



# Epi Data Brief

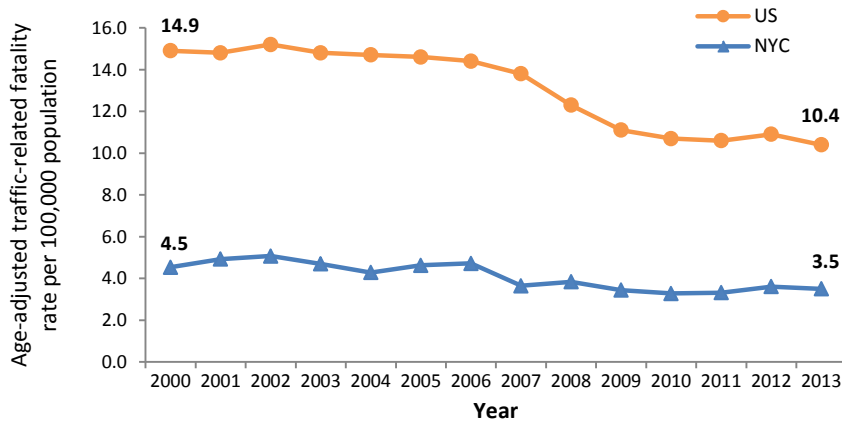
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

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## Traffic Fatalities in New York City

- Traffic-related fatalities, defined as deaths caused by injuries from a motor vehicle crash, including injuries to a motor vehicle occupant, motorcyclist, pedestrian, or bicyclist, accounted for approximately 340 deaths each year in New York City (NYC) between 2000 and 2013.<sup>1</sup>
- The traffic-related fatality rate in both NYC and the United States (US) declined between 2000 and 2013. However, NYC had a lower traffic-related fatality rate compared with the US. This may be related to New Yorkers' widespread use of public transportation instead of personal motor vehicles: 45% of NYC households owned a motor vehicle compared with 91% in the US in 2012.<sup>2</sup>

### Traffic-related fatalities, New York City vs. United States, 2000-2013

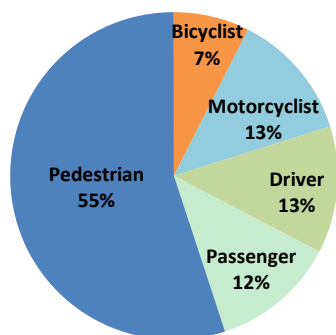


Source: NYC Bureau of Vital Statistics 2000-2013 and US WISQARS 2000-2013

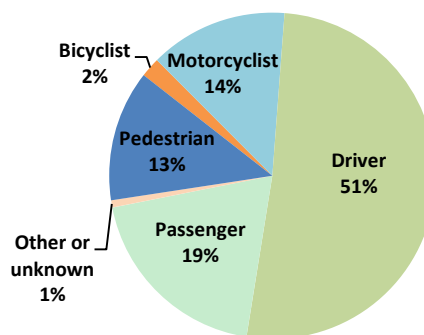
### Victims of traffic-related fatalities

- Between 2009 and 2011, more than half (55%) of all traffic-related fatalities in NYC were pedestrians, compared with 13% nationwide.
- Bicyclists also accounted for a greater percentage (7%) of NYC traffic-related fatalities compared with the US (2%).

#### New York City Traffic Fatalities



#### United States Traffic Fatalities



Source: NYC Office of Chief Medical Examiner File Review and US FARS, 2009-2011

### Data Sources

#### Bureau of Vital Statistics (BVS)

##### 2000-2013:

The NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's (DOHMH's) BVS maintains administrative data on all deaths in NYC and injury death information was obtained from death certificates. Refer to [tables appendix](#) for International Classification of Diseases (ICD)-10 codes used.

#### National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) Injury matrices:

The NCHS provides frameworks designed to organize ICD coded injury data into meaningful groupings to facilitate national and international comparisons of injury statistics.

#### NYC Office of Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) file review

##### 2009-2011:

Traffic fatality records were reviewed at OCME for further information on crash role and toxicology information on the victim for 2009-2011.

#### The Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) 2000-2013:

A national online database compiled by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC's) NCHS Statistics that provides data on fatal and non-fatal injuries.

#### Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) 2009-2011:

A database that contains national data compiled from state governments on all vehicle crashes that occur on a roadway and involve a fatality.

#### Intercensal Estimates:

NYC DOHMH population estimates, modified from US Census Bureau intercensal population estimates 2000-2013, updated December 2014. Rates are age-adjusted to the US 2000 standard population, except those for specific age groups.

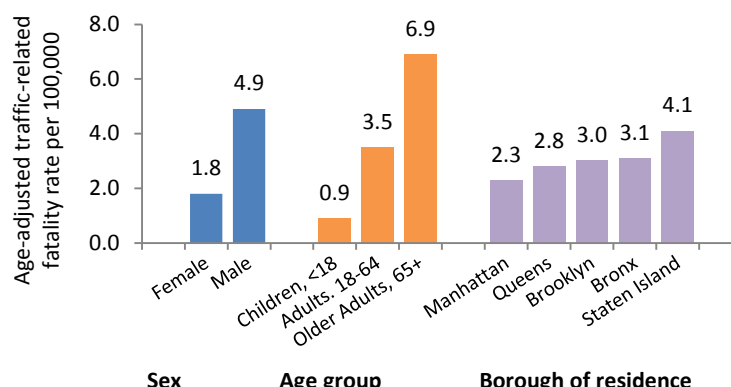
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**Acknowledgements:** Melanie Firestone, Matthew Roe, Will Moir, Sarah Conderino

## Traffic-related fatalities vary by sex, age group, and borough of residence

- Between 2009 and 2011, the traffic-related fatality rate among males was more than two times the rate among females (4.9 vs. 1.8 per 100,000 New Yorkers).
- Older New Yorkers (aged 65 and older) had the highest traffic-related fatality rate (6.9 per 100,000) compared with children (aged 0 to 17, 0.9 per 100,000) and adults aged 18-64 (3.5 per 100,000).
- Across all ages, traffic-related fatality rates were similar among all race/ethnicity groups in NYC. However, disparities exist within narrower age groups. Among older adults, Asians had the highest traffic-related fatality rate (11.4 per 100,000) compared with other race/ethnicity groups.

### New York City traffic-related fatalities by demographic characteristics, 2009-2011



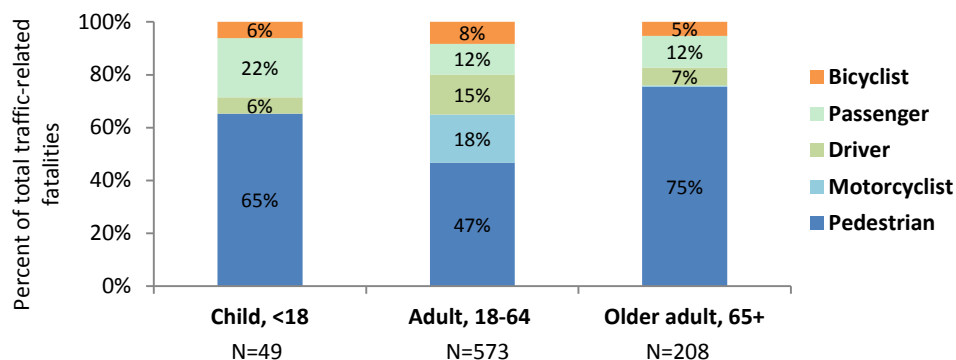
Source: NYC Office of Chief Medical Examiner File Review and NYC DOHMH Bureau of Vital Statistics, 2009-2011

- Staten Island had the highest traffic-related fatality rate (4.1 per 100,000) compared with other NYC boroughs.

## Crash victims by age group and borough of crash

- Across all age groups, pedestrians made up the highest proportion of traffic fatalities. Among older adults and children, pedestrians accounted for the majority of all traffic fatalities (75% and 65%, respectively).

### Traffic-related fatalities by age group and crash victim, New York City, 2009-2011



Source: NYC Office of Chief Medical Examiner File Review and NYC DOHMH Bureau of Vital Statistics, 2009-2011

- Pedestrians accounted for 69% of traffic-related fatalities in Manhattan, compared with 40% in Staten Island.
- Nearly half (45%) of all traffic-related fatalities in Staten Island were drivers and occupants.
- More than half (55%) of all bicyclist fatalities occurred in Brooklyn.

### References:

<sup>1</sup>Average annual counts are calculated based on traffic fatality classifications of International Classification of Diseases codes (ICD)-10 (see [tables appendix](#)) which may differ from counts based on crash reports.

<sup>2</sup>United States Census Bureau / American Fact Finder. "B08201: Household Size by Vehicles Available." 2012 American Community Survey. US Census Bureau's American Community Survey Office, 2011. Web 2 February 2015.



### MORE New York City Health Data and Publications

- For complete tables of data presented in this Brief, visit [nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/epi/datatable59.pdf](http://nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/epi/datatable59.pdf)
- For information on NYC's traffic safety initiative, Vision Zero, visit [nyc.gov/visionzero](http://nyc.gov/visionzero).
- For trends on traffic-related injuries, visit the NYC Environment & Health Data Portal at [nyc.gov/health/tracking](http://nyc.gov/health/tracking)
- Visit EpiQuery, the Health Department's online, interactive health data system at [nyc.gov/health/EpiQuery](http://nyc.gov/health/EpiQuery)

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