

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ALLIANCE

Chicago Regional Crash Report



July 2018

activetrans.org

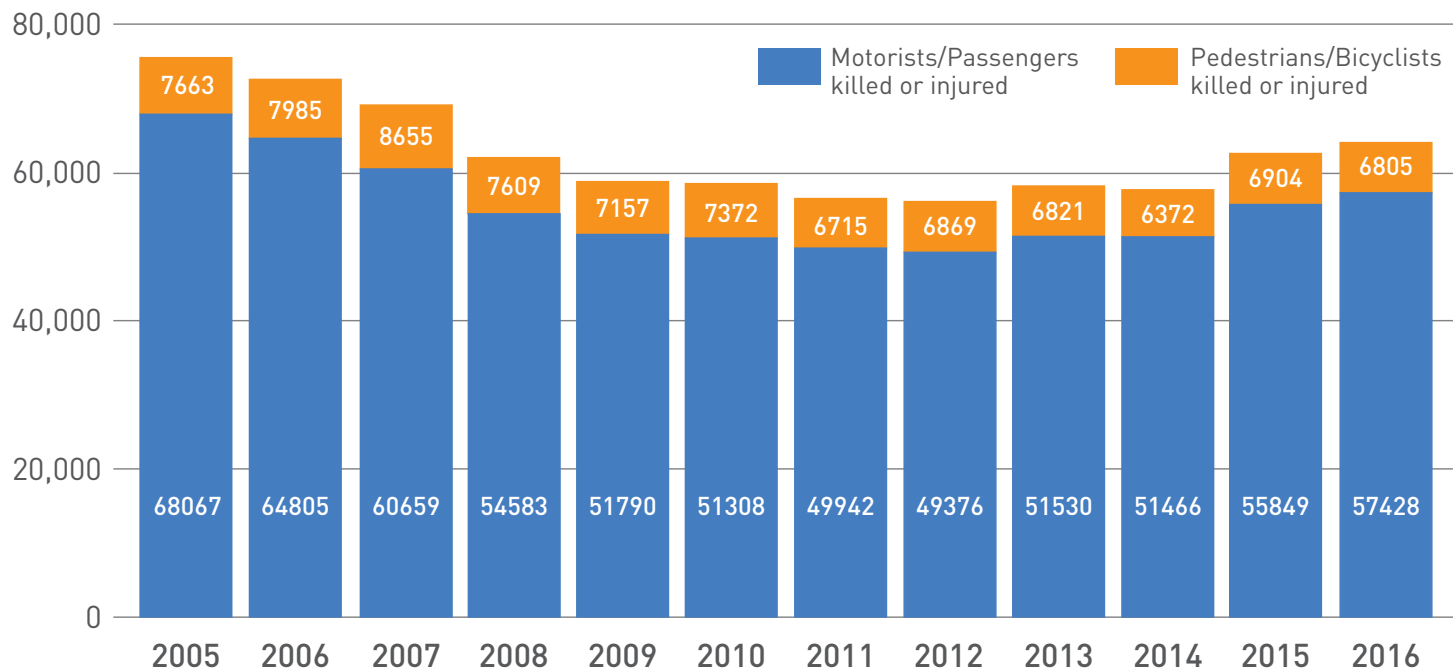


Active Transportation Alliance is the Chicago's region's¹ voice for better walking, biking and transit. Our work includes advocating for a Vision Zero goal of substantially reducing serious traffic injuries and eliminating traffic fatalities.

To track progress on these key measures, Active Trans compiles and analyzes public data on trends on bicycle and pedestrian crashes, injuries, and fatalities. Traffic crash data² is collected by local governments across Illinois and then reported to the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). IDOT reviews the data to ensure accuracy and releases crash data for each calendar year, typically with about a 12-month lag. IDOT released 2016 crash data in May 2018.

Regional Crash Trends

Since 2005, there has been an 11 percent reduction in the number of people injured or killed while walking or biking in the Chicago region. Over the same period, the number of motorists injured or killed in crashes was reduced by 16 percent. According to our regional planning organization Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP), crashes in our region involving death or serious injury are most commonly caused by speeding and aggressive driving. A majority of these traffic crashes occur on arterial roads (53 percent) which make up 36 percent of the lane miles in our region.



72% of crashes resulting in death involve one or more of these five dangerous driving behaviors³:

- Speeding
- Failure to Give the Right of Way
- Using a Cell Phone While Driving
- Driving Under the Influence
- Disobeying Traffic Signs and Signals

³ Source: City of Chicago Vision Zero Action Plan 2017, Pg 40.

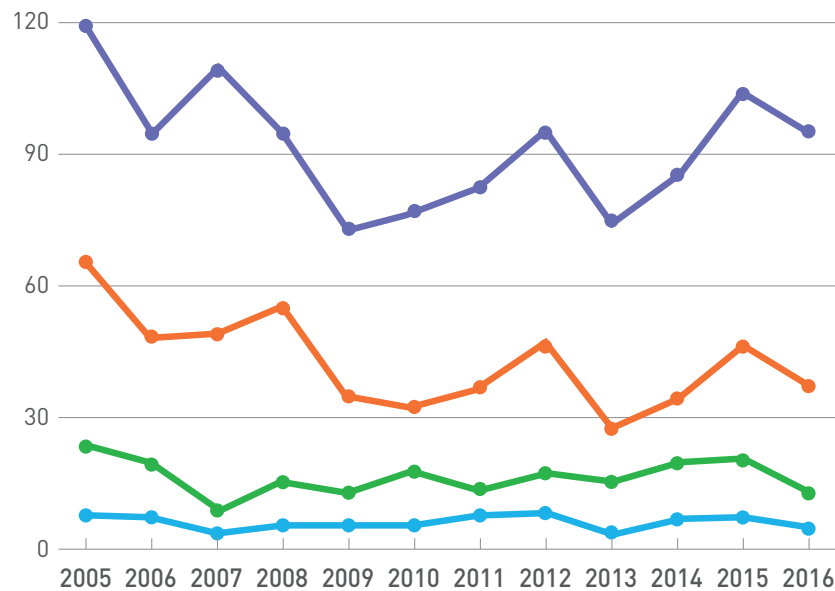
¹ For the purposes of this report, the Chicago region is defined as Cook, DuPage, Lake, McHenry, Kane, Kendall, and Will counties.

² DISCLAIMER: The motor vehicle crash data referenced herein was provided by the Illinois Department of Transportation. The author is responsible for any data analyses and conclusions drawn. Crash data includes all reported injury types.

Fatalities

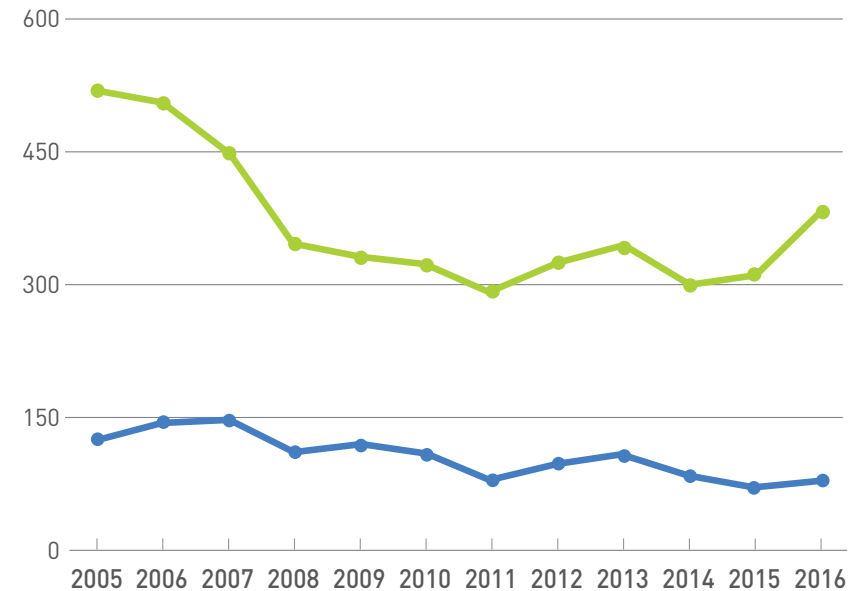
Pedestrian fatalities in the region and Chicago have been volatile over the past few years with a slight decrease from 2015 to 2016. Since 2005, bicycle fatalities have remained relatively consistent both in the city and regionally; however, the number of bicycle fatalities dropped by 35 percent in the region over the last two years. Additionally, there was a 23 percent increase in motorist fatalities across the region between 2015 and 2016. Unfortunately, preliminary 2017 data compiled by the Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) suggests a recent uptick in pedestrian and motorist fatalities in Chicago which follows national trends.

Pedestrian/Bicycle Fatalities 2005–2016



Region Pedestrian	119	94	110	95	72	76	82	95	74	85	104	95
Chicago Pedestrian	65	48	49	55	34	32	36	47	27	34	46	37
Region Bicycles	23	19	8	15	12	17	13	17	15	19	20	13
Chicago Bicycles	7	7	3	5	5	5	7	8	3	6	7	5

Motorist Fatalities 2005–2016

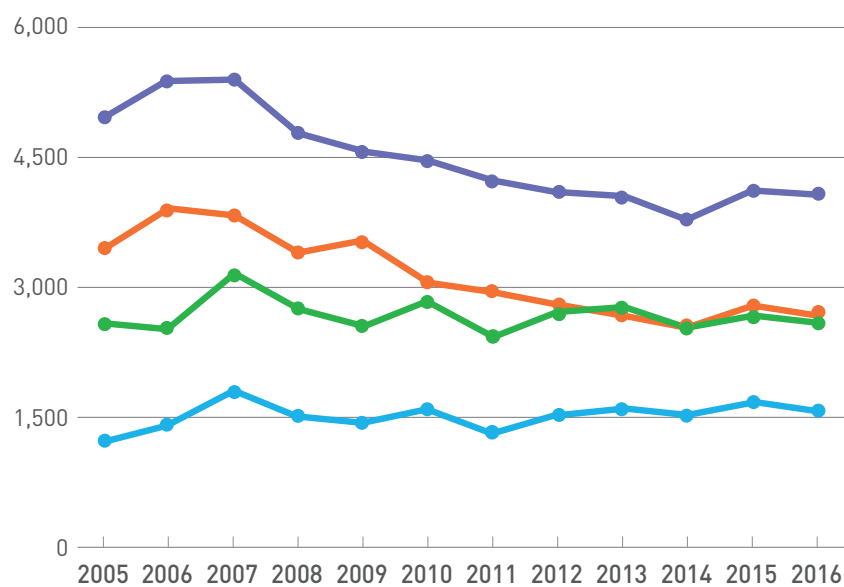


Region Motorist	487	480	425	326	309	304	273	307	324	282	292	359
Chicago Motorist	119	135	139	104	111	102	74	90	100	78	65	73

Injuries

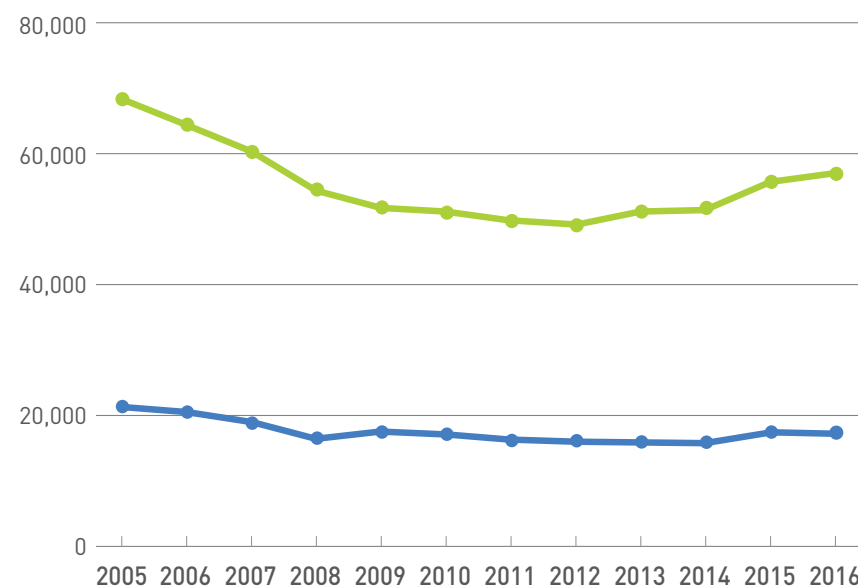
The number of people injured while walking or biking has declined steadily since 2005. The overall rise in the amount of biking means the crash rate for people on bikes has likely also declined. Given the lack of reliable data on the number of trips taken by foot, it is difficult to determine the impact this decrease has on the overall crash rate among pedestrians.

Pedestrian/Bicycle Injuries 2005–2016



Region Pedestrian	4958	5357	5393	4752	4527	4451	4208	4036	4011	3744	4080	4062
Chicago Pedestrian	3466	3894	3815	3377	3514	3052	2941	2808	2698	2521	2786	2710
Region Bicycles	2563	2515	3144	2747	2546	2828	2412	2721	2778	2524	2700	2635
Chicago Bicycles	1253	1401	1789	1515	1417	1579	1301	1507	1576	1525	1664	1570

Motorist Injuries 2005–2016



Region Motorist	67580	64325	60234	54257	51481	51004	49669	49069	51206	51184	55557	57069
Chicago Motorist	21241	20478	18999	16397	17353	17206	16163	16095	15913	15708	17206	17067

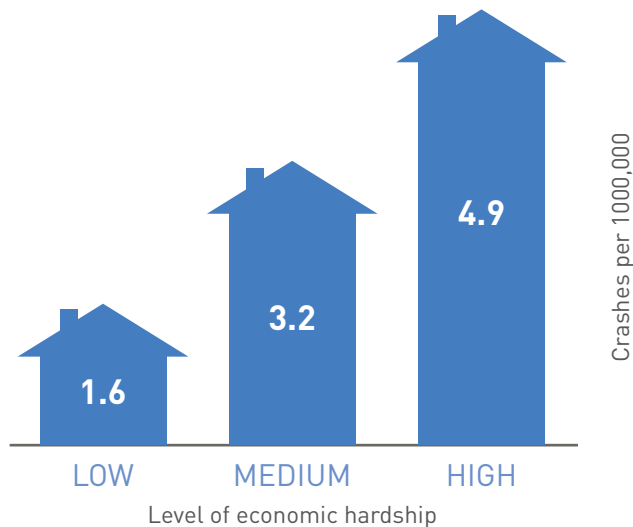
Disparities in Crashes

By Mode: People on foot or on bike are more vulnerable to serious injuries in the aftermath of a crash. According to Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT), people walking in Chicago are 12 times more likely than people in vehicles to be killed or injured in a crash. For people biking, that number is 5 times more likely.⁴

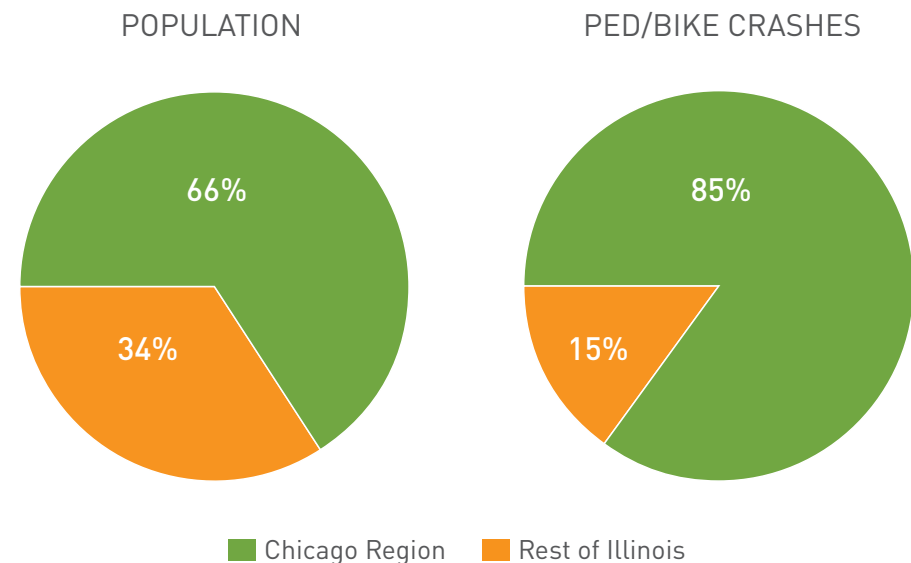


Likelihood of getting killed or injured in a crash

By Economic Hardship: According to CDOT, people living in Chicago neighborhoods with high economic hardship experience three times the number of crashes per 100,000 residents than areas with low economic hardship.⁵



By Geography: The Chicago region is home to 66 percent of the population of Illinois, but experiences 85 percent of all ped/bike fatalities. The City of Chicago is home to 21 percent of the state's population, but saw 55 percent of all ped/bike crashes in Illinois.^{6 7}



⁴ Source: City of Chicago Vision Zero Action Plan 2017, Pg 17.



⁵ Source: City of Chicago Vision Zero Action Plan 2017, Pg 17.



⁶ Source: Illinois Department of Transportation 2015 Crash Data.



⁷ Source: American Community Survey 2016 1-year estimate.

2016 Regional Crash Snapshot

In 2016, there were almost 7,000 bicycle and pedestrian crashes in the Chicago region and just over 100 fatalities. In 2016, our region saw approximately one pedestrian or bicyclist killed every third day and injured every 2 hours in traffic crashes. Here is the geographical breakdown for the region.



		ALL COOK COUNTY	CITY OF CHICAGO	COOK COUNTY SUBURBS	DUPAGE COUNTY	KANE COUNTY	KENDALL COUNTY	LAKE COUNTY	MCHENRY COUNTY	WILL COUNTY	CHICAGO REGION	STATE OF ILLINOIS
	All Pedestrians in Crashes	3741	2843	898	160	102	11	147	35	89	4285	5054
	All Bicyclists in Crashes	2357	1692	665	159	69	13	117	31	70	2816	3360
Total Ped/Bike in Crashes		6098	4535	1563	319	171	24	264	66	159	7101	8414



	Pedestrians Injured in Crashes	3553	2710	843	152	94	11	137	33	82	4062	4501
	Bicyclists Injured in Crashes	2209	1570	639	145	65	12	110	27	67	2635	3115
Total Ped/Bike Injured in Crashes		5762	4280	1482	297	159	23	247	60	149	6697	7616



	Pedestrian Fatalities	73	37	36	4	4	0	6	1	7	95	141
	Bicyclist Fatalities	11	5	6	2	0	0	0	0	0	13	19
Total Ped/Bike Fatalities		84	42	42	6	4	0	6	1	7	108	160

2016 Hit and Run Crashes

The region saw nearly 1,800 hit and run pedestrian and bicycle crashes in 2016 which represents about 25 percent of all pedestrian and bicycle crashes. Here is the breakdown of hit and run crashes by county and region:

		ALL COOK COUNTY	CITY OF CHICAGO	COOK COUNTY SUBURBS	DUPAGE COUNTY	KANE COUNTY	KENDALL COUNTY	LAKE COUNTY	MCHENRY COUNTY	WILL COUNTY	CHICAGO REGION	STATE OF ILLINOIS
	All Pedestrian Hit and Run Crashes	1123	933	190	20	25	1	28	7	22	1226	1406
	All Bicyclist Hit and Run Crashes	486	385	101	20	12	1	23	6	11	559	658
	Total Ped/Bike Hit and Run Crashes	1609	1318	291	40	37	2	51	13	33	1785	2064

	Pedestrian Hit and Run Injuries	1061	879	182	18	23	1	25	7	22	1157	1321
	Bicyclist Hit and Run Injuries	449	355	94	18	10	1	21	6	10	515	601
	Total Ped/Bike Hit and Run Injuries	1510	1234	276	36	33	2	36	13	32	1662	1922

	Pedestrian Hit and Run Fatalities	17	12	5	0	0	0	2	0	0	19	30
	Bicyclist Hit and Run Fatalities	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4
	Total Ped/Bike Hit and Run Fatalities	18	13	5	0	0	0	2	0	0	20	34