

Pedestrian Safety in Wisconsin



Did you know...

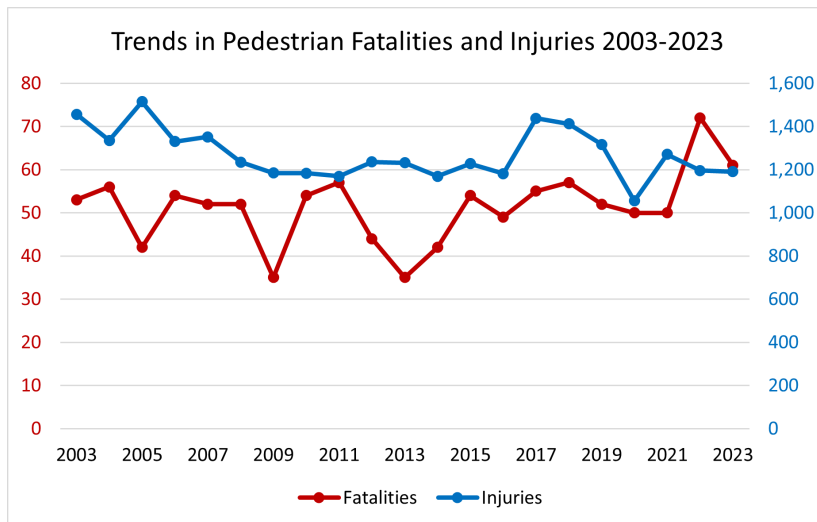
In Wisconsin, one pedestrian was killed or injured every 7 hours in 2023.

- 1,299 crashes involved pedestrians in Wisconsin in 2023.
- In these crashes, 61 pedestrians were killed and 1,190 pedestrians were injured.
- Few pedestrian crashes result in property damage only; the pedestrian is almost always injured.

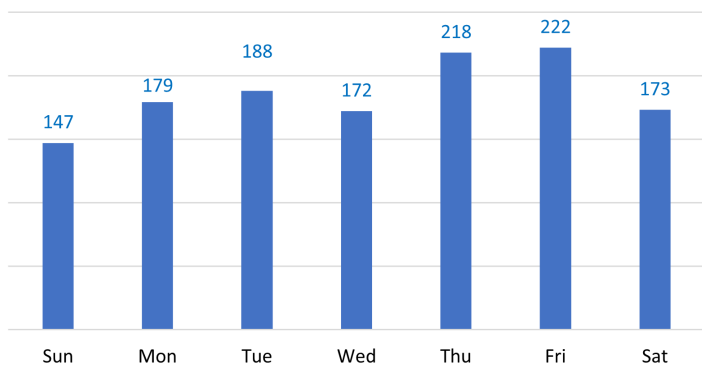
Scope of the Problem

Over the years, improvements to pedestrian safety have been made in areas such as engineering, education, enforcement, and emergency response.

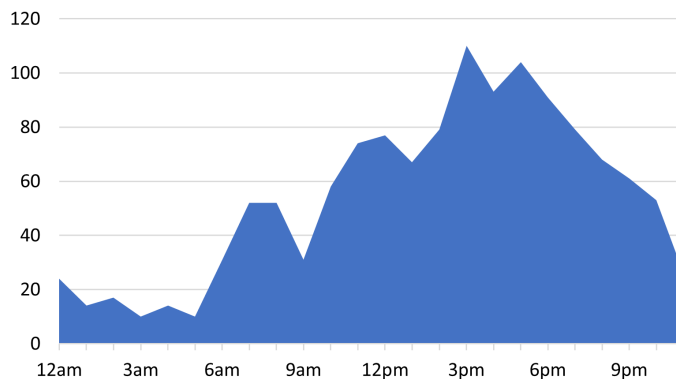
Despite the improvements, pedestrian injuries have remained generally consistent over the past 20 years. Pedestrian fatalities have increased slightly since 2013, when there were only 35 pedestrian fatalities. There has been a decrease in pedestrian fatalities in 2023 compared to 2022.



Pedestrian Crashes by Day of Week in 2023



Pedestrian Crashes by Time of Day in 2023

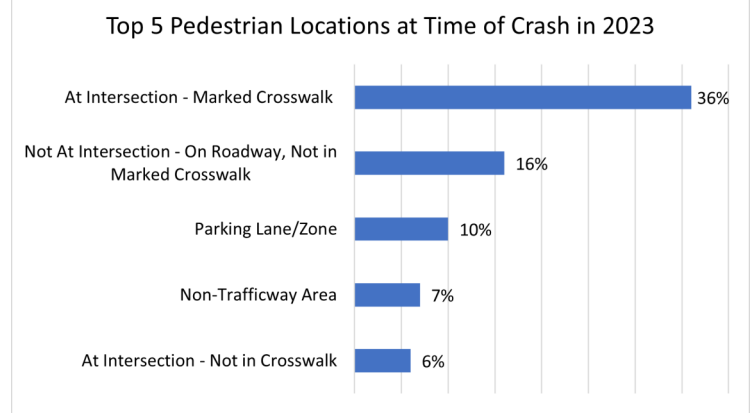
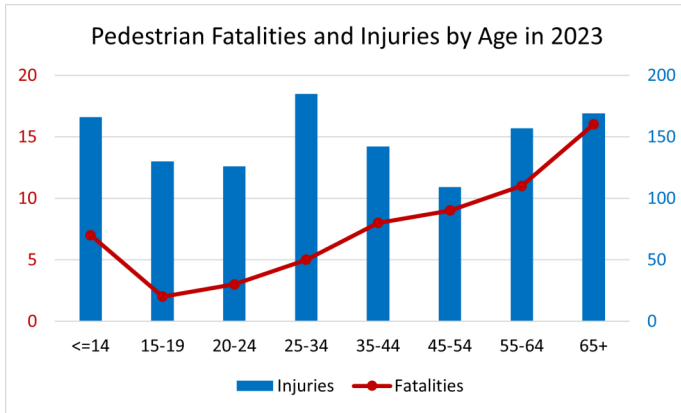


When do Pedestrian Crashes Occur?

Pedestrian crashes most often occur on weekdays with Fridays accounting for highest number of crashes at 17% and Sundays with the fewest at 11%.

Most pedestrian crashes occur between 3 pm and 6 pm, the hours after school and the peak time that adults commute home from work. This afternoon peak is far higher than the morning peak time, possibly because of driver and pedestrian fatigue and inattentiveness.

Pedestrian Crash Risk Factors



Pedestrians aged 25-34 are most at risk for injuries. Older pedestrians, on the other hand, are more likely to suffer a fatality when involved in a crash.

The vast majority of pedestrian crashes occur in the roadway or at a crosswalk in an intersection. Any street crossing can put a pedestrian in the path of a motor vehicle operator who may not be paying attention or may not have time to avoid a pedestrian who suddenly steps into the path of the vehicle.

Pedestrian crashes are more likely to have worse consequences when drugs or alcohol are a factor. Of the 62 pedestrian-involved fatal crashes, 20 (32%) involved an impaired pedestrian or driver. Of the 1,150 pedestrian injury crashes, 122 (11%) involved either an impaired pedestrian or driver.

Current Pedestrian Laws

Pedestrian laws are defined in Wis Stats. 346.23 (1)(2) and 348.24(1):

- At any crosswalk (marked or unmarked), the operator of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian, in a manner which is consistent with the safe use of the crosswalk by a pedestrian who has started to cross the road.
- In all other cases, pedestrians, bicyclists, and riders of electric assistive mobility devices shall yield the right-of-way to vehicles lawfully proceeding directly ahead on a green signal.
- No operator of a vehicle proceeding ahead on a green signal may begin a turn at a controlled intersection or crosswalk when a pedestrian or rider of an assistive mobility device crossing in the crosswalk on a green or walk signal would be endangered or interfered with in anyway.

What can You Do?

- As a motorist, look for pedestrians when turning left or right.
- Reduce travel speeds in school zones and neighborhoods.
- Yield to pedestrians already attempting to cross the roadway.
- As a pedestrian, always look left, right, and left again for traffic before stepping into the street. Establish eye contact with the driver before crossing.
- As a pedestrian, cross at a crosswalk or where you can see and be seen by motorists. Avoid crossing at blind curves.
- When walking at night, always wear bright clothing. Do not assume drivers will see you.