



OVERVIEW

More people will take to walking and biking this spring as warmer weather arrives around the region. Street Smart’s traffic safety campaign reminds Washington area drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians to slow down, be alert, and obey traffic laws.

A NATIONAL PROBLEM

- After reaching a 40-year high in 2022, pedestrian deaths nationwide experienced a modest 4% decrease in the first half of 2023.¹
- Drivers struck and killed 3,373 pedestrians around the country in the first six months of 2023.¹
- While the 4% decrease from the same period in 2022 is positive, pedestrian fatalities have risen a staggering 14% since 2019.¹

REGIONAL FACTS

- Preliminary numbers indicate that in 2023, there were 108 pedestrian and 7 bicyclist fatalities, a decrease from 129 pedestrian and 10 bicycle fatalities in 2022, a record-setting year.²
- Police departments will conduct increased enforcement this spring, ticketing drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists who break traffic safety laws. Fines range from \$40 to \$500.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
TOTAL REGIONAL FATALITIES					
Pedestrian	92	94	96	129	108
Bicyclist	7	5	7	10	7
All traffic	305	314	358	384	381

2023	Alexandria City	Arlington Co.	Fairfax City	Fairfax Co.	Falls Church City	Loudoun Co.	Manassas City	Manassas Park City	Prince William Co.	Charles Co.	Frederick Co.	Montgomery Co.	Prince George's Co.	DC	TOTAL
FATALITIES															
Pedestrian	0	1	0	10	0	3	3	0	7	7	4	15	39	19	108
Bicyclist	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	3	7
All traffic	1	7	0	42	0	16	6	0	29	21	33	45	129	52	381
CRASHES															
Pedestrian	47	109	12	237	12	58	10	0	91	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	892	-
Bicyclist	8	52	5	78	5	26	4	2	21	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	479	-
All traffic	1,092	2,075	537	12,538	125	4,772	478	95	6,265	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	20,134	-

¹ Governors Highway Safety Association, [U.S. Pedestrian Deaths Fall Slightly in First Half of 2023, but Remain Above Pre-Pandemic Levels](#)

² Preliminary data compiled from DC Vision Zero, Maryland Department of Transportation, and Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles in April 2024, subject to change.

CAMPAIGN COMPONENTS

- Testimonial television spots, documentary videos, and webpage featuring local residents affected by pedestrian crashes.
- “Lives Shatter on Impact” Testimonial Wall, a touchless experience where visitors can read stories and watch videos of individuals talking about the aftermath of a serious or deadly crash on their lives.
- English and Spanish exterior bus ads, interior bus cards, bus wraps, Bikeshare posters, and transit shelters.

STREET SAFETY TIPS

If you're driving...

- Slow down and obey the speed limit.
- Stop for pedestrians at crosswalks.
- Be careful when passing buses or stopped vehicles.
- When turning, yield to people walking and biking.
- Look for bicyclists before opening your door.
- Allow at least 3 feet when passing bikes.
- Avoid using your cell phone and never text while driving.
- Be especially careful if you drive an SUV or pickup truck—high profile vehicles are more likely to kill or seriously injure people walking and biking.

If you're walking...

- Cross the street at the corner and use marked crosswalks when they're available.
- Use the pushbuttons.
- Wait for the walk signal to cross the street.
- Watch for turning vehicles.
- Before crossing look left, right, and left again.
- Be visible. Wear something light or reflective after dark.
- Watch out for blind spots around trucks and buses.
- Avoid using your cell phone while you're crossing the street.
- On an off-street trail, obey all posted signage and approach intersections with caution.

If you're biking...

- Obey signs and signals.
- Never ride against traffic.
- Ride in a straight line at least 3 feet from parked cars.
- Use hand signals to tell drivers what you intend to do.
- Wear a helmet.
- Use lights at night and when visibility is poor.
- On an off-street trail, obey all posted signs and approach intersections with caution.

Laws and regulations differ between jurisdictions.
Visit www.BeStreetSmart.net for more information.

