

Traffic Safety Facts

2008 Data

Pedestrians

“In 2008, 4,378 pedestrians died in traffic crashes — a 16-percent decrease from the number reported in 1998.”

A pedestrian is defined as any person not in or upon a motor vehicle or other vehicle.

In 2008, 4,378 pedestrians were killed in traffic crashes in the United States — a decrease of 16 percent from the 5,228 pedestrians killed in 1998.

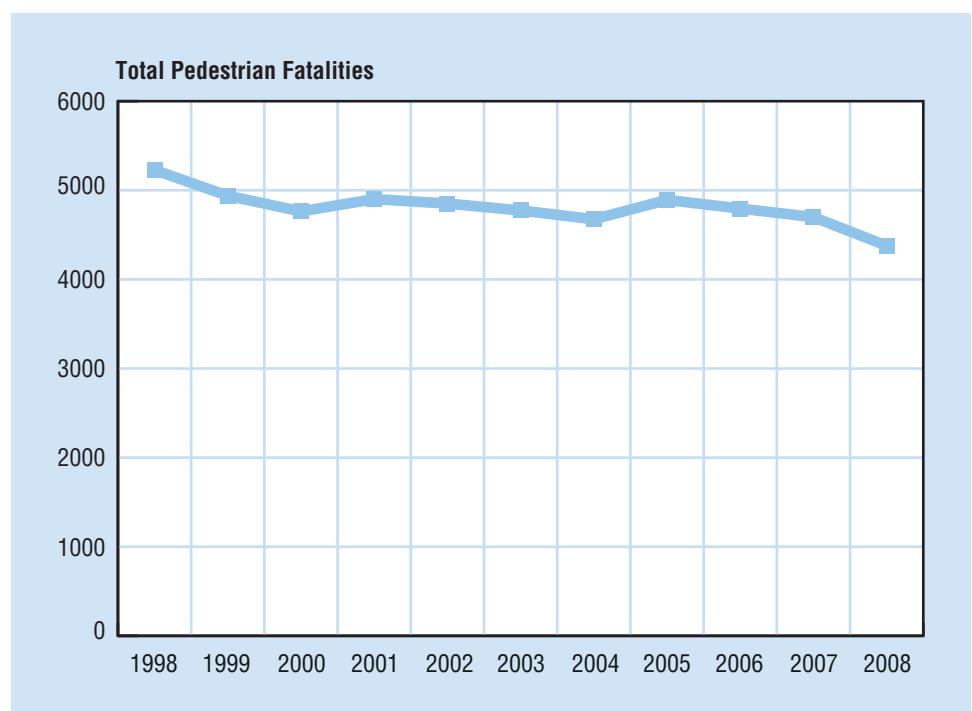
On average, a pedestrian is killed in a traffic crash every 120 minutes and injured in a traffic crash every 8 minutes.

There were 69,000 pedestrians injured in traffic crashes in 2008.

Most pedestrian fatalities in 2008 occurred in urban areas (72%), at non-intersection locations (76%), in normal weather conditions (89%), and at night (70%).

More than two-thirds (70%) of the pedestrians killed in 2008 were males. In 2008, the male pedestrian fatality rate per 100,000 population was 2.04 — more than double the rate for females (0.86 per 100,000 population). In 2008, the male pedestrian injury rate per 100,000 population was 24, compared with 21 for females (see Table 5).

Figure 1
Total Pedestrian Fatalities, 1998-2008



Age

Pedestrians (age 65+) accounted for 18 percent (803) of all pedestrian fatalities and an estimated 10 percent (7,000) of all pedestrians injured in 2008.

“In 2008, the fatality rate for pedestrians (65+) was 2.06 per 100,000 population – higher than for any other age group.”

In 2008, one-fifth (20%) 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 2008 and 22 percent of all pedestrians injured in traffic crashes.

Table 1

Pedestrians Killed and Injured by Age Group, 2008

Age Group (Years)	Total Killed	Pedestrians Killed	Percentage of Total Killed
<5	411	94	23
5-9	396	78	20
10-15	826	144	17
16-20	4,497	286	6
21-24	3,940	272	7
25-29	3,698	324	9
30-34	2,681	256	10
35-39	2,583	283	11
40-44	2,831	387	14
45-49	3,033	464	15
50-54	2,717	408	15
55-59	2,238	331	15
60-64	1,798	216	12
65-69	1,265	203	16
70-74	1,199	157	13
75-79	1,130	148	13
80+	1,939	295	15
Unknown	79	32	41
Total	37,261	4,378	12
Age Group (Years)	Total Injured	Pedestrians Injured	Percentage of Total Injured
<5	51,000	2,000	4
5-9	60,000	4,000	6
10-15	109,000	9,000	9
16-20	359,000	9,000	3
21-24	245,000	6,000	2
25-29	242,000	5,000	2
30-34	192,000	4,000	2
35-39	178,000	2,000	1
40-44	175,000	5,000	3
45-49	181,000	6,000	3
50-54	156,000	5,000	3
55-59	128,000	4,000	3
60-64	88,000	2,000	2
65-69	60,000	2,000	3
70-74	45,000	2,000	4
75-79	33,000	1,000	3
80+	44,000	2,000	5
Total	2,346,000	69,000	3

“In 2008, nearly one-fifth of the children between the ages of 5 and 9 killed in traffic crashes were pedestrians.”

Table 2

Nonoccupant Traffic Fatalities, 1998-2008

Year	Pedestrian	Pedalcyclist	Other	Total
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	4,774	629	140	5,543
2004	4,675	727	130	5,532
2005	4,892	786	186	5,864
2006	4,795	772	185	5,752
2007	4,699	701	158	5,558
2008	4,378	716	188	5,282

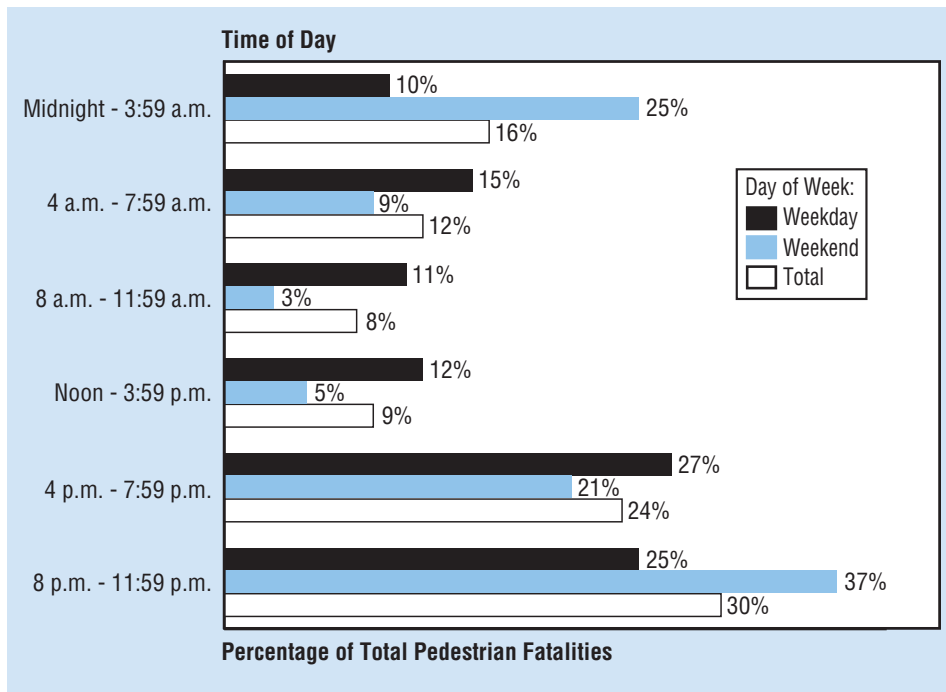
Pedestrian fatalities accounted for 83 percent of all nonoccupant fatalities in 2008. The 716 pedalcyclist fatalities accounted for 14 percent, and the remaining 4 percent were skateboard riders, roller skaters, etc.

Time of Day and Day of Week

Thirty-eight percent of the 316 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%, 18%, and 14%, respectively).

Figure 2

Pedestrian Fatalities by Time of Day and Day of Week, 2008

“Thirty-eight percent of all young (under age 16) pedestrian fatalities occurred between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.”

Important Safety Reminders

- Drivers are required to yield the right-of-way to pedestrians crossing streets in marked or unmarked crosswalks in most situations. Pedestrian 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 movement.
- It is much safer to walk on a sidewalk, but if you must walk in the street, walk facing traffic.

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

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, 36 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 one-half 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 3

Alcohol Involvement in Fatal Pedestrian Crashes, 2008

	No Driver Alcohol Involvement		Driver Alcohol Involvement, BAC=.01-.07		Driver Alcohol Involvement, BAC=.08+		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
No Pedestrian Alcohol Involvement	2,216	52%	94	2%	274	6%	2,584	60%
Pedestrian Alcohol Involvement, BAC = .01-.07	140	3%	8	0%	26	1%	174	4%
Pedestrian Alcohol Involvement, BAC = .08+	1,184	28%	91	2%	269	6%	1,545	36%
Total	3,540	82%	193	4%	569	13%	4,302	100%

Note: The alcohol levels in this table are determined using the alcohol levels of the involved pedestrian fatalities and all the involved drivers (fatality and other)

Table 4

Alcohol Involvement for Pedestrians Killed in Fatal Crashes by Age, 1998 and 2008

Age (Years)	1997					2007				
	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	301	65	6	29	35	286	66	4	30	34
21-24	255	41	7	52	59	272	43	4	53	57
25-34	676	43	6	51	57	580	46	5	49	54
35-44	938	40	7	53	60	670	45	4	51	55
45-54	729	48	6	45	52	872	49	5	47	51
55-64	522	65	4	31	35	547	61	5	35	39
65-74	462	80	4	16	20	360	82	5	13	18
75-84	530	88	4	8	12	297	92	3	6	8
85 +	184	92	1	7	8	146	96	2	2	4
Total*	4,597	58	5	37	42	4,030	58	4	38	42

*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, 2008

Age (Years)	Male			Female			Total		
	Killed	Population (thousands)	Fatality Rate*	Killed	Population (thousands)	Fatality Rate*	Killed**	Population (thousands)	Fatality Rate*
<5	58	10,748	0.54	35	10,258	0.34	94	21,006	0.45
5-9	51	10,259	0.50	27	9,806	0.28	78	20,065	0.39
10-15	92	12,415	0.74	51	11,839	0.43	144	24,255	0.59
16-20	187	11,039	1.69	99	10,492	0.94	286	21,531	1.33
21-24	204	8,681	2.35	68	8,162	0.83	272	16,842	1.61
25-34	431	20,900	2.06	149	20,032	0.74	580	40,932	1.42
35-44	486	21,314	2.28	184	21,187	0.87	670	42,501	1.58
45-54	637	21,853	2.91	235	22,519	1.04	872	44,372	1.97
55-64	393	16,251	2.42	154	17,436	0.88	547	33,686	1.62
65-74	228	9,265	2.46	132	10,858	1.22	360	20,123	1.79
75-84	169	5,336	3.17	128	7,689	1.66	297	13,025	2.28
85 +	90	1,864	4.83	56	3,858	1.45	146	5,722	2.55
Total	3,053	149,925	2.04	1,321	154,135	0.86	4,378**	304,060	1.44
Age (Years)	Male			Female			Total		
	Injured	Population (thousands)	Injury Rate*	Injured	Population (thousands)	Injury Rate*	Injured	Population (thousands)	Injury Rate*
<5	1,000	10,748	10	1,000	10,258	9	2,000	21,006	10
5-9	2,000	10,259	23	1,000	9,806	15	4,000	20,065	19
10-15	5,000	12,415	37	5,000	11,839	40	9,000	24,255	39
16-20	5,000	11,039	42	4,000	10,492	42	9,000	21,531	42
21-24	3,000	8,681	33	3,000	8,162	35	6,000	16,842	34
25-34	4,000	20,900	21	4,000	20,032	19	8,000	40,932	20
35-44	4,000	21,314	21	2,000	21,187	12	7,000	42,501	16
45-54	5,000	21,853	25	5,000	22,519	23	11,000	44,372	24
55-64	3,000	16,251	21	3,000	17,436	17	6,000	33,686	19
65-74	1,000	9,265	14	2,000	10,858	20	4,000	20,123	17
75-84	1,000	5,336	21	1,000	7,689	19	3,000	13,025	20
85 +	***	1,864	21	***	3,858	4	1,000	5,722	10
Total	36,000	149,925	24	33,000	154,135	21	69,000	304,060	23

* Rate per 100,000 population

** Includes 32 fatalities of unknown sex

*** Injuries fewer than 500 are rounded to zero.

Source: Fatalities—Fatality Analysis Reporting System, NHTSA. Injuries—General Estimates System, NHTSA. Population—Bureau of the Census projections.

For more information:

Information on traffic fatalities is available from the National Center for Statistics and Analysis, NVS-424, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590. NCSA can be contacted 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.gov/portal/site/nhtsa/nca. 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, African American, Bicyclists and Other Cyclists, Children, Hispanic, Large Trucks, Motorcycles, Occupant Protection, Older Population, 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.

Table 6
Pedestrian Traffic Fatalities and Fatality Rates by State, 2008

State	Total Traffic Fatalities	Resident Population (thousands)	Pedestrian Fatalities	Percent of Total	Pedestrian Fatalities per 100,000 Population
Alabama	966	4,662	66	6.8	1.42
Alaska	62	686	3	4.8	0.44
Arizona	937	6,500	120	12.8	1.85
Arkansas	600	2,855	45	7.5	1.58
California	3,434	36,757	620	18.1	1.69
Colorado	548	4,939	44	8.0	0.89
Connecticut	264	3,501	37	14.0	1.06
Delaware	121	873	21	17.4	2.41
Dist of Columbia	34	592	9	26.5	1.52
Florida	2,978	18,328	490	16.5	2.67
Georgia	1,493	9,686	146	9.8	1.51
Hawaii	107	1,288	20	18.7	1.55
Idaho	232	1,524	11	4.7	0.72
Illinois	1,043	12,902	135	12.9	1.05
Indiana	814	6,377	54	6.6	0.85
Iowa	412	3,003	17	4.1	0.57
Kansas	385	2,802	19	4.9	0.68
Kentucky	826	4,269	67	8.1	1.57
Louisiana	912	4,411	106	11.6	2.40
Maine	155	1,316	12	7.7	0.91
Maryland	591	5,634	116	19.6	2.06
Massachusetts	363	6,498	75	20.7	1.15
Michigan	980	10,003	114	11.6	1.14
Minnesota	456	5,220	26	5.7	0.50
Mississippi	783	2,939	50	6.4	1.70
Missouri	960	5,912	63	6.6	1.07
Montana	229	967	11	4.8	1.14
Nebraska	208	1,783	5	2.4	0.28
Nevada	324	2,600	56	17.3	2.15
New Hampshire	139	1,316	7	5.0	0.53
New Jersey	590	8,683	135	22.9	1.55
New Mexico	366	1,984	39	10.7	1.97
New York	1,231	19,490	294	23.9	1.51
North Carolina	1,433	9,222	160	11.2	1.73
North Dakota	104	641	6	5.8	0.94
Ohio	1,190	11,486	98	8.2	0.85
Oklahoma	749	3,642	51	6.8	1.40
Oregon	416	3,790	51	12.3	1.35
Pennsylvania	1,468	12,448	137	9.3	1.10
Rhode Island	65	1,051	12	18.5	1.14
South Carolina	920	4,480	100	10.9	2.23
South Dakota	119	804	9	7.6	1.12
Tennessee	1,035	6,215	60	5.8	0.97
Texas	3,382	24,327	416	12.3	1.71
Utah	275	2,736	32	11.6	1.17
Vermont	73	621	1	1.4	0.16
Virginia	824	7,769	76	9.2	0.98
Washington	521	6,549	63	12.1	0.96
West Virginia	380	1,814	13	3.4	0.72
Wisconsin	605	5,628	53	8.8	0.94
Wyoming	159	533	7	4.4	1.31
U. S. Total	37,261	304,060	4,378	11.7	1.44
Puerto Rico	399	3,954	127	31.8	3.21

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

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