



## RISKS AND REMEDIES



### **We need to be careful**

When everyone is courteous and cautious, it's safe to get around on foot, by bike, with skates, in wheelchairs or even via scooters.

But, sharing public spaces with vehicle traffic takes extra care and attention. This booklet will help drivers and others avoid risky situations.

Follow these tips to make sure we all get where we're going to safely!

### **Close encounters of an unwanted kind**

Nearly 5,000 pedestrians die each year in the United States because they are hit by vehicles or bicycles.

In Michigan, awareness campaigns and safety solutions have helped reduce the pedestrian toll steadily from 173 deaths in 2002 to 134 in 2007.

Overall, accidents involving Michigan pedestrians fell from 2,622 in 2006 to 2,295 in 2007 – and state officials need your help to continue these trends.



## EVERYDAY DANGERS

### **Where accidents happen**

To be safe when sharing sidewalks and streets, it is important to be aware of your surroundings. By taking precautions, you can prevent injuries and possible death. This is what the majority of pedestrians were doing when hit by a vehicle in 2007:

- Crossing a road but not at the intersection (*jaywalking*)
- Walking in the road, not the side of road
- Traveling in the same direction as moving vehicles

### **Who's at risk**

Michigan statistics for 2007 show that pedestrian accidents affect all age groups.

<b>AGE RANGE</b>	<b>INJURED</b>	<b>KILLED</b>
0 – 10	217	9
11 – 20	532	13
21 – 34	409	19
35 – 54	488	51
55 + older	300	42
Unknown	64	0

[Source: Michigan Office of Highway & Safety Planning. Statistics exclude bicyclists.]

## DRIVER SAFETY TIPS



### **BE SAFE: Slow down, look, anticipate**

Careful driving starts when you turn the ignition key.

- Driveways and parking areas are hazardous. Pull out slowly, watching on all sides for pedestrians or any passers-by.
- In public garages, drive-through businesses and commercial lots, watch out for those on foot or two wheels. Look in each direction, especially when they are crossing sidewalks and marked paths.
- Before turning right on red lights, drivers must stop fully. Make sure no pedestrian, jogger, bicyclist or wheelchair user is crossing or waiting to cross. They have the right of way.
- Motorists turning left on green lights also must yield to anyone crossing.

