

Review the Facts

As educators of youth, enforcers of traffic law, and general traffic safety authorities, law enforcement officers require a thorough understanding of pedestrian and bicycle safety issues as well as ways to address both real and perceived fears about safety. The following facts provide a snapshot of key information every law enforcement officer should know. For more detailed information regarding each fact, click on the associated links below.

1. Walking and biking to school has declined as parents safety concerns have increased.
2. Speed matters: Crashes at speeds of 30 mph are eight times more likely to kill the pedestrian than crashes at speeds of 20 mph.
3. Many drivers do not know they must yield to pedestrians at crosswalks.
4. The average citizen does not understand the phases of a pedestrian signal.
5. Safe crossing behavior at intersections is a critical skill for pedestrian safety.
6. Bicycling against traffic is less safe than bicycling in the correct direction.
7. Use of sufficient lighting and/or reflective materials by pedestrians and bicyclists will enhance their visibility.
8. Bicycling on the sidewalk can cause safety problems at driveways and intersections.
9. Proper use of a bicycle helmet has proven to be effective in preventing head injuries.