

Child Injury Laws *Blog*

80% Of Vehicle-Pedestrian Accidents Occur Within Crosswalks

By **Jonathan Rosenfeld** on August 17, 2011

After reading the Chicago Tribune's article "[City Study: Chicago pedestrians in crosswalks are in cross hairs](#)", I'm definitely going to step-up my level of caution before crossing the street.

Once again, I'm continually impressed with how drivers continue to ignore pedestrians--- even when they are crossing the street within the crosswalks.

After evaluating traffic data from 2005 through 2009, a staggering 80% of all traffic accidents involving [pedestrians who were injured or killed](#) occurred when the person was within the seemingly safe confines of the crosswalk. While pedestrian deaths, have declined fairly significantly from 1994 to 2009, the total number of [traffic accidents](#) involving pedestrians remains fairly consistent at around 3,000 per year within the confines of the city.

Other data tidbits from the Chicago Tribune article:

- Hit-and-run accidents account for 33% of all pedestrian accidents
- Hit-and-run accidents account for 41% of pedestrian deaths
- Teens come the largest segment of crash victims
- Taxi cabs account for almost one-third of all pedestrian crashes

Jonathan Rosenfeld offers legal services relating to: birth injuries, medical malpractice, day care abuse, foster care abuse, swimming pool injuries, automobile accidents, school bus accidents, dog bites, food poisoning, product liability, amusement park accidents and clergy abuse. For more information please visit Child Injury Laws Blog (<http://www.childinjurylaws.com/>) or call Jonathan directly at (888) 424-5757. (www.rosenfeldinjurylawyers.com.)

- Areas of Chicago with higher incidence of violent crime tended to have more pedestrian accidents
- Is help on the way for pedestrians?

Recognizing the frequency and severity of these **pedestrian accidents**, some states and municipalities have enacted legislation to protect pedestrians. Though it's still too early to tell, Illinois passed legislation last year that requires drivers to stop--- not just yield when a pedestrian is present within a crosswalk.

In addition to the legislation, new technology may provide an added level of safety for pedestrian trying to navigate their way through the streets of Chicago. The City has plans to install pedestrian countdown clocks at all of the cities 2,900 intersections that both warn pedestrians how much time they have before a signal changes and provides additional warning to drivers to alert them that the crosswalk may be occupied.

Is driver carelessness to blame?

I remain cautiously optimistic that the new legislation and traffic control technology will help make pedestrians safer. However, both as my experience as an injury lawyer and statistics tell us, pedestrian-vehicle accidents will most certainly remain a threat to every person walking across intersections until we can recalibrate drivers' behavior.

Chicago Transportation Commissioner Gabe Klein, believes a societal problem is to blame for the apparent indifference for the safety of our peers.

Whether it is people getting hurt or killed by cars, or people getting shot in their living room by accident (during drive by shootings), which has happened all too often lately, there is a connection. It's a certain recklessness in our society and in our city thus is causing too many innocent bystanders to get hurt.

While I hope Mr. Klein's somewhat cynical take on society is incorrect, I'm keeping my fingers crossed that new options can prod drivers to take a closer look at safe driving.

Jonathan Rosenfeld offers legal services relating to: birth injuries, medical malpractice, day care abuse, foster care abuse, swimming pool injuries, automobile accidents, school bus accidents, dog bites, food poisoning, product liability, amusement park accidents and clergy abuse. For more information please visit Child Injury Laws Blog (<http://www.childinjurylaws.com/>) or call Jonathan directly at (888) 424-5757. (www.rosenfeldinjurylawyers.com.)