

What?

Accidents

There has been a downward trend with regard to pedestrian victims of accidents causing bodily injury.

Pedestrian victims are overrepresented in accidents resulting in bodily injury that involve the following causes: distraction, visibility and negligent behaviour.

Left turns, right turns, and driving in reverse are all vehicle manoeuvres that are overrepresented in accidents resulting in bodily injury involving at least one pedestrian victim.

Offences

Driving offences related to not yielding the right of way to pedestrians and cyclists are on the rise.

Road Users

Pedestrians are vulnerable road users and are the primary beneficiaries when we learn to better share the road.

There are very few existing strategies to reduce the vulnerability of pedestrians who are under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

The diversity of pedestrians is increasing in light of how varied mobility aids (e.g. three- and four-wheeled mobility scooters) can be in size and in speed. This may lead to an increase in accidents among pedestrians.

Pedestrians who use mobility aids, such as electric wheelchairs, are allowed to travel on sidewalks and in bike lanes. In certain circumstances, they are also allowed to travel on the street and the side of the road – this privilege is part of a pilot project and will be in effect until 2018.

Visibility

Wearing reflective clothing is one of the best ways for pedestrians to reduce their risk of being involved in a nighttime collision with a vehicle.

Pedestrians about to enter the path of a vehicle from the left are less likely to be seen by drivers than pedestrians coming in from the right, when distances are equal.

Increased Risk

In collisions between a vehicle and a pedestrian, the greater the speed of the vehicle on impact, the higher the probability the pedestrian will be killed.

Few Quebecers (37%) think that pedestrians obey traffic rules.

An estimated one in five pedestrians who use a cell phone look at their phone while crossing an intersection.

Who?

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Drivers aged 45 and older are overrepresented in accidents resulting in bodily injury involving at least one pedestrian victim.

Heavy vehicles are overrepresented with regard to:

- accidents resulting in bodily injury involving at least one pedestrian victim;
- fatal accidents involving at least one pedestrian victim.

Accidents involving only one vehicle happen more often and are also overrepresented with regard to accidents resulting in bodily injury involving at least one pedestrian victim.

Victims

The young (0 to 14 years old) and the elderly (55 and older) are more at risk for being involved in an accident as pedestrians.

Pedestrians aged 65 and older represent 50% of all injured pedestrians in OECD countries. Compared to other pedestrians, the injuries they sustain are more serious and their hospital stays are longer.

The most vulnerable pedestrians are therefore:

- the elderly, given that aging is generally accompanied by decreasing physical and cognitive capacities;
- children, because their physical and cognitive capacities are still developing.

When?

Accidents

Accidents causing bodily injury involving at least one pedestrian victim are more frequent and overrepresented:

- between October and December;
- in clear weather;
- between Monday and Friday;
- between 3 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Accidents causing bodily injury involving at least one pedestrian victim are overrepresented, in relation to the total of all accidents causing bodily injury, when visibility is reduced.

Where?

Accidents

Accidents causing bodily injury involving at least one pedestrian victim are more frequent and overrepresented:

- in zones with a speed limit of 50 km/h or less;
- on main roads and residential streets;
- in business and residential zones;
- at intersections.

Montréal is the administrative region where accidents causing bodily injury involving at least one pedestrian victim occur the most frequently and are the most strongly overrepresented.