

***Pedestrians have little to protect them when struck by a motor vehicle and have a high risk of death or hospitalization.***

***Many injuries happen in predictable, preventable ways.***

***Walk on sidewalks and cross at designated crosswalks whenever possible. Don't allow young children near roadways without adult supervision.***

## Pedestrian Safety

- Annually in the U.S., more than 4,000 pedestrians are killed and thousands more are injured in traffic crashes.<sup>1</sup>
- In Oklahoma for 2009, 605 pedestrians were involved in traffic crashes; of these, 133 were hospitalized and 35 died.
- Persons under 18 years old made up the highest percentage of pedestrian incidents; however, older pedestrians were more likely to be hospitalized or die.
- Older people may need more time to cross a street and may have reduced ability to react if a vehicle fails to yield.
- Many of the pedestrians, or the drivers who hit them, were alcohol-impaired at the time of the incident.
- Pedestrian incidents occurring between midnight and 3 a.m. resulted in the most deaths and hospitalizations. Incidents occurring during this time were also the most likely to be alcohol- or drug-related.
- Typical hospital charges for alcohol-impaired pedestrians were nearly \$10,000 more than hospitalized pedestrians who were not impaired.

### Prevention

- Pedestrians should stay on sidewalks and cross at a designated crosswalk whenever possible.
- Never assume that a driver sees you; if possible, try to make eye contact with the driver before stepping into the roadway.
- Keep looking and listening as you cross a roadway.
- If you must walk on a roadway, walk facing oncoming traffic.
- Children can't judge speed or distance very well until at least age 10 and should only cross streets with the assistance of an adult.<sup>2</sup>
- If walking at night, carry a flashlight and wear light colored or reflective clothing.
- Avoid talking or texting on your cell phone and don't wear headphones if walking near traffic.
- Be very cautious walking near traffic if impaired by alcohol and/or drugs.

### Internet Resources

1. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration: <http://www.nhtsa.gov/nhtsa/everyoneisapedestrian/index.html>
2. National Safe Kids Campaign: <http://www.safekids.org/>
3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: [http://www.cdc.gov/Motorvehiclesafety/Pedestrian\\_safety/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/Motorvehiclesafety/Pedestrian_safety/index.html)
4. National Center of Safe Routes to School: <http://www.saferoutesinfo.org/>
5. Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center: <http://www.pedbikeinfo.org/>

***Live Injury-Free!***