
Ohio	1,286	11,459	19	1.5	1.66
Oklahoma	774	3,524	6	0.8	1.70
Oregon	456	3,595	9	2.0	2.50
Pennsylvania	1,490	12,406	14	0.9	1.13
Rhode Island	83	1,081	0	0	0
South Carolina	1,046	4,198	22	2.1	5.24
South Dakota	197	771	1	0.5	1.30
Tennessee	1,288	5,901	7	0.5	1.19
Texas	3,583	22,490	49	1.4	2.18
Utah	296	2,389	6	2.0	2.51
Vermont	98	621	1	1.0	1.61
Virginia	925	7,460	10	1.1	1.34
Washington	563	6,204	7	1.2	1.13
West Virginia	411	1,815	4	1.0	2.20
Wisconsin	792	5,509	14	1.8	2.54
Wyoming	164	507	0	0	0
U.S. Total	42,636	293,655	725	1.7	2.47
Puerto Rico	494	3,895	15	3.0	3.85

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

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