

# TARRANT COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DATA BRIEF

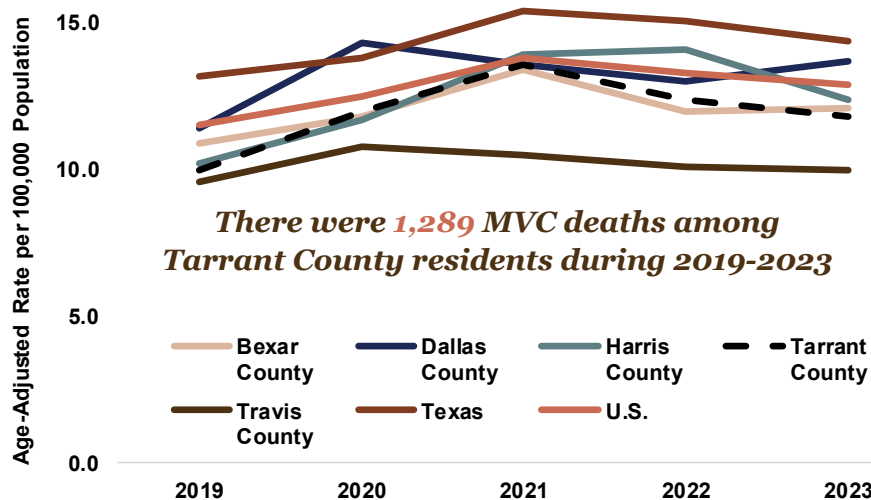


## TRANSPORTATION INJURIES AND DEATHS IN TARRANT COUNTY

**Motor Vehicle Collision (MVC)** is an unintentional (accidental) **crash** that occurs:

1) between motor vehicles (car, van, pick-up truck, etc.), 2) between a motor vehicle and a pedestrian (walking person), pedal cyclist (bicycle), motorcyclist, bus, train, streetcar, non-motorized road vehicle (skateboard, push scooter, etc.), special-use motor vehicle (used for construction, emergency services, trash collection, etc.), animal, or stationary object, and 3) when a motor vehicle overturns. MVCs are preventable and may result in injury or death. **Transportation Accidents (TA)** are a broad category that include MVCs as well as other modes of transportation (air and space, water, and other land vehicles). However, most fatal TAs are MVCs. Note: different data sources may use different definitions/terms for this topic (MVC, TA, traffic, crashes, units, etc.)

Figure 1. Motor vehicle collision (MVC) mortality rates by geographic location, 2019-2023

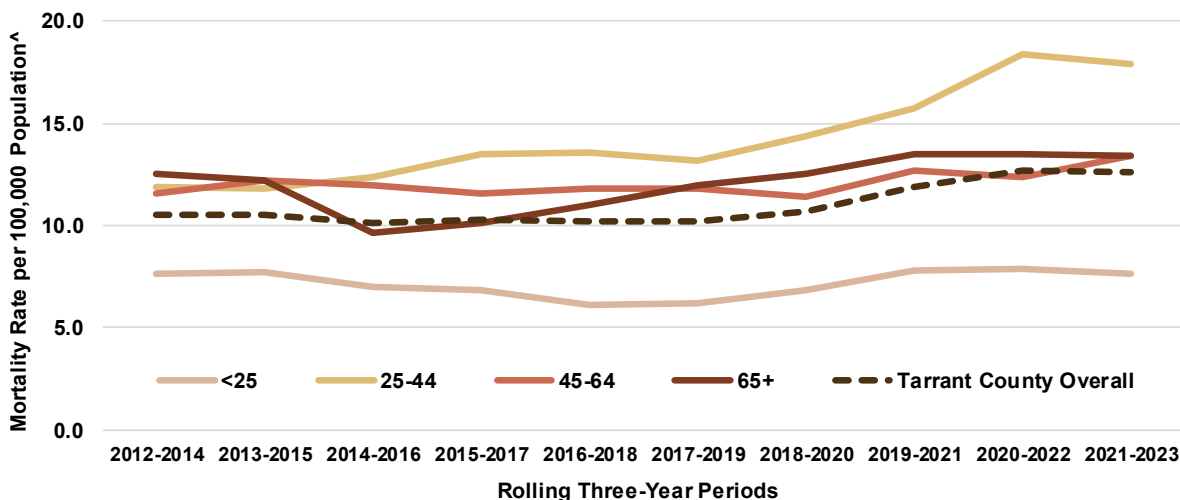


Tarrant County MVC mortality rates **increased significantly** from 2019 to 2021 and then **decreased** from 2021 to 2023, but **not significantly**

Tarrant County had **significantly lower** MVC mortality rates than Texas in 2019, 2022, and 2023

ICD-10 113 cause list: Motor Vehicle Accidents (V02-V04, V09.0, V09.2, V12-V14, V19.0-V19.2, V19.4-V19.6, V20-V79, V80.3-V80.5, V81.0-V81.1, V82.0-V82.1, V83-V86, V87.0-V87.8, V88.0-V88.8, V89.0, V89.2)

Figure 2. Tarrant County MVC mortality rates by age group (in years) and overall, 2012-2023\*



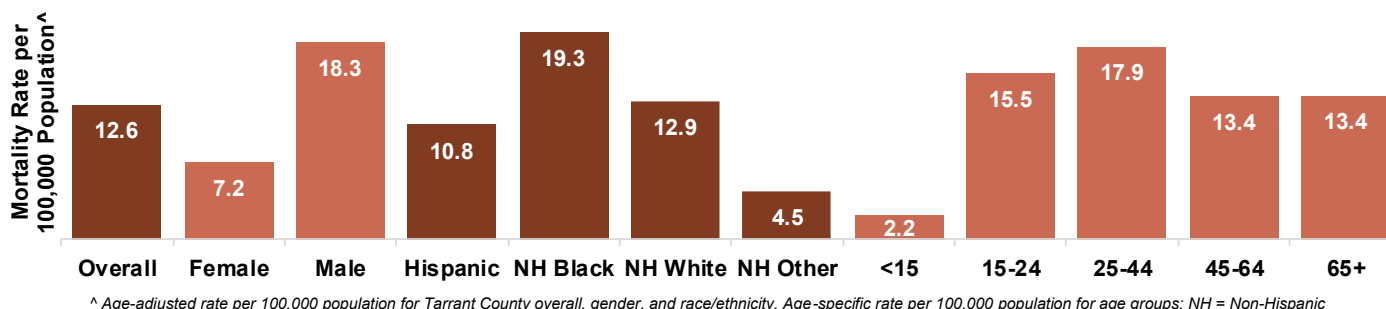
There was a **significant increase** in Tarrant County MVC mortality **overall** and among residents **aged 25-44 years**

\* Three-year rolling rates used due to data suppression; ^ Age-specific rate per 100,000 population for age groups. Age-adjusted rate per 100,000 population for Tarrant County overall.

Of the **transportation-related deaths<sup>†</sup>** that occurred during 2019-2023 among Tarrant County residents:



Figure 3. Tarrant County MVC mortality rates by gender, race/ethnicity, and age group (in years), 2021-2023



Among Tarrant County residents, MVC mortality rates were **significantly higher among male and non-Hispanic black residents** during 2021-2023

Figure 4. Tarrant County MVC deaths by month, 2021-2023

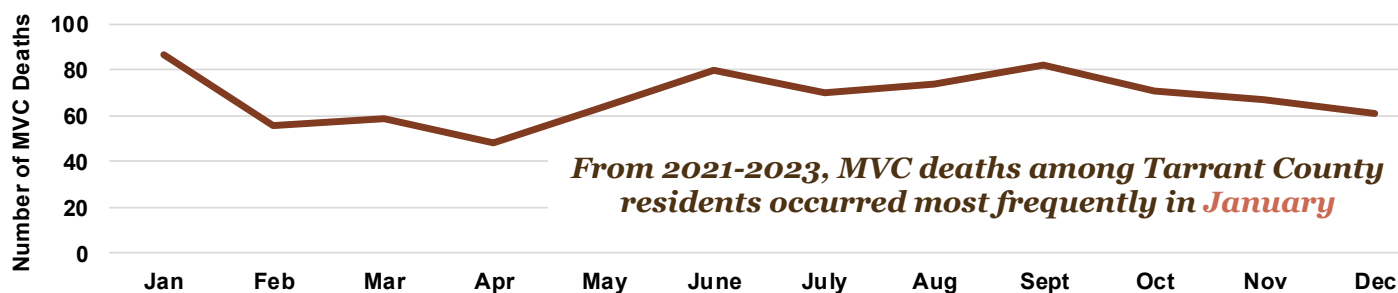
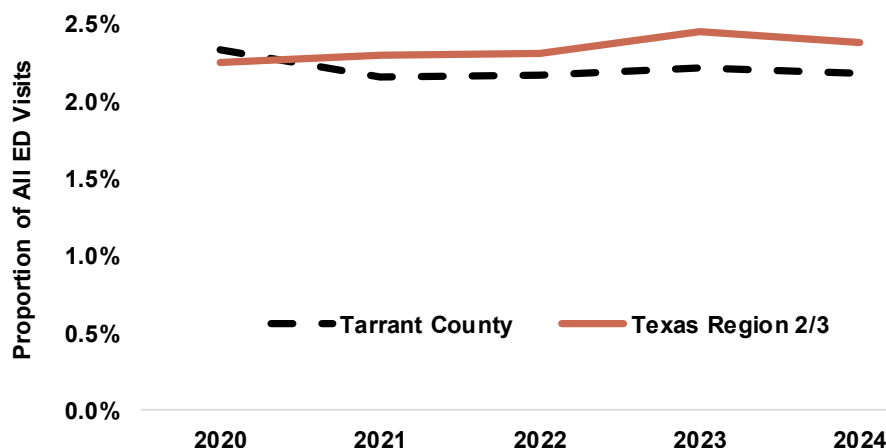


Figure 5. Traffic-related emergency department (ED) visits<sup>‡</sup>, Tarrant County and Texas Region 2/3<sup>‡</sup>, 2020-2024



<sup>†</sup>ED visits determined with the 'All Traffic Related v2' Syndromic Surveillance definition in ESSENCE ([click for definition](#));  
<sup>‡</sup>Texas Region 2/3 = Texas Department of State Health Services public health region consisting of 49 counties in North Texas ([click for exact coverage](#)).



There were **over 107,000 traffic-related ED visits** among Tarrant County residents during 2020-2024

The majority of these patients were **female** and aged **25-44 years**

Figure 6. Child passenger safety questions from the Parent/Caregiver Survey by Cook Children's Health Care System, Tarrant County parents with children aged 1-11 years, 2024

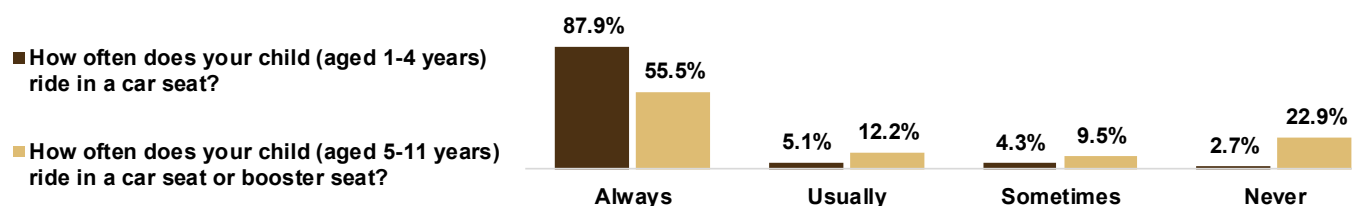
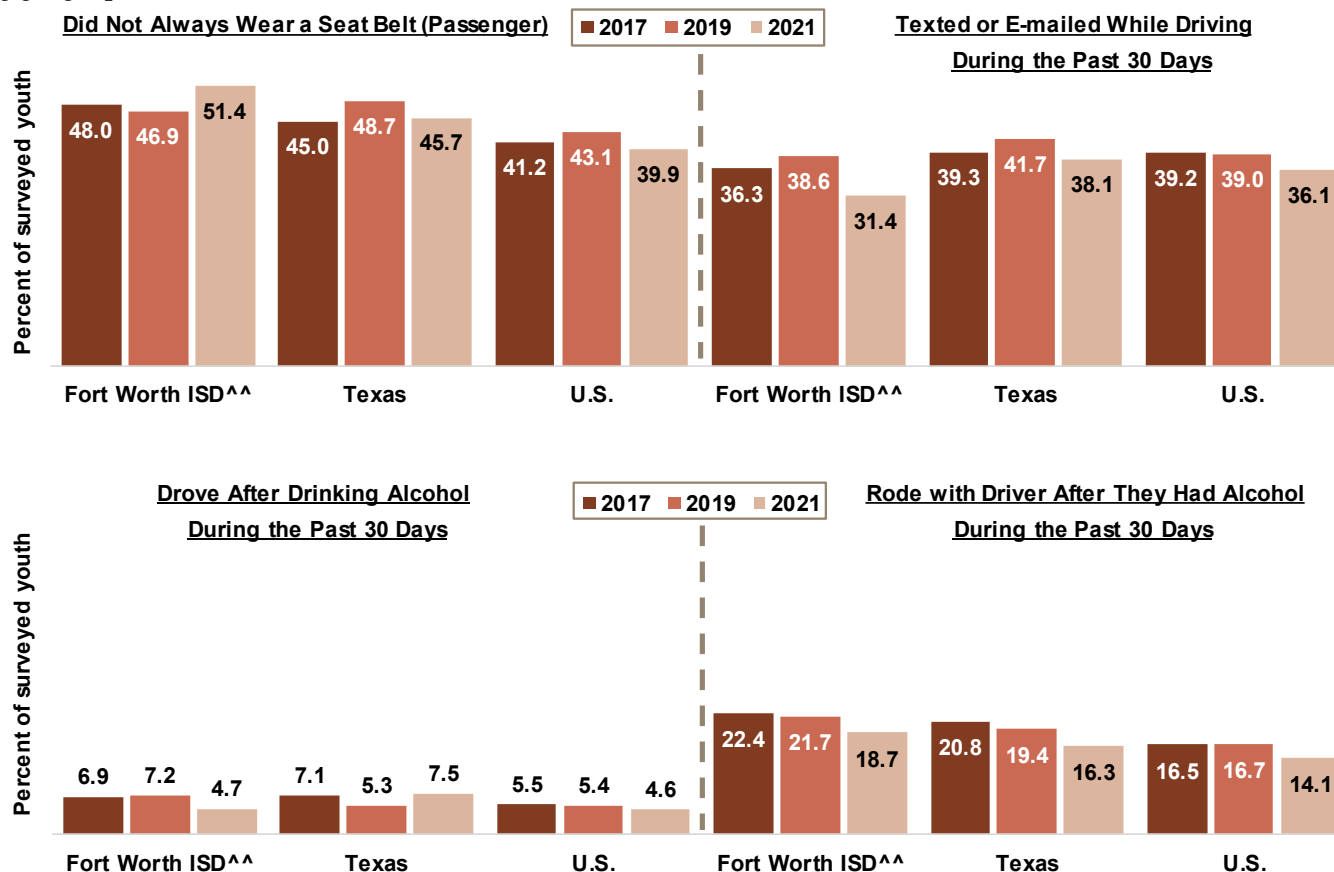


Figure 7. Motor vehicle-related behaviors reported by high school students in the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) by geographic location, 2017-2021<sup>§</sup>



Among high school students in 2021, Fort Worth ISD was **significantly higher** than the U.S. for **'Did Not Always Wear a Seat Belt'** (51.4% vs. 39.9%) and **'Rode with Driver After They Had Alcohol'** (18.7% vs. 14.1%)<sup>^^</sup>



91% of Tarrant County adults aged 18 years and older reported they **always** use a seat belt when driving or riding in a car<sup>\*\*</sup>

A significantly lower percentage of residents aged 18-24 years (83%) and 25-44 years (88%) reported **always** using a seat belt compared to residents aged 45-64 years (95%) and 65+ years (97%)<sup>\*\*</sup>



4% of Tarrant County adults aged 18 years and older reported they have **driven after having too much to drink** at least once in the past 30 days<sup>\*\*</sup>

**In 2024,  
there were  
approximately  
32,000 crashes  
that involved  
65,000 units and  
82,000 people in  
Tarrant County**

Units = vehicles, bicycles, etc. involved in the crashes

Figure 9. Proportion of Tarrant County crashes by day of the week, 2024

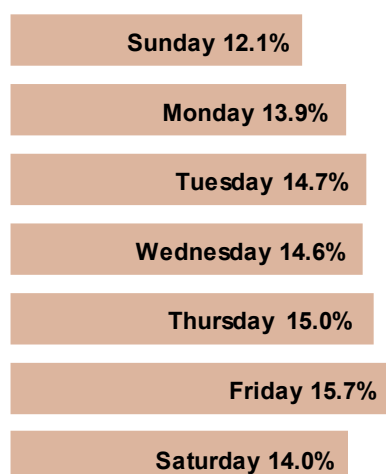


Figure 8. Individuals involved in crashes that occurred in Tarrant County by gender and age group (in years), 2024

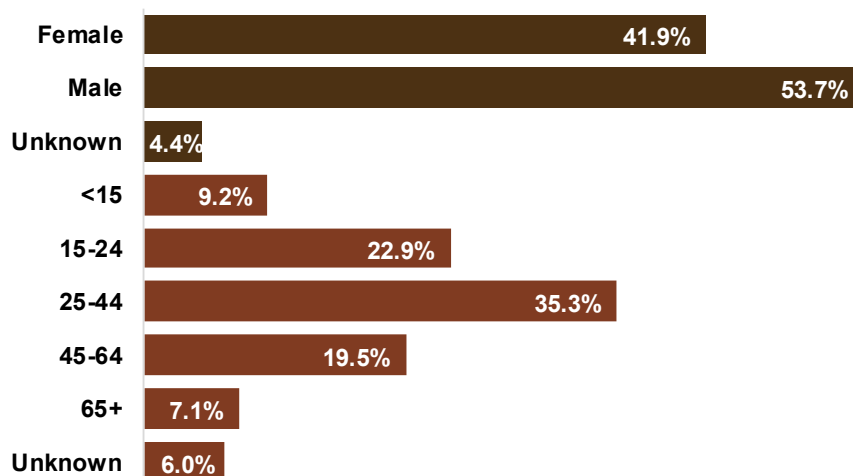
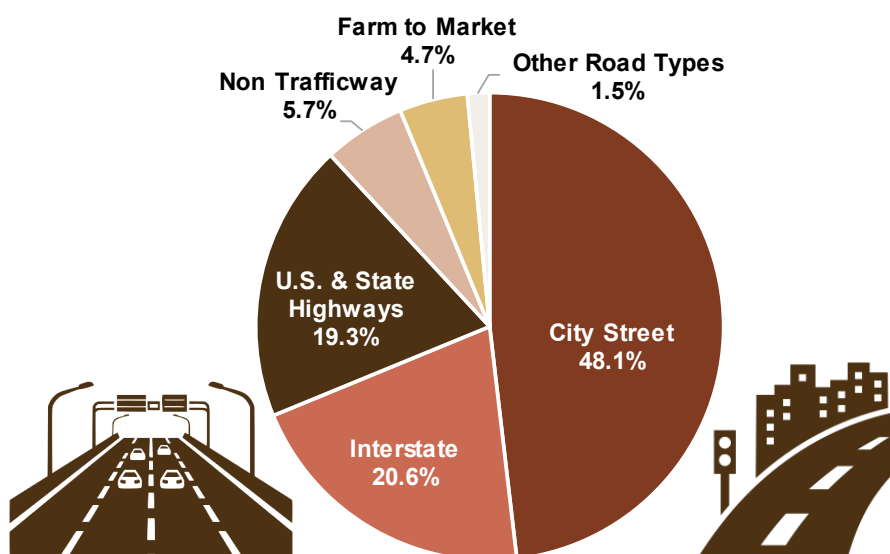
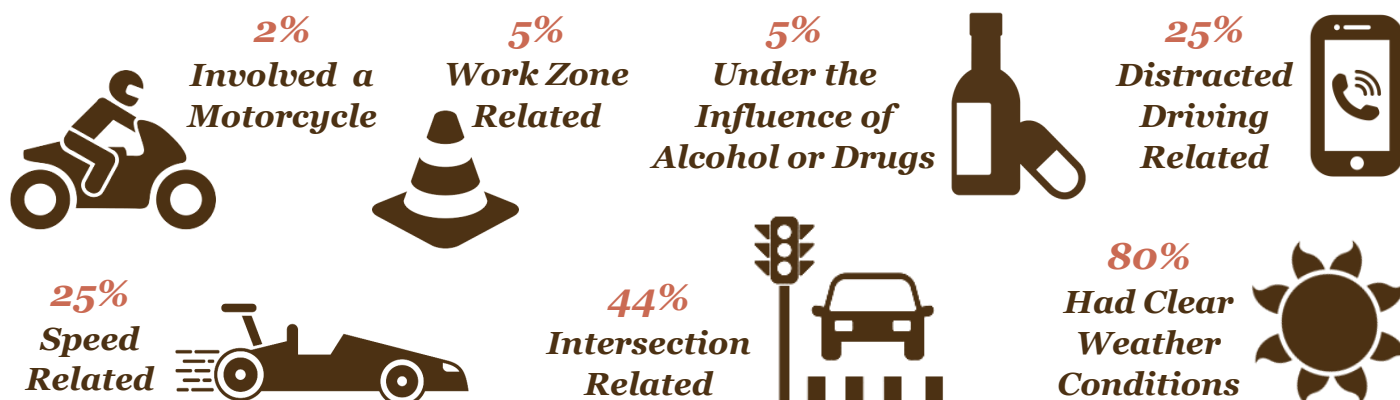


Figure 10. Proportion of Tarrant County crashes by road type, 2024



## Among Tarrant County Crashes in 2024:



Crash characteristics are not mutually exclusive; **Work Zone**: crashes occurring in or involved in work zones; **Under the Influence of Alcohol or Drugs**: driver reported with contributing factors of under the influence of alcohol or had been drinking, taking medication, or under the influence of drugs, or test resulting in a blood alcohol concentration greater than 0 or tested positive for drug test; **Distracted Driving**: crashes where any person is reported with driver inattention, distraction in vehicle, or cell/mobile device use; **Speed Related**: crashes reported with factors of speeding - over the limit, unsafe speed, or failed to control speed; **Intersection Related**: crashes in any way related to an intersection or occurring within an intersection.

*From October 2023 - September 2024, the **Vehicle Safety Action Team** from Cook Children's Health Care System:*

- *Inspected **576** car seats*
- *Distributed **464** car seats*
- *Educated **393** caregivers on car seat installation*
- *Trained **74** new child passenger safety technicians*



**8 out of 10** car seats were incorrectly installed by parents/caregivers when they arrived at Cook Children's car seat check events

*Tarrant County Public Health's **Safe Riders Program** provided **203 child safety seats** to the community for free from October 2023 - September 2024*

## How to Prevent MVCs

- Wear a **seat belt** - every person, every seat, every time
  - Secure children in a **car seat, booster seat, or seat belt** (based on age, height, and weight) in the back seat
  - Drive **without distractions** (texts/calls, food, etc.)
  - Drive **without being impaired** by alcohol, drugs, or medication (some side effects impact driving ability)
  - Follow **speed limits** and **rules of the road**
  - Limit driving in poor **weather conditions**
  - **Be aware of surroundings** (watch out for other cars, pedestrians, cyclists, animals, work zones, etc.)
  - **Take breaks** while driving and **switch drivers** if you are having difficulty staying awake
  - Schedule routine **vehicle maintenance**
  - Schedule annual **eye exams** and get **corrective lenses** if necessary
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- **Pedestrians**: Use **sidewalks** and **crosswalks**. Make yourself visible to others by wearing **bright clothes** and using a **light source** if it is getting dark outside
  - **Cyclists**: Wear a **helmet**, use **lights** and **reflectors** at night, follow **traffic laws**, and use proper **hand signals**

## Resources and Education

*Texas law requires children ride in a federally approved safety seat that fits by weight and height until 8 years of age or when they are at least 57 inches tall (4 feet 9 inches)*

Cook Children's - Free Car Seat Checks **Call 682-885-2634**  
[[cookchildrenscommunity.org/injury-prevention/vehicle/](https://cookchildrenscommunity.org/injury-prevention/vehicle/)]

Tarrant County Public Health - Safe Riders Program  
**Call 817-321-5992** [[tarrantcountytx.gov/en/public-health/family-health-services/child-passenger-safety-classes--seats.html](https://tarrantcountytx.gov/en/public-health/family-health-services/child-passenger-safety-classes--seats.html)]

Children [[cookchildrens.org/health-resources/safety-and-injury-prevention/car-and-vehicle-safety](https://cookchildrens.org/health-resources/safety-and-injury-prevention/car-and-vehicle-safety)]  
[[cookchildrens.org/health-resources/safety-and-injury-prevention/bicycles-boards-outdoors/](https://cookchildrens.org/health-resources/safety-and-injury-prevention/bicycles-boards-outdoors/)]

Teens [[t-driver.com](https://t-driver.com)] and College Students [[u-driver.com](https://u-driver.com)]

Older Adults [[cdc.gov/older-adult-drivers/mymobility/index.html](https://cdc.gov/older-adult-drivers/mymobility/index.html)]

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- [[cdc.gov/pedestrian-bike-safety/about/index.html](https://cdc.gov/pedestrian-bike-safety/about/index.html)]
  - [[cdc.gov/transportation-safety/index.html](https://cdc.gov/transportation-safety/index.html)]
  - [[dshs.texas.gov/injury-prevention/safe-riders](https://dshs.texas.gov/injury-prevention/safe-riders)]
  - [[lookouttexas.org](https://lookouttexas.org)]
  - [[nhtsa.gov](https://nhtsa.gov)]
  - [[txdot.gov/safety/bicycle-pedestrian-safety.html](https://txdot.gov/safety/bicycle-pedestrian-safety.html)]
  - [[txdot.gov/safety/driving-laws.html](https://txdot.gov/safety/driving-laws.html)]
  - [[txdot.gov/safety/traffic-safety-campaigns.html](https://txdot.gov/safety/traffic-safety-campaigns.html)]