

# **South Carolina Pedestrian Involved Collisions 2006 – 2010**

## **What is the extent of the problem?**

- ❑ In the five-year period, January 1, 2006 – December 31, 2010, there were 4,631 traffic collisions in South Carolina that involved at least one pedestrian. During this five-year period, the number of pedestrian involved collisions appears to have fluctuated. In 2006, there were 933 pedestrian collisions, this number increased the following year to 962. However, in 2008 (941) and 2009 (870) the number of pedestrian collisions decreased with the fewest reported during this five-year period, 870, in 2009. The year 2010 again saw an increase in pedestrian collisions to 925.
- ❑ These collisions resulted in the deaths of 520 persons. The number of pedestrian involved collision fatalities trended downward during this same five-year period. Starting in 2006, there were 125 pedestrian collision fatalities decreasing to its lowest point during this period to 90 in 2009 with a slight increase to 95 in 2010. Preliminary figures for 2011 indicate 114 pedestrians were killed in traffic collisions.
- ❑ Pedestrian involved collisions resulted in 4,602 non-fatal injuries during the past five years. There was no discernable trend in pedestrian involved collision injuries during this time period. There was a significant increase in the number of non-fatal injuries in 2007 (1,001) over 2006 (898) before declining in 2008 (923) and 2009 (852) but increasing again in 2010 (928).

## **Where Did These Collisions Occur?**

- ❑ During this five-year period, Charleston had, by far, the highest total number of pedestrian involved collisions with 779, followed by Richland, Horry and Greenville with 581, 433 and 400, respectively. Charleston County had the most fatalities with 61, followed by Greenville, Horry, Richland and Spartanburg with 46, 42, 34 and 34, respectively.
- ❑ With 1,949 reported pedestrian involved collisions during the past five years, secondary routes had the most of any of the five route categories. The interstate routes had the fewest pedestrian involved collisions with 146.
- ❑ Secondary routes also had the most pedestrian involved injuries with 1,948 during this period. However, more persons were killed on the US primary routes with 189 compared to 156 on secondaries.
- ❑ Nationally, 4,092 pedestrians were killed in 2009. This represented a 14 percent decrease from the 4,763 reported in 2000. (Source: NHTSA Traffic Safety Facts – Pedestrians 2009).
- ❑ Nationally, the pedestrian fatality rate was 1.33 per 100,000 population in 2009. South Carolina's rate of 1.95 per 100,000 population ranked the state sixth highest among the 50 states (7<sup>th</sup> if the District of Columbia is included). This represents a decrease for South Carolina compared to previous years. Florida had the highest state rate in the nation with 2.51 fatalities per 100,000 population. Louisiana had the second highest rate, 2.38; followed by DC, 2.33; Maryland, 1.98; and Mississippi, 1.96. (Source: NHTSA Traffic Safety Facts – Pedestrians 2009).

## **Who is involved?**

- ❑ Of the 520 persons killed in these collisions, 512 were pedestrians, three were pickup truck drivers, two were automobile drivers, two were in minivans with one driver and one passenger dying; and one was the driver of a motorcycle.
- ❑ Of the 512 pedestrian fatalities, 373 were male and 139 were female.
- ❑ Sixty-four (64) or 12.5%, of the 512 pedestrian fatalities were persons under the age of 20; 93 or 18.16%, were age 20-29; 74 or 14.45% were 30-39; 119, or 23.24% were 40-49; 73 or 14.26%, were 50-59; 41 or 8.01% were 60-69; and 40, 7.81%, were 70 or older. (Eight of the fatalities had an unspecified or unknown age).

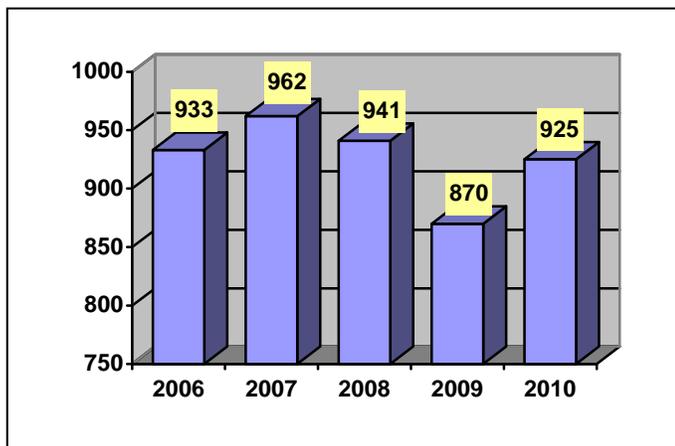
## How/Why did these collisions occur?

- ❑ “Non-motorist (the pedestrian) Lying or Illegally in Roadway” was the leading probable cause of pedestrian Involved collisions during the past five years with 638 collisions. The leading probable cause for fatal pedestrian crashes was also “Other Person Illegally in Roadway” with 136 collisions.
- ❑ As would be expected, the leading first harmful event in these collisions was a collision with a pedestrian with 2,400 collisions including 424 with fatalities. An additional 1,991 collisions (77 with fatalities) involved a collision between two or more motor vehicles in transit prior to the collision with the pedestrian. The remaining collisions involved collisions with some type of fixed object or bicycle or other object prior to the collision with the pedestrian.

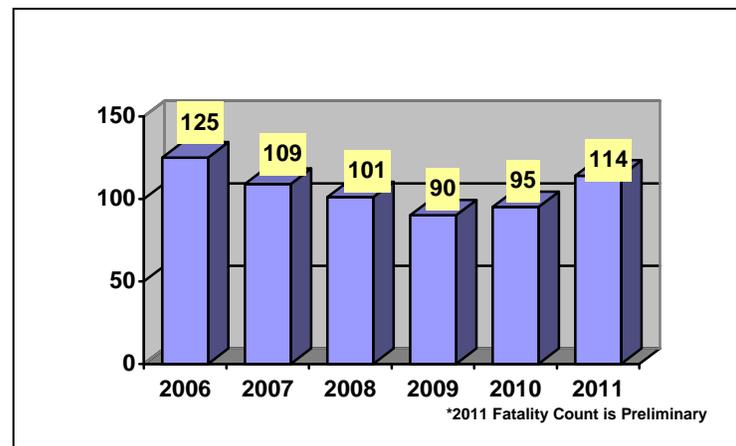
## When did these collisions occur?

- ❑ The leading time of day for pedestrian involved collisions was 6:01pm - 9:00pm, the “early evening” period. A total of 1,118 pedestrian collisions occurred during this period. The leading period for fatal pedestrian collisions was the “early night” period, 9:01 pm – midnight, with 142. This “early night” period also saw the second leading time for total pedestrian collisions with 835. The number two period for fatal collisions was 6:01pm – 9:00pm with 130.
- ❑ October was the leading month for pedestrian involved collisions during the past five years with 479 followed by September and July with 431 and 410 collisions respectively. All 12 months were well represented, with June having the fewest pedestrian collisions with 335, followed closely by February with 338.
- ❑ October had the most fatal pedestrian involved collisions with 65 (67 persons killed). Second was December with 56 fatal collisions (56 killed). The fewest fatal pedestrian collisions occurred in March with 27 (27 killed).
- ❑ The leading day of the week for pedestrian involved collisions was Friday, with 778, followed by Saturday with 722. The fewest pedestrian collisions occurred on Sunday with 523.
- ❑ The leading day for fatal pedestrian involved collisions was Saturday with 95 (100 killed). Second was Sunday with 84 fatal pedestrian collisions (84 killed). Tuesday, with 55 (56 killed), had the fewest pedestrian fatal collisions.
- ❑ The leading year for pedestrian involved collisions was 2007 when 962 occurred. The most fatal collisions occurred in 2006 with 125 (125 killed). The year 2006 also represents the highest number of persons killed in the last 20 years. The lowest fatal pedestrian collision total from 2006-2010 occurred in 2009 when 88 fatal pedestrian collisions occurred (90 killed). However, the number of persons killed in pedestrian involved collisions increased the next year, with the 95 persons killed in 2010. Preliminary figures for 2011 indicate 114 pedestrians were killed in traffic collisions.

**Pedestrian Involved Collisions  
2006 – 2010**



**Pedestrian Involved Collision Fatalities  
2006-2011\***



**PEDESTRIAN INVOLVED COLLISIONS**

2006 - 2010

County	Collision Type			Total Collisions	Persons	
	Fatal	Injury	Property Damage Only		Killed	Injured
Abbeville	1	10	0	11	1	12
Aiken	14	102	3	119	15	120
Allendale	0	2	1	3	0	3
Anderson	20	108	4	132	21	135
Bamberg	1	6	0	7	1	8
Barnwell	2	13	0	15	2	14
Beaufort	12	97	6	115	12	103
Berkeley	20	109	10	139	20	128
Calhoun	2	2	0	4	2	3
Charleston	59	699	21	779	61	773
Cherokee	5	44	1	50	5	58
Chester	3	15	2	20	3	25
Chesterfield	6	10	0	16	6	12
Clarendon	7	23	1	31	7	24
Colleton	5	28	3	36	5	37
Darlington	11	43	0	54	12	50
Dillon	7	39	0	46	7	46
Dorchester	9	92	3	104	9	99
Edgefield	3	7	1	11	3	9
Fairfield	5	16	1	22	5	19
Florence	21	146	5	172	22	189
Georgetown	10	49	0	59	11	56
Greenville	45	335	20	400	46	373
Greenwood	3	45	2	50	3	50
Hampton	1	16	3	20	1	22
Horry	42	373	18	433	42	445
Jasper	8	22	0	30	8	25
Kershaw	3	30	0	33	3	34
Lancaster	2	30	2	34	2	37
Laurens	4	31	5	40	4	38
Lee	4	16	0	20	4	18
Lexington	16	140	7	163	16	164
McCormick	1	4	0	5	1	6
Marion	5	23	1	29	5	31
Marlboro	6	29	0	35	6	31
Newberry	4	18	0	22	4	27
Oconee	4	26	2	32	4	34
Orangeburg	27	86	3	116	27	114
Pickens	9	50	5	64	9	53

Table continued

<b>Richland</b>	34	532	15	581	34	613
<b>Saluda</b>	1	4	0	5	1	5
<b>Spartanburg</b>	34	206	8	248	34	241
<b>Sumter</b>	20	92	5	117	20	105
<b>Union</b>	0	17	1	18	0	20
<b>Williamsburg</b>	3	26	2	31	3	33
<b>York</b>	13	144	3	160	13	160
<b>All</b>	512	3955	164	4631	520	4602

***South Carolina Department of Public Safety***