Examining the Characteristics of Fatal Pedestrian Crashes

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Priority of Pedestrian Safety

- 12% of fatalities yet only 2% of trips
- Pedestrian Safety Action Plan
  - Better Data Collection!!
- No standard for what details are included about a pedestrian on a crash report
- Many times critical data is simply left blank
How are Fatal Accidents Different?

- Do crashes that end in a fatality differ from those that are less serious?
- What other data is available that may provide insight?
- How can we better understand the circumstances of fatal crashes and mitigate against them in the future?
Research Objectives

- Identify limitations of current crash reporting
- Identify common characteristics in fatal pedestrian crashes
- Identify the pedestrian’s role in the crash
- Examine differences in fatal vs non-fatal pedestrian crashes
Fatalities in Utah

- Evaluated police reports from 119 pedestrian fatalities (2012-2014)
- Analyzed data from 7,093 pedestrian crashes (involving 17,353 individuals)
- Only 33% of crash reports contained no errors
- 15% of crash reports included 3 or more errors
Findings

- 10% of fatal crashes occurred in inclement weather (wet or icy roads)
  - Weather differed significantly in fatal vs non-fatal crashes

- In 97% of fatal crashes the vehicle was traveling straight

- Vehicles were traveling significantly faster prior to fatal crashes

- Driver contributions:
  - Distracted (20%)
  - Intoxicated (9.5%)
  - Speeding (5%)

- Pedestrian Contributions
  - Improper crossing (21.5%)
  - Improperly in the roadway (10%)

- Pedestrians involved in a fatal crash are 14 years older on average than those who survive
Final Thoughts

- How reliable are our “findings” if our data contains so many errors?
- What additional steps can be taken to improve crash reporting of non-motorists?

Questions?

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