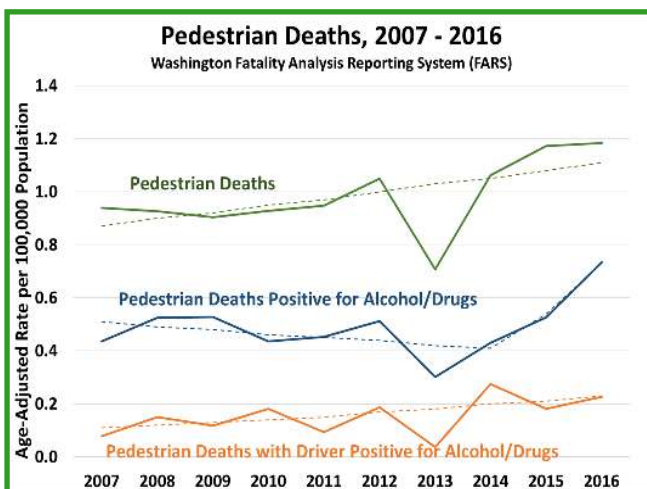




## Pedestrian Deaths and Impairment

**Trends** show a steady upward climb in pedestrian deaths. During the years 2007-2016, the age-adjusted pedestrian death rate rose from 0.94 ( $\pm 0.5$ ) to 1.2 ( $\pm 0.5$ ) per 100,000 population. Multiple pedestrian and driver related factors have likely contributed to this rise. However, the rise in walking impaired since 2014 and steady rise in driving impaired since 2007 are major contributors to the rise in pedestrian deaths.



### Did you know?

- ⇒ Pedestrians 45-54 and drivers ages 25-34 appear to have the highest risk for being in deadly crashes involving alcohol and drugs. That said, the risk is elevated among all age groups with impairment.
- ⇒ Females are less at risk for pedestrian deaths or hitting a pedestrian when walking or driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- ⇒ Native Americans and Alaska Natives are significantly more at risk for pedestrian deaths involving alcohol or drugs.
- ⇒ Most pedestrian deaths involving alcohol or drugs happen on urban roads and at night; weekends are just as dangerous as weekdays.

#### Data Sources

Washington Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS), Washington Traffic Safety Commission,  
Washington Population Estimates for Counties, The Office of Financial Management

For more information, please contact Washington Traffic Safety Commission, Research and Data Division at (360) 725-9860.

**I care, because** 697 pedestrians died in Washington during the years of 2007-2016, which was about 14% of all traffic deaths. Pedestrian deaths are heavily associated with alcohol and drug use both by pedestrians and by drivers.

Nearly half of pedestrians who died during the ten year period were positive for alcohol or drugs, or sometimes both. Sixteen percent (114) of pedestrians killed had blood alcohol higher than the legal limit (.08%); 21% (146) were drug positive, most commonly for marijuana; and 12% (83) were positive for alcohol and one or more other drugs. Nearly one of every six drivers who hit a pedestrian was positive for alcohol or drugs, or both; 5% (33), 9%(59), and 2% (15) respectively.

### Impairment is the Number One Cause of Pedestrian Deaths.

**Geographic Distribution** of these deaths showed some variation during the years 2012-2016:

- ⇒ No pedestrian deaths involving alcohol and drugs occurred in 13 counties: Jefferson, San Juan, Klickitat, Chelan, Douglas, Ferry, Lincoln, Adams, Pend Oreille, Whitman, Columbia, Skamania and Wahkiakum.
- ⇒ One county had significantly higher rates for pedestrian deaths involving pedestrians or drivers walking or driving while positive for alcohol or drugs: Yakima.

**Pedestrian Deaths with Pedestrian/Driver Impairment, 2012-2016**  
(Rate per 100,000 Population)



## Characteristics of Impairment Involved Pedestrian Deaths, 2012-2016

		Pedestrians Positive for Alcohol and/or Drugs		Striking Drivers Positive for Alcohol and/or Drugs	
		Number of Deaths	Age-Adjusted Mortality Rate per 100,000 Population (95% CI)	Number of Deaths	Age-Adjusted Death Rate per 100,000 Population (95% CI)
<b>Age (Years)*</b>					
	0-14 <sup>^</sup>	2	0.03 (±0.01)	-	-
	15-24	22	0.48 (±0.18)	12	0.26 (±0.13)
	25-34	25	0.52 (±0.18)	20	0.41 (±0.16)
	35-44	37	0.81 (±0.24)	10	0.22 (±0.11)
	45-54	43	0.90 (±0.25)	14	0.29 (±0.13)
	55-64	33	0.72 (±0.23)	7	0.15 (±0.09)
	65+ <sup>^</sup>	15	0.30 (±0.13)	3	0.06 (±0.05)
<b>Gender*</b>					
	Male	132	0.76 (±0.13)	46	0.36 (±0.10)
	Female	44	0.26 (±0.08)	20	0.17 (±0.08)
<b>Race/Ethnicity**</b>					
	Non-Hispanic White	121	0.47 (±0.09)	-	-
	Hispanic Origin	42	0.53 (±0.27)	-	-
	Black	8	0.61 (±0.42)	-	-
	Asian/Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	8	0.26 (±0.18)	-	-
	Native American /Alaska Native	19	5.50 (±2.50)	-	-

\* Both the numerators (events) and denominators (exposures) are specific to the demographic sub-group under study to calculate the risk for that specific demographic group.

# Race/Ethnicity information is only available for fatalities.

		Pedestrian Crash Factors Involving Pedestrians or Drivers Positive for Alcohol or Drugs	
		Number of Deaths	Age-Adjusted Death Rate per 100,000 Population (95% CI)
<b>Pedestrians were Hit On*</b>			
	Urban (Land Use) Roads	168	0.46 (±0.07)
	Rural (Land Use) Roads	48	0.13 (±0.04)
<b>Pedestrians were Hit During*</b>			
	Weekends (Friday 6:00pm-Monday 5:59am)	83	0.24 (±0.05)
	Weekdays (Monday 6:00am-Friday 5:50pm)	130	0.36 (±0.06)
	Daytime (6:00 am-5:59 pm )	62	0.17 (±0.04)
	Nighttime (6:00 pm-5:59 am)	154	0.43 (±0.07)
	Winter (Jan, Feb, March)	49	0.13 (±0.04)
	Spring (April, May, June)	45	0.13 (±0.04)
	Summer (July, August, September)	58	0.16 (±0.04)
	Fall (October, November, December)	64	0.18 (±0.04)

+ Denominator is overall state population.

<sup>^</sup> Rates based on 5 or less events should be interpreted with caution.