



SAFETY BULLETIN

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

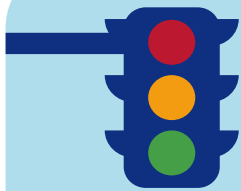
California Department of Developmental Services



Is this bulletin useful?

A pedestrian is an individual traversing sidewalks and along/across roadways either by walking or using mobility devices such as wheelchairs or scooters. Since the start of 2023, four individuals served by regional centers were killed while navigating sidewalks and roads as a pedestrian. Know and share precautions with the individuals you serve to protect their health and safety when using sidewalks or crossing roads, such as being aware of bumps in the road and ramps for wheelchairs.

STATISTICS



CALIFORNIA STATISTICS FOR 2021

26% OF TOTAL TRAFFIC DEATHS WERE PEDESTRIANS (THERE WERE A TOTAL OF **4,285** TRAFFIC DEATHS).

THERE WERE **1,108** PEDESTRIAN DEATHS, THE MOST OF ANY STATE.

Sources: [NHTSA Overview of Motor Vehicle Traffic Crashes in 2021](#); [NHTSA Traffic Safety Facts 2021 Data](#)



Wellness and Safety Bulletins are produced by the Department of Developmental Services to alert direct service providers, regional center staff, and others about specific risks identified with our community. Please provide feedback on this bulletin and what we can do better through this survey: [Bulletin Survey](#)

HELPFUL TIPS TO MODEL AND TEACH TO THOSE YOU SERVE

Make yourself and others visible when moving along sidewalks and roadways.

- Wear bright and/or reflective clothing.
- Avoid wearing dark clothing (black, brown, navy blue), including outer jackets.
- At dawn, and at night, use a flashlight.

Use a sidewalk or path instead of walking on the road.

- If a sidewalk is not available, move down the roadway shoulder, facing oncoming traffic.

Cross streets at a designated crosswalk or intersection. Do not jaywalk!

Follow street signs and obey traffic signs and signals.

Before crossing a street, look in both directions: to the left, to the right, and to the left again.

- Observe traffic until it is safe to cross the street. Try to make eye contact with drivers before crossing.

Provide prompts to the individuals you are supporting when moving as a pedestrian.

Teach the individuals you support to not move or dart out into the street or cross between parked cars.

Be aware of vehicles entering or exiting driveways or parking lots.

- Never assume a driver sees you. They may be distracted. As they approach, make sure you and others with you are visible to them.



HELPFUL TIPS TO MODEL AND TEACH TO THOSE YOU SERVE (continued)

As you walk with individuals you serve, provide directions about how the group is traveling and reminders about pedestrian safety.

Help those you support to plan their route in advance.

Choose routes that have well-lit and well-maintained sidewalks, and low vehicle traffic.

Use sidewalks that easily accommodate the needs of the individuals.

Remind the individuals you support to avoid being a pedestrian if they have been using alcohol or drugs.

Being near roads while under the influence of alcohol or drugs can impair judgement and coordination.

Consider how an individual's underlying conditions or medications might impair judgement or sight. Provide proper support and guidance to keep them safe.

Stay off your cell phone.

Electronic screens distract users from their surroundings.

Avoid using earbuds or headphones as they decrease the ability to hear traffic.

Use of assistive technology, like tablets for communication, may be necessary to safely navigate in the community.

Make a plan for how to use them safely as a pedestrian.

Source: [CDC](#), [StrongGo Industries](#), [CA Office of Traffic Safety](#), [Pedestrian Safety Tips | Safe Kids Worldwide](#)

ADDITIONAL SOURCES

California Road Signs - Everything You Should Know - [Drive-Safely.net](#)

