

tpo

KNOXVILLE REGIONAL

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

For more information, contact:

Ellen Zavisca, PTP

Principal Planner

Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization

865-297-8599

ellen.zavisca@knoxplanning.org

New Reports Available on Traffic Crashes Involving People Walking and Bicycling

Knoxville, Tennessee – February 4, 2021

The Knoxville Regional TPO has released new information on traffic crashes involving people walking and bicycling in the Knoxville region. The [new data and reports](#) reflect crashes through June of 2019. The TPO collects and analyzes this data to better understand the patterns in behaviors that contribute to crashes and the location of crashes, with the goal of preventing future collisions involving vulnerable road users. Locations of crashes involving people bicycling and walking from across the region can be viewed on [this public map](#).

The [new report on crashes in the city of Knoxville](#) highlights some good news: the significant drop in pedestrian and bicyclist crashes along Cumberland Avenue since the city's streetscaping project was completed in 2017. The report states:

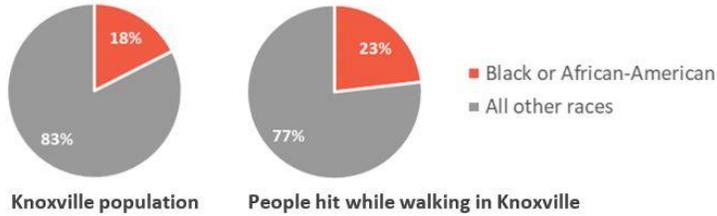
Between 2015 and 2017, Knoxville undertook a streetscape project that reconstructed Cumberland Avenue between 17th and 22nd streets as a two-lane street with a median and turning pockets at the intersections. (It had previously been a four-lane street.) A comparison of crash data from the timeframe before the project with the timeframe after shows a large decrease in traffic crashes afterward.

The average annual number of traffic crashes involving people walking or bicycling fell 78 percent (from 7.3 to 1.6). Traffic crashes of all types fell 44 percent, according to a separate analysis by the Knoxville Police Department.

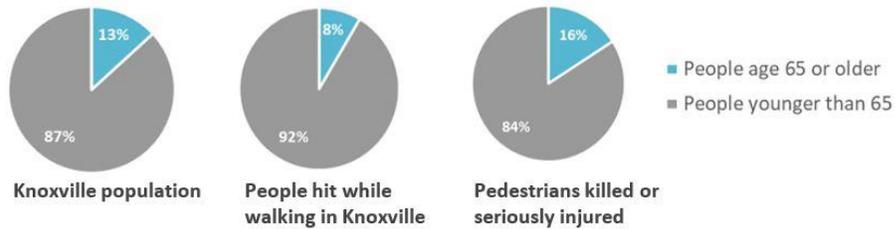
The Knoxville report also highlights disparities in who is hit while walking, and who is seriously injured or killed, as illustrated in the following graphic:

Disparities in Knoxville traffic crashes involving pedestrians

Black people represent a larger share of people hit by cars while walking, compared with their share of the Knoxville population.

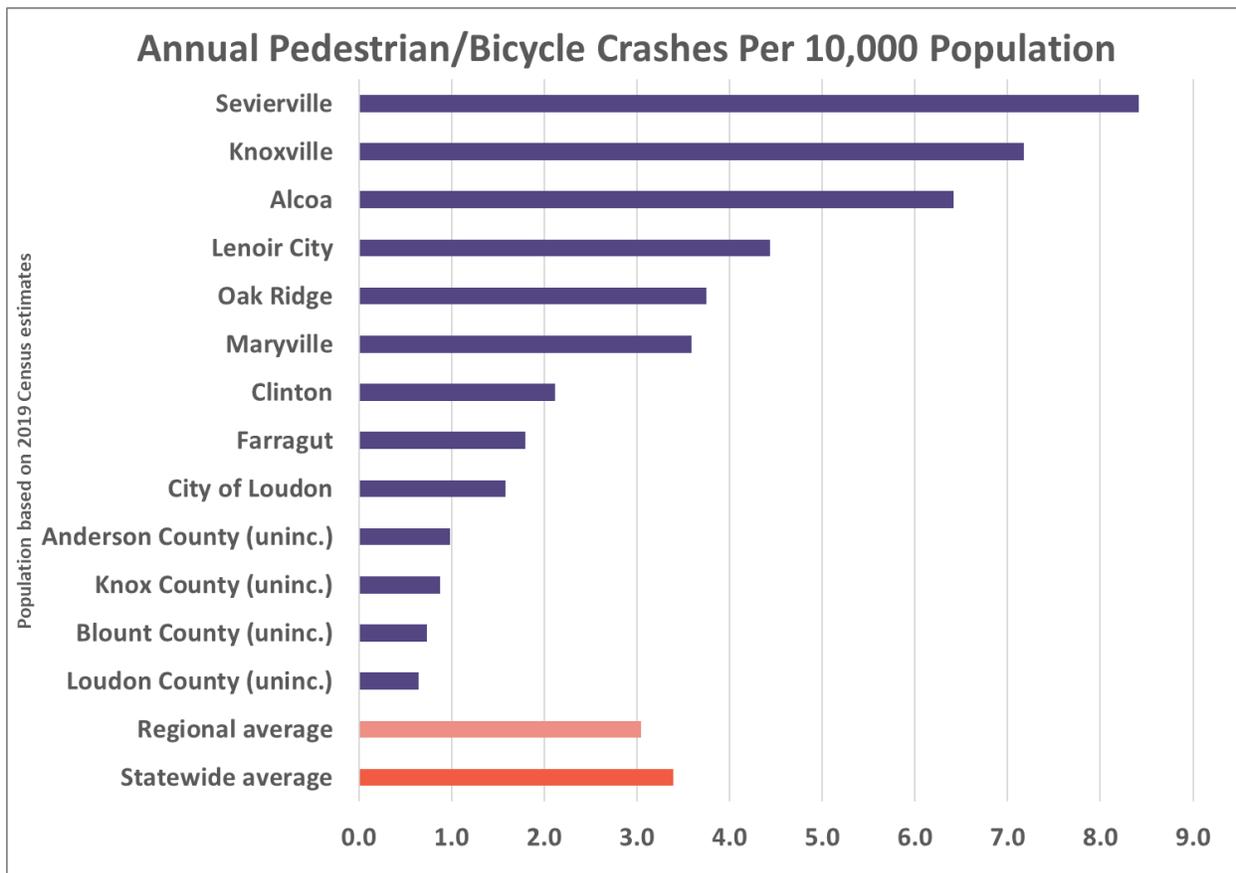


People age 65 and older are less likely to be hit as pedestrians, compared with their share of the population, but are more likely to be killed or seriously injured.



The reports analyze patterns in crashes for the Knoxville region, as well as for the cities and towns of Alcoa, Clinton, Farragut, Knoxville, Lenoir City, Maryville, Oak Ridge and Sevierville, and for the unincorporated portions of Anderson, Blount, Knox, and Loudon counties.

[The report on the region](#) finds that, while Knoxville sees the most pedestrian and bicycle crashes of any municipality in the region, the city of Sevierville has a higher number of crashes per capita, as shown in the following graphic:



The Knoxville region saw 1,685 pedestrian and bicycle crashes between January of 2012 and June of 2019, and 75% of them involved people walking. 96 people were killed in those crashes, 88 of them while walking.

###

Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization

The Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) coordinates a comprehensive, multimodal transportation planning process for the Knoxville Urban Area. Member jurisdictions include Knox County and the urbanized areas of Anderson, Blount, Loudon and Sevier Counties and includes the following cities: Alcoa, Clinton, Knoxville, Lenoir City, Loudon, Maryville and Oak Ridge, the Town of Farragut, Tennessee Department of Transportation and East Tennessee Development District. For more information, visit our website: www.knoxtpo.org