A total of 377 children ages 0 to 19 years were fatally injured and another 12,911 were nonfatally injured as pedestrians in motor vehicle crashes in 2023.[1]

Traffic-Related Pedestrian Injury Fact Sheet

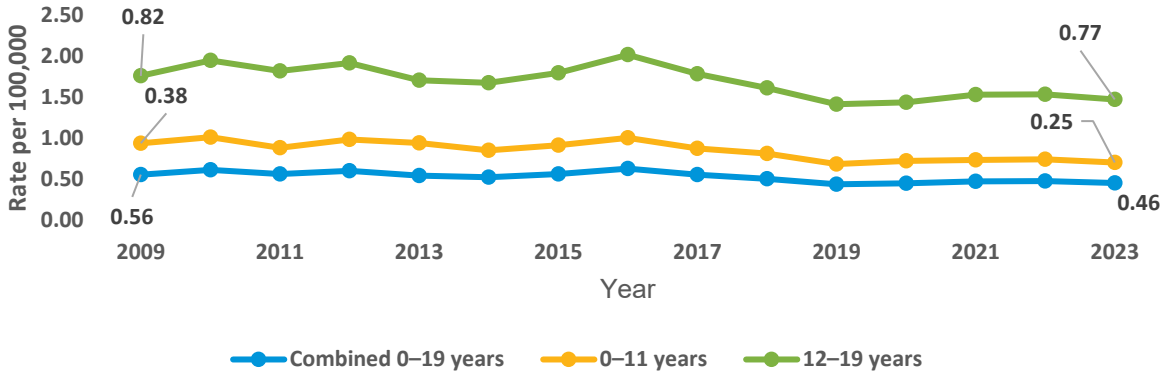
LAST UPDATED AUGUST 2025

This fact sheet focuses on children between the ages of 0 and 19 years who suffered fatal and nonfatal injuries as pedestrians in motor vehicle collisions in the U.S. between 2009 and 2023. Data are sourced from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Fatal Injuries

- In 2023, 377 children were fatally injured as pedestrians in motor vehicle crashes, for a rate of less than 1 per 100,000 (0.46 per 100,000).[1,2]
- The overall rate of fatal pedestrian injuries among children decreased by 18 percent between 2009 and 2023 (0.56 to 0.46 per 100,000, respectively) (Figure 1).[1,2]
- The rate of fatal pedestrian injuries among children ages 0 to 11 years decreased by 34 percent between 2009 and 2023—a decrease that likely reflects fewer children in this age group walking to school and the creation of safer walking environments. The rate among children ages 12 to 19 years decreased by 6 percent during the same period.[1,2]

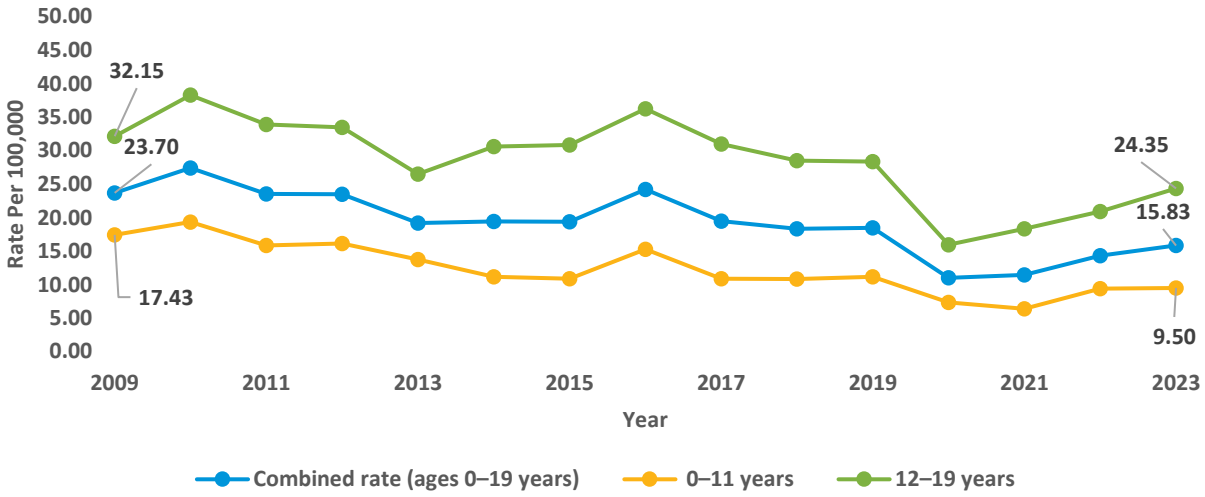
Figure 1. Rate of Fatal Pedestrian Injuries Overall and by Age Group, Ages 0–19 Years, 2009–2023



Nonf

- injuries of 1:34.[2,3]
- The overall rate of nonfatal pedestrian injuries among children decreased by 33 percent between 2009 and 2023 (Figure 2).[2,3]

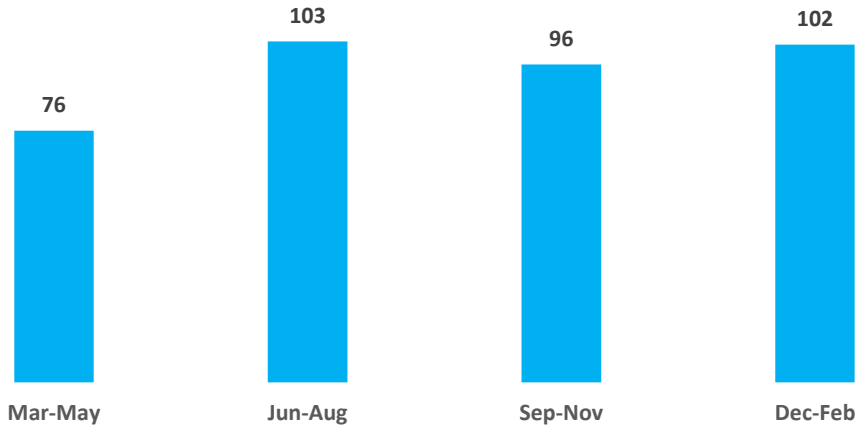
- **Figure 2. Rates of Nonfatal Child Pedestrian Injury by Age Group, Children Ages 0–19 Years, 2019–2023**



Risk Factors

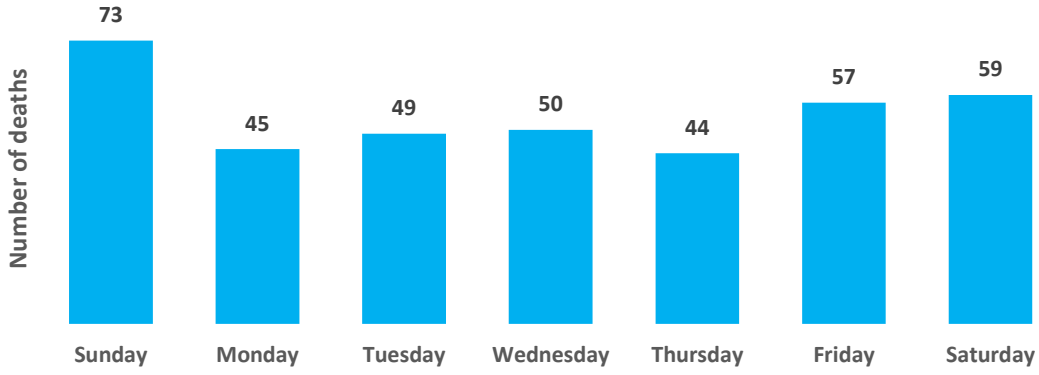
- **Age:** In 2023, the rate of fatal pedestrian injuries was 3.1 times higher among children ages 12 to 19 compared to children ages 0 to 11 years (0.77 and 0.25 per 100,000, respectively).[1,2]
- **Sex:** In 2023, the rate of fatal pedestrian injuries was 1.8 times higher among male children compared to female children (0.59 and 0.33 per 100,000, respectively).[1,2]
- **Race and Ethnicity:** In data from 2020–2022, rates of fatal child pedestrian injury were highest among non-Hispanic White children (0.27 per 100,000) and lowest among non-Hispanic Pacific Islander children (0.00 per 100,000). Rates were lower for non-Hispanic Black (0.11), non-Hispanic American Indian/Alaska Native (0.01), and non-Hispanic Asian and Mixed-Race children (0.01), compared to non-Hispanic White children. Rates for children of all other races and ethnicities were generally lower, with rates for unknown ethnicity at 0.04 per 100,000. (Race and ethnicity data were not available for 2023)[1,2]
- **Season:** The number of fatal pedestrian injuries among children was highest during the summer months in 2023. Spring had the fewest deaths, while fall and winter had similar numbers, slightly lower than summer (Figure 3).[1]

Figure 3. Number of Fatal Pedestrian Injuries by Season, Ages 0–19 years, 2023



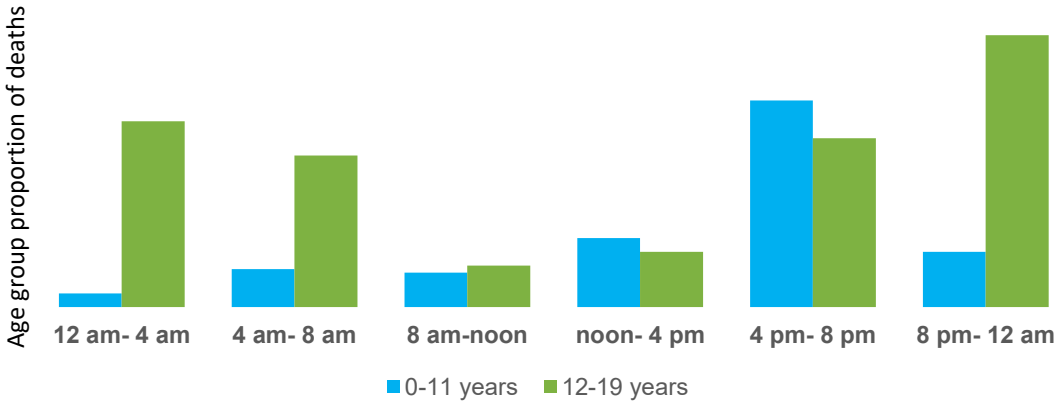
- **Day of week:** In 2023, fatal pedestrian injuries among children were more frequent on Sundays compared to other days of the week (Figure 4).[1]

Figure 4. Number of Fatal Pedestrian Injuries by Day of Week, Ages 0–19 years, 2023



- **Time o**
and 12
most fr
years were most frequently fatally injured between 4 pm and 8 pm (79 percent and 49 percent of fatal injuries for each age group, respectively) (Figure 5).[1]

Figure 5. Proportion of Fatal MVC-Related Pedestrian Injuries by Age Group and Time of Day, Ages 0-19 Years, 2023



- **Pedestrian Distraction:** Walking while distracted by technology, such as cell phones and headphones/earbuds, increases the risk of pedestrian injury. More than 9 in 10 (95 percent) children ages 13 to 17 years reported having access to a smartphone in 2022, with nearly half (46 percent) indicating they are on it constantly.[4] In a 2020 Safe Kids Worldwide national survey of teens ages 13–17 years, 1 in 4 indicated they had ever fallen or stepped off a step, sidewalk or curb while using their phone; 1 in 3 had ever walked or bumped into something while using their phone; 1 in 3 had crossed the street while texting and more than half in the last six months had crossed the street while wearing headphones.[5]
- **Position in Roadway:** Of the 377 children fatally injured as pedestrians in 2023, 38 percent were on the road in a traffic lane when struck, 41 percent were on a crosswalk, and 21 percent were in other locations.[1]
- **Urban/Rural:** In 2023, the majority of fatal child pedestrian injuries occurred in urban areas (77 percent), followed by rural areas (21 percent), with location unknown in 2 percent of cases. The rate of fatal child pedestrian injury was higher in urban areas compared to rural areas (0.35 per 100,000 and 0.09 per 100,000, respectively).[1]
- **Geographic location:** In the six states of Alabama, Delaware, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Wyoming, plus the District of Columbia, the number of fatal pedestrian injuries among children for the period of 2014 to 2023 was too low to present or the rates were considered statistically unreliable. (Table 1).[1,2] Among those where data were available, the highest rates were in Louisiana, South Carolina, and Florida (0.93, 0.85, and 0.85 per 100,000, respectively), and the lowest were in Idaho, Minnesota, and Massachusetts (0.26, 0.24, and 0.29 per 100,000, respectively).

	72	0.58		119	0.37		16	0.62*		--	--
Table **0–19 Years, 2014–2023**[1,2]	--	--		99	0.56		18	0.34*		106	0.85
State	133	0.73		25	0.30		53	0.71		16	0.67*
AK											
AL	39	0.50	NE	30	0.38	SC	--	--		71	0.42
AR	512	0.52		66	0.59		88	0.40		455	0.56
AZ											
CA	58	0.42	NH	113	0.93	TN	38	0.71		60	0.58
CO	27	0.32		--	--		175	0.38		--	--
CT											
DC	15	0.65*	NY	76	0.50	VT	176	0.68		61	0.29
DE	--	--		45	0.29		10	0.49*		57	0.31
FL											
GA	402	0.85	OH	123	0.51	WV	132	0.45		17	0.41*
HI	192	0.68	OK	34	0.24	WI	60	0.56		48	0.33
ID											
	12	0.36*	OR	52	0.66	WY	36	0.38		--	--
	13	0.26*		88	0.57		119	0.39			

(—) State-level counts and rates based on fewer than 10 deaths have been suppressed.
* Death rates are flagged as unstable when calculated with a numerator of 20 or less.

Cost of Fatal and Nonfatal Injuries[1]

- The economic costs of fatal and nonfatal pedestrian injuries among children is estimated to have totaled at least $12.78 billion in the U.S. in 2023 (the latest year for which cost data are available) (Table 2).[6]
- Fatal pedestrian injuries accounted for the largest share of total costs (65 percent), followed by nonfatal injuries resulting in hospitalization (19 percent), and those treated and released from the emergency department (15 percent).[6]

[1] Cost of injury data were calculated using most recent year of data available within the CDC's Web–based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) Cost of Injury Reports application, which includes both traffic–related and non–traffic–related pedestrian incidents that were serious enough to require an ED visit. Total costs are likely underestimated, as WISQARS cost estimates do not include ED treatment costs for injured children who were hospitalized.

Table 2. Economic Costs of Pedestrian Injuries Resulting in Death, Hospitalization and ER treatment and Release, Ages 0–19 Years, 2023.				
Cost	Fatal	Nonfatal		Combined (row)
		Hospitalization	ER Treated and Released	
Medical	$7.47 million	$820.43 million	$230.58 million	**$1,058.48 million**
Work Loss	--	$186.20 million	$57.76 million	**$243.96 million**
Quality of Life Loss	--	$1.47 million	$1.68 billion	**$3.15 billion**
Value of Statistical Life	$8.32 billion	--	--	**$8.32 billion**
Combined (column)	**$8.33 billion**	**$2.48 billion**	**$1.97 billion**	**$12.78 billion**

For more information or questions about the information in this factsheet, please contact the SKW Research Department at: **adauda@safekids.org**

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