

Pedestrians have little to protect them when struck by a motor vehicle and have a high risk of death or hospitalization.

Many injuries happen in predictable, preventable ways.

Walk on sidewalks and cross at designated crosswalks whenever possible. Don't allow young children near roadways without adult supervision.

Pedestrian Safety

- Annually in the U.S., more than 4,500 pedestrians are killed and thousands more are injured in traffic crashes.
- In Oklahoma for 2015, 645 pedestrians were involved in traffic crashes; of these, 68 died.
- In 2014, 219 Oklahoman pedestrians were hospitalized due to injuries in traffic crashes.
- Persons under 20 years old made up the highest percentage of pedestrian incidents; however, older pedestrians were more likely to be hospitalized or die.
- Older people may need more time to cross a street and may have reduced ability to react if a vehicle fails to yield.
- Many of the pedestrians, or the drivers who hit them, were alcohol-impaired at the time of fatal incidents.
- Pedestrian incidents occurring between 8 p.m. and midnight resulted in the most deaths and hospitalizations.

Prevention

- Pedestrians should stay on sidewalks and cross at a designated crosswalk whenever possible.
- Never assume that a driver sees you; if possible, try to make eye contact with the driver before stepping into the roadway.
- Keep looking and listening as you cross a roadway.
- If you must walk on a roadway, walk facing oncoming traffic.
- Children can't judge speed or distance very well until at least age 10 and should only cross streets with the assistance of an adult.
- If walking at night, carry a flashlight and wear light colored or reflective clothing.
- Avoid talking or texting on your cell phone and don't wear headphones if walking near traffic.
- Be very cautious walking near traffic if impaired by alcohol and/or drugs.

Internet Resources

- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration: <http://www.nhtsa.gov/nhtsa/everyoneisapedestrian/index.html>
- National Safe Kids Campaign: <http://www.safekids.org/>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: http://www.cdc.gov/Motorvehiclesafety/Pedestrian_safety/index.html
- National Center of Safe Routes to School: <http://www.saferoutesinfo.org/>
- Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center: <http://www.pedbikeinfo.org/>

Live Injury-Free!