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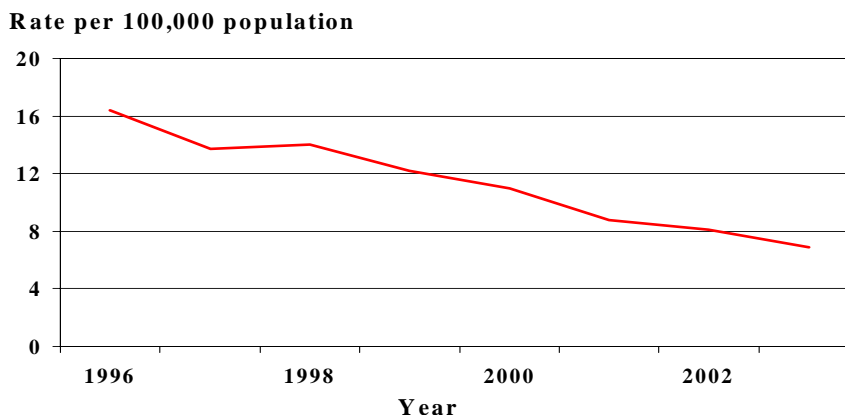
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## Pedestrian Injuries Among Colorado Children Ages 1 to 14

Similar to the national trend, Colorado's pedestrian-related hospitalizations and deaths among children ages 1-14 are on the decline. From 1996 to 2003, Colorado had a 58 percent reduction in the pedestrian-related injury hospitalization rate, and from 1990 to 2003, a 50 percent reduction in the pedestrian-related fatality rate.<sup>1</sup>

**Figure 1: Hospitalization Rates for Pedestrian-related Injuries, Colorado children ages 1-14**



### Pedestrian Injury Hospitalizations

- From 1999-2003, 409 Colorado children ages 1-14 were hospitalized for pedestrian-related injuries (approximately 82 children each year) (Table 1). Pedestrian-related injuries represent 5 percent of all unintentional injury hospitalizations in this age group.
- The majority of the incidents resulting in hospitalization for pedestrian-related injuries (87 percent) occurred on a street or highway, while 11 percent occurred in a parking lot, driveway or on a sidewalk.
- Nearly two-thirds (62 percent) of the hospitalizations for pedestrian-related injuries involved boys. Hospitalization rates for pedestrian-related injuries are 1.5 times higher for boys (11.3 per 100,000) than for girls (7.3 per 100,000).
- More than one-third (38 percent) of the children hospitalized for pedestrian-related injuries had a traumatic brain injury, such as a skull fracture, concussion or intracranial bleed.
- The highest rate of hospitalization for pedestrian-related injuries is in Denver county (21.0 per 100,000 for Denver county vs. 9.4 per 100,000 for the state).
- A significantly higher percent of pedestrian-related hospitalizations among children ages 1-14 occur in the spring and fall (March through May, 27.4 percent; September through November, 27.4 percent) than in the winter or summer (December through February, 20.4 percent; June through August, 24.8 percent).

*From 1999-2003, Colorado has had a significant decline in pedestrian-related hospitalizations and deaths for children ages 1-14.*

*Although the rates are decreasing, pedestrian deaths still rank as the second leading cause of injury death for children ages 1-14.<sup>1</sup>*

	Ages 1-4	Ages 5-9	Ages 10-14	TOTAL
Boys	51	105	98	254
Girls	32	59	64	155



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## Pedestrian Injury Deaths

- From 1999-2003, 51 Colorado children ages 1-14 died due to pedestrian-related injuries. Death due to pedestrian-related injuries is the second leading cause of injury death for children ages 1-14.
- The majority of the incidents resulting in pedestrian-related deaths (75 percent) occurred on a street or highway, while 25 percent occurred in a parking lot, driveway or on a sidewalk.
- Of the pedestrian-related deaths reported during 1999-2003, over half (51 percent) occurred between the hours of 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

	<b>Ages 1-4</b>	<b>Ages 5-9</b>	<b>Ages 10-14</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>Death Rate (1999-2003)</b>	1.6 (0.9-2.4)	0.6 (0.2-1.0)	1.4 (0.8-2.0)	1.2 (0.8-1.5)
<b>Hospitalization Rate (1999-2003)</b>	6.7 (5.2-8.2)	10.6 (8.9-12.2)	10.2 (8.6-11.8)	9.4 (8.5-10.3)

## Pedestrian-Related Injuries Can Be Prevented

Never allow children under age 10 to cross the street alone. Adult supervision is essential until the traffic skills and judgment thresholds are reached by each child.<sup>2</sup>

Prohibit play in driveways, streets, parking lots and unfenced yards adjacent to streets.<sup>2</sup>

Teach children to cross the street 10 feet in front of a school bus and to wait for adults on the same side of the street as the school bus loading or unloading zone.<sup>2</sup>

Always model and teach proper pedestrian behavior:<sup>2</sup>

- Cross streets at a corner, using traffic signals and crosswalks whenever possible.
- Make eye contact with drivers prior to crossing in front of them. Don't assume because you can see the driver, the driver can see you.
- Instruct children to look left, right and left again when crossing the street and to continue looking as they cross.
- Teach children to never run into the street and to walk facing traffic, as far to the left as possible, when sidewalks are not available.

## References

1. All analyses provided by the Injury Epidemiology Program. Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. (2004).
2. National SAFE KIDS Campaign (NSKC). *Pedestrian Injury Fact Sheet*. Washington, DC: NSKC, 2004.



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