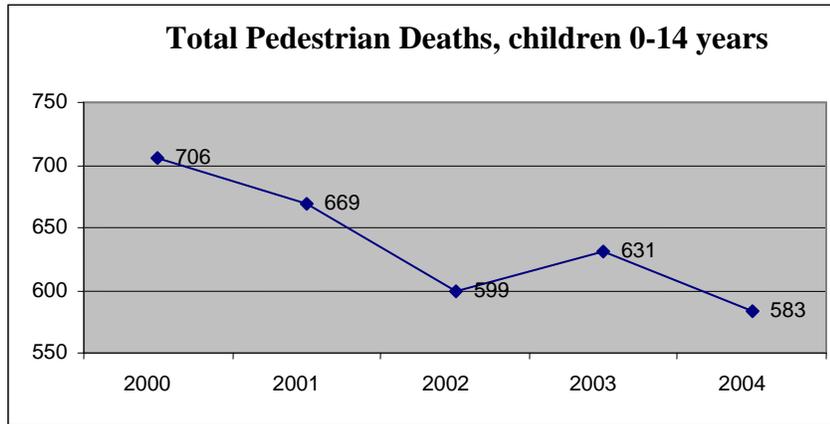


Pedestrian Safety

Key Facts

- Each year, approximately 630 child pedestrian fatalities occur.¹



- Children sustain more than 39,000 nonfatal pedestrian injuries each year.²
- In 2005, there were 339 pedestrian fatalities in children ages 14 years and under.³ The year prior, 583 children died and nearly 70 percent of these deaths were motor vehicle-related traffic crashes.⁴
- 33,571 children were treated in hospital emergency rooms for pedestrian-related injuries in 2005.⁵
- Between 1995 and 2005, the number of child pedestrian fatalities decreased by 51 percent.⁶
- The maturity level of a child under 10 years of age makes him/her unable to correctly gauge the speed of vehicles putting them at greater risk for injury and death.⁷

When and Where

- Other than in the street, driveways, parking lots and on sidewalks are where young children ages 0-2 years suffer the highest number of injuries as pedestrians.⁸
- 83 percent of child pedestrian deaths occur at non-intersection locations.⁹
- 1 in 4 child pedestrian deaths occur between 6 - 9p.m.¹⁰
- On average, 12 children die each year in school bus-related crashes.¹¹

Who

- Almost two-thirds of childhood pedestrian deaths occur to males.¹²
- Black children have a pedestrian injury death rate almost twice that of white children.¹³
- 4 out of 5 driveway-related incidents occur to children ages 4 and under.¹⁴

- Parents of children who suffer from a pedestrian-related injury are three times less likely to practice other preventive behaviors and are more likely to be single parents, young mothers or both.^{15 16 17}

Proven Interventions

- Policies that increase the number of people walking and bicycling appears to be an effective method for improving the safety of people walking and bicycling.¹⁸

Laws and Regulations

- In 2005, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) was signed into law. The SAFETEA-LU includes the establishment of Safe Routes to School, a program with the goal of making it safer for children to walk or bike to school. The Safe Routes to School program aims to:
 1. Fix or improve sidewalks
 2. Execute traffic calming and speed reduction measures
 3. Improve pedestrian and bicycle crossings
 4. Conduct public education campaigns to encourage walking and biking to school.¹⁹
- State and local laws created to protect child pedestrians include:
 - Lower speed limits in residential areas
 - Protection of pedestrians in crosswalks
 - Providing pedestrian walkways
 - Prohibition of vehicles from passing school buses while loading and unloading passengers
 - Providing crossing guards and requiring pedestrians to not cross streets at locations other than designated crosswalks.²⁰

Suggested Citation: Safe Kids Worldwide (SKW). Pedestrian Safety. Washington (DC): SKW, 2007.

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³ National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Traffic Safety Facts 2005: Children. National Center for Statistics and Analysis. Washington, DC 20590.

⁴ National Center for Injury Prevention, WISQARS Fatal Injuries: 2004, United States Unintentional Pedestrian Deaths (All races, both sexes, ages 0 to 14 Children).

⁵ Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Unintentional Pedestrian Nonfatal Injuries 2005 (United States, all races, both sexes, ages 0 to 14). Available from: URL: www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars. [2006 April].

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¹⁹ Safe Kids Worldwide. Public Policy Department, December 2007.

²⁰ Safe Kids Worldwide. Public Policy Department, December 2007.