



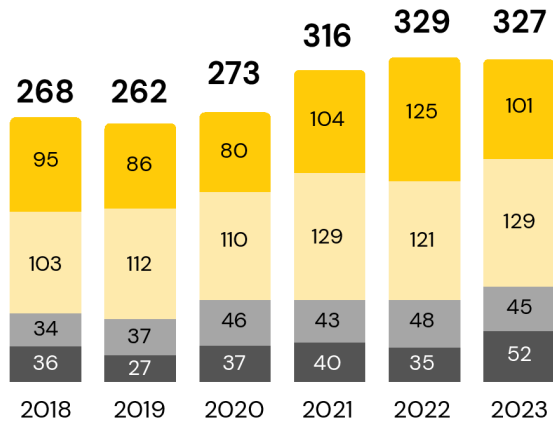
Families for Safe Streets confronts the preventable epidemic of traffic violence by advocating for life-saving changes and providing support to those who have been affected by this crisis. Our victim/survivor-led movement fights to reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured in traffic crashes across the United States to zero.

Have you been injured or lost a loved one in a traffic crash or know someone who has? YOU ARE NOT ALONE. Every day, over 100 people are killed in traffic crashes across the country. Thousands of people are injured daily. **In the National Capital Region, one of our neighbors dies on our roadways nearly every day.**

Over 46,000 Americans are killed in traffic crashes every single year and millions suffer life altering injuries.¹

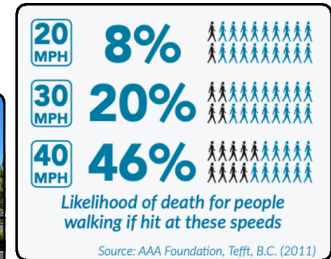
Traffic crashes are one of the top causes of death for people of all ages. The number of traffic deaths rivals other preventable public health crises like gun violence and the opioid crisis, and is the leading cause of death for children and adolescents. **Year after year, the United States routinely ranks as one of the most dangerous compared to our peer nations.**

In 2023, our National Capital Region experienced an estimated 327 traffic fatalities, 14,000+ injuries, and 53,000+ crashes.²



Traffic fatalities, 2018-2023

Northern Virginia
 Prince George's County, MD
 Montgomery County, MD
 Washington, DC



Why is this happening?

- Today vehicles are 24% bigger than they were 20 years ago, and they have bigger hoods and often worse visibility.³
- Road design prioritizes moving the highest number of passenger vehicles as efficiently as possible.⁴
- Speed is the leading factor in deadly and high injury crashes.⁵



What can WE do?

In the National Capital Region, Families for Safe Streets chapters advocate for regional leaders to make decisions and implement policies based on a **Vision Zero** approach, or the idea that while we cannot eliminate all crashes, we can eliminate fatalities and serious injuries.⁶

Vision Zero sets our goal of safe mobility for all and the **Safe System** approach shows us how we get there.

We're focused on proven safety countermeasures that save lives:

- Design roads for the safety of **all users**. Improve visibility of pedestrians, reduce vehicle speeds with fewer and narrower lanes, and build protected bike infrastructure.
- Reduce and enforce **speed limits**.
- Encourage drivers to opt for **smaller vehicles**.
- Provide a **support network** of people with first-hand experience with traffic violence.

Our goals across DC, Maryland, and Northern Virginia

- **Fully fund and implement Complete Streets** designs that prioritize protections for people who walk, bike, and take transit. Examples include improving visibility at intersections with curb extensions and flexposts, building protected bike lanes,⁷ and ensuring that transit stops are ADA-accessible and have seating and lighting.
- **Expand safe routes to school** and hire more safety techs and traffic control officers for schools.
- **Prioritize investments in public transportation**, especially WMATA, so that reliable and convenient service frees us from over-reliance on personal vehicles to move around the region.
- **In DC:** Fully fund and successfully implement **the STEER Act**, especially the first-in-the nation intelligent speed assistance (ISA) program, to address dangerous and reckless driving.

What can YOU do?

- 1 **Your story can make a difference.** Contribute to the Families for Safe Streets Storymap: www.FamiliesForSafeStreets.org/map.
- 2 **Tell your federal, state, and local elected leaders you want to see:**
 - Regulations to reduce vehicle size and weight, especially as weight increases for electric vehicles.
 - Safe street design for all road users,
 - Investment in transit and bicycle infrastructure, not the same-old highway infrastructure, to help us meet our equity and sustainability goals.
- 3 **The National Capital Region is home to the following Families for Safe Streets chapters.** We welcome new members who have been personally impacted as well as allies to support advocacy efforts:
 - DC: www.DCFamiliesForSafeStreets.org
 - Montgomery County, MD: www.MoCoFamiliesForSafeStreets.org
 - Northern Virginia: www.NoVAFamiliesForSafeStreets.org

Sources: (1) National Safety Council, "Motor Vehicle Crash Statistics." (2) Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, "How Safe Are Our Roads? Report on the Impact of Drunk and Drugged Driving." (3 and 4) Smart Growth America, "Dangerous by Design." (5 and 6) Vision Zero Network, "Fundamentals of the Safe System Approach." (7) Federal Highway Administration, "Bicycle Lanes."