



Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning
P.O. Box 30634, Lansing, MI 48909
517-284-3332
Michigan.gov/ohsp

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Nancy Feldbush, OHSP
586-718-7700
feldbushn@michigan.gov

Police to focus on reducing pedestrian injuries and fatalities during upcoming Pedestrian Safety Enforcement Week

High-visibility safety campaign to take place in several Michigan cities October 24-30

Overtime mobilization grants have been awarded to law enforcement agencies in several Michigan communities to address an alarming rise in pedestrian injuries and fatalities on the state's roadways. Pedestrian Safety Enforcement Week will take place from October 24 to 30 during National Pedestrian Safety Month. The Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) has identified the cities of Ann Arbor, Detroit, Kalamazoo, Lansing and Warren as having some of the highest number of pedestrian-involved crashes over a five-year period.

Officers will focus on the laws applicable to all aspects of pedestrian safety, including drivers who fail to yield to pedestrians in a crosswalk at a signalized intersection and fail to stop at a signal or stop sign before a crosswalk. Officers will also be looking for violations by pedestrians that include not walking on a sidewalk where provided and not walking facing traffic when on a roadway.

"We're hoping this enforcement period will help save the lives of pedestrians—Michigan's most vulnerable roadway users," said Michael L. Prince, OHSP director. "In 2020, there was a 17 percent increase in pedestrian fatalities from 2019 and a 21 percent rise in pedestrian-involved fatal crashes."

From 2016 to 2020, pedestrian crash data for the five Michigan cities show Detroit with 541 pedestrian-involved fatal or serious injury crashes, Lansing with 57, Kalamazoo with 56, Warren with 47 and Ann Arbor with 40. In Michigan during 2020, there were 175 pedestrian fatalities and 1,343 pedestrian injuries. Of those 175 pedestrian deaths, 121 (69.1 percent) were male and 54 (30.9 percent) were female.

Over the last five years combined, more pedestrians have been killed in October than any other month. October also has the most pedestrian-involved crashes for the same period. In 2020, Saturday was the deadliest day for pedestrians in Michigan.

The enforcement campaign is supported with federal traffic safety funds provided by the United States Department of Transportation and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and coordinated by the OHSP.

[For more information about pedestrian safety, visit michigan.gov/walksafe.](http://michigan.gov/walksafe)

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