



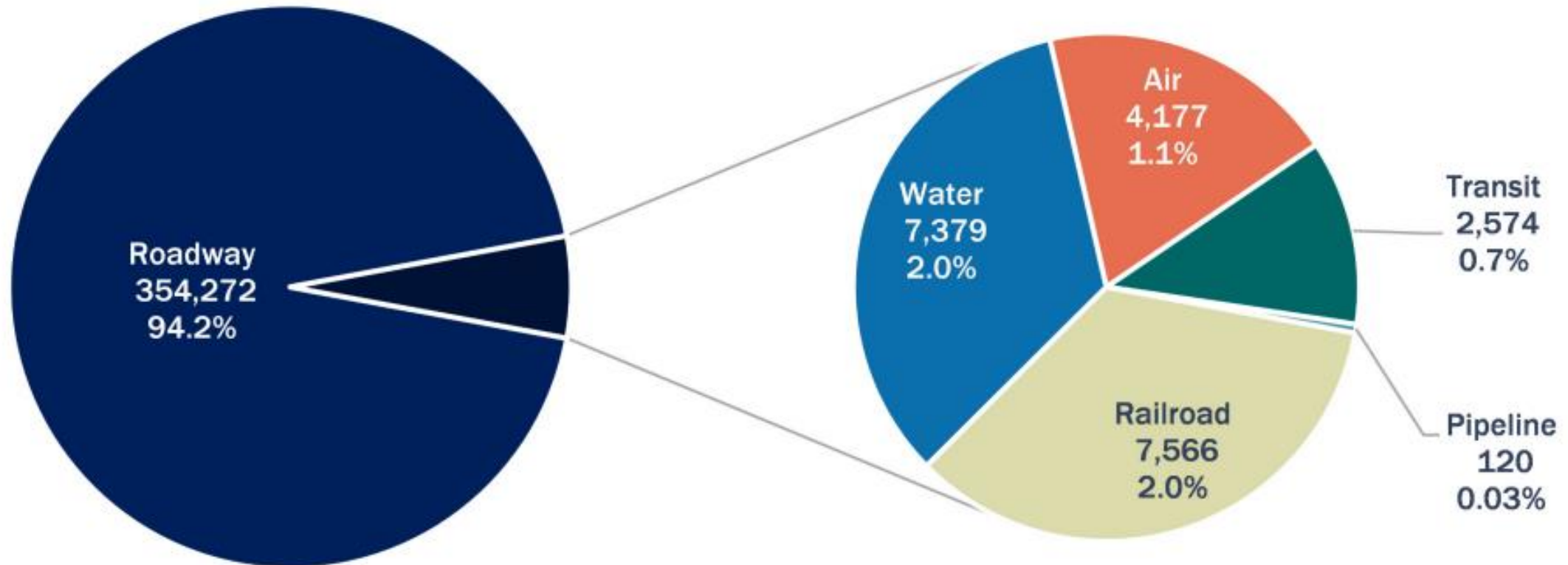
# National Perspective on Vulnerable Road User Safety

*Rita Hill*  
*NHTSA Region 8*

*What* is a vulnerable road user?

*Who* is a vulnerable road user?

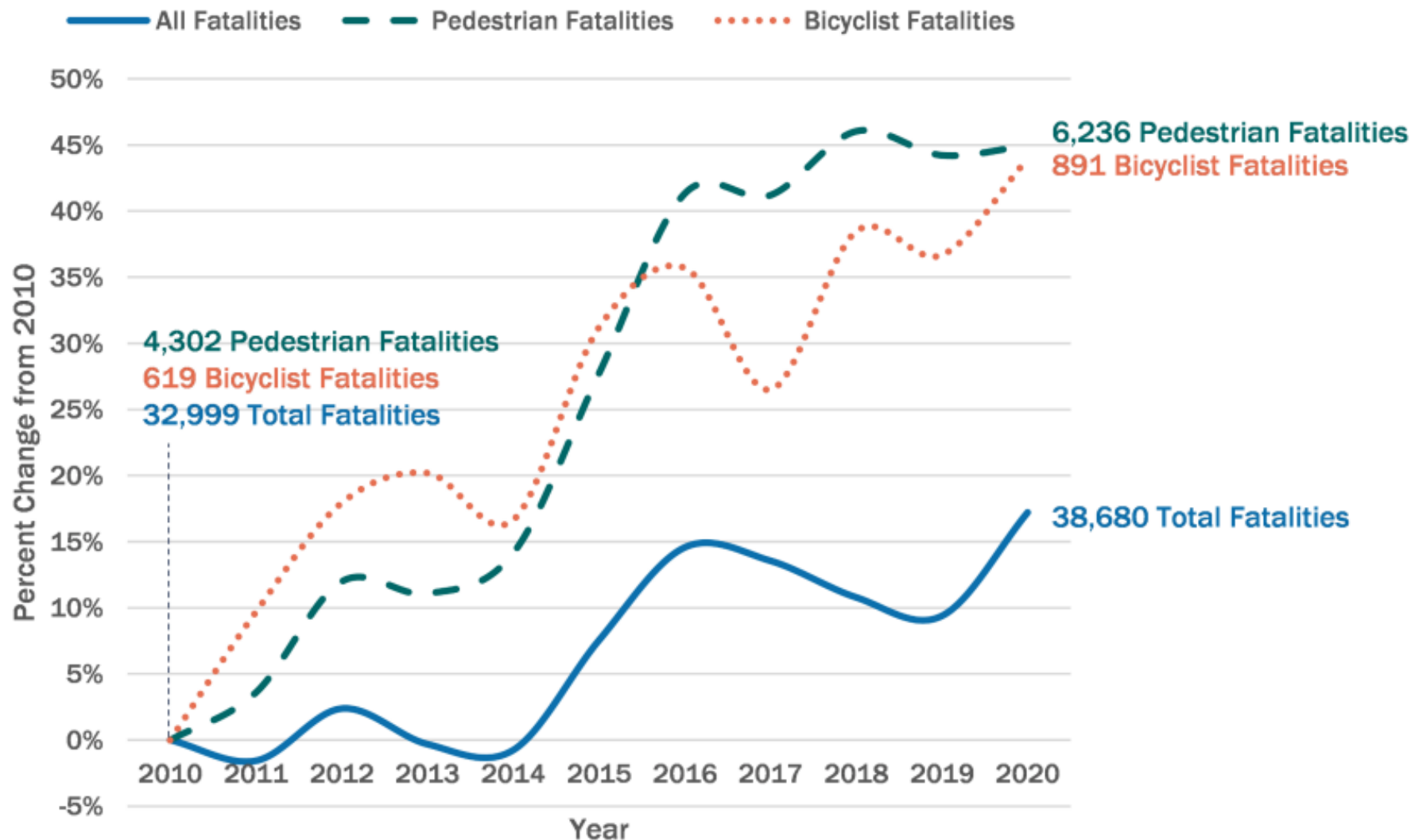
More than 370,000 people died in transportation incidents over the last decade (2011-2020) in the United States. More than 350,000 of them died on our roads.



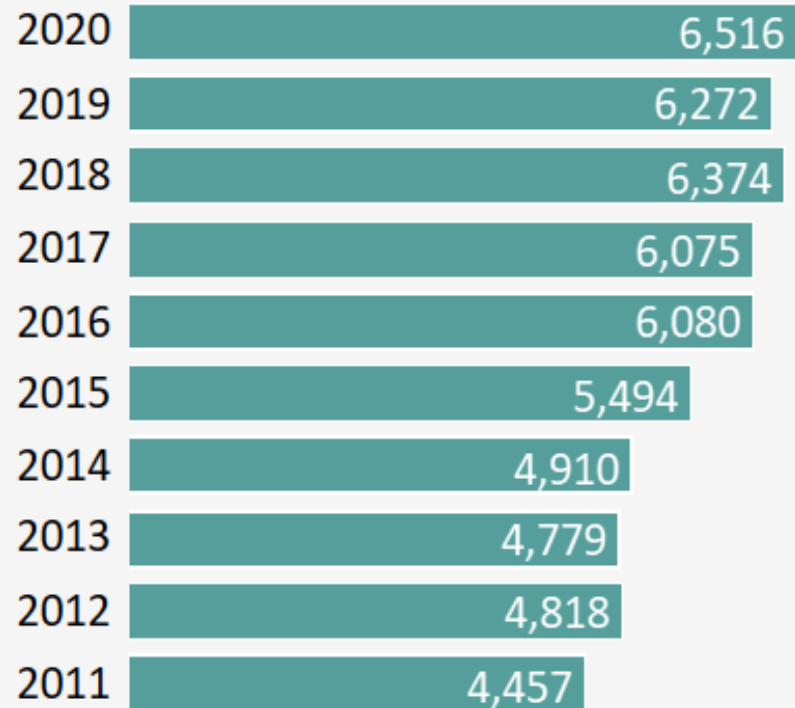
42,915

Fatalities among all users have been increasing.

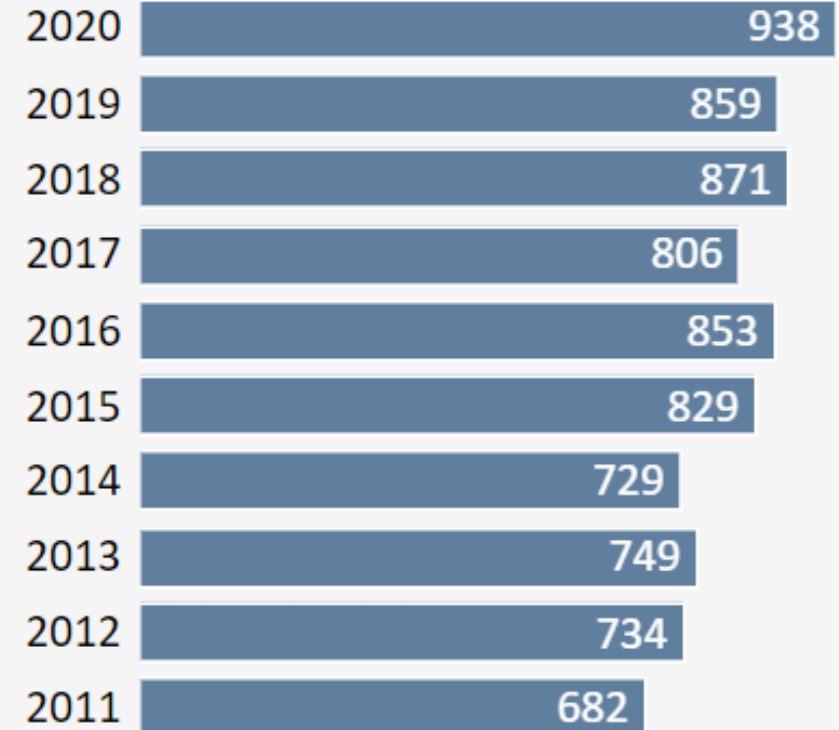
Fatalities among pedestrians and bicyclists have been increasing even faster.



# Pedestrians



# Pedalcyclists

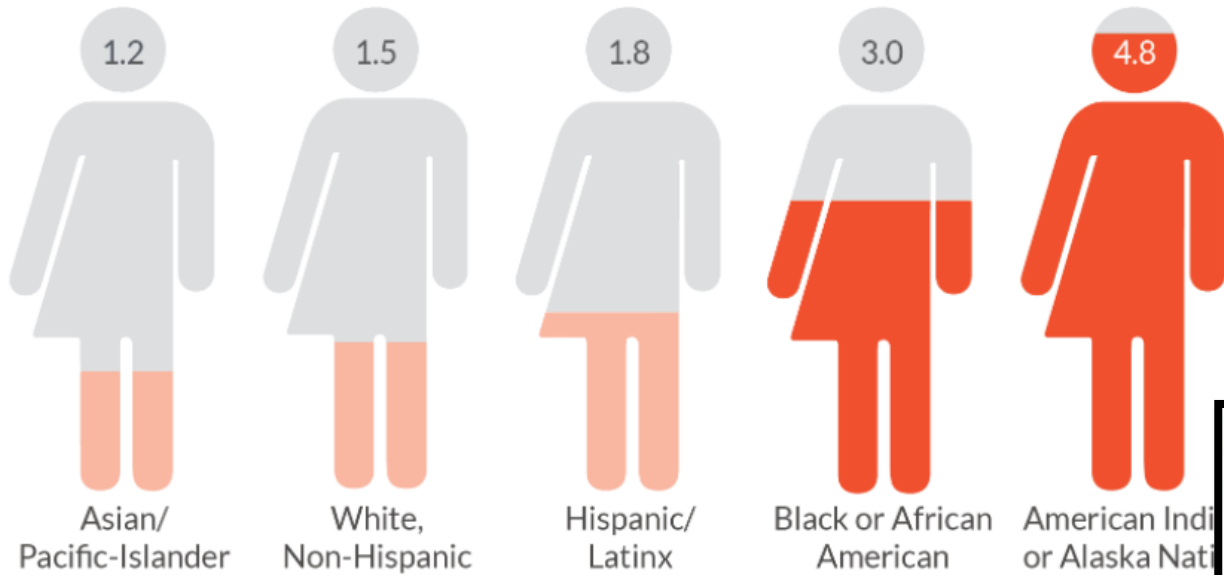


- Total projected **pedestrian** fatalities increased by **13 percent** from 2020 to 2021.
- Total projected **pedalcyclist** fatalities increased by **5 percent** from 2020 to 2021.

**“The term vulnerable road user (VRU) is used mainly to describe those unprotected by an outside shield, as they sustain a greater risk of injury in any collision with a vehicle and are therefore highly in need of protection against such collisions.”**

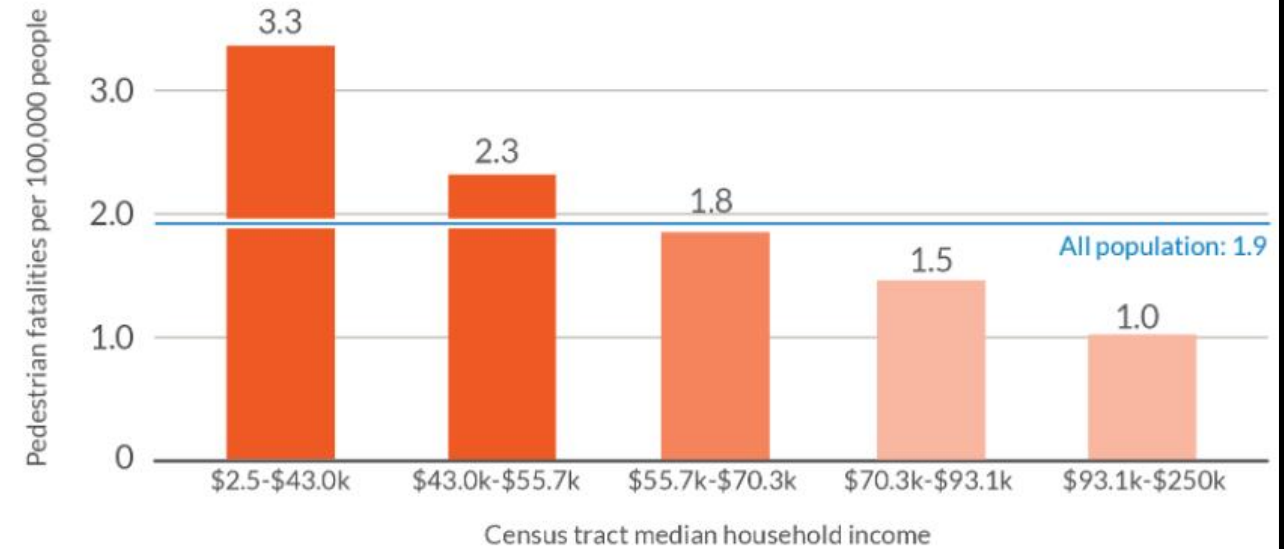
## People of color, particularly Native and Black Americans, are more likely to die while walking than any other race or ethnic group

Pedestrian deaths per 100,000 by race & ethnicity (2016-2020)



## People walking in lower-income areas are killed at far higher rates

Pedestrian fatalities per 100k people by census tract income

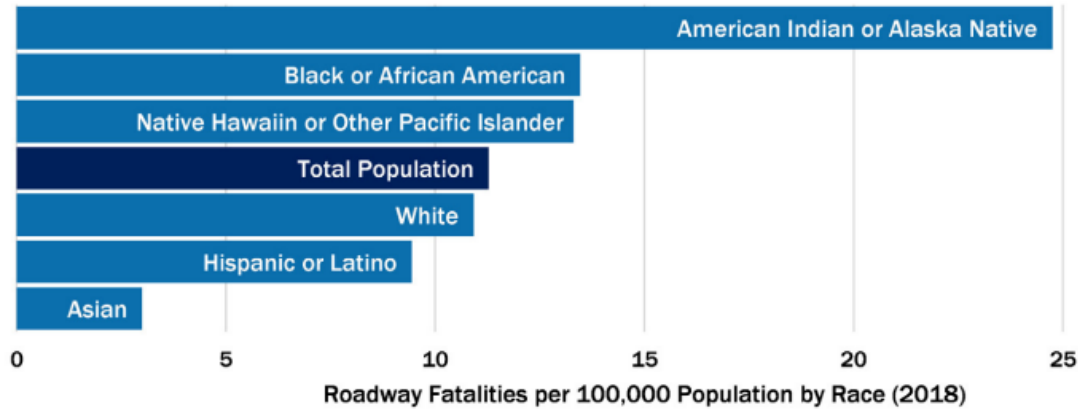


Source: Dangerous by Design 2022

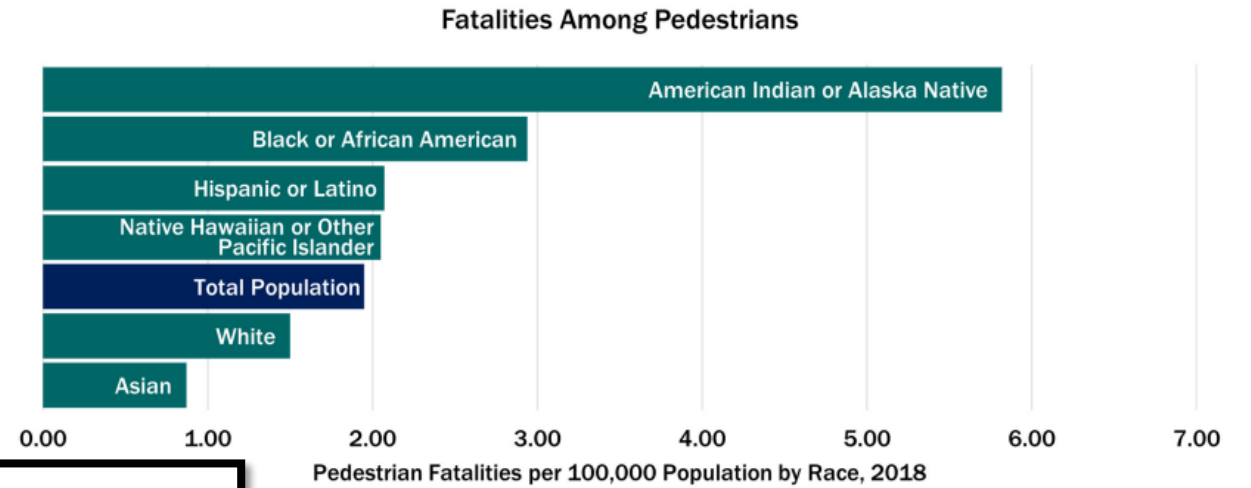
Source: Dangerous by Design 2022



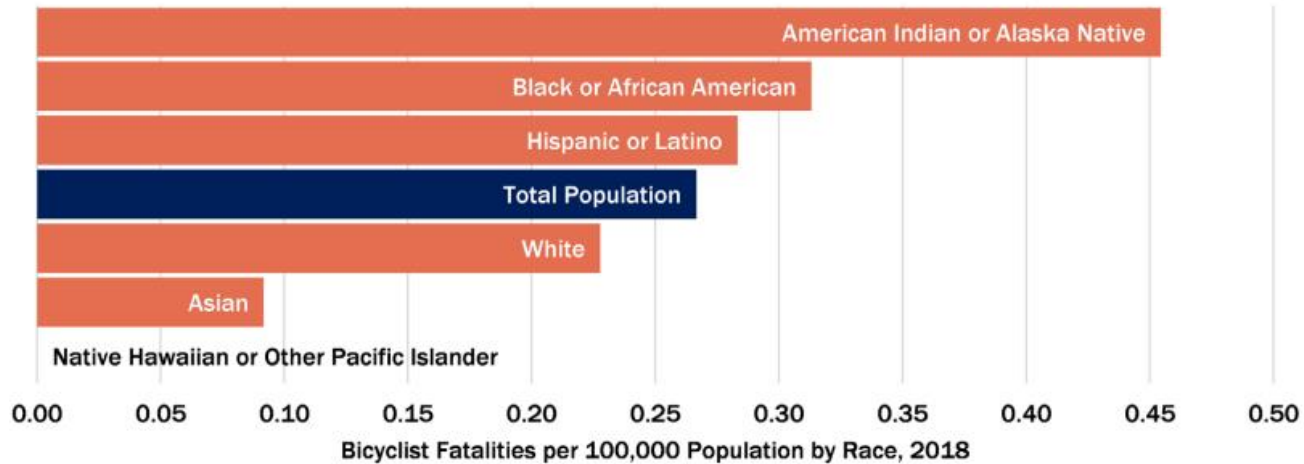
## Fatalities impact communities differently...

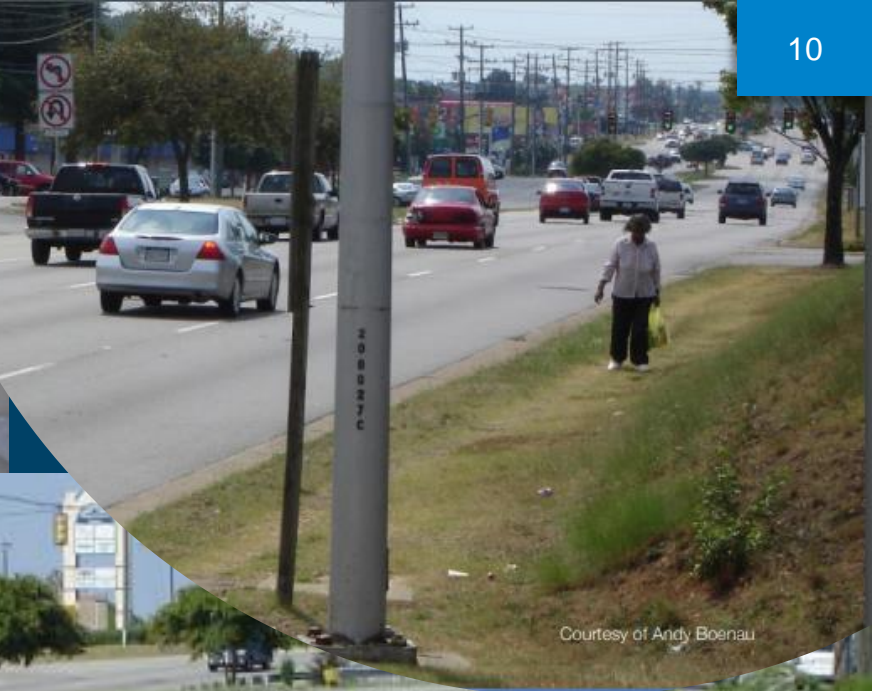


## ...particularly for people not in a vehicle.



### Fatalities Among Bicyclists





Courtesy of Andy Boenau



# Executive Order On Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government

JANUARY 20, 2021 • PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS

The term “**underserved communities**” refers to populations sharing a particular characteristic, as well as geographic communities, that have been systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social, and civic life, as exemplified by the list in the preceding definition of “equity”.

The term “**equity**” means the consistent and systematic fair, just, and impartial treatment of all individuals, including individuals who belong to underserved communities that have been denied such treatment, such as Black, Latino, and Indigenous and Native American persons, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and other persons of color; members of religious minorities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) persons; persons with disabilities; persons who live in rural areas; and persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality.

1

## *National Roadway Safety Strategy*



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

### National Roadway Safety Strategy

United States Department of Transportation | January 2022

[transportation.gov/NRSS](https://transportation.gov/NRSS)

2

## *USDOT Equity Action Plan*

**U.S. Department  
of Transportation**

The Equity Action Plan will **lay the foundation** for institutionalizing equity in all of USDOT's programs and policies.

**Equity Action Plan**

3

## *Pedestrian Safety Action Plan*



**USDOT ACTIONS TO PREVENT HARMFUL CRASHES INVOLVING PEDESTRIANS**

4

## Safe System Approach



[transportation.gov/NRSS/SafeSystem](https://transportation.gov/NRSS/SafeSystem)

5

## BIL Funding Opportunities

- Reconnecting Communities Grant
- Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grants
- Congestion Relief Program

**A GUIDEBOOK TO THE  
BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW  
FOR STATE, LOCAL, TRIBAL, AND  
TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENTS, AND  
OTHER PARTNERS**

6

## Federal Highway Administration resources

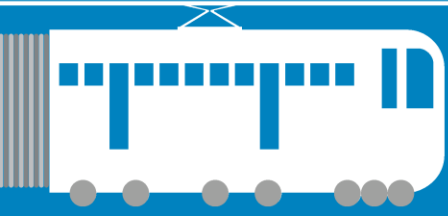
### Office of Safety



[safety.fhwa.dot.gov/ped\\_bike/](https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/ped_bike/)



**BE AWARE,** it's **ME** out there 



U.S. Department of Transportation

Thank you!

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