

June 26, 2017

BE AWARE: Bicyclists, Motorcyclists, & Pedestrians

- B**icyclists, motorcycles, and pedestrians are
- E**verywhere
- A**void fixed stares – scan the area around you
- W**atch your speed
- A**lways yield the right of way – share the road safely with bicyclists, motorcyclists, and pedestrians
- R**ock and roll at intersections
- E**xpect bicyclists, motorcyclists, and pedestrians to do the unexpected

National Accident Statistics 2000-2009

	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
Fatal Crashes	30,797	34,172	37,435	38,648	39,252	38,444	38,477	38,491	37,862	37,526
Drivers	17,640	19,279	21,717	22,831	23,237	23,158	23,352	23,625	22,914	22,914
Passengers	6,770	7,441	8,716	9,187	9,750	10,042	10,171	10,370	10,227	10,451
Motorcyclists	4,462	5,312	5,174	4,837	4,576	4,028	3,714	3,270	3,197	2,897
Pedestrians	4,092	4,414	4,699	4,795	4,892	4,675	4,774	4,851	4,901	4,763
Bicyclists	630	718	701	772	786	727	629	665	732	693
Other/ Unknown	150	188	158	185	186	130	140	114	123	141

Bicycle Accident Statistics

- Head injuries account for 60% of cycling fatalities – 1 in 8 cyclists with reported head injuries has traumatic brain injury.
- In 2009, 630 bicyclists were killed and 51,000 were injured nationally.
- Cyclist deaths made up 2% of all motor vehicle traffic deaths.
- 70% of bicyclist deaths occur in urban areas.
- The average age of bicyclists killed in traffic accidents in 2009 was 41. The average age for those injured was 31.

Safety tips for motorists to follow in order to avoid collisions with bicyclists:

- Expect cyclists to be on the road. Treat them as slow-moving vehicles. Do not view them as a “hassle.”
- Be very cautious when making turns, as a bicyclist may be to the right or left of you and is planning to go straight.

- BE COMPLETELY SURE that you can safely pass a bicyclist before you do. They are not like a car, they may feel in danger and swerve out of the way, which can cause an accident.
- Do not tailgate a cyclist.
- It is very crucial to double check for bicyclists when backing out of places. Especially since it is summertime, there are many children on bikes driving through neighborhoods, so be especially careful when pulling out of your driveway.
- Do not honk at cyclists.
- Use your turn signals. Bikers need to know what you're planning on doing.

Motorcycle Accident Statistics

- In two-thirds of multi-vehicle accidents, the driver of the other vehicle violated the motorcycle right-of-way and caused the accident. The failure of motorists to detect and recognize motorcycles in traffic is the predominating cause of motorcycle accidents.
- 75% of drivers involved in a collision with a motorcycle often state a failure to see the motorcycle at all before the collision, or they did not see the motorcycle until it was too late to avoid the collision.
- The most frequent accident configuration is the motorcycle proceeding straight as another vehicle makes a left turn in front of the oncoming motorcycle. Intersections are the most likely place for the motorcycle accident, with the other vehicle violating the motorcycle right-of-way, and often violating traffic controls.
- The view of the motorcycle or the other vehicle involved in the accident is limited by glare or obstructed by other vehicles in almost half of the multi-vehicle accidents.
- Many motorcycle riders involved in accidents are essentially without training; 92% were self-taught or learned from family or friends. Motorcycle rider training experience reduces accident involvement and is related to reducing injuries in the event of an accident.
- Motorcycle crashes contribute significantly to the large number of injuries and fatalities on the roadways. Motorcyclist fatalities accounted for 7% of total traffic fatalities in 2000, yet motorcycles were less than 2% of all registered vehicles and only .4% of all vehicle miles traveled.

Pedestrian Accident Statistics

In an accident involving a pedestrian and a car, there is no question who will be injured more severely. Even in cases where the pedestrian mistakenly stepped into street, they are likely to be severely injured. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reported the following 2008 statistics regarding pedestrian accidents:

- Over 4,300 Americans died and 69,000 were injured in pedestrian accidents.
- Pedestrians over the age of 65 were the most common victims.
- 20% of children ages 5 to 9, who were killed in traffic accidents, were pedestrians. These accidents generally occur 3 p.m. – 7 p.m.
- Alcohol was involved in 48% of pedestrian fatalities.

- 72% of pedestrian fatalities occur in urban areas.
- The top four states for pedestrian fatalities are California, Florida, Texas, and New York. These four states make up 41% of pedestrian fatalities nationwide while only accounting for 5% of the total traffic fatalities across the country.
- Nearly 48% of all pedestrian fatalities occurred on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday (16%, 17%, and 15% respectively), and 70% at night (4 p.m. - 4 a.m.).

Potential Pedestrian Accident Hazards

- **The "Darting" Child** – Children sometimes "dart" into the roadway with little regard for traffic. They are often in pursuit of a pet, toy, or another child. Motorists should take extreme care when they see children at play in a neighborhood, a park, a school, or other areas which are posted as having children present.
- **The Parent In Pursuit** – When a child runs into a roadway, his/her parent's first thought may be to rescue the child, and they may run into the road in complete disregard of oncoming traffic.
- **Driver Error** – Common driver errors that contribute to vehicle/pedestrian accidents include:
 - **Disregarding a Crosswalk** - Drivers who don't pay attention to crosswalks, whether at intersections or at other points in the roadway, create a significant risk of accident. Drivers should exercise appropriate care to ensure pedestrians are not crossing the road before passing through a designated crosswalk.
 - **Disregarding a Traffic Control Device** - When drivers ignore traffic controls, particularly those which specifically relate to pedestrian traffic, they significantly increase the chances of an accident.
 - **Disregarding a Pedestrian Already Crossing the Roadway** - When a pedestrian in the roadway ahead of a car is obviously crossing the road, or has entered the driver's lane while in the process of crossing the road, drivers should exercise appropriate caution and should yield as necessary to avoid accident.

Total Fatalities and Pedestrian Fatalities in Traffic Crashes, 2000-2009

Year	Total Fatalities	Pedestrian Fatalities	Percent of Total Fatalities
2000	41,945	4,763	11
2001	42,196	4,901	12
2002	43,005	4,851	11
2003	42,884	4,774	11
2004	42,836	4,675	11
2005	43,510	4,892	11
2006	42,708	4,795	11
2007	41,259	4,699	11
2008	37,423	4,414	12
2009	33,808	4,092	12