Senior Pedestrians in San Francisco: A Vulnerable Population

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Pedestrians are at risk on the streets of San Francisco, and older pedestrians bear a disproportionate share of those risks. Seniors hit by automobiles in San Francisco have been about four times as likely to be killed as younger people, and the rate is going up.

Over the past 10 years, San Francisco pedestrians have been become a steadily increasing percentage of the fatal motor vehicle collisions, from about 37% in 1990 to over 60% by the year 2000. This is in comparison to a national figure of about 13% of motor vehicle fatalities being pedestrians. For seniors, that same percentage has gone from over 50% to nearly 80%

Most recent figures, for the first 3 quarters of the year 2000, show senior pedestrians dying at 3 times their proportion of the population. Of those who are actually hit, the figures for 2000 show seniors 5 times as likely to die.

Prevention campaigns must focus on the hazards to all pedestrians, but especially on the most vulnerable. Senior pedestrians must be alerted to the high level of risk. Drivers need to be extra careful and respectful toward seniors, who often need more time to safely navigate our streets. Together, we can make San Francisco a safer and more caring community.

All injury data is from the SWITERS database, provided by the California Highway Patrol. Funding for Dr. Sciortino's work is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the Business, Transportation & Housing Agency.
Percent Pedestrian vs. Other Fatalities Over Time in SF

Other includes Bicyclists, Drivers and Passengers.
Year 2000 is the first 3 quarters only.

Percent Pedestrian vs. Other Fatalities in SF: 65+

Other includes Bicyclists, Drivers and Passengers.
Year 2000 is the first 3 quarters only.

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Age of Pedestrians Injured or Killed: First 3 quarters of 2000

- Injured:
  - <65: 87%
  - 65+: 13%

- Killed:
  - 42%

Age of Pedestrians Injured or Killed in the first 3 quarters of 2000

- Less than 65:
  - Injured: 98%
  - Killed: 2%

- 65 and Older:
  - Injured: 90%
  - Killed: 10%

All injury data is from the SWITERS database, provided by the California Highway Patrol.
Pedestrians Killed and Population Proportion by Age:
First 3 Quarters of 2000

Killed

Population

Fatal Injury Rates per 100,000 in San Francisco for Pedestrians by Age

Other includes Bicyclists, Drivers and Passengers.
Year 2000 is the first 3 quarters weighted up to a full year.

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