

Pedestrian Safety



True Story

A 3-year-old girl left her apartment and was playing in the parking lot. A neighbor was backing her car out and didn't see the child behind the car. The girl suffered head injuries, injuries to the liver and spleen, and pelvic fractures. The child's mother did not realize she had gone outside.

-From the Washington County Sheriff's Office in Oregon

The Facts

- Pedestrian injury is the second leading cause of unintentional injury-related death among children ages 5 to 14.
- Children are at higher risk of pedestrian death because they are exposed to traffic threats that are beyond their mental and physical developmental stage.
- Over a 10-year period in Polk County, Iowa, there were 531 child pedestrian injuries, eight of them resulting in death.
- The number of child pedestrian deaths is four times higher on Halloween evening than on any other night of the year.
- A national survey of speeding in schools zones found that two-thirds of drivers exceeded the posted speed limit during the 30-minute period before and after school.

What You Can Do

- Never allow children age 10 and younger to cross the streets alone.
- Always model and teach proper pedestrian behavior by crossing streets at a corner and using traffic signals and crosswalks whenever possible.
- Children need to look left, right and left again when crossing streets.
- As a driver, obey speed limits in school zones, stop at stop signs, and stop behind the crosswalk lines—not in the middle of the crosswalk.



Safe Kids Greater Des Moines, led by Blank Children's Hospital, is a grassroots organization dedicated to preventing unintentional injury in children ages 0-14.

For more information call (515) 241-6293 or visit www.dsmsafekids.org.