

# DISTRACTED PEDESTRIANS

# Newsletter



## Talk with Your Tweens and Teens

Young children are often taught pedestrian safety, but older students report parents and teachers speak less with them about safety as they get older. It is important that you continue to have conversations with your child(ren) as the majority of child pedestrian deaths occur among teenagers. Below are some of the important safety tips to cover. Remind your child that taking a moment before crossing the street could be the difference between life and death.

**Be predictable,** use crosswalks.

**Take notice of approaching vehicles and use caution.** This includes cars that are turning or backing up.

**Do not walk or run into the path of a vehicle.** No vehicle can stop instantly. At 30 mph, a driver needs 90 feet to stop.

**Put your device down, look, and make eye contact with drivers before crossing.**

**Be visible,** make it easy for drivers to see you. Wear light colors, reflective material and use a flashlight at dawn, dusk, or at night.

**If you need to use a cell phone while walking,** stop on the sidewalk and find a safe area to talk.

**When using headphones** - look up, pay attention, turn off the volume when crossing the street.

### Conversation starters:

Ask if they have seen other children do safe or dangerous things while walking.

Ask if they have seen drivers do safe or dangerous things. Have they ever felt unsafe while walking?

### And to finish:

Ask them to make a list of all the things they can do, wear or use to make them more visible when walking on or near the road.

Ask if some roads and streets may be harder to cross than others.



> 71% of child pedestrian deaths are of children aged 12-18

> Most pedestrian deaths among children are in the months of March, July, September, and October.

> Most children killed as pedestrians were struck while positioned in the roadway at a non-intersection location.

