



# PEDESTRIANS FACTSHEET

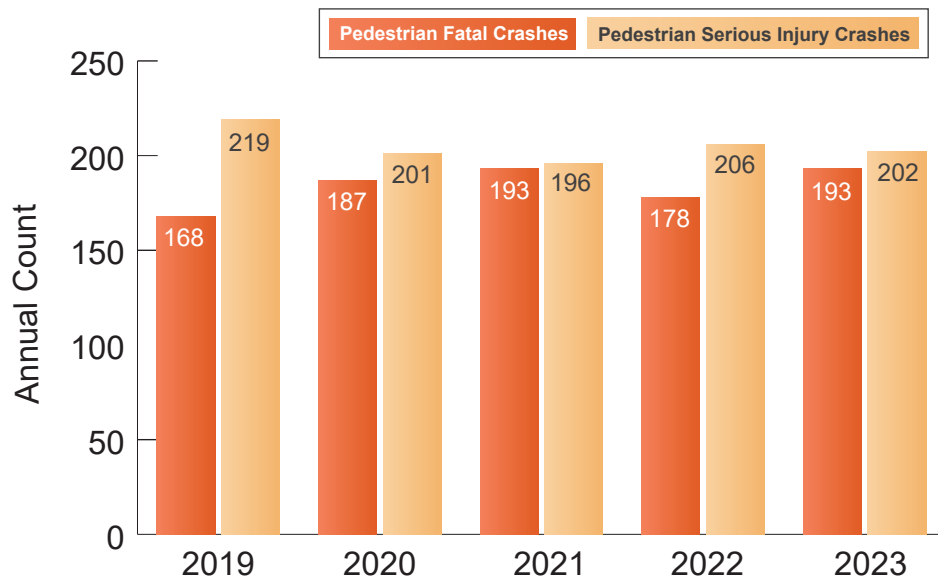
F&SI Crashes = Fatal and Serious Injury Crashes

## WHAT IS THE SHSP?

South Carolina's 2025-2029 SHSP is a statewide, comprehensive safety plan that provides guidance for all statewide transportation safety professionals to coordinate efforts toward a common goal of reducing traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries on South Carolina roadways. The SHSP includes information on ongoing state and national safety programs and highlights achievements of SCDOT and SCDPS to improve roadway safety. Thirteen emphasis areas have been identified as the primary focus of the 2025-2029 SHSP, including Pedestrians.

## PEDESTRIANS OVERVIEW

South Carolina's transportation system is intended to serve all users, including pedestrians. Pedestrians include persons walking as well as those using a wheelchair, skateboard, rollerblades, or a similar device for transportation. Between 2019 and 2023, an average of approximately 1,209 total crashes involving a pedestrian occurred on South Carolina's roadways. **More than 18% of all fatal crashes and more than 9% of all serious injury crashes in South Carolina involve pedestrians.**



Between 2019 and 2023, an average of 205 serious injury and 184 fatal pedestrian crashes occurred each year. Over this time period, fatal crashes have increased and serious injury crashes have slightly decreased.



Pedestrian F&SI crashes most commonly occur with the following four emphasis areas: Young Drivers (19.1%), Intersections (18.5%), Speeding (14.6%), and Older Drivers (9.9%). More than half of all pedestrian fatalities and serious injuries overlapped with at least one of these areas.

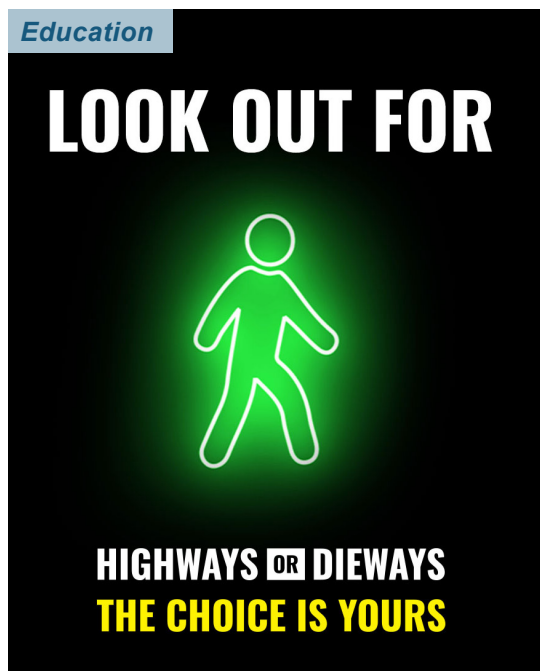


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## Crash Statistics (2019–2023)

- Annual average: 184 fatal and 205 serious injury pedestrian crashes
- Fatal pedestrian crashes have increased, while serious injury crashes have slightly decreased over the period
- Pedestrian F&SI crashes occurred most often on Saturdays (346 crashes between 2019–2023)
- December has the highest percentage of pedestrian crashes, followed by October and November, aligning with shorter daylight hours
- South Carolina ranked third nationally in pedestrian fatality rate per capita in 2023 (NHTSA FARS)
- Nighttime Influence: 87% of pedestrian fatal crashes and 68% of pedestrian serious injury crashes occurred at night — the highest nighttime risk among all emphasis areas
- Top Contributing Factors:
  - » Lying or Illegally in Roadway (37.8%)
  - » Improper Crossing (15.9%)
  - » Driving Too Fast for Conditions (6.2%)
  - » Under the Influence – Pedestrian (5.9%)
  - » Failure to Yield (5.1%)

## POTENTIAL STRATEGIES



## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Pedestrian crashes represent a disproportionately high share of fatal injuries, reflecting pedestrian vulnerability in vehicle conflicts
- Nighttime conditions pose extreme danger, with nearly 9 out of 10 fatal pedestrian crashes occurring after dark — the highest nighttime share among emphasis areas
- Seasonal and daylight-related factors contribute to crash frequency, with winter months seeing increased pedestrian crashes
- Improper crossing and pedestrians lying or illegally in the roadway are leading contributors, accounting for more than half of contributing-factor cases combined
- Charleston County consistently leads the state in total and per-capita pedestrian F&SI crashes, indicating critical areas for targeted safety investment