



# Pedestrian Injuries Among People Experiencing Homelessness

## 2021-2023 Tri-Annual Report of Non-Fatal Pedestrian Injuries Among People Experiencing Homelessness in Washington State Emergency Departments

### Summary

In 2023 there were 134 Emergency Department (ED) visits for persons experiencing homelessness who had pedestrian injuries due to motor vehicle crash in Washington. This is a 44% increase from 2022 (93 visits) and a 36% increase over 2021 (98 visits). Visits were identified by searching ED visit information for indications that the patient was a person experiencing homelessness and was a pedestrian, not an occupant, struck by a vehicle (car, SUV, pick-up truck, van, or bus) on a public roadway.

Figure 1. Annual count of non-fatal ED visits for persons experiencing homelessness who had pedestrian injuries due to motor vehicle crash in Washington, 2021-2023.

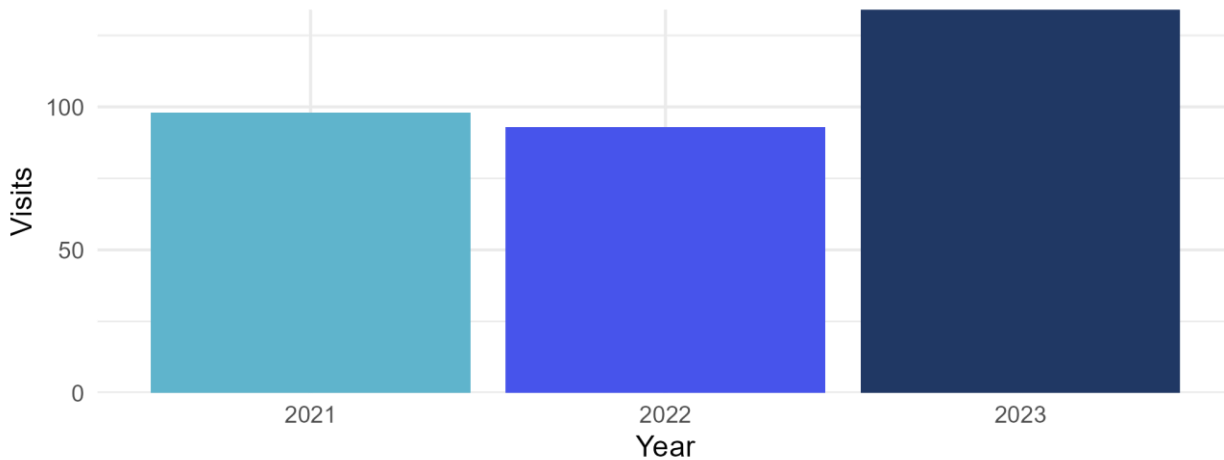


Figure 2. Count of non-fatal ED visits for persons experiencing homelessness who had pedestrian injuries due to motor vehicle crash in Washington from 2021 through 2023, by age groups.

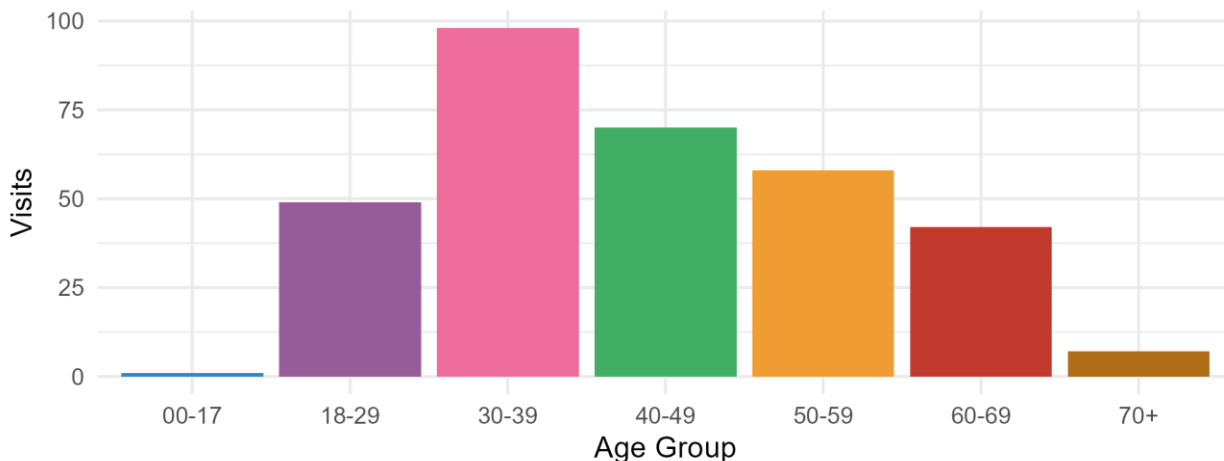


Table 1. Demographic percents of non-fatal persons experiencing homelessness who had pedestrian injuries due to motor vehicle crash, stratified by level of severity,\* 2021-2023.

	Visits	Severity <sup>1</sup>	
		Percent ED Only	Percent Admitted
All Visits	325	29.5%	70.5%
<b>Age Group</b>			
00-17	1	0%	100%
18-29	49	24.5%	75.5%
30-39	98	31.6%	68.4%
40-49	70	24.3%	75.7%
50-59	58	34.5%	65.5%
60-69	42	38.1%	61.9%
70+	7	0%	100%
<b>Sex</b>			
Female	73	23.3%	76.7%
Male	252	31.3%	68.7%
<b>Race</b>			
American Indian or Alaska Native	12	25%	75%
Asian	14	28.6%	71.4%
Black or African American	41	34.1%	65.9%
Multiracial	10	10%	90%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	5	20%	80%
Other Race	14	21.4%	78.6%
Unknown	11	18.2%	81.8%
White	218	31.2%	68.8%
<b>Ethnicity</b>			
Hispanic or Latino	25	8%	92%
Not Hispanic or Latino	290	32.1%	67.9%

<sup>1</sup>Severity is determined by whether the patient was discharged from the emergency department (ED Only) or hospitalized (Admitted).

### Data Notes

The Washington State Department of Health’s Rapid Health Information NetWOrk (RHINO) program collects near real-time health encounter data from participating hospitals and clinics throughout Washington. Washington state law requires emergency departments (EDs) to report each health care visit to the RHINO program in a timely fashion, usually within 24 hours. As of May 2020, 100% of non-federal EDs are reporting data to RHINO. Data include categorical data such as gender, race, ethnicity, age, coded diagnoses, and free-text information such as chief complaint narratives. Data from RHINO does not contain information about the location of traffic-related incidents. For additional information please reach out to [RHINO@doh.wa.gov](mailto:RHINO@doh.wa.gov). The RHINO program is supported by the Washington Traffic Safety Commission to provide information to the public on traffic-related emergency department visits in the state of Washington.

### Key Takeaways

- The 30-39 year old age group had the highest proportion of visits (30%), and the 40-49 age group was the second highest at 21.5%.
- Over three-quarters of all visits (77%) were male patients, although female patients had a higher percentage of more severe visits requiring admission (76.7% vs 68.7% for males).
- Patients of White race accounted for the most visits (67%), with the second largest group being Black or African American patients, at 12.6% of visits over the three year period.
- Patients of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity were more likely to have a severe injury, with 92% of visits resulting in admission compared with 68% of visits for non-Hispanic or Latino patients.