



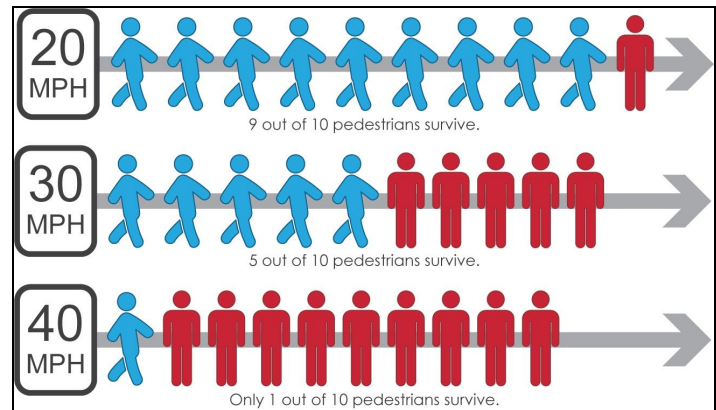
Washington State Strategic Highway Safety Plan 2019: Pedestrians and Bicyclists

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Challenge: In 2015–2017, 20 percent of all traffic fatalities in our state, and 20 percent of all traffic serious injuries, involved people walking or biking. These figures continued to climb in 2018. At 109 fatalities, pedestrian deaths reached their highest number in more than 30 years.

Compared to 2012–2014, the 2015–2017 figures show a 41 percent increase in fatalities for people who walk and bike, and an 11 percent increase in serious injuries.

Two potential contributing factors to the upward trend could be the increase in overall vehicle miles traveled in Washington, and the increase in larger passenger vehicles such as trucks and SUVs on the road.



Strategies and Objectives for Positive Change:

One difficulty with evaluating crashes related to pedestrians and bicyclists is that Washington only has partial counts of the actual number of people who are walking and biking. Washington State Department of Transportation's (WSDOT's) bicyclist and pedestrian documentation project is working to provide more comprehensive data through automated counters of pedestrians and bicyclists. There are currently 53 permanent counters located across the state as well as 402 manual sample count sites active in 56 Washington cities.

Other areas of priority include:

- Designing to reduce speeds
- Address crossings
- Separated infrastructure and complete networks
- Reducing the risk of impaired crashes

What You Can Do:

- Support the strategies for reducing pedestrian and bicycling crashes - see page 137
- Raise awareness about impairment relating to pedestrian and bicycling crashes
- Raise awareness about motorist speed and its effect on the severity of crashes where bicyclist and pedestrians are involved
- Focus on safety for children walking or biking to school