

Road traffic crashes

Summary

- Road traffic injuries are the 4th leading cause of injury in children and account for 14% of all injuries.
- In 2019, 771 children were treated for traffic related injuries, down from 892 in 2018.
- Pedestrian injuries accounted for 72% of all traffic injuries.
- 71% of pedestrians were aged between 5 and 12 years, and 39% under 4 years.
- Passenger injuries were 24% of traffic injuries.
- Other 4% made up of cycle, motorcycle, etc.
- Of the child passengers treated, only 13% were in car seats.



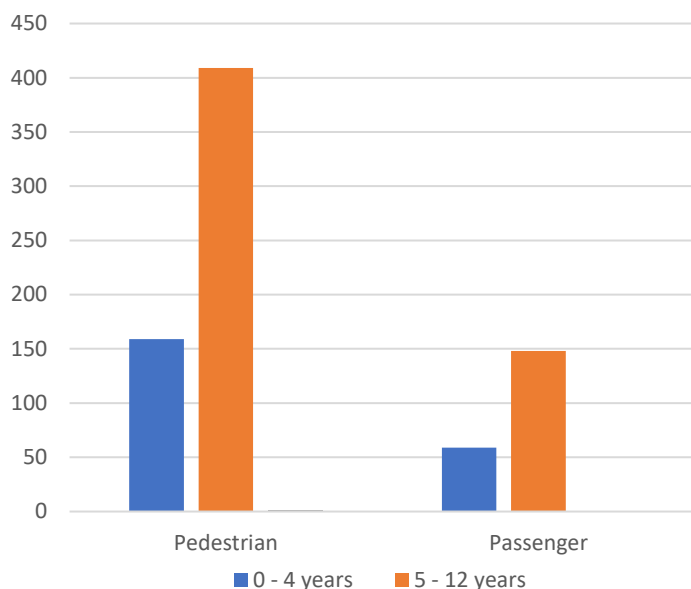
We could improve pedestrian safety through:

- Reduction of speed limits in residential areas and school zones, and improving enforcement of regulations
- Separating pedestrian access paths from vehicle driveways.
- Separating driveways from garden areas and play areas.
- Training children to be safe on the road.
- Continuous community awareness programmes around children as road users.

We could reduce the child injury burden from motor vehicle crashes through:

- Raising awareness of drivers of the need to use child restraints.
- Correct use of child restraints.
- Enforcing alcohol limits for drivers.
- Traffic calming techniques.
- Amending legislation for the mandatory use of child restraints until the child reaches 148cm in height.

Traffic injuries by age



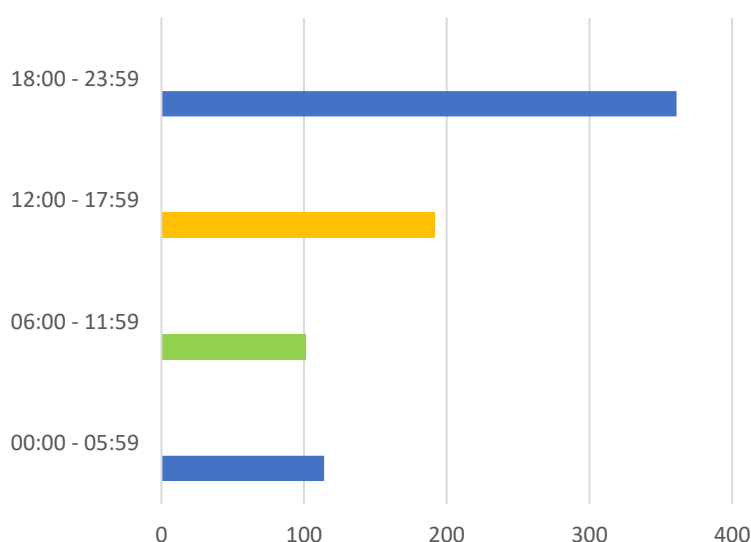
Pedestrian injuries were highest amongst the 5 to 12 age group and over 2.5 times the rate of injury in the under 5 group.

Pedestrians under 4 years were all injured while playing near home.

120 children injured while playing outside home, motor vehicle injury sustained in the yard – eg when car reverse without seeing child playing in driveway, 2 were under the age of 1

Passenger injuries in age 5 to 12 years were 3 times the rate of children under 5 years.

Time of day for traffic injuries



The time of day when majority of children are in school has the lowest rate of injury (in green),

The time immediately when children leave school, shows a significant increase (orange)

The time when homebound traffic increases, is also an increase in injuries