

# PEDESTRIAN SAFETY IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

National School Safety Week – October 17-23, 2010

## In British Columbia (BC):

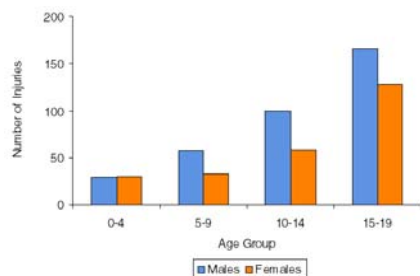
### Deaths from Pedestrian/Motor Vehicle Collisions:

- Pedestrian injuries resulting from crashes with motor vehicles accounted for 36 deaths among BC children and youth from 2003 to 2007, for a rate of 0.7 per 100,000. Nearly half of these deaths (17) were among 15 to 19 year olds.

### Hospitalizations from Pedestrian/Motor Vehicle Collisions:

- There were 603 pedestrian injury hospitalizations among children and youth in BC from 2003 to 2007. Boys accounted for 58.5 percent of these.

**Number of Child and Youth Pedestrian Injury Hospitalization, by Age Group (years) and Sex, BC, 2003-2007.**



### ED Department (ED) Visits:

- In 2007, there were a total of 59 children among 0-19 years old seen at BC Children's Hospital Emergency Department for pedestrian-related injuries. Of these, 59.3% were females and 35.6% were among 10-14 years old.



## Special Focus: Halloween



- Children under the age of 9 should be accompanied by an adult or older child who is responsible.
- Remind your children how to cross the street safely while out trick-or-treating.
- Don't stray from the sidewalk.
- Increase visibility by wearing brightly coloured costumes.
- Avoid wearing masks that limit your peripheral vision.
- If driving, avoid distractions and drive slowly through neighbourhoods.

Data Sources: Deaths: BC Vital Statistics, Hospitalizations: Ministry of Health Services, Emergency Department: Canadian Hospitals Injury Reporting and Prevention Program (CHIRPP) at BC Children's Hospital

## Suggestions:

### For Parents:

- Talk to your children about how to cross a street safely.
- Make sure children are visible to other road users.
- Find the safest route to school and ensure children are following it.
- Be a role model.

### For Schools:

- Establish a safe walk or bike zone around the school.
- Discourage parents from driving close to the school during peak school hours.

### For Drivers:

- Slow down to 30 km/hr in school zones, and always be prepared to stop at marked crosswalks.
- Observe the signs and scan between parked cars.
- Use extra caution in darkness and adverse weather conditions.
- Adjust your commute time and pay particular attention during the morning and afternoon hours.
- Always stop for school buses
- Expect the unexpected (i.e. children dashing out from between parked cars).

### Resources:

- [Safe Kids Canada – Pedestrian Safety](#)
- [BCAA Traffic Safety Foundation – School Safety](#)
- [Preventable.ca – On the Road](#)
- [Canada Safety Council – National School Safety Week](#)
- [BC Injury Research and Prevention Unit – Data Tool](#)
- [Engineering Services – Transportation – Pedestrian Safety Programs](#)