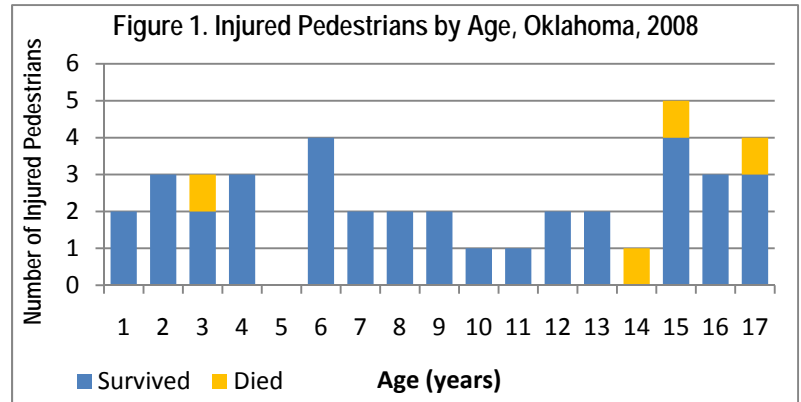


Data Linkage Results

Child Pedestrian Crash Injuries, Oklahoma, 2008

Walking is generally a safe mode of transportation with health benefits; however, walking is not risk free. In Oklahoma, there were 49 pedestrian deaths in 2008. This report describes pedestrian crash injuries among children under 18 years of age using 2008 Traffic Data Linkage Project (TDLP) data.

- Forty injured pedestrians 1-17 years of age were identified (Figure 1).
 - Four children died and 36 were hospitalized with nonfatal injuries.
- Risk of injury was slightly greater for males than females.
- The majority of child pedestrians were injured in urban areas (90%), in residential neighborhoods (65%), and at places other than intersections (88%).



- Two injuries involved school buses in a residential area after school and two occurred in a school zone.
- The highest number of injuries occurred between 3:00pm and 6:00pm (38%), when children were getting out of school and drivers were commuting home from work.
- Information on the pedestrians' actions at the time of the crash was known for 32 children. The most common actions included crossing at non-intersection roadways (28%), darting out or running across a roadway while trying to evade traffic (16%), standing on the road shoulder/roadside (9%), and walking with the flow of or against traffic (9%).
- The typical hospital charge for nonfatally injured children was \$38,000 with patients generally staying three days.
- About two-thirds of the children had no health insurance or were covered by Medicaid.
- Most patients were discharged home; however, almost 20% required further inpatient treatment at another facility.
- The most common types of injuries sustained by the hospitalized pedestrians included fractures (39%), bruises (28%), and internal injuries (20%). Fourteen children suffered a traumatic brain injury.
- Six incidents were hit-and-run motor vehicle crashes.
- The majority of pedestrian crash injuries occurred on roadways with a posted speed limit of 25 miles per hour (mph); however, all fatalities occurred on high-speed roadways (45-60 mph).

Child Pedestrians 1-4 Years of Age (Pre-School Age)

- The most common time for injuries was weekend days (9:00am-6:00pm).

Child Pedestrians 5-14 Years of Age (School-Age)

- The most common times for injuries were weekday mornings (6:00am-8:00am) and weekday afternoons (3:00pm-6:00pm).

Adolescent Pedestrians 15-17 Years of Age

- The most common time for injuries was evening hours (5:00pm-9:00pm).

TDLP Data Linkage Results

Child Pedestrian Crash Injuries, Oklahoma 2008

Case Briefs

- A father left a toddler in the front yard while he talked to the school bus driver for less than five minutes. When the bus drove away, the father did not see his daughter in the yard. He immediately turned back toward the roadway and saw his daughter laying face down in the road. The child was walking in front of the bus when she was struck by the front bumper. The bus driver did not see the toddler near the bus when he drove away from the crash scene. The girl was hospitalized for a head injury.
- A young boy was chasing a ball across a city street when he was struck by a car. The driver reportedly saw two older kids standing next to the roadway, so she slowed down as she went by them. She then heard something hit her car; she stopped and found that the boy was knocked about 35 feet away from the point of impact. The child was hospitalized for several weeks before being discharged to another facility for further treatment.
- A pre-teen boy walked out from between two parked cars in a school zone and was struck by a car. The driver did not see the child until he ran in front of the car. The posted speed limit was 10 mph at the crash scene. The boy was hospitalized with a leg fracture.
- Several teens pretended to have a “fire drill” where they exited the sport utility vehicle, ran around it, and then got back in the vehicle. The adult driver thought all the passengers were back in the vehicle when he drove off. The driver then noticed the victim running alongside the vehicle trying to get in the driver’s side rear door. Before the vehicle stopped, the victim lost his footing, fell, and was run over by the rear tire. The victim died from his injuries.
- A toddler was in the backyard while his father walked to the street to jump-start his pickup truck. The boy got through the backyard gate and was walking behind the truck when his father was backing up. The child suffered multiple fractures.
- An adolescent boy was skateboarding approximately one foot into the right lane of a roadway. He was wearing headphones in both ears. The driver of the car did not see the teen and struck him. The crash incident occurred at dark on an unlit roadway. The teen sustained multiple fractures. He was in the hospital for nearly two weeks before being discharged to another facility for further treatment.
- Two young boys were struck by a car while crossing a four-way intersection in a marked crosswalk; the driver failed to yield to the pedestrians. Both children were hospitalized for multiple injuries.
- An older teen boy was riding on the hood of a sport utility vehicle. When the vehicle stopped, the teen fell off the front and struck his head on the roadway. A witness stated that she saw the teen jump on the hood of the moving vehicle and subsequently fall. The driver of the vehicle fled the crash scene. The teen sustained a head injury.