



SHARING THE ROAD: PEDESTRIANS & VEHICLES

Traffic Injury Research Foundation & Toronto Police Service

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In Toronto:

There were 182 pedestrians killed in Toronto in road collisions between 2011 and 2015. More than 40% of these collisions did not occur at an intersection and likely involved pedestrians being struck at a mid-block location when crossing the road. An estimated 2 in 5 of these fatalities involved distraction on the part of the driver or the pedestrian.



- > Almost 1 in 5 collisions (18%) occurred between noon and 3pm when visibility is generally good and traffic may be less congested.
- > Late afternoon (3pm to 6pm) and early evening (6pm to 9pm) accounted for almost 30% of pedestrian fatalities.
- > More than 1 in 4 pedestrian fatalities occurred during July and August.
- > Almost 1 in 4 or 23% of pedestrian fatalities occurred on a Thursday.

Source: TIRF National Fatality Database 2018

In Ontario:

- > Pedestrian fatalities represented approximately 1 in 5 fatal collisions in 2015 and 2016.
- > Inattentive driving was also a factor in 1 in 5 fatal collisions in 2015.

Source: Preliminary Ontario Road Safety Annual Report, Ministry of Transportation (MTO) <http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/publications/pdfs/preliminary-2016-orsar-selected-statistics.pdf>



In Canada:



Drivers and pedestrians are often equally at fault in fatal crashes that kill pedestrians. Nationally:

- > 1 in 3 fatally injured pedestrians were at-fault for the crash
- > 1 in 3 fatally injured pedestrians were struck by a driver that committed a traffic infraction prior to the crash

Source: Transport Canada 2011

Characteristics of pedestrian traffic fatalities include:

- > 6 in 10 pedestrians killed in traffic crashes were trying to cross the road
- > 6 in 10 pedestrians were killed at night or in dim light conditions
- > 1 in 3 pedestrians killed were aged 65 and older although they represent approximately 1 in 10 Canadians
- > 6% of fatally injured pedestrians were under age 16; of these, 20% ran out into the street

Source: Transport Canada <https://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/motorvehiclesafety/tp-tp15145-1201.htm#s38>

Strategies to share the road

Pedestrians are among the most vulnerable road users. They suffer the most severe consequences in collisions because they lack the hard, protective exterior of a vehicle, or safety features to protect them.

In fact, pedestrians are 284 times more likely to be killed or injured than motorists.

Following the rules of the road whether you are a driver or a pedestrian helps other road users anticipate your behaviour and reduce opportunities for collisions.



Pedestrians can make roads safer by:

- > Crossing at intersections and designated crosswalks where drivers are more likely to expect them to be on the road.

- > Wearing light coloured clothing to be visible to drivers and easier to see since they are much smaller than vehicles.
- > Make eye contact with drivers to ensure they see you.
- > Be alert to all traffic, especially turning vehicles.



Drivers can make roads safer by:

- > Being attentive behind the wheel.
- > Always looking for pedestrians and being prepared to stop, especially on residential streets and near schools and bus stops.
- > Being patient when pedestrians need extra time to cross the road and weather is poor.

Source: Road Safety Issues, Pedestrians: What Do We Know?, 2015, Traffic Injury Research Foundation

Traffic Injury Research Foundation

TIRF is a national, independent, charitable road safety research institute that studies road user behaviours. Visit www.tirf.ca or call (877) 238-5235

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