

# Traffic Safety Basic Facts 2005

## Pedestrians

The number of pedestrians killed in traffic accidents from 1994 to 2003<sup>1</sup> has been reduced by a third.

Road safety measures implemented in the last 10 years have considerably reduced pedestrian fatalities in the EU-14 (EU-15 without Germany). In 2003<sup>1</sup>, 4.225<sup>2</sup> pedestrians were killed in traffic accidents, this is 14,2% of all people killed in 2003. Even though the number of fatalities is still high, this is a reduction of more than one third from the total in 1994.

In Table 1, the annual data by country from 1994 to 2003 is presented. Figure 1 shows the total<sup>3</sup> number of fatalities for the same time period, the dotted line shows the years where not for all countries data up to 2003 is available.

**Table 1: Pedestrian fatalities by country and by year<sup>1</sup>**

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
BE	197	149	154	142	162	154	142	158	-	-
DK	93	118	68	87	72	82	99	49	63	49
EL	479	481	422	409	417	399	375	338	279	257
ES	1.007	1.000	960	967	996	906	899	846	776	786
FR	1.190	1.086	1.043	982	1044	932	838	822	866	626
IE	121	113	115	130	114	92	85	89	86	64
IT	1.022	945	985	893	844	-	-	-	-	-
LU	7	8	9	8	3	2	11	11	6	-
NL	124	142	109	119	110	111	106	106	97	97
AT	225	200	157	156	165	182	140	117	160	132
PT	564	598	624	549	406	393	384	337	339	280
FI	87	72	70	69	62	67	62	62	40	59
SE	86	71	74	72	69	86	73	87	58	-
UK	1.169	1.085	1.039	1.010	946	909	889	858	808	-
<b>EU-14</b>	<b>6.371</b>	<b>6.068</b>	<b>5.829</b>	<b>5.593</b>	<b>5.410</b>	<b>5.159<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>4.947<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>4.724<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>4.580<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>4.225<sup>3</sup></b>
<b>Yearly Change</b>	-	-4,8%	-3,9%	-4,0%	-3,3%	-4,6%	-4,1%	-4,5%	-3,0%	-7,8%

Source: CARE Database / EC  
Date of query: July 2005

<sup>1</sup> Using latest available data, i.e. 2003 for all countries except IT (1998), BE (2001), LU, SE and UK (2002).

<sup>2</sup> This is likely to be an over-estimate due to the use of less recent figures for IT, BE, LU, SE and UK.

<sup>3</sup> Where the data for a particular country were not available for a particular year, the data for the most recent year for which they were available were used instead when calculating totals: IT (1998), BE (2001), LU, SE and UK (2002).

In 2003<sup>1</sup>, more than 4.000 pedestrians were killed in traffic accidents in 14 European countries. This corresponds to 14,2% of all killed people in traffic accidents.

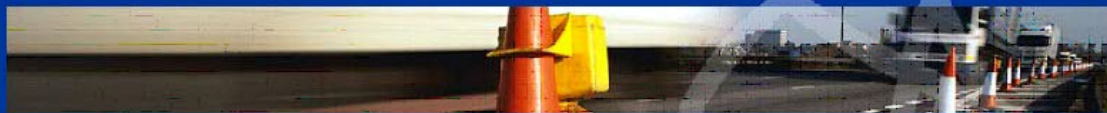
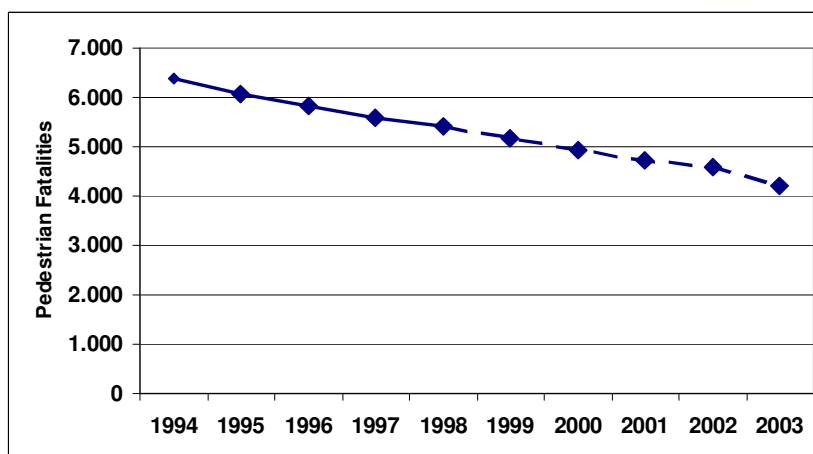


Figure 1: Total number of pedestrian fatalities<sup>3</sup>



Source: CARE Database / EC  
Date of query: July 2005

To compare the numbers from different countries, the differing population has also been taken into account. The number of pedestrian fatalities per million people<sup>4</sup> for 2003<sup>1</sup> is shown in Table 2. The rate varies between 6,0 per million people in the Netherlands to 26,8 per million in Portugal and 24,4 per million people in Greece. These results are displayed in Figure 2.

Table 2: Pedestrian fatalities per million people<sup>4</sup> by country, 2003<sup>1</sup>

	Pedestrians fatalities	Population [million]	Pedestrian fatalities per million inhabitants
BE**	158	10,3	15,4
DK	49	5,4	9,1
EL	257	10,6	24,4
ES	786	42,2	18,6
FR	626	59,6	10,5
IE	64	4,0	16,1
IT***	844	57,3	14,7
LU*	6	0,4	13,4
NL	97	16,2	6,0
AT	132	8,1	16,3
PT	280	10,5	26,8
FI	59	5,2	11,3
SE*	58	8,9	6,5
UK*	808	59,6	13,6
EU-14	4.225	298,2	14,2

\* Data 2002  
\*\* Data 2001  
\*\*\* Data 1998

Source: CARE Database / EC  
Source of population data: IRTAD Database  
Date of query: July 2005

The number of pedestrians killed per million people<sup>4</sup> is greatest in Portugal and Greece<sup>1</sup>

<sup>4</sup> The population data, supplied by IRTAD, was that of each country in 2002 for all countries except for BE (2001) and EL (2000).

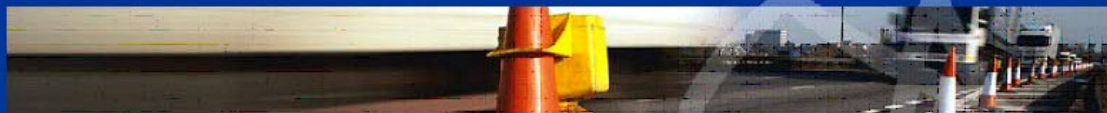
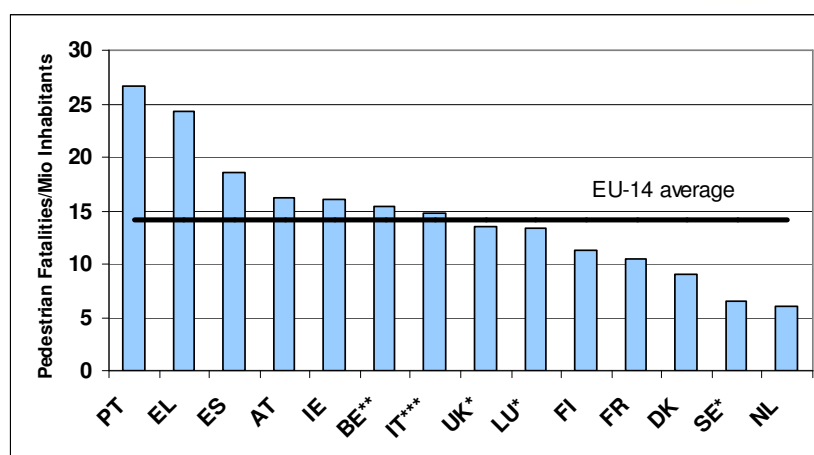


Figure 2: Pedestrian fatalities per million inhabitants by country, 2003<sup>1</sup>



\* Data 2002  
 \*\* Data 2001  
 \*\*\* Data 1998

Source: CARE Database / EC  
 Date of query: July 2005

The Netherlands have the lowest number of pedestrian fatalities per million people.

The number of pedestrian fatalities as a percentage of the total number of deaths in traffic accidents in each country is shown in Table 3. Approximately 10% of those killed in road accidents in Belgium, Luxembourg<sup>5</sup>, the Netherlands, France, and Sweden were pedestrians, compared to 19% in Ireland and 23% in the United Kingdom. Figure 3 displays these results.

Table 3: Pedestrian fatalities as a percentage of total fatalities, 2003<sup>1</sup>

	Pedestrians fatalities	Total fatalities	Ratio
BE**	158	1.486	10,6%
DK	49	432	11,3%
EL	257	1.605	16,0%
ES	786	5.400	14,6%
FR	626	6.058	10,3%
IE	64	337	19,0%
IT***	844	6.314	13,4%
LU*	6	62	9,7%
NL	97	1.028	9,4%
AT	132	931	14,2%
PT	280	1.542	18,2%
FI	59	379	15,6%
SE*	58	560	10,4%
UK*	808	3.581	22,6%
EU-14	4.225	29.715	14,2%

\* Data 2002  
 \*\* Data 2001  
 \*\*\* Data 1998

Source: CARE Database / EC  
 Date of query: July 2005

<sup>5</sup> Due to the small population and therefore extremely low fatality numbers in Luxembourg, data for this country is unlikely to be representative.

22,6% of all people killed in road accidents in the UK were pedestrians

Senior citizens are the group with the highest numbers of pedestrian fatalities

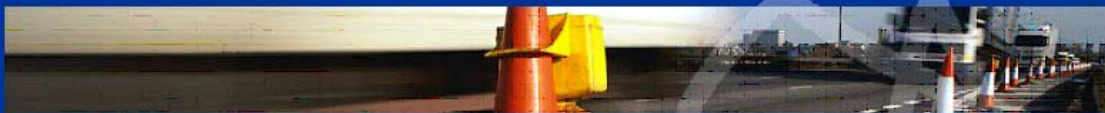
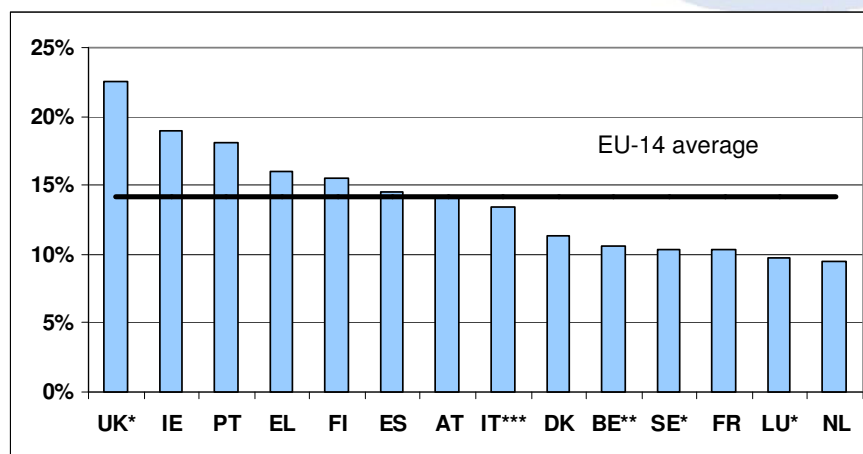


Figure 3: Pedestrian fatalities as a percentage of total fatalities, 2003<sup>1</sup>



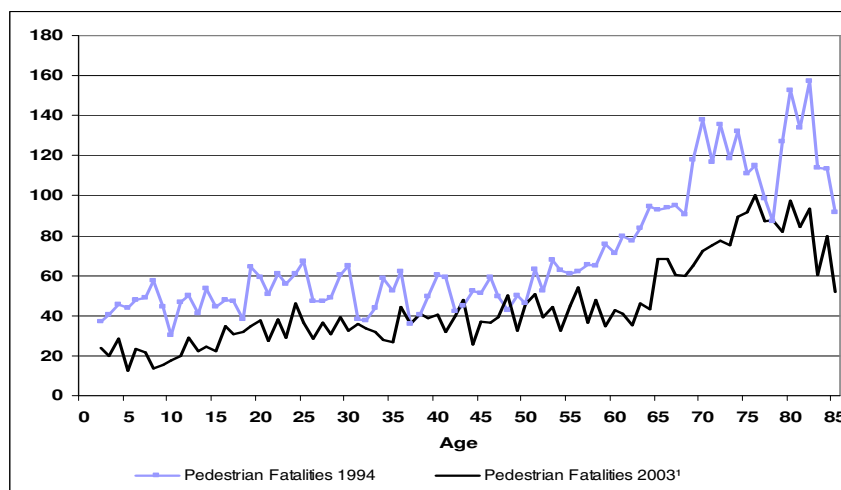
\* Data 2002  
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Source: CARE Database / EC  
 Date of query: July 2005

### Age of fatalities

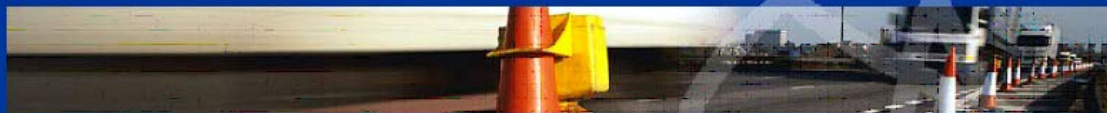
The development of pedestrian fatalities from 1994 to 2003<sup>1</sup> by age is presented in Figure 4. Even though the very high number of pedestrian fatalities with senior citizens (aged 65+) decreased from 2.798 to 1.922 people (31%), there is still a significant number of killed senior pedestrians.

Figure 4: EU-14 evolution of pedestrian fatalities by age, 1994-2003



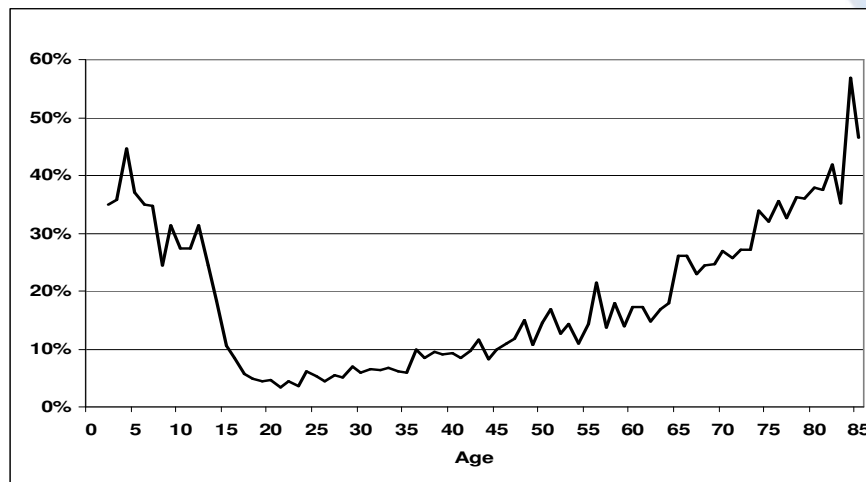
Source: CARE Database / EC  
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Figure 5 shows the pedestrian fatalities as a percentage of total fatalities by age and reveals that not only senior citizens but also children have a high share of pedestrian fatalities. Until the age of 14 and then increasingly from the age of 65 on, the proportion of pedestrian fatalities to all fatalities is explicitly higher than in all other groups. A reason for this could be the lower level of



motorisation in these age groups. Both figures show that senior citizens are a very important group when dealing with pedestrian road safety.

Figure 5: Pedestrian fatalities as a percentage of total fatalities by age, 2003<sup>1</sup>

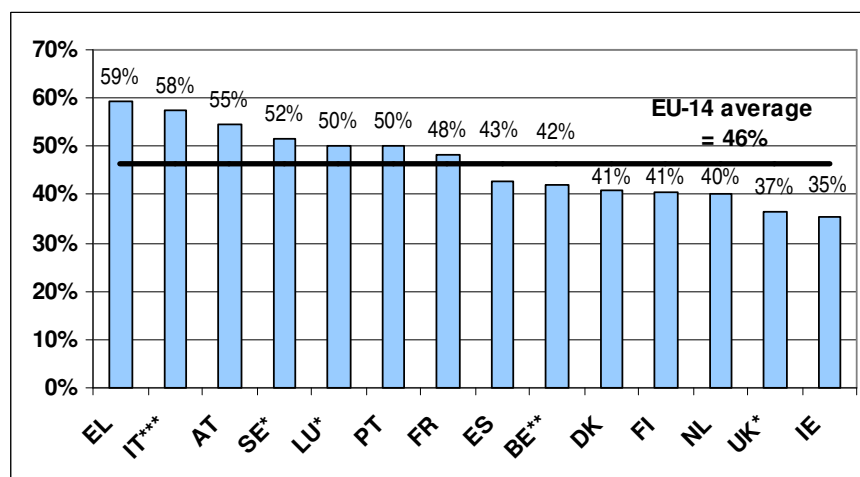


Source: CARE Database / EC  
Date of query: July 2005

Children as well as senior citizens have a higher share of pedestrian fatalities than other age groups

Senior pedestrian fatalities as a percentage of total fatalities also vary between countries. Figure 6 presents the group of road users that are older than 64 years for each country.

Figure 6: Senior pedestrian fatalities as a percentage of total fatalities, 2003<sup>1</sup>

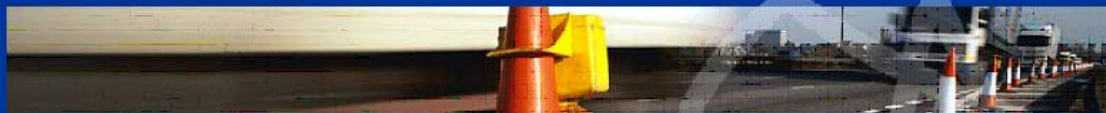


\* Data 2002  
\*\* Data 2001  
\*\*\* Data 1998

Source: CARE Database / EC  
Date of query: July 2005

In Greece and Italy almost 60% of all pedestrian fatalities are senior citizens

Greece and Italy show the highest percentages of pedestrian fatalities with senior citizens with 59% and 58% compared to the United Kingdom and Ireland with 37% and 35%. The European average lies at 46%.



Almost 50% of all pedestrian fatalities occur during darkness

### Light conditions

Table 4 shows pedestrian fatalities by light conditions. The distribution of fatalities by light conditions reveals that the most dangerous time for pedestrians is during darkness, with the average of almost 50%. This varies between the respective countries, from 56% in Ireland to 35% in the Netherlands, as presented in Figure 7. Luxemburg and Italy are excluded due to high numbers of fatalities with unknown light conditions.

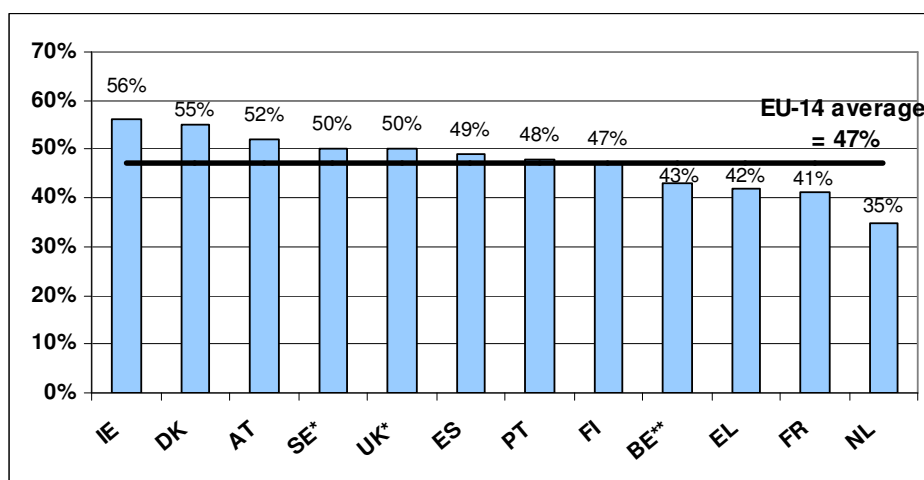
Table 4: Pedestrian fatalities by light conditions and country 2003<sup>1</sup>

	darkness	daylight	daylight or twilight	twilight	unknown	Total
BE**	68	78	0	11	1	158
DK	27	21	0	1	0	49
EL	108	122	0	27	0	257
ES	382	367	0	37	0	786
FR	257	333	0	36	0	626
IE	36	0	28	0	0	64
IT***	0	0	0	0	844	844
LU*	1	0	0	0	5	6
NL	34	57	0	6	0	97
AT	69	55	0	8	0	132
PT	133	145	0	0	2	280
FI	28	28	0	3	0	59
SE*	29	27	0	2	0	58
UK*	405	11	392	0	0	808
EU-14	1.577	1.244	420	131	852	4.225
% excl. unknown	46,8%	36,9%	12,5%	3,9%	-	100%

\* Data 2002  
 \*\* Data 2001  
 \*\*\* Data 1998

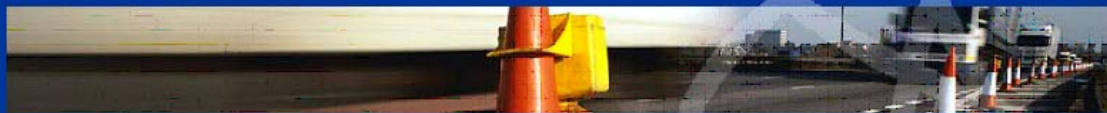
Source: CARE Database / EC  
 Date of query: July 2005

Figure 7: Pedestrian fatalities during darkness as a share of all pedestrian fatalities by country 2003<sup>1</sup>



\* Data 2002  
 \*\* Data 2001  
 \*\*\* Data 1998

Source: CARE Database / EC  
 Date of query: July 2005



### Seasonality

Table 5 shows the proportion of pedestrian fatalities in each quarter of 2003<sup>1</sup>. Although there are exceptions, it can be said that fatalities are most frequent between October and December and less frequent between April and June. Only the Netherlands have less than a quarter of their pedestrian fatalities occurring between October and December.

**Table 5: Distribution of fatalities by quarter of year, 2003<sup>1</sup>**

	Jan – Mar	Apr – Jun	Jul – Sep	Oct - Dec
BE**	23%	22%	22%	32%
DK	24%	6%	24%	45%
EL	27%	19%	25%	30%
ES	28%	20%	25%	27%
FR	24%	21%	20%	34%
IE	31%	23%	14%	31%
IT***	26%	21%	24%	28%
LU*5	0%	17%	17%	67%
NL	33%	23%	27%	18%
AT	23%	11%	23%	44%
PT	25%	18%	29%	28%
FI	25%	8%	24%	42%
SE*	22%	17%	24%	36%
UK*	28%	19%	23%	30%
EU-14	24%	18%	23%	35%

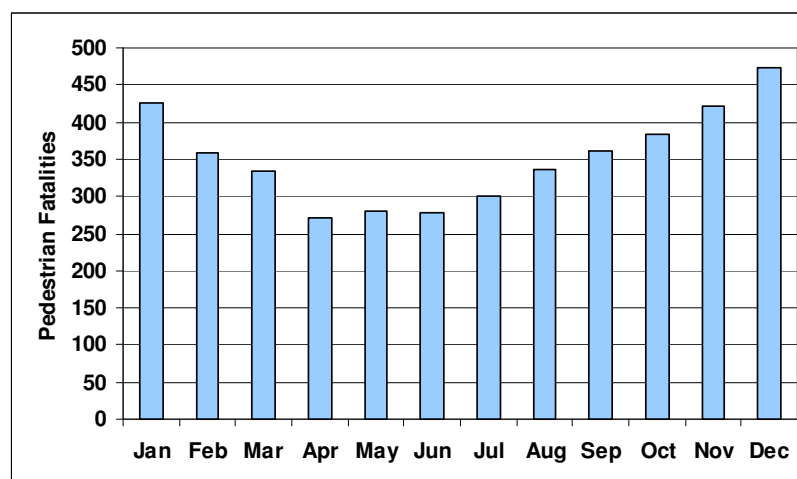
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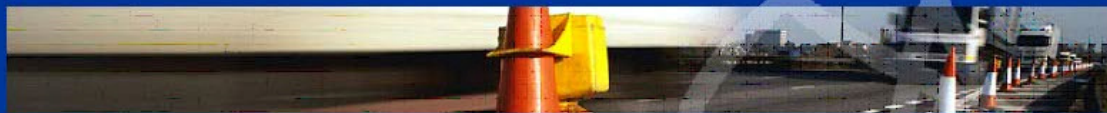
April to June is the period of the year with the lowest number of pedestrian fatalities

Figure 8 displays the total number of fatalities in 2003<sup>1</sup> by months for EU-14. The graph shows the distribution over the year and a very clear increase in autumn and decrease in spring. Between April and June the number of fatalities stays almost the same.

**Figure 8: Distribution of pedestrian fatalities by month, 2003<sup>1</sup>**



Source: CARE Database / EC  
 Date of query: July 2005



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## For more information:

Further statistical information on pedestrian fatalities in road traffic accidents is available from the CARE database at the Directorate General for Energy and Transport of the European Commission, 28 Rue de Mot, B -1040 Brussels.

Traffic Safety Basic Fact Sheets available from the European Commission concern:

- Children (Aged <16)
- Young People (Aged 16-24)
- The Elderly
- Pedestrians
- Motorcycles and Mopeds
- Car-Occupants
- Motorways

Detailed data on traffic accidents are published annually by the European Commission in the Annual Statistical Report. This includes a glossary of definitions on all variables used.

For more information about the project "SafetyNet" which is co-financed by the European Commission, Directorate-General Energy and Transport, please contact <http://safetynet.swov.nl/>

### Authors:

Stefan Hoeglinger	KfV, Austria
Jeremy Broughton and Brian Lawton	TRL, United Kingdom
George Yannis and Petros Evgenikos	NTUA, Greece
Niels Bos	SWOV, The Netherlands