

# Chicago Regional Crash Report

Numbers at a glance

▶ **18 people walking or biking are injured every day**



▶ **Every 3 days, a person is killed while walking or biking**



**1 motorist death every day**



▶ **26% of crashes involving people walking and biking were hit-and-run crashes**



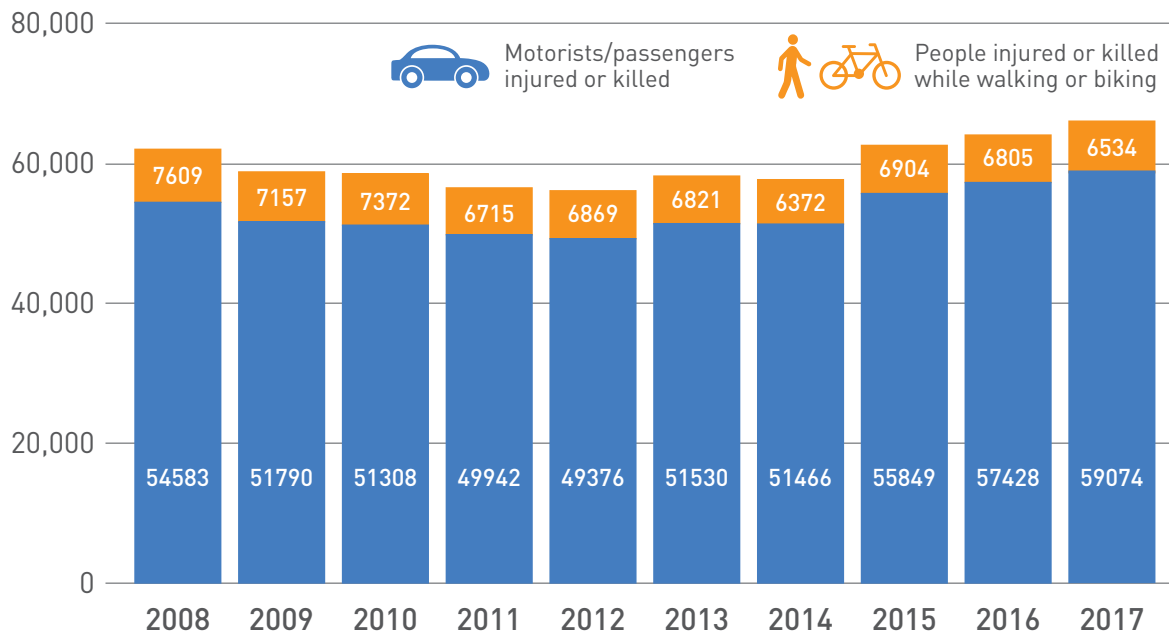
Active Transportation Alliance is the Chicago region's<sup>1</sup> voice for better walking, biking and transit. Our work includes advocating for the Vision Zero goal of substantially reducing serious traffic injuries and eliminating traffic fatalities.

To track progress on these key measures, Active Trans compiles and analyzes public data on trends of crashes involving people walking and biking and their injuries and fatalities. Traffic crash data<sup>2</sup> 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 2017 crash data in October 2019.

## Regional crash trends

Since 2008, there has been a 14 percent reduction in the number of people injured or killed while walking and people injured or killed while biking in the Chicago region. Over the same period, the number of motorists injured or killed in crashes was increased by eight 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.

### People injured or killed in the Chicago region by mode



**72% of crashes resulting in death involve one or more of these five dangerous driving behaviors<sup>3</sup>:**

- Speeding
- Failure to give the right of way
- Using a cell phone while driving
- Driving under the influence
- Disobeying traffic signs and signals

<sup>3</sup> Source: City of Chicago Vision Zero Action Plan 2017, Pg 40.

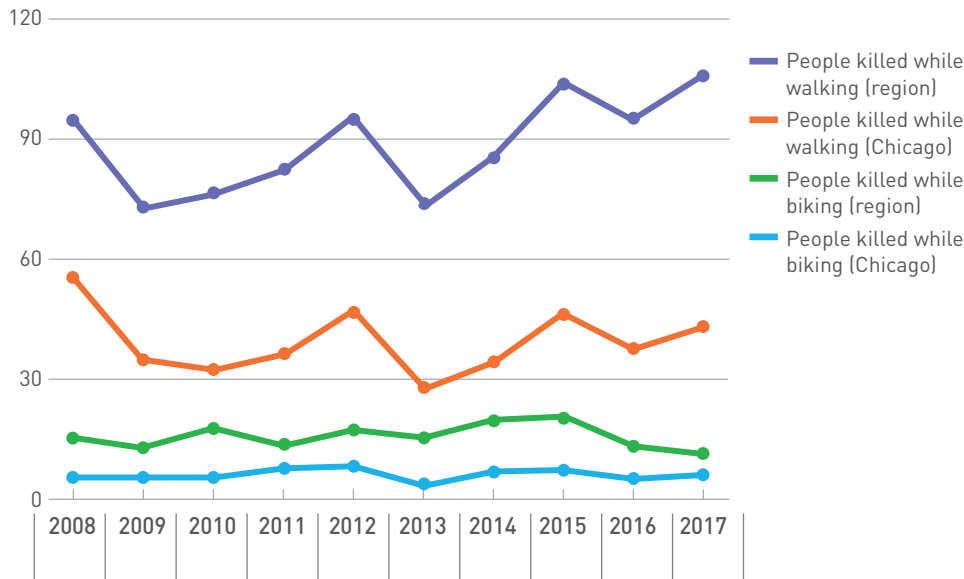
<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of this report, the Chicago region is defined as Cook, DuPage, Lake, McHenry, Kane, Kendall, and Will counties.

<sup>2</sup> 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

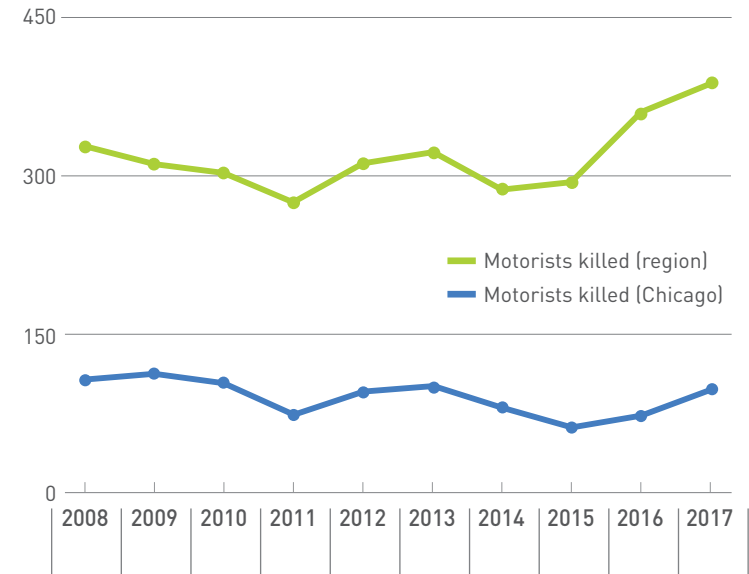
Numbers of fatalities involving people walking in the region and in Chicago have been volatile over the last decade with, most recently, a regional and city increase of 14 and 12 percent respectively between 2016 and 2017. Since 2008, fatalities of people while bicycling have remained relatively consistent both in the city and regionally; however, the number of bicycling fatalities in the region has dropped over the last two years. Additionally, there was an 18 percent overall increase in motorist fatalities across the region over the last ten years.

### Fatalities involving people walking and biking 2008–2017



Region pedestrian	95	72	76	82	95	74	85	104	95	108
Chicago pedestrian	55	34	32	36	47	27	34	46	37	42
Region bicycles	15	12	17	13	17	15	19	20	13	11
Chicago bicycles	5	5	5	7	8	3	6	7	5	6

### Motorist fatalities 2008–2017

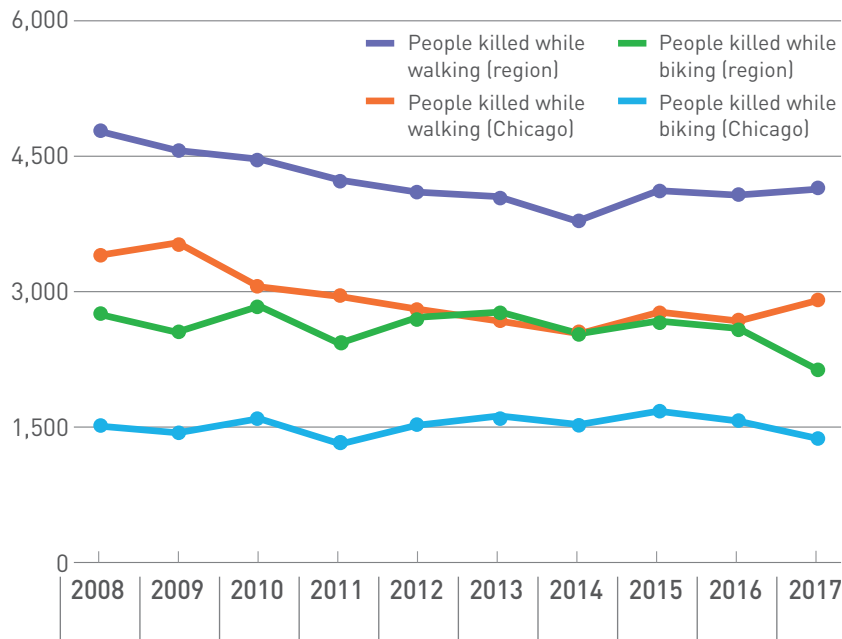


Region motorist	326	309	304	273	307	324	282	292	359	385
Chicago motorist	104	111	102	74	90	100	78	65	73	98

# Injuries

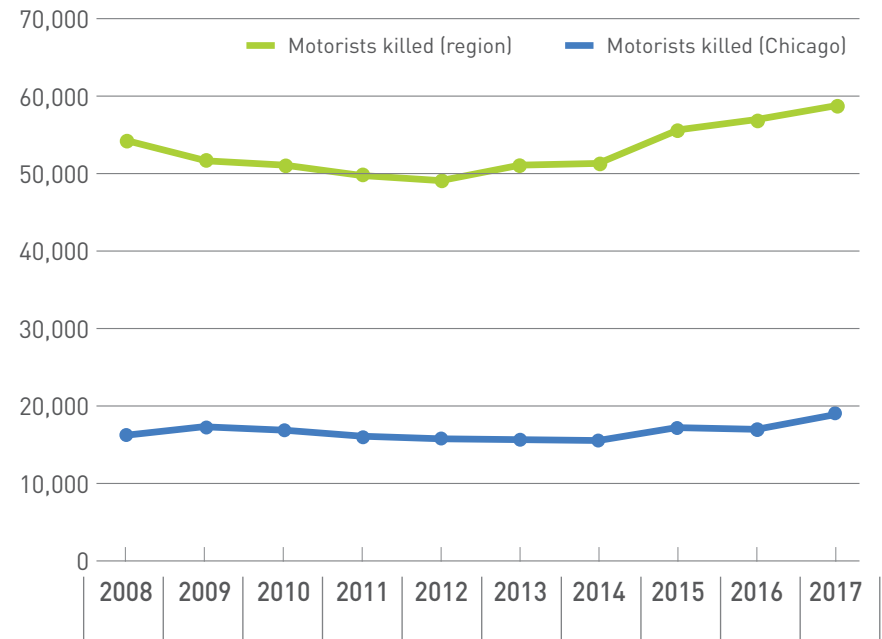
As of 2014, the number of people injured while walking and driving has been rising gradually. Most recently, between 2016 and 2017, Chicagoland saw a 3 percent increase in both pedestrian and motorist injuries. The number of people injured while biking, on the other hand, has been decreasing both regionally and in Chicago. The region experienced a 15 percent decrease in injuries of people biking between 2016 and 2017.

### Injuries involving people walking and biking 2008–2017



Region pedestrian	4752	4527	4451	4208	4036	4011	3744	4080	4062	4178
Chicago pedestrian	3377	3514	3052	2941	2808	2698	2521	2786	2710	2903
Region bicycles	2747	2546	2828	2412	2721	2778	2524	2700	2635	2237
Chicago bicycles	1515	1417	1579	1301	1507	1576	1525	1664	1570	1272

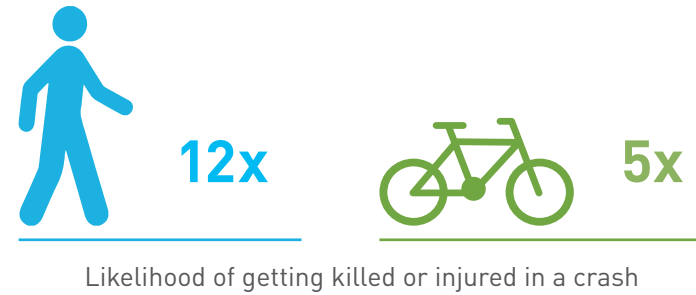
### Motorist injuries 2008–2017



Region motorist	54257	51481	51004	49669	49069	51206	51184	55557	57069	58689
Chicago motorist	16397	17353	17206	16163	16095	15913	15708	17206	17067	19034

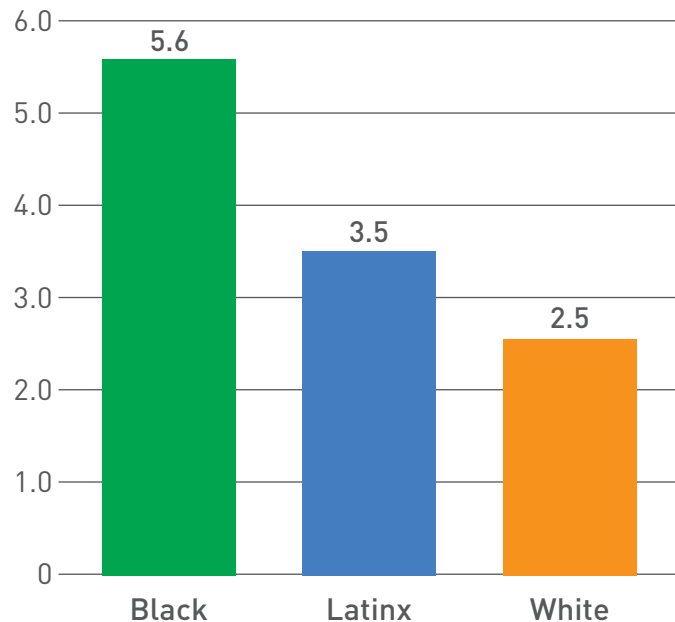
## City of Chicago crash disparities

**By mode:** People on foot or on bike are more vulnerable to serious injuries from 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 five times more likely.<sup>4</sup>

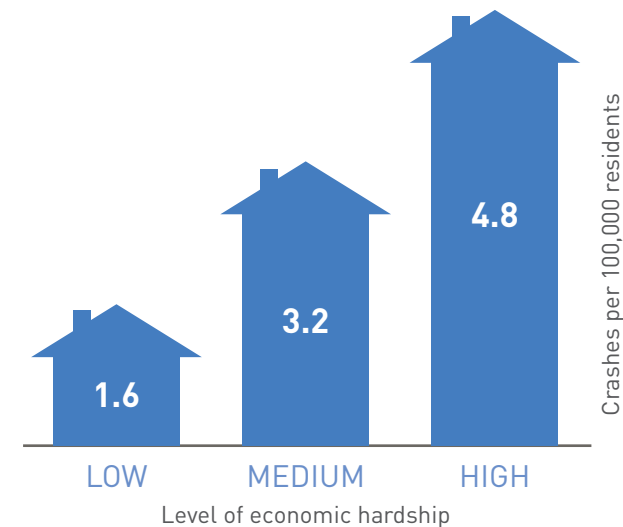


**By race:** In Chicago, people of color are more likely to be killed in a traffic crash. According to CDOT's Vision Zero Report, Black Chicagoans are twice as likely to be killed in a traffic crash and Latinx Chicagoans are 40 percent more likely to be killed than White Chicagoans.<sup>4</sup>

Fatal crashes per 100,000 residents



**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.<sup>4</sup>



<sup>4</sup> Source: City of Chicago Vision Zero Action Plan 2017, Pg 17-19.

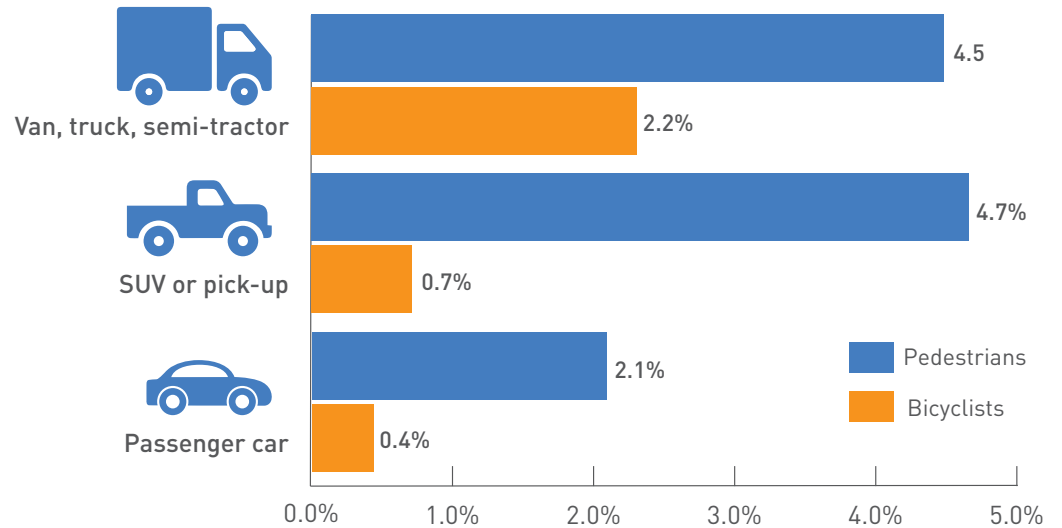
## Chicago region crash disparities

**By vehicle type:** People walking and biking are especially vulnerable in crashes with large vehicles, which accounted for 44 percent of pedestrian and biking fatalities in Chicagoland between 2013 and 2017.

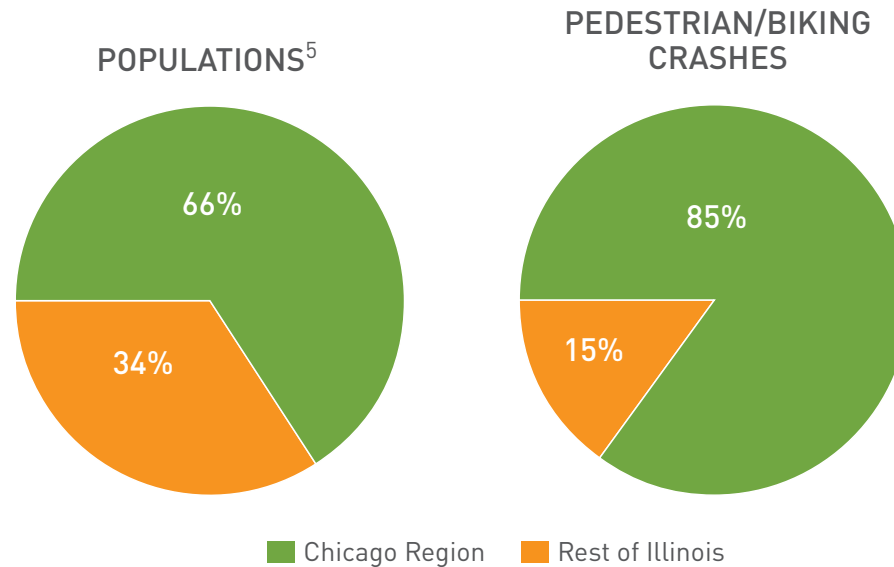
People walking were twice as likely to be killed when in a crash with a large vehicle\* compared to a passenger car. People biking were twice as likely to be killed in a crash with an SUV and five times more likely to be killed in a crash with a truck or van.

\*Large vehicles were defined as trucks, vans, semi-tractors SUVs, and pick-ups.

### Likelihood of a fatality for people in crashes while walking or biking





**By geography:** The Chicago region is home to 66 percent of the population of Illinois, but experiences 85 percent of all pedestrian and biking crashes. The City of Chicago is home to 21 percent of the state's population, but saw 55 percent of all pedestrian and biking crashes in Illinois.





<sup>5</sup> Source: American Community Survey 2017 1-year estimate.

## 2017 regional crash snapshot

People walking and biking represent 3.8 percent of people commuting to work<sup>6</sup> in the Chicago region; however, as many as 11 percent of those injured or killed in traffic crashes were people walking or biking. In 2017, our region saw one person walking or biking killed every three days and 18 non-motorists injured every day 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	3,880	3,055	825	163	111	12	152	37	76	4,431	5,148
 All bicyclists in crashes	1,870	1,329	541	161	76	6	96	42	67	2,318	2,813
<b>Total ped/bike in crashes</b>	<b>5,750</b>	<b>4,384</b>	<b>1,366</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>6,749</b>	<b>7,961</b>



 Pedestrians injured in crashes	3,673	2,903	770	149	104	12	139	30	71	4,178	4,827
 Bicyclists injured in crashes	1,802	1,272	530	156	74	6	92	41	66	2,237	2,696
<b>Total ped/bike injured in crashes</b>	<b>5,475</b>	<b>4,175</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>6,415</b>	<b>7,523</b>



 Pedestrian fatalities	77	42	35	9	4	0	11	4	3	108	147
 Bicyclist fatalities	8	6	2	0	0	0	2	1	0	11	26
<b>Total ped/bike fatalities</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>173</b>



<sup>6</sup> Source: American Community Survey 2017 1-year estimate.

## 2017 hit-and-run crashes

The region saw nearly 1,800 hit-and-run crashes involving people walking and biking in 2017, which represents about 26 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	1,152	969	183	26	27	4	39	11	11	1,270	1,437
 All bicyclist hit-and-run crashes	423	334	89	15	13	1	11	2	13	478	575
<b>Total ped/bike hit-and-run crashes</b>	<b>1,575</b>	<b>1,303</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>1,748</b>	<b>2,012</b>

 Pedestrian hit-and-run injuries	1,082	917	165	24	27	4	33	10	10	1,190	1,349
 Bicyclist hit-and-run injuries	407	318	89	14	13	1	9	2	12	458	547
<b>Total ped/bike hit-and-run injuries</b>	<b>1,489</b>	<b>1,235</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>1,648</b>	<b>1,896</b>

 Pedestrian hit-and-run fatalities	30	18	12	1	0	0	5	1	1	38	42
 Bicyclist hit-and-run fatalities	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	3	5
<b>Total ped/bike hit-and-run fatalities</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>47</b>