

# **OCTOBER 2020 PEDESTRIAN SAFETY CAMPAIGN PEDESTRIAN SAFETY FACT SHEET: Taking Steps for Safety**

## **Washingtonians Walk**

* Nearly all Washingtonians walk daily. Between 25% – 30% of the state’s population does not drive and walking is their means of transportation.
* Walking safely seems simple, but pedestrian traffic deaths are on the rise nationally and in Washington.
* Distraction, speed, impairment, and visibility are all factors in pedestrian deaths.
* When walking, make eye contact with drivers and don’t enter the crosswalk until cars have stopped moving.

## **Take Steps for Pedestrian Safety**

* Cross streets at marked crosswalks or intersections. 72% of pedestrian fatalities occurred at non-intersections.
* Bring back the buddy system – help a buddy who can’t walk safely.
* See and be seen – drivers need to see you to avoid you. Use the crosswalk, make eye contact, wear bright or reflective clothing, and use a light at night.
* “Plan before you party” works for pedestrians too. If you plan to party, plan to find a ride with a sober driver, spend the night, take a taxi, don’t walk drunk or high. Better to crash on the couch than crash in a crosswalk.

## **Take Steps for School Children Safety**

* Teach your child(ren) to look both ways when crossing the street and to always use a crosswalk.
* Make sure they are wearing bright or reflective clothing when walking outside.
* The best teacher is your behavior–show them how to walk safely.

## **Drive Safe for Pedestrians**

* Stop and yield for pedestrians in intersections and crosswalks, always.  
  It’s the law.
* When driving, slow down and pay extra attention at intersections and crosswalks.
* Park responsibly – don’t block a sidewalk or crosswalk.
* Be a pedestrian – if you can walk instead of drive, do it!

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