

Pedestrian Deaths from Motor Vehicle Crashes in Connecticut and U.S.

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Issue

This report compiles statistics on pedestrian deaths from motor vehicle crashes in Connecticut and the United States for the years 2008 to 2017.

Related OLR Report

[OLR Report 2018-R-0303](#) examines pedestrian deaths and other injuries from motor vehicle crashes in certain Connecticut municipalities.

Summary

Based on data from the [Fatality Analysis Reporting System \(FARS\) Encyclopedia](#) maintained by the federal [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration \(NHTSA\)](#), we calculated the rates of pedestrian deaths from motor vehicle crashes that occurred across the state and nationally each of the last ten years. Connecticut's annual rates for these deaths were consistently below the nation's rates every year this past decade.

Pedestrian Death Statistics

Tables 1 and 2 below show the annual amount and rate of pedestrian deaths from motor vehicle crashes from 2008 to 2017 in Connecticut and the United States. (Please note, at the date of this report, the 2017 pedestrian death data is preliminary.) The rates describe the number of deaths per 100,000 persons. Graph 1 below provides a visualization of these rates.

The source for the yearly total of pedestrian deaths is the FARS Encyclopedia, whose data is obtained through voluntary cooperative agreements between NHTSA and each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. The documents submitted to NHTSA are primarily police reports but death certificates, vehicle registrations, and emergency medical reports are also used.

Under the current [Model Minimum Uniform Crash Criteria](#) guidelines, which NHTSA encourages use of when collecting and reporting crash data, a death is counted if it occurs within 30 days after being injured in a motor vehicle crash. The guidelines define pedestrians as people who are not motor vehicle occupants or pedalcyclists (i.e., someone riding a bicycle, unicycle, pedal car, etc.).

The population estimates come from the U.S. Census Bureau’s [American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates](#).

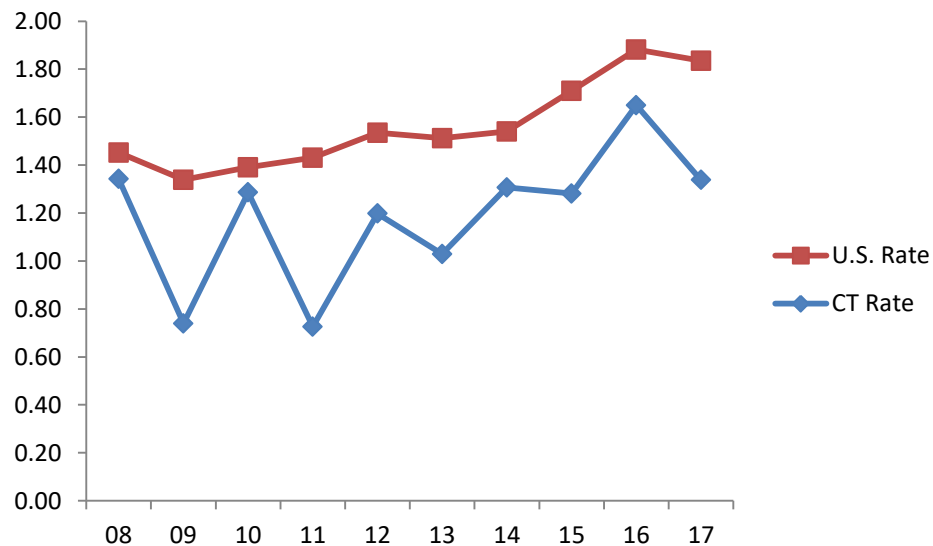
Table 1: Pedestrian Deaths in Connecticut

Year	Pedestrian Deaths	Estimated Population	Rate (per 100,000 persons)
2008	47	3,501,252	1.34
2009	26	3,518,288	0.74
2010	46	3,577,073	1.29
2011	26	3,580,709	0.73
2012	43	3,590,347	1.20
2013	37	3,596,080	1.03
2014	47	3,596,677	1.31
2015	46	3,590,886	1.28
2016	59	3,576,452	1.65
2017	48	3,588,184	1.34

Table 2: Pedestrian Deaths in U.S.

Year	Pedestrian Deaths	Estimated Population	Rate (per 100,000 persons)
2008	4,414	304,059,728	1.45
2009	4,109	307,006,556	1.34
2010	4,302	309,349,689	1.39
2011	4,457	311,591,919	1.43
2012	4,818	313,914,040	1.53
2013	4,779	316,128,839	1.51
2014	4,910	318,857,056	1.54
2015	5,495	321,418,821	1.71
2016	6,080	323,127,515	1.88
2017	5,977	325,719,178	1.84

Graph 1: Rates of Pedestrian Deaths in Connecticut and U.S. (2008-2017)



Information on FARS Encyclopedia

The FARS Encyclopedia contains two research paths, [FARS Data Tables](#) and [Query FARS Data](#), and a link to NHTSA's [FTP FARS Index](#) webpage through which the public can access and search data collected by the federal government's FARS program. Created in 1975, the FARS program provides a nationwide annual census of deaths from motor vehicle crashes to help evaluate motor vehicle safety standards and highway safety programs.

The FARS program data currently has more than 140 different elements characterizing each crash, including the vehicles and people involved, such as pedestrians. This information conforms to the federal Privacy Act; it does not include personal identifying information, such as names and addresses.

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