

JANUARY 2014



Danger Zones: A summary of pedestrian fatality trends in Louisiana

TEN YEARS OF DANGER: Pedestrian Deaths in Louisiana

Although vehicular deaths have decreased in Louisiana, pedestrian deaths increased.

IN 2012, PEDESTRIANS ACCOUNTED FOR

16.6%
OF ALL TRAFFIC DEATHS



This is a long-standing problem in Louisiana. Between 2003 and 2012:

1028

total pedestrian fatalities



8668

total traffic fatalities



12%

of traffic deaths were pedestrians



FOR EVERY 100,000 RESIDENTS

Louisiana suffers the **5th highest pedestrian fatality rate** (2.29) and the **3rd highest child pedestrian fatality rate** (1.43) in the country

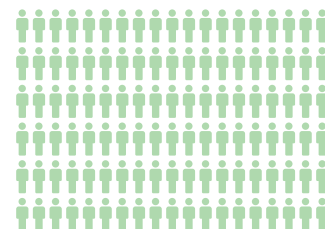
Pedestrian deaths rose from 93 in 2011 to 121 in 2012, an increase of:

30%

Louisiana Pedestrian Fatality Rates by Race/Ethnicity and Age (2003-2010)	Pedestrian fatality rate per 100,000 capita
White, non-Hispanic	2.14
African American, non-Hispanic	3.58
Hispanic (all races)	2.49
Asian	2.26
65 and older	2.15
75 and older	2.47
Under 65	2.70
Under 16	1.43

114 child pedestrians were killed

between the year 2003 and 2010



Many of these deaths are preventable.

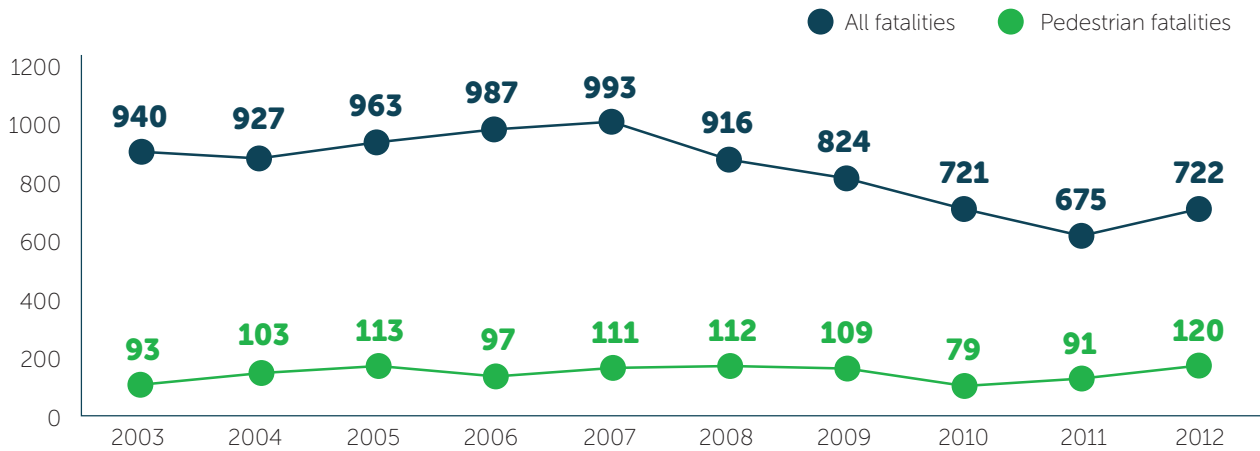
African Americans are **67%** more likely to die in a pedestrian crash than non-Hispanic whites

Click the arrow to view an interactive map of Louisiana pedestrian fatalities from 2003 through 2012



Ten Years of Pedestrian Deaths in Louisiana

1,028 pedestrians were killed in Louisiana during the 10 year period from 2003 through 2012.¹ This represents about 12 percent of the 8,668 traffic deaths in Louisiana during the same period. Both total traffic deaths, and pedestrian fatalities have declined significantly in Louisiana over the last ten years (see chart below).



But the progress in cutting pedestrian fatalities has been far less significant than that for total fatalities. The result is that by 2012, pedestrian fatalities now make up nearly 16.6 percent of all of Louisiana’s traffic deaths. And the state’s pedestrian fatality rate (2.29 per 100,000 capita) is the 5th highest among all 50 states (excluding the District of Columbia).

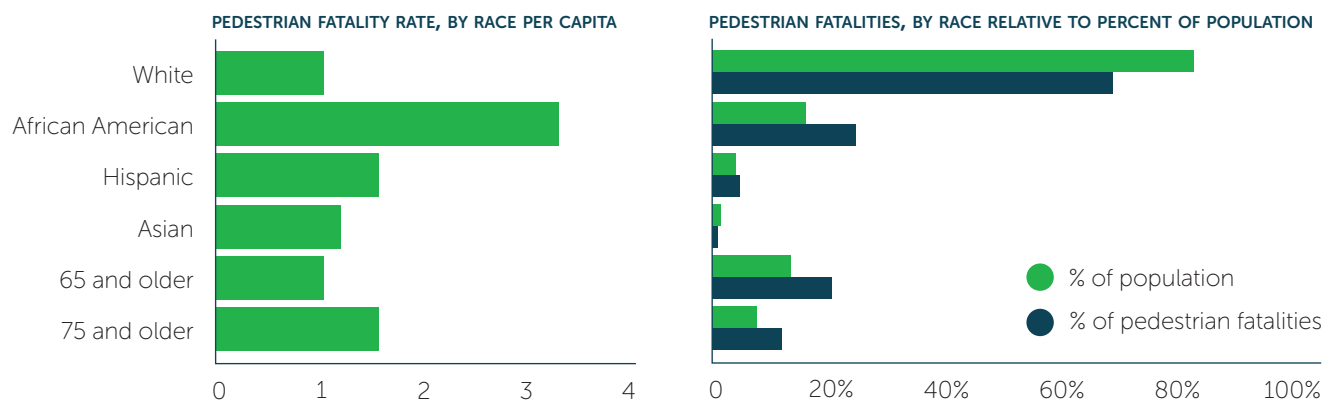
This brief report takes a closer look at Louisiana’s pedestrian deaths over the last ten years – who are the victims, what factors contribute to pedestrian deaths, and where are the crashes occurring. Our hope is that this information will shed light on the continuing need for pedestrian safety efforts, and help Louisiana’s policymakers make informed decisions.

The Victims

Racial and ethnic minorities are disproportionately represented among Louisiana’s pedestrian fatalities.² During the period 2003 through 2010, African Americans (non-Hispanic) suffered an age-adjusted pedestrian fatality rate that was 67 percent higher as that for non-Hispanic whites. Hispanics (all races) had an age-adjusted fatality rate that was slightly higher than that for non-Hispanic whites. Non-Hispanic/Asians living in Louisiana had a slightly lower age-adjusted pedestrian fatality rate. Put another way, African Americans represented 32 percent of Louisiana’s total population, but accounted for nearly 43 percent of the state’s pedestrian fatalities. In contrast, whites comprised 62 percent of the state’s population, but only 51 percent of Louisiana’s pedestrian fatalities.

In contrast to most other states, Louisiana’s older residents do not appear to suffer disproportionately from pedestrian fatalities. Louisiana’s residents aged 65 years and older have a pedestrian fatality rate that is lower than that for people 64 years or younger. For those aged 75 years or older, the pedestrian fatality rate is also lower than for Louisiana’s residents aged 64 and younger.

Notably, Louisiana had the third highest pedestrian fatality rate for children aged 15 and younger among the 50 states. With 114 children younger than 16 killed between 2003 and 2010, the state’s children suffer a pedestrian fatality rate of 1.43 per 100,000 capita. This rate is nearly 63 percent higher than the national average.



1. Pedestrian and traffic fatality data is derived from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS). **2.** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS).

How Street Design Contributes to Pedestrian Deaths

Pedestrian fatalities in Louisiana occur overwhelmingly on wide roads built to move lots of cars very fast. Basic pedestrian infrastructure — sidewalks, crosswalks, walk signals — are often lacking.

More than 50 percent of pedestrian fatalities in Louisiana between 2003 and 2012 occurred on roads classified as “arterials.” These roads are wider, higher capacity, and higher speed routes that connect major destinations within an urban or rural area.

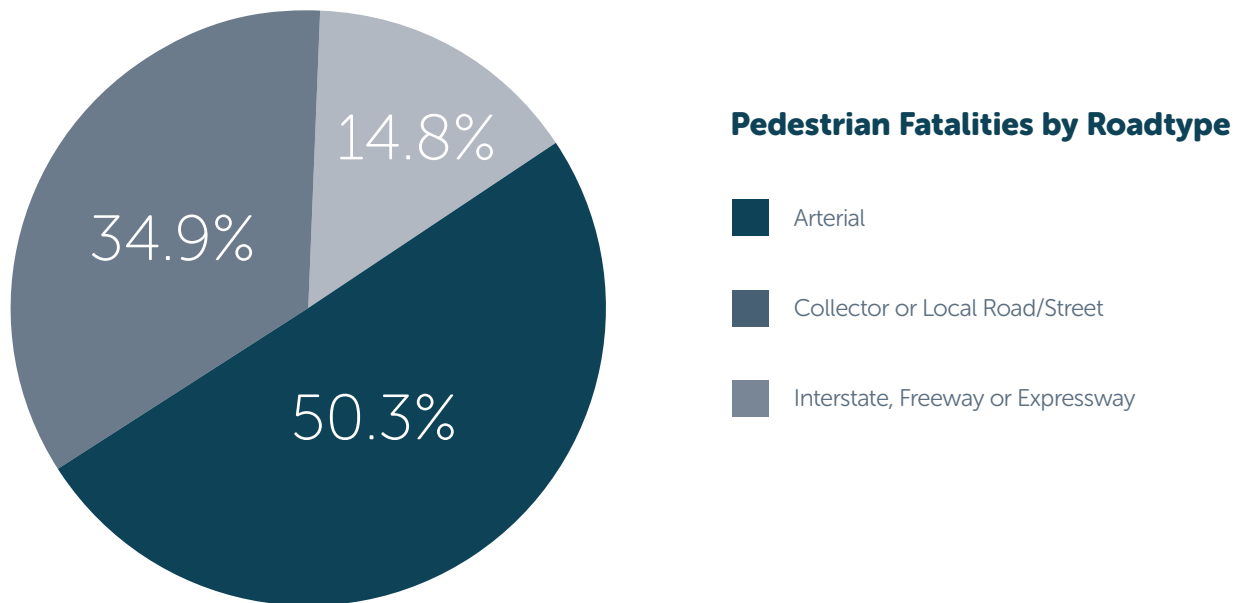
71% of Louisiana’s pedestrian fatalities occur on roads with a speed limit of 40 miles per hour or greater

vs.

2.2% of Louisiana’s pedestrian fatalities occur on roads with a speed limit of 20 miles per hour or less

These statistics correspond with studies which show that pedestrians are much more likely to be killed when struck by vehicles traveling at higher speeds. A 2008 report from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration found that pedestrian crashes on roadways with a speed limit of 50 miles per hour or higher are sixteen times more likely to result in a fatality than crashes occurring on roads with a speed limit of 30 miles per hour or lower.

Despite the clear need to make Louisiana’s streets and sidewalks safer for pedestrians, the state has obligated only a fraction of the federal transportation dollars designated for traffic safety to projects aimed at making bicycling and walking safer. A major source of federal funding for roadway safety improvements is the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). According to an analysis by the Safe Routes to School National Partnership, the state obligated only \$240,012 in HSIP funds to bicycle and pedestrian projects from fiscal year 2007 through 2011 — that represents just 0.2 percent of total HSIP funding the state obligated during that period.



Danger Zones: Where Louisiana's Pedestrian Crashes Occur

PEDESTRIAN AND ALL FATALITIES BY METROPOLITAN AREA (2003-2012)

Metro Area	Total Traffic Fatalities	Total Pedestrian Fatalities	Pedestrians as Percent of All Traffic Fatalities	Ped Fatalities per 100,000 Capita
Alexandria	281	30	10.7%	1.98
Baton Rouge	1502	163	10.9%	2.10
Houma-Bayou Cane-Thibodaux	489	48	9.8%	2.34
Lafayette	508	74	14.6%	2.80
Lake Charles	431	64	14.8%	3.25
Monroe	278	31	11.2%	1.78
New Orleans-Metairie-Kenner	1475	270	18.3%	2.25
Shreveport-Bossier City	649	71	10.9%	1.81

PEDESTRIAN AND ALL FATALITIES BY PARISH (2003-2012)

Parish	Total Traffic Fatalities	Total Pedestrian Fatalities	Pedestrians as Percent of All Traffic Fatalities	Ped Fatalities per 100,000 Capita
Acadia	155	14	9.0%	2.31
Allen	65	4	6.2%	1.56
Ascension	227	26	11.5%	2.61
Assumption	80	7	8.8%	3.00
Avoyelles	92	16	17.4%	3.83
Beauregard	91	7	7.7%	2.01
Bienville	56	3	5.4%	2.06
Bossier	152	21	13.8%	1.86
Caddo	397	47	11.8%	1.86
Calcasieu	401	62	15.5%	3.28
Caldwell	36	2	5.6%	1.96
Cameron	30	2	6.7%	2.52
Catahoula	44	0	0.0%	0.00
Claiborne	38	0	0.0%	0.00
Concordia	53	5	9.4%	2.46
De Soto	100	3	3.0%	1.14
East Baton Rouge	541	86	15.9%	2.00
East Carroll	14	0	0.0%	0.00
East Feliciana	60	3	5.0%	1.48
Evangeline	84	12	14.3%	3.50
Franklin	44	1	2.3%	0.48
Grant	50	3	6.0%	1.41
Iberia	165	22	13.3%	3.00
Iberville	128	6	4.7%	1.80
Jackson	40	1	2.5%	0.63
Jefferson Davis	331	90	27.2%	2.05
Jefferson	115	11	9.6%	3.50
Lafayette	355	57	16.1%	2.68
Lafourche	250	24	9.6%	2.53
LaSalle	37	0	0.0%	0.00

Danger Zones: Where Louisiana's Pedestrian Crashes Occur (continued)

PEDESTRIAN AND ALL FATALITIES BY PARISH (2003-2012)				
Metro Area	Total Traffic Fatalities	Total Pedestrian Fatalities	Pedestrians as Percent of All Traffic Fatalities	Ped Fatalities per 100,000 Capita
Lincoln	106	7	6.6%	1.54
Livingston	263	16	6.1%	1.34
Madison	60	3	5.0%	2.42
Morehouse	73	11	15.1%	3.84
Natchitoches	114	10	8.8%	2.55
Orleans	378	87	23.0%	2.36
Ouachita	205	29	14.1%	1.91
Plaquemines	50	6	12.0%	2.42
Pointe Coupee	88	4	4.5%	1.77
Rapides	231	27	11.7%	2.08
Red River	37	1	2.7%	1.09
Richland	54	4	7.4%	1.93
Sabine	71	4	5.6%	1.67
St. Bernard	58	12	20.7%	2.78
St. Charles	115	13	11.3%	2.51
St. Helena	57	3	5.3%	2.74
St. James	81	4	4.9%	1.84
St. John the Baptist	125	20	16.0%	4.37
St. Landry	236	28	11.9%	3.32
St. Martin	153	17	11.1%	3.31
St. Mary	120	22	18.3%	4.08
St. Tammany	418	42	10.0%	1.86
Tangipahoa	372	39	10.5%	3.38
Tensas	8	0	0.0%	0.00
Terrebonne	239	24	10.0%	2.18
Union	73	2	2.7%	0.88
Vermilion	113	12	10.6%	2.11
Vernon	124	12	9.7%	2.34
Washington	124	8	6.5%	1.74
Webster	77	7	9.1%	1.70
West Baton Rouge	111	18	16.2%	7.81
West Carroll	30	0	0.0%	0.00
West Feliciana	27	1	3.7%	0.64
Winn	46	0	0.0%	0.00

Danger Zones: Where Louisiana's Pedestrian Crashes Occur (continued)

These are the roadways with the highest number of pedestrian fatalities for each Parish during the years 2003 to 2012.

PEDESTRIAN AND ALL FATALITIES BY ROADWAY (2003-2012)												
Parish	Trafficway	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	TOTAL
Lafayette	US-167	0	2	1	3	2	2	3	1	0	2	16
East Baton Rouge	US-61	1	0	1	1	1	1	2	3	1	2	13
Orleans	US-90	1	1	2	0	3	2	2	0	2	0	13
Jefferson	US-61	2	1	1	4	0	1	2	0	0	1	12
Jefferson	Veterans Mem. Blvd.	3	0	3	1	0	2	0	0	1	2	12
St. Mary	US-90	1	1	2	0	0	1	1	3	1	0	10
Jefferson	US-90	0	0	1	2	0	2	2	1	0	2	10
St. John the Baptist	US-61	1	3	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	10
St. Tammany	US-190	0	0	0	5	0	1	1	1	1	0	9
West Baton Rouge	US-190	2	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	3	9
Calcasieu	I-10	0	4	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	8
Jefferson	I-10	1	1	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	2	8
Orleans	I-10	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	2	8
St. Tammany	I-10	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	7
St. Tammany	I-12	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	2	7
Calcasieu	SR-385	0	2	1	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	7
Morehouse	US-165	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	7
Avoyelles	SR-1	1	0	1	2	0	2	0	0	0	1	7
Tangipahoa	I-55	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	1	6
Terrebonne	SR-24	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	0	0	1	6
Vernon	US-171	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	2	6
Calcasieu	SR-14	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	2	0	1	6
East Baton Rouge	SR-67	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	1	6
Lafourche	SR-1	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	0	1	0	6
Ouachita	US-165	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	1	1	0	6
St. Landry	US-190	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	6
Tangipahoa	US-190	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	1	0	5
Bossier	I-20	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	5
Caddo	SR-1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	5
Iberia	US-90	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	5
Lafayette	I-10	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	5
Lafayette	I-49	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	5
Ouachita	US-80	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	5