PEDESTRIAN ACCIDENTS STATS WORTH NOTING IN WISCONSIN

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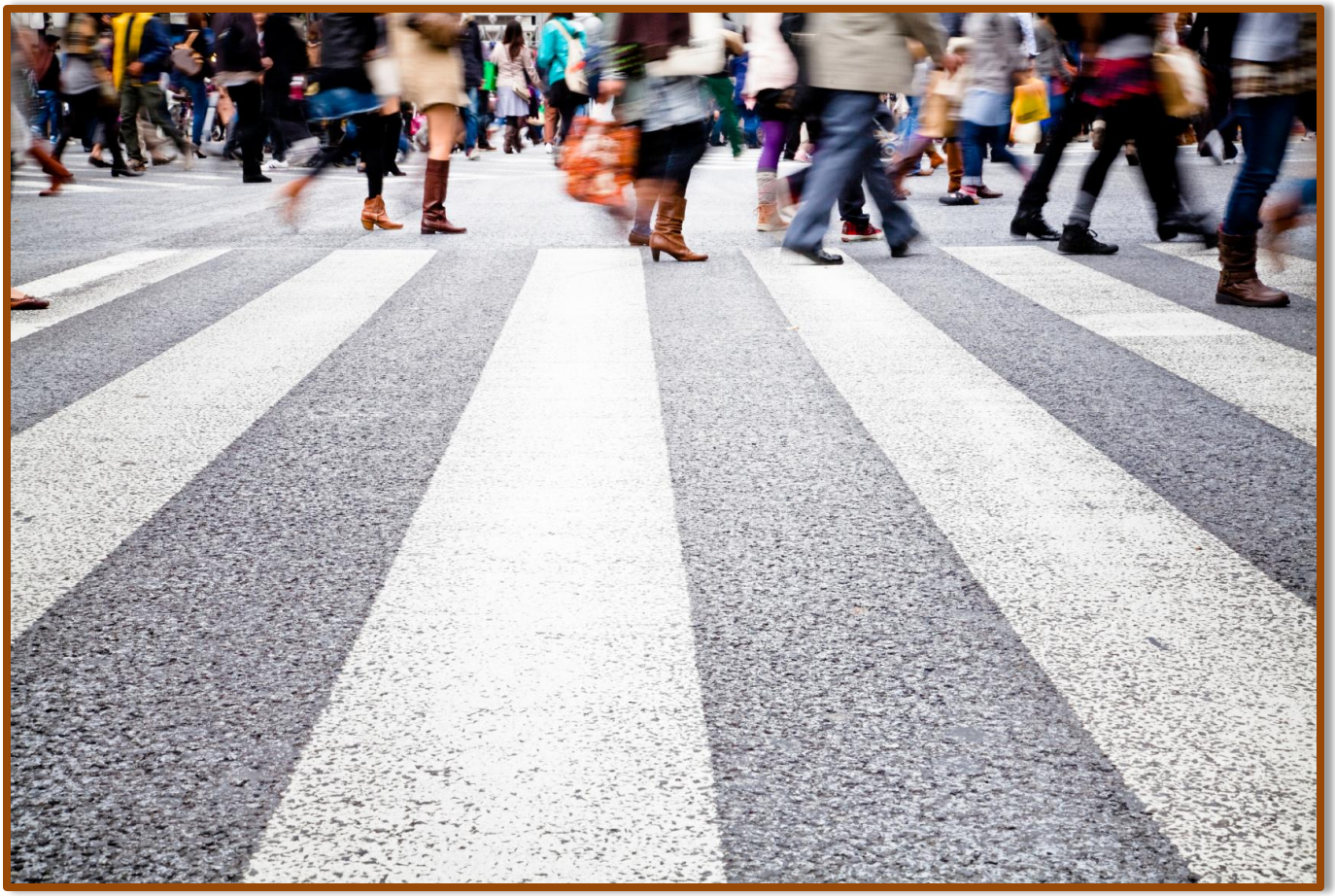

In today's world, a growing number of people are walking from point A to point B. Not only does this allow them to save money on the cost of gasoline and vehicle maintenance, but it is good for their health and the environment.

On the downside, there is always the risk of being involved in a pedestrian-vehicle accident. When this happens, it is the pedestrian who is at the greatest risk of injury or death.

No matter how fast a vehicle is traveling, a collision with a pedestrian almost always ends up in disaster. At the very least, the person who is hit can expect to be seriously injured. In many cases, this person is killed.

TheNational Highway Traffic Safety Administration tracks pedestrian related accidents and compiles statistics to ensure that people understand how big of a problem this has become. Here are several statistics that will open your eyes and make you understand that you are at risk of being involved in an accident, even when walking, jogging, or running:

- In 2011, more than 4,400 people were killed in a pedestrian accident. This is a four percent increase over 2010.
- In 2011, approximately 69,000 people were injured in a pedestrian accident. Of this group, roughly 16 percent were in the 14 and under age bracket.
- In 2009, 16 percent of all traffic fatalities were among those in the 65 and older age bracket.

As you look at these statistics from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, it is hard to argue the fact that this has become a big problem. Not only are accidents on the rise, but the number of people killed and injured every year is staggering.

It does not matter if you are a pedestrian or driving a motor vehicle, you must do whatever it takes to remain safe at all times.

As a driver, you can do the following:

- Be aware of your surroundings, which includes pedestrians. Keep in mind that people need to cross from one side of the street to the next, which is when many of these accidents occur.
- Don't get behind the wheel if you have been drinking alcohol or abusing any type of substance.
- Keep your eyes on the road at all times. Distracted driving causes many motor vehicle accidents, including those between cars and pedestrians.

As a pedestrian, you can do the following to improve your chance of avoiding an accident:

- Be aware of what is going on around you, including the vehicles that are traveling on the street.
- Don't cross the street until you are 100 percent sure you are able to do so in a safe manner. This means looking both ways and only crossing in a crosswalk. If you dart into traffic, a car may not have enough time to stop.

There are times when a pedestrian is at fault for an accident, but this does not hold true across the board. There are also times when the driver of a vehicle, for one reason or another, makes a poor decision that leads to an accident.

The worst part of this type of accident is that the pedestrian does not have any protection. There are no air bags, seatbelts, or other safety features to improve their chance of avoiding serious injury or death.

If a vehicle strikes a person, it is important for him or her to receive immediate medical attention. This can be the difference between life and death.

When drivers and pedestrians obey the rules of the road, while paying attention at all times to their surroundings, the chance of an accident is less likely.

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