



Bike & Pedestrian Safety

Cycling and walking is encouraged throughout the country as an alternate mode of transportation. However, as with motor vehicle travel, there is a risk of death and injury. In Kentucky from 2005 through 2007, there were over 4,000 collisions involving a bicycle or pedestrian. Those collisions resulted in over 3,500 injuries and 174 fatalities.

National Traffic Safety Facts For Cyclists (2006)

- ▶ 773 cyclists were killed and 44,000 were injured in traffic crashes.
- ▶ Cyclist deaths accounted for 2% of all traffic fatalities and 2% of all traffic injuries.



Age

- ▶ The average age of cyclists killed was 41.
- ▶ Cyclists under age 16 accounted for 14% of traffic fatalities and 28% of traffic injuries.

Alcohol

- ▶ Alcohol, either for the driver or cyclist, was a factor in one-third of cyclist fatalities.
- ▶ In 32% of the crashes, either the driver or cyclist, had a BAC of .08 or higher.

Gender

- ▶ 88% of cyclists killed and 82% of cyclists injured were males age five to 44 years.

Time

- ▶ 27% of cyclist fatalities occurred between the hours of 5 and 9 p.m.
- ▶ 33% of cyclist fatalities occurred during the months of June, July and August.

National Traffic Safety Facts For Pedestrians (2006)

- ▶ 4,784 pedestrians were killed and 61,000 were injured in traffic crashes.
- ▶ On average, a pedestrian is killed in a traffic crash every 110 minutes and injured in a traffic crash every 9 minutes.

Age

- ▶ Pedestrians age 70 and over accounted for 15% (702) of all pedestrian fatalities and an estimated 7% (4,000) of injuries.
- ▶ Children age five to nine accounted for 20% of pedestrians fatalities.
- ▶ Children age 15 and younger accounted for 8% of pedestrian fatalities and 28% of pedestrian injuries.

Alcohol

- ▶ Alcohol, either for the driver or pedestrian, was a factor in 49% of fatalities.
- ▶ In 32% of these crashes, the pedestrian had a BAC of .08 or higher.
- ▶ In 11% of these crashes, the driver had a BAC of .08 or higher.

Gender

- ▶ More than two-thirds (70%) of the pedestrians killed were males.

Time

- ▶ 39% of young (under 16) pedestrian fatalities occurred between the hours of 3 and 7 p.m.
- ▶ 49% of all pedestrian fatalities occurred on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday.



Safety Reminders for Cyclists



1. **Wear a helmet that fits properly and complies with the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) standards.**

FACT: Helmets are 90% effective in preventing head and brain injuries.

FACT: Despite the fact that nearly 70% of all fatal bicycle crashes involve head injuries, only 20% of all cyclists wear helmets.

FACT: Every dollar spent on helmets saves society \$30 in indirect medical costs and other costs.

2. **See and be seen.** Increase visibility to drivers by wearing fluorescent or brightly colored clothing. If you must ride at night, use a front light and red reflector or flashing rear light. Also use retro-reflective tape or markings on equipment and clothing.
3. **Stay alert.** Scan ahead for potholes, cracks, railroad tracks, wet leaves, etc. Look for a gap in traffic, plan your move, then signal your intentions.
4. **Watch out!** Over 70% of car-bicycle crashes occur at driveways or other intersections.
5. **Obey traffic laws.** Bicycles are considered vehicles so the same rules apply to cyclists that apply to vehicle operators, including obeying traffic signs, signals, and lane markings. When on the street, ride in the same direction as traffic.

How to Share the Road With Cyclists

- ▶ **Be courteous.** Allow at least three feet clearance when passing a cyclist on the road.
- ▶ **Watch out!** Yield to cyclists at intersections and as directed by signs and signals. Be especially watchful for cyclists when making turns, either left or right.
- ▶ **Look out!** Look for cyclists before opening a car door or pulling out from a parking space.

Safety Reminders for Pedestrians



1. **Use a cross-walk if available.** Stop and look left, right and left again before crossing.
2. **Be careful around parked vehicles.** If it is blocking your view of the street, stop at the edge line of the vehicle and look around it before entering the street.
3. **Increase visibility at night.** Carry a flashlight and wear retro-reflective clothing.

How to Share the Road With Pedestrians

- ▶ **Yield the right-of-way.** Drivers are required to yield to pedestrians crossing streets in marked or unmarked crosswalks in most situations.
- ▶ **Watch out!** Be especially careful at intersections when turning onto another street.

For Additional Information:

- **Federal Highway Administration (FHWA):** <http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov>
- **Kentucky Recreational Trails Authority:** <http://tourism.ky.gov/krta/>
- **Kentucky Transportation Cabinet:** <http://bikewalk.ky.gov>
- **National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA):** www.nhtsa.dot.gov
- **National Safety Council:** www.nsc.org
- **Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center:** www.pedbikeinfo.org