

Traffic Safety Facts 1997

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



Pedestrians



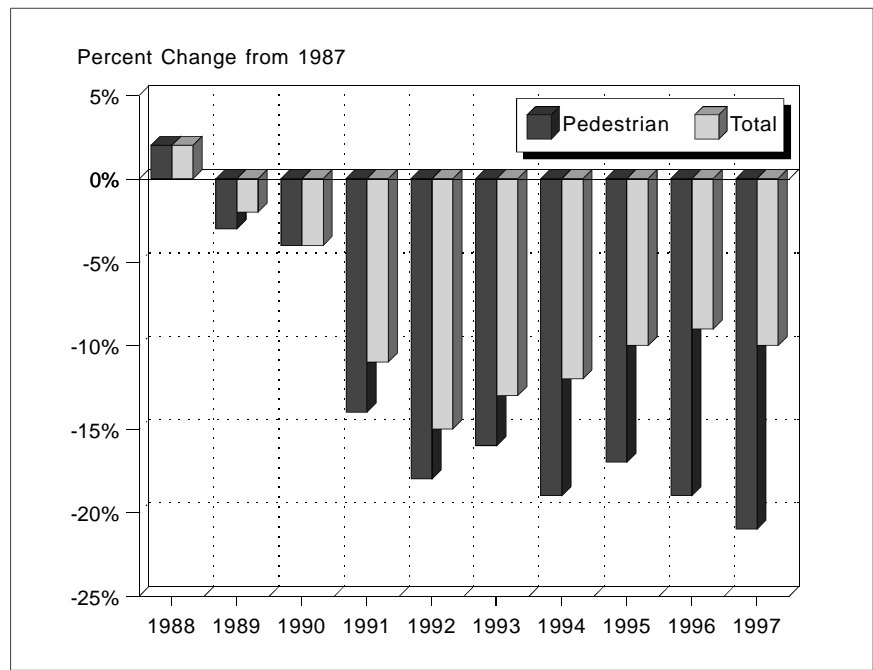
In 1997, 5,307 pedestrians were killed in traffic crashes in the United States — a decrease of 21 percent from the 6,745 pedestrians killed in 1987.

On average, a pedestrian is killed in a traffic crash every 99 minutes.

There were 77,000 pedestrians injured in traffic crashes in 1997.

On average, a pedestrian is injured in a traffic crash every 7 minutes.

Figure 1. Trends in Pedestrian and Total Traffic Fatalities, 1987-1997



“In 1997, 5,307 pedestrians died in traffic crashes — 21 percent below the number reported in 1987.”

Most pedestrian fatalities in 1997 occurred in urban areas (70 percent), at nonintersection locations (79 percent), in normal weather conditions (89 percent), and at night (62 percent).

More than two-thirds (68 percent) of the 1997 pedestrian fatalities were males. The male pedestrian fatality rate per 100,000 population was 2.76 — more than double the rate for females (1.21 per 100,000 population). The male pedestrian injury rate per 100,000 population was 35, compared with 23 for females (see Table 4).

In 1997, more than one-fourth (29 percent) of all children between the ages of 5 and 9 years who were killed in traffic crashes were pedestrians. One-fifth (20 percent) of all traffic fatalities under age 16 were pedestrians, and 7 percent of all traffic injuries under age 16 were pedestrians.

Older pedestrians (ages 70+) accounted for 17 percent of all pedestrian fatalities and 3 percent of all pedestrian injuries. The death rate for this group, both males and females, was 3.76 per 100,000 population — higher than for any other age group.

Table 1. Pedestrian Fatalities and Injuries by Age Group, 1997

Age Group (years)	Total Traffic Fatalities	Pedestrian Fatalities	Percentage of Total Fatalities
0-4	788	165	21
5-9	815	240	29
10-15	1,554	239	15
16-20	5,757	300	5
21-24	3,781	253	7
25-29	3,884	336	9
30-34	3,481	421	12
35-39	3,432	468	14
40-44	3,000	454	15
45-49	2,570	404	16
50-54	2,097	297	14
55-59	1,649	238	14
60-64	1,488	250	17
65-69	1,524	242	16
70+	5,802	914	16
Unknown	345	86	--
Total	41,967	5,307	13
Age Group (years)	Total Traffic Injuries	Pedestrian Injuries	Percentage of Total Injuries
0-4	82,000	4,000	5
5-9	111,000	11,000	10
10-15	190,000	11,000	6
16-20	590,000	7,000	1
21-24	344,000	5,000	1
25-29	368,000	4,000	1
30-34	330,000	5,000	1
35-39	317,000	6,000	2
40-44	267,000	6,000	2
45-49	203,000	4,000	2
50-54	155,000	4,000	2
55-59	110,000	2,000	2
60-64	78,000	2,000	2
65-69	80,000	2,000	2
70+	175,000	5,000	3
Total	3,399,000	77,000	2

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

Pedestrian fatalities accounted for 85 percent of all nonoccupant fatalities in 1997. The 813 pedalcyclist fatalities accounted for 13 percent, and the remaining 2 percent were skateboard riders, roller skaters, etc.

Table 2. Nonoccupant Traffic Fatalities, 1987-1997

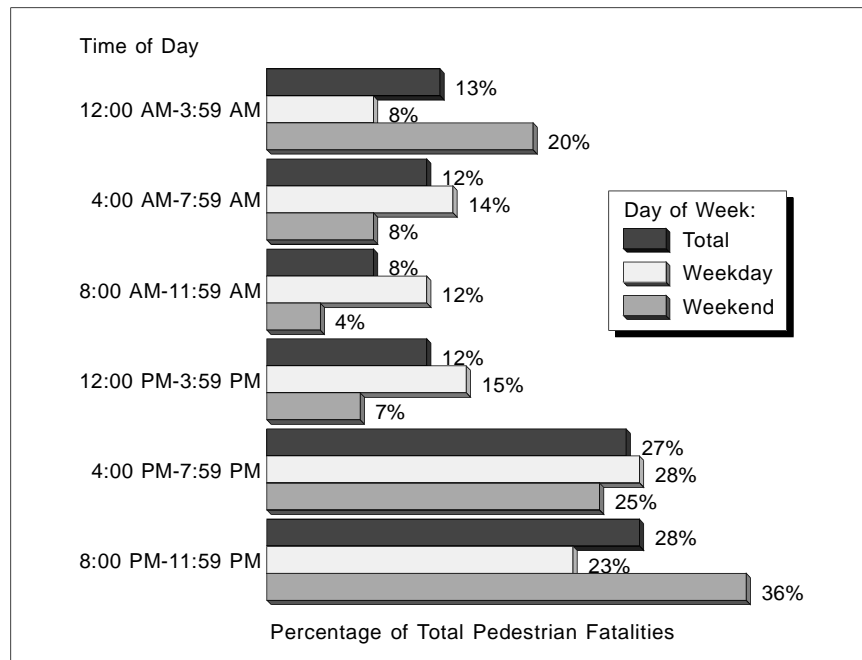
Year	Pedestrian	Pedalcyclist	Other	Total
1987	6,745	948	132	7,825
1988	6,870	911	136	7,917
1989	6,556	832	107	7,495
1990	6,482	859	124	7,465
1991	5,801	843	124	6,768
1992	5,549	723	98	6,370
1993	5,649	816	111	6,576
1994	5,489	802	107	6,398
1995	5,584	833	109	6,526
1996	5,449	765	154	6,368
1997	5,307	813	154	6,274

“Forty percent of all young pedestrian fatalities (under 16) occurred between 4 and 8 PM.”

Forty percent of the 644 pedestrian fatalities under 16 years of age were killed in crashes that occurred between 4:00 PM and 8:00 PM.

Nearly one-half of all pedestrian fatalities occurred on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday: 17 percent, 18 percent, and 13 percent, respectively.

Figure 2. Pedestrian Fatalities by Time of Day and Day of Week, 1997



Alcohol involvement — either for the driver or for the pedestrian — was reported in 45 percent of the traffic crashes that resulted in pedestrian fatalities. Of the pedestrians involved, 29.5 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 only 12.5 percent, less than one-half that for the pedestrians. In 5.3 percent of the crashes, both the driver and the pedestrian were intoxicated.

In 1997, 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, 28.5 percent; 21 to 24 years, 43.1 percent; 25 to 34 years, 49.8 percent; 35 to 44 years, 47.4 percent; 45 to 54 years, 35.9 percent; 55 to 64 years, 26.3 percent; 65 years and older, 9.3 percent.

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

For all pedestrian fatalities 16 years of age or older, the reported intoxication rate in 1997 was 32.7 percent, 9 percent lower than the 36.1 percent intoxication rate reported for the same group in 1987. By age groups of pedestrian fatalities, changes in intoxication rates over this period were as follows: a 19 percent decrease for those 55 to 64 years old, a 17 percent decrease for those 45 to 54 years old, a 17 percent decrease for those 16 to 20 years old, a 14 percent decrease for those 65 and over, a 12 percent decrease for those 21 to 24 years old, a 7 percent decrease for those 25 to 34 years old, and a 3 percent decrease for those 35 to 44 years old.

Table 3. Alcohol Involvement in Fatal Pedestrian Crashes, 1997

	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	55.5%	3.5%	6.4%	3,405 65.4%
Pedestrian Alcohol Involvement, BAC 0.01–0.09 g/dl	3.8%	0.5%	0.8%	267 5.1%
Pedestrian Alcohol Involvement, BAC 0.10 g/dl or Greater	21.4%	2.8%	5.3%	1,537 29.5%
Total	4,207 80.7%	352 6.8%	649 12.5%	5,208 100.0%

Table 4. Pedestrian Fatalities and Injuries and Fatality and Injury Rates by Age and Sex, 1997

Age (years)	Male			Female			Total		
	Fatalities	Population (thousands)	Fatality Rate*	Fatalities	Population (thousands)	Fatality Rate*	Fatalities	Population (thousands)	Fatality Rate*
0-4	99	9,801	1.01	66	9,349	0.71	165	19,150	0.86
5-9	144	10,104	1.43	96	9,634	1.00	240	19,738	1.22
10-15	138	11,745	1.17	101	11,164	0.90	239	22,910	1.04
16-20	205	9,763	2.10	95	9,173	1.04	300	18,936	1.58
21-24	196	7,054	2.78	57	6,720	0.85	253	13,774	1.84
25-34	571	19,810	2.88	186	19,799	0.94	757	39,610	1.91
35-44	667	21,883	3.05	255	22,115	1.15	922	43,998	2.10
45-54	509	16,457	3.09	192	17,176	1.12	701	33,633	2.08
55-64	344	10,391	3.31	144	11,422	1.26	488	21,813	2.24
65-69	159	4,461	3.56	83	5,301	1.57	242	9,762	2.48
70-79	307	6,723	4.57	198	9,077	2.18	505	15,799	3.20
80+	239	2,825	8.46	170	5,688	2.99	409	8,514	4.80
Unknown	37	--	--	16	--	--	**86	--	--
Total	3,615	131,018	2.76	1,659	136,618	1.21	5,307	267,636	1.98

Age (years)	Male			Female			Total		
	Injuries	Population (thousands)	Injury Rate*	Injuries	Population (thousands)	Injury Rate*	Injuries	Population (thousands)	Injury Rate*
0-4	2,000	9,801	23	2,000	9,349	18	4,000	19,150	21
5-9	7,000	10,104	67	4,000	9,634	45	11,000	19,738	56
10-15	6,000	11,745	53	4,000	11,164	39	11,000	22,910	46
16-20	3,000	9,763	35	3,000	9,173	36	7,000	18,936	36
21-24	2,000	7,054	33	2,000	6,720	36	5,000	13,774	35
25-34	6,000	19,810	28	3,000	19,799	17	9,000	39,610	23
35-44	9,000	21,883	41	3,000	22,115	14	12,000	43,998	28
45-54	4,000	16,457	24	4,000	17,176	21	8,000	33,633	22
55-64	2,000	10,391	24	2,000	11,422	16	4,000	21,813	19
65-69	1,000	4,461	30	1,000	5,301	13	2,000	9,762	20
70-79	1,000	6,723	20	2,000	9,077	25	4,000	15,799	22
80+	1,000	2,825	25	1,000	5,688	12	1,000	8,514	16
Total	45,000	131,018	35	31,000	136,618	23	77,000	267,636	29

* Rate per 100,000 population.

** Includes 33 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 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/nscsa>. To report a safety-related problem or to inquire about motor vehicle safety information, contact the Auto Safety Hotline at 1-800-424-9393.

Table 5. Pedestrian Fatalities and Fatality Rates by State, 1997

State	Total Traffic Fatalities	Resident Population (thousands)	Pedestrian Fatalities	Percent of Total	Pedestrian Fatalities per 100,000 Population
Alabama	1,189	4,319	85	7.1	2.0
Alaska	77	609	10	13.0	1.6
Arizona	951	4,555	149	15.7	3.3
Arkansas	660	2,523	49	7.4	1.7
California	3,688	32,268	757	20.5	2.3
Colorado	613	3,893	56	9.1	1.4
Connecticut	338	3,270	53	15.7	1.6
Delaware	143	732	14	9.8	1.9
District of Columbia	60	529	24	40.0	4.5
Florida	2,782	14,654	528	19.0	3.6
Georgia	1,577	7,486	182	11.5	2.4
Hawaii	131	1,187	21	16.0	1.8
Idaho	259	1,210	19	7.3	1.6
Illinois	1,395	11,896	196	14.1	1.6
Indiana	935	5,864	72	7.7	1.2
Iowa	468	2,852	27	5.8	0.9
Kansas	481	2,595	27	5.6	1.0
Kentucky	857	3,908	64	7.5	1.6
Louisiana	913	4,352	134	14.7	3.1
Maine	192	1,242	19	9.9	1.5
Maryland	608	5,094	107	17.6	2.1
Massachusetts	442	6,118	79	17.9	1.3
Michigan	1,446	9,774	165	11.4	1.7
Minnesota	600	4,686	56	9.3	1.2
Mississippi	861	2,731	54	6.3	2.0
Missouri	1,192	5,402	100	8.4	1.9
Montana	265	879	9	3.4	1.0
Nebraska	302	1,657	17	5.6	1.0
Nevada	347	1,677	59	17.0	3.5
New Hampshire	125	1,173	11	8.8	0.9
New Jersey	774	8,053	143	18.5	1.8
New Mexico	484	1,730	66	13.6	3.8
New York	1,643	18,137	383	23.3	2.1
North Carolina	1,483	7,425	176	11.9	2.4
North Dakota	105	641	5	4.8	0.8
Ohio	1,441	11,186	126	8.7	1.1
Oklahoma	838	3,317	69	8.2	2.1
Oregon	523	3,243	57	10.9	1.8
Pennsylvania	1,557	12,020	170	10.9	1.4
Rhode Island	75	987	7	9.3	0.7
South Carolina	903	3,760	103	11.4	2.7
South Dakota	148	738	6	4.1	0.8
Tennessee	1,223	5,368	107	8.7	2.0
Texas	3,510	19,439	441	12.6	2.3
Utah	366	2,059	39	10.7	1.9
Vermont	96	589	12	12.5	2.0
Virginia	984	6,734	89	9.0	1.3
Washington	676	5,610	72	10.7	1.3
West Virginia	379	1,816	21	5.5	1.2
Wisconsin	725	5,170	63	8.7	1.2
Wyoming	137	480	9	6.6	1.9
U.S. Total	41,967	267,636	5,307	12.6	2.0
Puerto Rico	591	3,818	208	35.2	5.4

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

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