

FACTS: PEDESTRIAN SAFETY



Across the country, there is an epidemic of pedestrian deaths. In 2017, a pedestrian was killed every 88 minutes, nationwide.⁽¹⁾ In 2009, Smart Growth America's Dangerous by Design report named Metro Orlando the #1 most dangerous place in the country for pedestrians. In 2021, we are still at the top of the list.⁽²⁾

National Data

- Federal reports estimate more than 136,000 pedestrians were injured and 6,700 pedestrians were killed in 2018.⁽³⁾
- Pedestrian deaths increased by 3.4% from 2017 to 2018. That's an increase of 208 lives lost, from 6,075 to 6,283.⁽⁴⁾
- Heavy traffic, high speeds and wide roads make main thoroughfares dangerous for pedestrians. In 2018, 59% of pedestrian fatalities happened on these roads.⁽⁷⁾

Florida Data

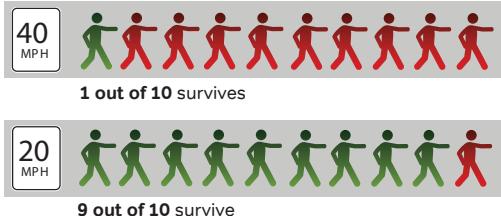
- Pedestrians make up more than 20% of all the traffic fatalities.⁽¹⁾
- Florida accounts for nearly 11% of all the pedestrian deaths in the country.⁽¹⁾
- According to the latest statistics (2018), Florida was tied for the 3rd highest pedestrian fatality rate in the nation at 3.3 for every 100,000 people.⁽²⁾

Metro Orlando Data

- On average, 3 pedestrians are injured every day, and at least 1 is killed every week.⁽⁴⁾
- 14% of pedestrian fatalities occur in marked crosswalks.⁽⁵⁾
- Florida metropolitan areas were ranked as the most dangerous places to walk in the nation (including Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford).⁽²⁾

What are some of the contributing factors?

- 1 **Speed** hit by a vehicle traveling:



- 2 **Streets designed for cars, rather than for the safety of all road users.**
- 3 **Drivers who violate traffic laws.** Example: You HAVE to yield and stop for a pedestrian in a crosswalk (even if you have a green light).

Injury & Fatality Report

814 reported people struck by drivers in Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties in 2020 – of those, **63** people died.⁽⁴⁾

	Orange County		Osceola County		Seminole County	
	Injuries+ Fatalities	Fatalities	Injuries+ Fatalities	Fatalities	Injuries+ Fatalities	Fatalities
2016	638	49	148	19	125	9
2017	725	62	132	13	146	13
2018	685	55	129	9	147	6
2019	703	61	142	16	143	14
2020	550	43	124	11	140	9
TOTAL	3,301	270	675	68	701	51

Florida law is clear F.S.(316.130)

Drivers approaching a pedestrian legally crossing the street in a crosswalk, must yield—slowing and stopping—to allow the pedestrian to cross.



From 2008 to 2017, nearly **50,000** Americans walking were hit and killed by drivers. That's more people than the entire city of Altamonte Springs.⁽¹⁾



STEPPING UP FOR SAFETY

Central Florida has an established problem with crashes that injure and kill pedestrians. The **Best Foot Forward (BFF) coalition** believes the status quo is unacceptable. There is no silver bullet to end pedestrian crashes, but previous successes, combined with continued persistence can make a proven difference. Pedestrians deaths & injuries are not accidents, but crashes that can be prevented.

In 2012, the Best Foot Forward Coalition formed in Orange County with MetroPlan Orlando, the City of Orlando and Orange County as founding partners. In 2017, it expanded to include Osceola county and the cities of Kissimmee and St. Cloud. The BFF Coalition grew again in 2019, to include Seminole County and six cities within the county. We are proud to work with more than 35 partners in our mission to make the streets of Central Florida safer.

The mission of BFF is to lower pedestrian fatalities by getting more drivers to yield and stop for pedestrians in crosswalks, as Florida law requires.

Fast Facts About BFF

- ▶ Proven progress – More drivers are complying with the law and yielding to pedestrians in crosswalks today than they were 8 years ago.
- ▶ In 2012, only 17% of drivers yielded at BFF crosswalks on roads 35mph or slower. Today, that number has risen to 60%.
- ▶ On roads 40 mph or higher, the driver yield rate has risen from 2% to 43% over the last 8 years.

Progress from 2012 to 2021

Orange, Osceola & Seminole Counties



In The Numbers

- ▶ 20% of pedestrian fatalities nationwide involved hit-and-run drivers.⁽¹⁾
- ▶ 14% of pedestrian fatalities in Florida occur in marked crosswalks.⁽⁵⁾
- ▶ Between 2017 and 2018, injuries and fatalities in the Orlando Metro area decreased by 24%.⁽⁶⁾

It's not the tourists' fault:

- ▶ 93% of pedestrians killed in Florida live here.
- ▶ 96% of drivers who hit pedestrians in Florida live here.⁽⁶⁾

*Data as of 3/1/2020

1. NHTSA, Traffic Safety Facts (Oct. 2019)
2. Smart Growth America, Dangerous by Design 2019
3. National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, CDC
4. Signal Four Analytics, 2021
5. Center for Urban Transportation, University of South Florida
6. MetroPlan Orlando, 2017
7. Governors Highway Safety Assn. Report, Feb. 2020

Best Foot Forward Coalition



Best Foot Forward depends on every resident and organization working toward one common purpose -- people before cars. BFF seeks community ideas to make walking a "normal" activity by identifying problematic areas and creating real solutions in neighborhoods. Step up for safety.

**FAILURE
TO YIELD** = **\$164
MINIMUM FINE** + **3 POINTS
ON YOUR LICENSE**



**Best Foot Forward is administered
by Bike/Walk Central Florida, 501(c)(3).**