

PORTLAND 2023 DEADLY TRAFFIC CRASH REPORT



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Cover image: Map of Portland noting where 2023 fatal crashes occurred and the first names of victims, where available.

Disclaimer

Achieving Vision Zero's goals are dependent upon available funding to implement the City of Portland's strategic policy choices, made in its judgment—in collaboration with its community partners—to best address the factors most often linked to causing traffic violence. Achieving optimal performance of each action under Vision Zero is dependent upon available funding from the City of Portland and other participating governmental agencies.

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Portland 2023 Deadly Traffic Crash Report

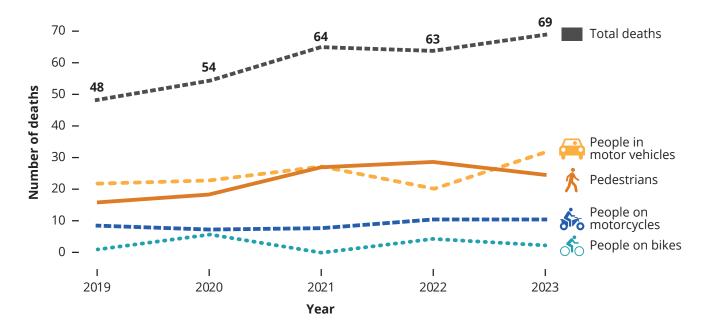
In 2023, 69 people were killed in traffic crashes in Portland, the highest death toll in at least three decades and surpassing 2021's record high (see **Figures 1** and **2**).

Those 69 people were part of this community (see **Figure 3**). Their lives were cut short and countless people feel the loss of someone dear in their lives. Those killed by traffic violence this year were children, siblings, parents, aunts and uncles, grandparents, neighbors, and friends. Our city mourns those lost. We can and must do better. The City of Portland and the Vision Zero program at the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) aim to eliminate both traffic deaths and serious injuries in Portland. The State of Oregon and the U.S. Department of Transportation also have goals to eliminate traffic deaths.

Finalized data from 2019–2021 was provided by the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). Preliminary traffic death data for 2022–2023 comes from the Portland Police Bureau. No data is available yet on serious injuries from 2022–2023.

Definition of serious injury

ODOT defines a serious injury as a "non-fatal injury that prevents the injured person from walking, driving, or normally continuing the activities the person was capable of performing before the injury occurred."



Traffic deaths by mode of travel, 2019-2023

Figure 1. Traffic deaths by mode of travel, 2019-2023. Data: ODOT (2019-2021), Portland Police Bureau (2022-2023).

Portland's response

PBOT remains committed to installing safety improvements and expanding our partnerships to address complex, new, and deadly patterns in traffic crashes. We follow a datadriven, equity-first approach. We make streets safer by protecting pedestrians, slowing speeds, redesigning streets, all while engaging community in this work.

We know that 74% of traffic deaths in the last five years occurred on streets in the <u>High</u>. <u>Crash Network</u>. We continue to work with urgency to redesign these streets in a way that slows vehicles and protects pedestrians, following best practices from peer cities and national research.

We also understand there is no single solution. There are complex, persistent social factors that have contributed to the spike in traffic deaths since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. The social challenges that were exacerbated during the pandemic, such as an increase in social isolation, gun violence, mental health struggles, drug addiction, and people living unhoused, continue to play out on our streets. We recognize the need to work collaboratively with partners across the Portland metro region to urgently invest in basic human needs which will help our community and put safety first.

Traffic deaths and serious injuries by mode of travel, 2019-2023

Deaths

| | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|--------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| People in motor vehicles | 22 | 23 | 28 | 20 | 32 |
| People on motorcycles | 9 | 8 | 9 | 11 | 11 |
| Pedestrians* | 16 | 18 | 27 | 28 | 24 |
| People on bicycles | 1 | 5 | 0 | 4 | 2 |
| Total | 48 | 54 | 64 | 63 | 69 |

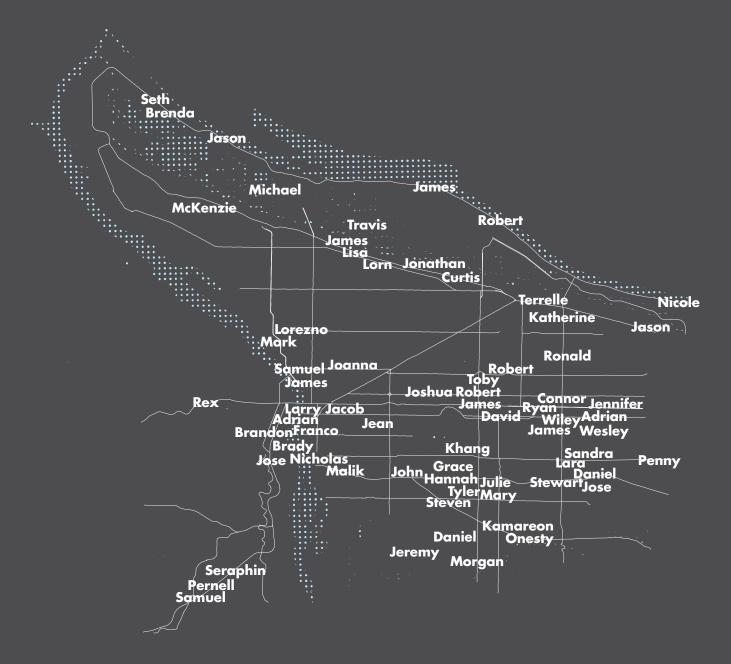
Serious injuries

| | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|-----------------------------|------|------|------|------|-----------------|
| People in motor vehicles | 182 | 131 | 266 | | |
| People on motorcycles | 49 | 22 | 53 | | mation t yet |
| Pedestrians* | 35 | 45 | 34 | ava | ilable |
| People on | 8 | 8 | 9 | _ | |
| bicycles Total | 27/ | 206 | 362 | | |
| IOLAI | 2/4 | 200 | 502 | | |

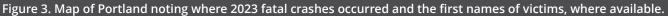
Figure 2. Traffic deaths and serious injuries by mode of travel, 2019-2023.

Data: ODOT (2018-2021), Portland Police Bureau (2022-2023).

*Includes people walking, using mobility devices, riding skateboards, or on e-scooters.



First names of traffic death victims by approximate crash location, 2023



If names are known and publicly released, the first name of traffic death victims are placed in the approximate crash locations on the map. If names are not known and/or publicly released, a white dot marks the approximate place where a traffic death occurred. The illustrated information is based on preliminary data and subject to change.

Source: Portland Police Bureau.

Deadly crash locations

High Crash Network

Three-quarters of deadly crashes occurred on the busiest streets in Portland, the High Crash Network, which comprises Portland's 30 deadliest streets and intersections (see **Figure 4**). While High Crash Network streets account for only 8% of Portland streets, they accounted for 74% of traffic deaths in 2023.

Wide streets

Deadly crashes are more likely to take place on wide streets. Many High Crash Network streets are wide, with multiple travel lanes. Nearly half (45%) of the High Crash Network streets have four or more travel lanes. These wide, multi-lane streets account for 4% of all non-interstate roadways in Portland. It is more common for people driving motor vehicles to speed on wide streets and they are typically harder to cross increasing the severity of crashes when they occur. City streets with four or more travel lanes account for 54% of traffic deaths in 2023. When including other wide roadways—interstates and county bridges—the figure rises to 72% of traffic deaths.

City, state, and county roadways

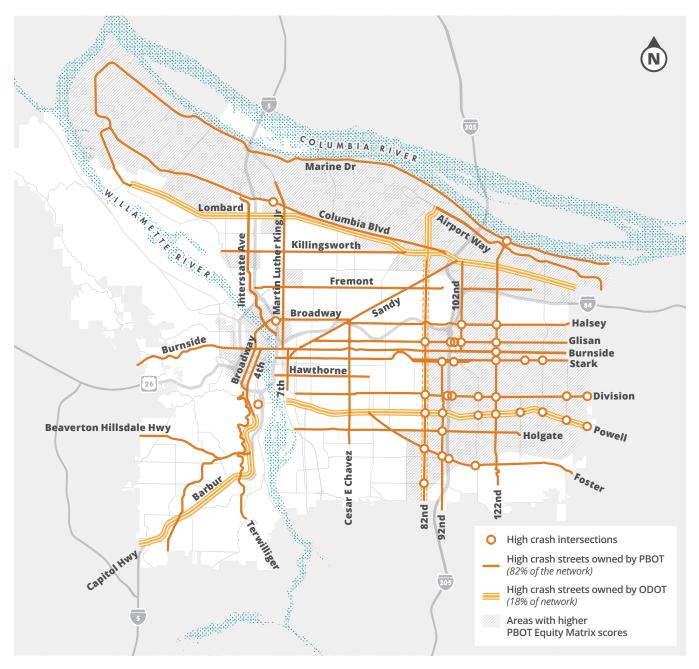
Of the year's 69 traffic deaths, 42 (61%) took place on city streets, 24 (35%) on stateowned streets, and three (4%) on Multnomah County bridges. Of the 24 traffic deaths that occurred on state-owned streets, 17 (25%) took place on surface streets such as SE Powell Boulevard (US-26) and N Lombard Street (US-30B), while seven (10%) took place on interstate highways.

East Portland

Many of the city's highest crash streets and intersections are in East Portland. This means that East Portland communities face greater exposure to traffic violence. In 2023, East Portland's traffic death rate per 100,000 was 15 compared to nine in the rest of the city.

Areas with higher PBOT Equity Matrix scores

The PBOT Equity Matrix uses data on race, ethnicity, and income to map Portland communities that have been systematically excluded from investments and institutionally oppressed from power and decision-making. Many High Crash Network streets and intersections are in areas with higher PBOT Equity Matrix scores. In 2023, people living in areas with high PBOT Equity Matrix scores experienced three times more traffic deaths per capita compared to the rest of Portland. More on the PBOT Equity Matrix can be found at <u>Guide to the PBOT Equity Matrix</u>.



Locations of high crash streets and intersections, 2023

Figure 4. Map of Portland noting locations of high crash streets intersection, high crash streets owned by PBOT, high crash streets owned by ODOT, and areas with higher PBOT Equity Matrix scores.

An interactive map of this network and crashes is available at tinyurl.com/vision-zero-dashboard.

Demographics of crash victims

Age

The age of people who died in traffic crashes in 2023 ranged from 11 to 88 years old. The average age was 40.

Gender

Third parties such as the police, medical examiner, or victims' family members identified 51 of these traffic victims (74%) as male and 18 (26%) as female.

A note on demographic data

Some demographic data is based on subjective, thirdparty identification by police officers or medical examiners, which means some people's sex, gender, race, and/or ethnicity is presumed and may be misidentified.

Race and ethnicity

Race and ethnicity information is available for 68 of the 69 deadly traffic crash victims. **PBOT** compares traffic victims' race—identified by a third party—and Portland demographic data to identify when there is disproportionate exposure to traffic violence based on race or ethnicity. Race and ethnicity categories for the Portland population come from the U.S. Census Bureau, which includes self-identified race or ethnicity within specific categories and those who identify as two or more races.

- Black communities in Portland experienced traffic violence at a disproportionate rate when compared to other racial communities in the city.
 Eleven people killed in traffic crashes were identified as Black, making up 16% of the people killed this year, much higher than their share of Portland's population (5.6%).
- Forty-nine traffic crash victims were identified as white, accounting for 72% of people killed, slightly higher than their share of Portland's population (68%).

- Seven traffic crash victims were identified as Latino, accounting for 10% of people killed in traffic crashes, roughly similar to their share of Portland's population (10.3%).
- One traffic crash victim was identified as Asian, which accounts for 3% of the people killed in traffic crashes, less than their share of Portland's population (8.5%).
- One traffic crash victim's race was not identified.
- There were no people killed in crashes that were identified as Indigenous.
 Indigenous populations make up 0.9% of Portland.
- There were no people killed in crashes that were identified as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, whose populations account for 0.5% of Portland.
- Given the nature of thirdparty identification and the use of single racial categories, no one killed in traffic violence was identified as being of two or more races, which comprises 8% of Portland's population.

The table below (**Figure 5**) has information on the 69 people who died in traffic crashes in Portland in 2023.

Traffic crash deaths by date (2023), name, age, mode of travel, and approximate crash location

| Date | Name | Age | Travel mode | Approximate crash location |
|----------|------------------------------|-----|---------------|--|
| Jan. 1 | Ronald Brown | 35 | Motor vehicle | 2600 block of NE 125th Avenue |
| Jan. 6 | Penny Griffith | 68 | Pedestrian | SE Division Street and 168th Avenue |
| Jan. 15 | Tyler David | 44 | Motor vehicle | SE Powell Boulevard and 80th Avenue |
| Jan. 23 | Mary Mark | 64 | Pedestrian | SE Holgate Boulevard west of 92nd Avenue |
| Jan. 24 | John Czarobski | 59 | Pedestrian | SE Powell Boulevard and Foster Road |
| Feb. 14 | Toby Raymond Fowler | 54 | Pedestrian | NE 99th Avenue and Pacific Street |
| Feb. 18 | James Pinkerton | 34 | Motor vehicle | 5600 block of NE Marine Drive |
| Feb. 24 | Robert Mcllwain | 54 | Motor vehicle | 7500 block of NE Marine Drive |
| Feb. 26 | Khang Hua | 48 | Pedestrian | SE 79th Avenue and Franklin Street |
| March 4 | Jason Clark | 46 | Pedestrian | NE Sandy Boulevard and 162nd Avenue |
| March 11 | Jacob Durighello | 28 | Motor vehicle | NE 20th Avenue and E Burnside Street |
| March 14 | Nicole Worthington | 29 | Motor vehicle | 17800 block of NE Marine Drive |
| April 14 | Jonathan Gilkey | 41 | Motorcycle | NE Columbia Boulevard and 52nd Avenue |
| April 25 | Katherine Lyda | 40 | Pedestrian | NE 122nd Avenue and Skidmore Street |
| April 28 | Robert Ketchum | 62 | Pedestrian | NE 82nd Avenue and Glisan Street |
| April 30 | Steven McQueen | 54 | Motorcycle | SE Foster Road and 65th Avenue |
| May 3 | Brenda Mix- Britton | 44 | Motor vehicle | 5915 N Marine Dr. |
| May 9 | Joanna Sunseri | 82 | Pedestrian | NE 15th Avenue and Broadway Street |
| May 11 | Daniel London | 19 | Motor vehicle | SE Duke Street and 72nd Avenue |
| May 16 | Franco Duran | 22 | Motorcycle | Southbound I-5 ramp at Belmont Street |
| May 24 | Lara Morrow | 35 | Pedestrian | 12300 block of SE Division Street |
| May 28 | Wesley Bell | 45 | Motorcycle | SE Stark Street and 139th Avenue |
| May 29 | Curtis Gift | 62 | Motorcycle | NE Columbia Boulevard and Cully Boulevard |
| June 4 | Adrian Gama | 22 | Motor vehicle | Morrison Bridge viaduct and SE Water Avenue |
| June 4 | Larry Ayala-Valdez | 22 | Motor vehicle | Morrison Bridge viaduct and SE Water Avenue |
| June 6 | Lorenzo Porter | 58 | Motor vehicle | N Williams Avenue and Fremont Street |
| June 6 | Lorn Thompson | 47 | Pedestrian | NE Lombard Street and 33rd Avenue |
| June 22 | Adrian Calvillo- Trujillo | 26 | Motorcycle | SE Stark Street and 135th Avenue |

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| Date | Name | Age | Travel mode | Approximate crash location |
|----------|------------------------|-----|---------------|---|
| June 25 | Jennifer Parise | 40 | Motor vehicle | NE Glisan Street and 147th Avenue |
| June 29 | Travis Philmlee, Jr. | 26 | Pedestrian | NE 33rd Avenue and Elrod Drive |
| July 5 | Kamareon Smith | 13 | Motor vehicle | Northbound I-205 ramp at SE Foster Road and 96th Avenue |
| July 5 | Onesty Jones | 16 | Motor vehicle | Northbound I-205 ramp at SE Foster Road and 96th Avenue |
| July 8 | Ryan Ambrose | 11 | Motor vehicle | SE 102nd Avenue and Washington Street |
| July 14 | Samuel Kusaj | 53 | Motor vehicle | 9500 block of SW Barbur Boulevard |
| July 15 | Jean Diaz | 44 | Pedestrian | SE César E Chávez Boulevard and Taylor Street |
| July 15 | Seth Roberts | 21 | Motorcycle | N Marine Drive and Bybee Lake Road |
| July 16 | Samuel Kusaj | 53 | Pedestrian | Northbound I-5 at NE Weidler Street |
| July 20 | Hannah Fetters | 18 | Motor vehicle | SE Powell Boulevard at 63rd Avenue |
| July 20 | Grace Fetters | 18 | Motor vehicle | SE Powell Boulevard at 63rd Avenue |
| July 20 | Julie Skeen | 55 | Motor vehicle | SE Powell Boulevard at 63rd Avenue |
| July 21 | Seraphin Ibrahim | 23 | Motor vehicle | SW Barbur Boulevard at 22nd Avenue |
| July 24 | Rex Bills | 88 | Motor vehicle | W Burnside Street and NW Hermosa Boulevard |
| July 28 | Robert Jones | 30 | Motorcycle | NE Weidler Street and Halsey Street |
| July 30 | Joshua Pierson | 45 | Pedestrian | NE 60th Avenue and Glisan Street |
| Sept. 1 | Terrelle Tucker | 39 | Motor vehicle | NE Sandy Boulevard and 112th Avenue |
| Sept. 3 | Daniel Perkins | 37 | Motorcycle | SE Powell Boulevard and 140th Avenue |
| Sept. 16 | Morgan Helms | 30 | Pedestrian | SE 82nd Avenue and Crystal Springs Boulevard |
| Sept. 19 | Jason Ruhmshottel | 43 | Bicycle | N Portland Road and Marine Drive |
| Oct. 5 | Jeremy Clement | 29 | Motor vehicle | SE 52nd Avenue and Harney Drive |
| Oct. 14 | Jose Ortiz-Mendez | 18 | Motor vehicle | S Hood Avenue and Gibbs Street |
| Oct. 18 | Jose Garcia- Macedo | 27 | Motor vehicle | SE Holgate Boulevard and 135th Avenue |
| Oct. 20 | Michael Pearcy | 32 | Pedestrian | N Whitaker Road and Hayden Meadows Drive |
| Oct. 21 | Brandon Coleman | 34 | Pedestrian | SW Naito Parkway near Morrison Bridge on-ramp |
| Oct. 21 | James Fenimore | 66 | Pedestrian | NE 82nd Avenue and E Burnside Street |
| Oct. 26 | Mark Sinclair | 68 | Motor vehicle | Southbound I-5 near N Failing Street and I-405 interchange split |
| Oct. 28 | Lisa Johnson | 60 | Motor vehicle | NE Lombard Street and 33rd Avenue |
| Oct. 28 | James Johnson | 64 | Motor vehicle | NE Lombard Street and 33rd Avenue |
| Nov. 2 | Sandra Lewcczuk | 42 | Pedestrian | SE Division Street and 135th Avenue |

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| Date | Name | Age | Travel mode | Approximate crash location |
|---------|-----------------------|-----|---------------|--|
| Nov. 14 | Nicholas Depaolo | 38 | Pedestrian | SE McLoughlin Boulevard near Bush and Center streets |
| Nov. 18 | Malik Austin | 27 | Motor vehicle | SE Powell Boulevard and 29th Avenue |
| Nov. 23 | Brady Wehage | 22 | Motorcycle | Southbound I-5 Marquam Bridge |
| Dec. 4 | James Jackman | 39 | Pedestrian | Southbound I-5 and I-84 ramp near Moda Center |
| Dec. 24 | McKenzie Libro | 18 | Motor vehicle | N Columbia Boulevard and Oregonian Avenue |
| Dec. 25 | David Wayne Becker | 63 | Bicycle | SE Stark Street and 106th Avenue |
| Dec. 25 | Pernell Brown | 40 | Motor vehicle | SW Barbur Boulevard and Taylors Ferry Road |
| Dec. 25 | Conner Wells | 24 | Pedestrian | SE 122nd Avenue and Ash Street |
| Dec. 25 | Stewart Poitra | 73 | Motor vehicle | SE 122nd Avenue south of Powell Boulevard |
| Dec. 26 | James Nagy | 59 | Pedestrian | SE 122nd Avenue at Madison Street |
| Dec. 31 | Wiley Scott | 56 | Motorcycle | SE Stark Street and 122nd Avenue |

Figure 5. List of traffic crash deaths by date (2023), name, age, mode of travel, and approximate crash location. Data: Portland Police Bureau.

The table below (**Figure 6**) has information on seven people who died in traffic crashes in Portland in 2023 under circumstances excluded from National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reporting criteria. The last section of this report, "How crash data works," provides a comprehensive description of traffic death reporting criteria.

Traffic crash deaths excluded by reporting criteria by date (2023), name, age, mode of travel, and approximate crash location

| Date | Name | Age | Travel mode | Approximate crash location |
|----------|--------------|-----|---------------|--|
| April 16 | * | * | Motor vehicle | NE 47th Avenue and Columbia Boulevard |
| June 23 | * | * | Motor vehicle | SE Stark Street and 135th Avenue |
| Oct. 6 | * | * | Motor vehicle | SE 111th Avenue and Holgate Boulevard |
| Nov. 4 | Kaleb Banzer | 19 | Motor vehicle | TriMet rail line parallel to I-84 near NE 28th Avenue |
| Nov. 4 | Brayden Fear | 19 | Motor vehicle | TriMet rail line parallel to I-84 near NE 28th Avenue |
| Nov. 20 | * | * | Motor vehicle | Southbound I-205 near N Lombard Street |
| Dec. 5 | * | * | Pedestrian | NE 122nd Avenue and Glisan Street |

Figure 6. List of traffic crash deaths excluded by reporting criteria by date (2023), name, age, mode of travel, and approximate crash location.

Data: Portland Police Bureau.

*Information unavailable.

Portland deadly crash patterns and trends

The City of Portland adopted Vision Zero in 2015 and PBOT began implementing the city's Vision Zero Action Plan in 2017. Since then, some trends have endured while others are more recent.

Persistent trends

What trends persisted in 2023? Most were related to fatalities on the High Crash Network, speeding, and crashes involving pedestrians. We continued to see traffic crash deaths in low-light conditions, and from vehicles running off the roads and impaired driving. There was also a steady fatality rate of people on bikes.

High Crash Network

In 2023, 74% of traffic deaths occurred on Portland's High Crash Network. The percent of traffic deaths on Portland's High Crash Network is consistently high. Between 2019 and 2023, the High Crash Network saw an average of 64% of deadly crashes.

Speeding

Speed continues to be a contributing factor in deadly crashes in Portland. More than half of the traffic deaths in Portland involve people driving well above posted speed limits. In 2023, 40 out of 69 traffic deaths involved speeding or excessive speeds, as noted by crash investigators. Crash investigations often cite speeding as a contributing factor in crashes for people driving more than 10 mph above the posted speed limit. Excessive speeding includes people driving at extreme speeds for the conditions and dangerous driving behavior on city streets.

In crashes where excessive speeds were a factor, 27 deaths occurred on the High Crash Network.

Twenty crashes lack information about travel speeds.

Eighty-seven percent of traffic deaths occur on streets with posted speeds of 30 mph and higher. While only 8% of our streets have speed limits higher than 30 mph, 54% of traffic deaths in the last three years have occurred on them.

of traffic deaths occur on the High Crash Network

According to the World Health Organization, when average speeds increase 1%, the risk of deadly crashes goes up by 4% and the risk of serious crashes rises by 3%. This is why they recommend that urban speed limits should not exceed 30 mph.

PBOT's speed limit setting directive states that "most posted speed limits in Portland should be 20 to 25 miles per hour," a goal the city is working toward. Still, about 8% of streets in Portland have speed limits above 30 mph, both on and off the High Crash Network. This year, 30 people (43%) died in crashes on roadways where speed limits were above 30 mph. PBOT continues to prioritize lowering speed limits and changing street design (see Figure 8) to slow drivers down.



Figure 8. A new protected intersection in Southeast Portland designed to shorten the crossing distance and improve safety for people walking, biking, and rolling.

Pedestrians

Since 2020, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of pedestrians who died compared to the three years prior. An average of 16 pedestrians were killed annually between 2018 and 2020, compared to an average of 26 pedestrians in the past three years (2021–2023). But 2023 is the first year that pedestrian deaths are lower. In 2023, pedestrians made up 35% of traffic deaths with 24 pedestrians killed in crashes. In 2021 and 2022, more than 40% of traffic deaths were pedestrians. In 2021, 27 pedestrians died in crashes and 28 died in 2022 (see Figure 7).

Low-light conditions

In 2023, 77% percent of traffic deaths occurred in low-light conditions—during dusk, nighttime, and dawn—with a three-year average of 74%. Of all pedestrian deaths, 83% occurred in low-light conditions, with a three-year average of 85%.

Vehicles running off the road

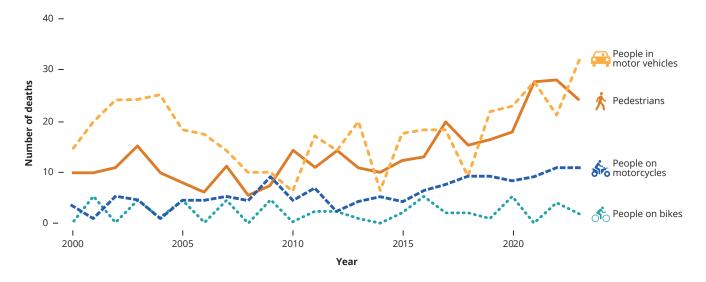
Deaths from vehicles running off the road remain persistently high. In the past five years, 20% of all traffic deaths are due to these crashes. Traffic deaths from single-vehicle crashes are rising, from an average of 12 deaths between 2019 and 2022 to 16 deaths in 2023. Speeding and impairment are typical factors in this type of crash, which involves both people in motor vehicles and on motorcycles.

Impaired driving

Impaired drivers under the influence of alcohol and/ or drugs remains a constant factor in deadly crashes. There is a significant delay in this data as police and medical examiner investigations are ongoing. For crashes in which it is known that the driver was intoxicated, 47% were fatal (18 of 38 crashes). Eighteen people died in these crashes. The driver's intoxication is unknown for 26 of the deadly crashes. Thirty people died in these crashes.

Bicycling

In 2023, two people died bicycling in Portland. From 2018-2022, there were an average of two bicyclist deaths per year, within a range of zero (in 2021) to five (in 2020).



Traffic deaths by mode of travel, 2000-2023

Figure 7. Traffic deaths by mode of travel, 2000-2023. Data: ODOT (2000-2021), Portland Police Bureau (2022-2023).

Other trends

Three additional trends are notable: the record death toll, an over-representation of people experiencing houselessness in traffic fatalities, and a drop in hit-and-run crashes to prepandemic rates.

Record death toll

The 2023 death toll on Portland streets surpassed 2021's three-decade high, rising from 63 to 69. The average over 2018–2021 was 50 traffic deaths per year, ranging from 35 in 2018 to 63 in 2021.

Community members experiencing houselessness

Community members experiencing houselessness are disproportionately impacted by traffic violence. This community comprises an estimated 0.6% of Multnomah County's population, yet made up 19% of traffic deaths within the City of Portland.¹ In fact, half of the pedestrians who died in 2023 were experiencing houselessness (12 of 24). These statistics speak to the extreme risks of persistent exposure to traffic, often on high-speed streets.

In 2021, the Portland Police Bureau started tracking traffic deaths involving community members experiencing houselessness.

Hit-and-run crashes

Deaths from hit-and-run crashes are dropping back down to pre-pandemic levels. In 2023, eight people died in hit-and-run crashes, fewer than the prior two years (17 in 2022 and 14 in 2021).

> of deadly crashes involve impaired driving

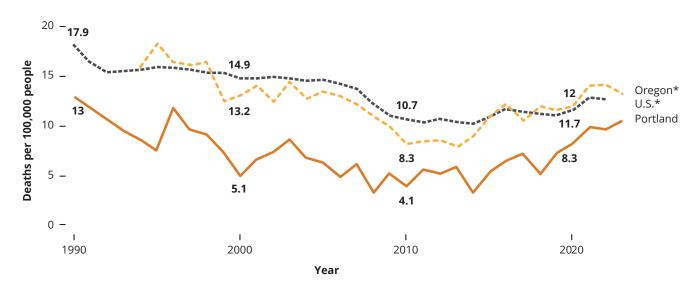
Fatal crash trends in the U.S., Oregon, and Portland

Portland is not alone. Sustained levels of traffic deaths have persisted in the state and across the U.S. since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020. Traffic deaths overall, as well as traffic death rates per 100,000, have increased nationwide, in Oregon, and in Portland since 2014 (see **Figure 9**).

Nationally, traffic fatalities are remaining relatively consistent between 2021 and 2022, with a negligible decrease of 0.3% based on NHTSA estimates for 2022. Full-year 2023 figures are not available yet, but nationally there was a small decline in traffic fatalities (-3%) during the first half of 2023 compared to the first half of 2022. Since the second quarter of 2022, national traffic death tolls are trending incrementally downward.

In Oregon, traffic deaths remained virtually unchanged from 2021 to 2022. The estimate for 2022 is 601 traffic deaths, the highest number since 1989. The increases seen since the Covid-19 pandemic have eased somewhat. There was a 6% decrease in traffic deaths in 2023, with an estimated 567 people dying in traffic crashes in Oregon. Statewide traffic deaths per capita remain higher than national and local rates. In 2021 and 2022, 14 people died in traffic per 100,000 residents, the highest figures since 2003. Early estimates for 2023 show a slight decrease to 13.4 traffic deaths per 100,000 residents.

In Portland, following the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, traffic deaths declined in the first half of 2020, then increased steadily through April 2021. Since then, the number of traffic deaths staved relatively stable until a spike in deadly crashes in the months of July and December 2023. The per capita rate of traffic deaths in Portland is now 10.6 deaths per 100,000 residents. This is the highest since 1996 when the rate was 11.8 traffic deaths per 100,000 residents.



Traffic death rates per 100,000 people in the U.S., Oregon, and Portland, 1990-2023

Figure 9. Traffic death rates per 100,000 people in the U.S., Oregon, and Portland, 1990-2023.

Data: U.S. Census population estimates (1990-2023); NHTSA and the National Safety Council (1990-2021); ODOT (1994-2023); Portland Police Bureau (2022-2023).

*Information for Oregon unavailable for 1990-1993; information for U.S. not yet available for 2023.

How crash data works

ODOT compiles the official crash record for the state using self-reported information and traffic crash investigations. For deadly crash data, PBOT also works directly with the Portland Police Bureau (see **Figure 10**).

PBOT uses NHTSA reporting criteria which excludes people who die under the following circumstances:

- More than 30 days after a crash
- Intentionally (suicide)
- In an act of homicide (a person intentionally crashes into another person)
- In a crash not involving a motor vehicle
- From a prior medical event (e.g., a heart attack or drug overdose)
- In a crash in a parking lot

Deaths are also excluded if a medical examiner determines that a person died of causes not directly attributable to a traffic crash such as suffering a heart attack while driving.

Regardless of reporting criteria, PBOT uses all available data to determine our priorities for where we make safety improvements.

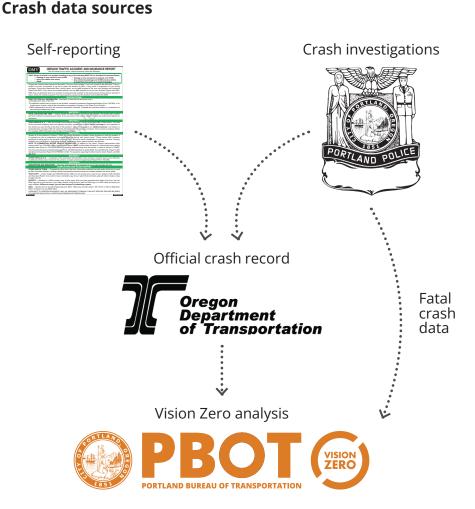


Figure 10. PBOT supplements the official crash record with police data to obtain the latest information.

If you have questions about the data in this report, or how traffic deaths are tracked and reported, please contact PBOT's Vision Zero team at <u>VisionZero@portlandoregon.gov</u>.

For media inquiries, contact Dylan Rivera, PBOT Public Information Officer, at 503-823-3723 (office), 503-577-7534 (cell), or <u>Dylan.Rivera@portlandoregon.gov</u>.



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