

# COMMUNITY PEDESTRIAN SAFETY TRAINING

**Stockton**  
August 27<sup>th</sup> 2009

## ***Stockton***

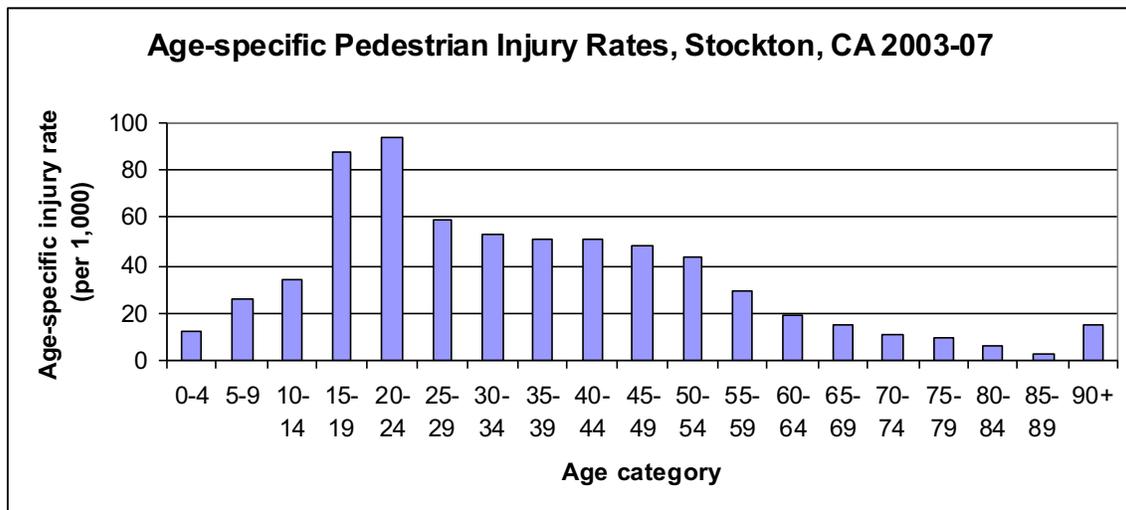
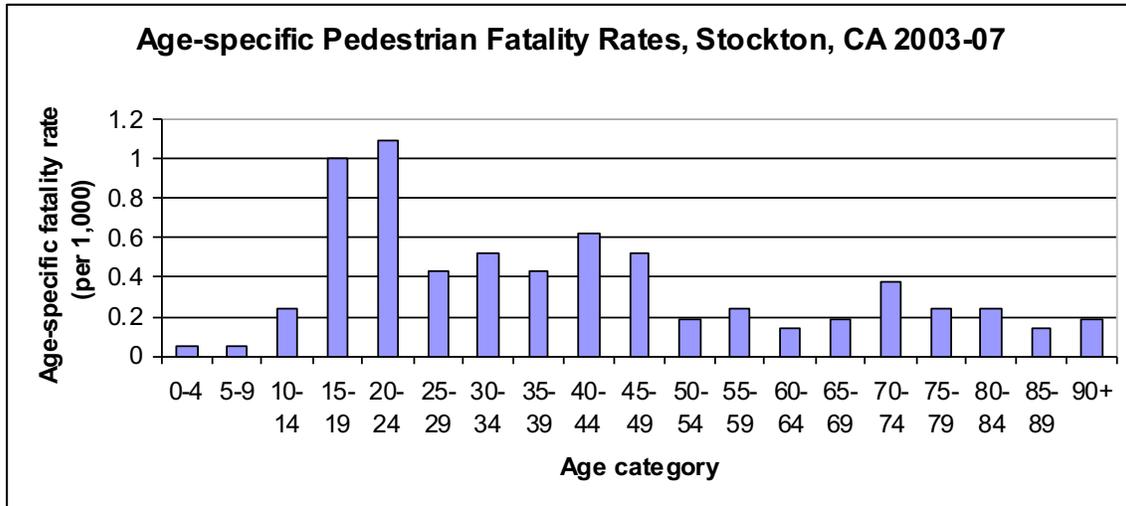
The City of Stockton is located in Northern California, and is primarily surrounded by agricultural land. Stockton's population is growing rapidly and is currently the 13<sup>th</sup> largest city in California,<sup>i</sup> and is currently home to 287,037 persons.<sup>ii</sup> Stockton is 61 square miles with an average population density of 4,700 persons per square mile. There are several highways and freeways that converge in Stockton as well as railways (both commuter and goods). The rapid growth, combination of urban and rural areas, and the existence of many highways, freeways, and railways, all highlight the need for pedestrian safety awareness and risk reduction efforts in the City of Stockton. From 2003 to 2007 Stockton has had 106 pedestrian crashes resulting in 74 injuries and 32 fatalities.<sup>iii</sup>

## ***Process & Instigating factor***

The City of Stockton was selected as a training site for a variety of factors. Namely, 2007 data from the California Office of Traffic Safety has ranked the City of Stockton as number 5 for total fatalities and injuries involving pedestrians for a city of its size (over 250,000).<sup>iv</sup> In addition, there is an evident community commitment to reducing pedestrian risk and collisions. This commitment was evident in several ways. First, though the active involvement and participation in the planning and training process from the Stribley Community Center employees, the Department of Public Health and representatives from Community Partnership for Families of San Joaquin (a local non-profit) dedicated to improving the pedestrian safety for the communities they work with. Second, the 3-days prior to the CPST, professionals of Stockton engaged in a 3-day professional-level training and planning process for a Pedestrian Safety Action Plan.

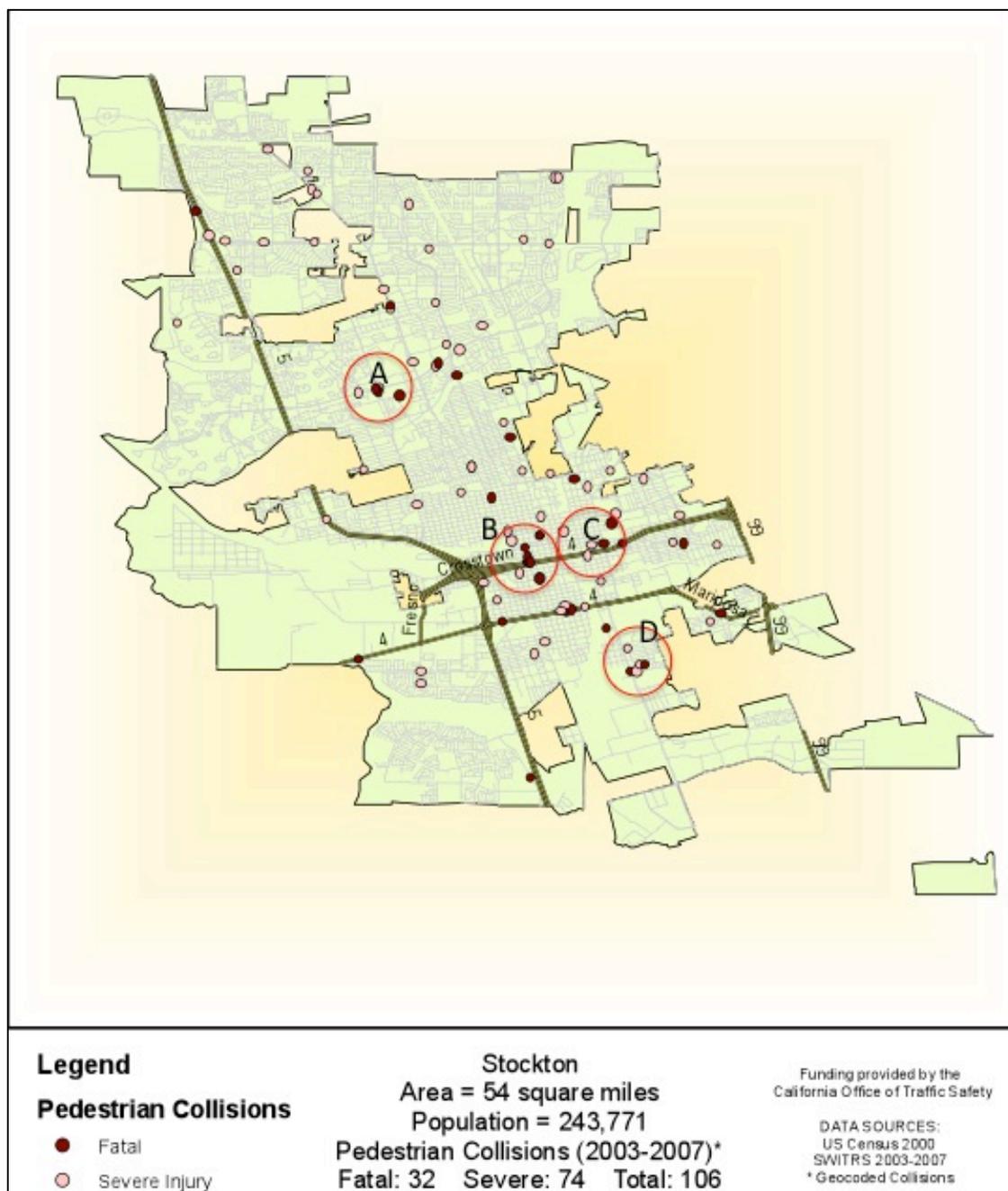
## ***Existing Conditions (data)***

Pedestrian collision data analyzed by age categories identifies populations that may be at greater risk of pedestrian collision. From years 2003-2007, persons ages 15 to 24 have the highest rates of both injuries and fatalities.



Areas that have been highlighted as of particular concern to pedestrians from the geocoded analysis include: (see map below)

- A) W March Ln and N Pershing Ave
- B) E Fremont St and N Wilson Way
- C) Crosstown Fwy and S Sutter St
- D) S Airport Way and E 12<sup>th</sup> St



***Community Involvement***

Persons who were actively involved in making the Stockton training a success include:

- UC Cooperative Extension

The City of Stockton

- Todd Greenwood, City Engineer Public Works
- Sgt. Jan Goodnight, Stockton Police Department

Healthy San Joaquin Collaborative

- Robin Morrow, Health Plan of San Joaquin
- Anna Martin, UC Davis
- LaCresia Hawkins, Community Outreach

### ***Media & Outreach***

The event was posted on the City of Stockton webpage: <http://www.stocktongov.com/>.  
The press release was as follows:

**Community Pedestrian Safety Training**  
**Thursday, August 27th**  
**10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**  
**[Stribley Community Center, 1760 E. Sonora Street](#)**

Pedestrian safety is a key concern - better sidewalks, crosswalks, and safer places to walk will be addressed in this half-day intensive session for local advocates and officials.

This workshop covers expert presentations on basic pedestrian safety best practices, as well as strategies for engaging community-based professionals and advocates to team together to solve problems. Additionally, attendees will be led on a walkability assessment of a selected pedestrian danger area.

To register call Michelle Drummond at 209-953-6106. Registration is also available online at <http://ucce.ucdavis.edu/survey/suvery.cfm?surveynumber=3935>

*A project of the UC Traffic Safety Center and California WALKS, funded by a grant from the CA Office of Traffic Safety, through National Highway Traffic Safety Administration*

### ***Training Day***

Approximately 35 persons attended the training on September 27<sup>th</sup>. Special welcomes were made from California WALKS, Anna Martin on behalf of Healthy San Joaquin Collaborative, and Liza Dixon from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS). A regional representative from the California Highway Patrol also made a sobering introduction statement, reporting that on the even of September 26<sup>th</sup> a pedestrian fatality occurred off of Highway 88. Sgt. Jan Goodnight presented the enforcement section of the presentation, bringing in her experience and knowledge as a Sergeant in the City of Stockton.

Participants were thoroughly engaged throughout the training and used their own experiences and knowledge to assist in informing the discussion. Participants were able to share what they were currently working on and many used this training as an opportunity to network with one another.

### ***Identified priorities***

Many priorities were identified during the Stockton training. Some of the priorities were very specific and pertained to intersections in the vicinity of the training facility. Others were more general city-wide priorities.\*

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\* For full list of identified priorities see final report.

Location-specific priorities included improving the safety at the Sonora and Della Streets intersection. Adults and youth frequent this intersection on their way to and from the Stribley Recreation center. Recommendations include increasing from a 2-way stop to a 4-way stop, installing high visibility crosswalks and improved ramps. General priorities identified for the city of Stockton that were also present in the location-specific recommendations, include sidewalk maintenance, overgrown plants and trees, blight, dogs, crime, parking on sidewalks and additional safety systems at railroad crossings.

### ***Evaluation***

Results from the evaluation of the Santa Ana Community Pedestrian Safety Training were overwhelmingly positive. A total of 22 evaluations were collected and tabulated.

### ***General & knowledge/skills gained***

100 percent of the respondents stated that the training workshop met their expectations. All participants were satisfied with the quality of the training. When asked about the most valuable learning of the day respondents identified learning's in four categories. The four categories include *Working together*, *Walkability Assessment*, *Networking*, and *Knowledge*.

There was extremely positive feedback with regard to the participants reporting new knowledge gained during the training. 100 percent of the participants reported that they acquired new knowledge about pedestrian safety best practices, the walkability assessment was useful to identify safe and unsafe pedestrian environments, the training provided participants with new skills to promote pedestrian safety, and that the pedestrian priorities reflect the needs of the community. Over 90 percent of the respondents stated that they have a new understanding about the rules of the road for pedestrians, their behavior as a pedestrian is likely to change after the training, they are now more familiar with the community professionals to contact regarding further work on pedestrian safety, and they have an increase in confidence to work with other community members on pedestrian safety priorities. 100 percent of the participants stated they are committed to continuing to promote safe walking and pedestrian safety in their community.

### ***Logistics***

The majority (86 percent) of attendees felt that there was an adequate length of time for the training, and 91 percent stated that the location was good for the training.

### ***Presenters***

Participants felt very strongly (100 percent) that the presenters were knowledgeable and that the training was tailored to meet the needs of the community. However, some participants felt that not enough time was provided for discussion.

### ***Complementary efforts***

Safe Routes to School Grant

- The City of Stockton recently received a new Safe Routes to Schools grant. Ten schools will be supported through this recent grant.

#### International Walk to School Month

- International Walk to School Month activities, including walk to school day, are planned for the month of October. The sponsoring agency is the San Joaquin Department of Public Health Services.  
<http://www.sjcphs.org/>

#### Ask Stockton?

- Ask Stockton is a user-friendly web resources for Stockton community members. This web page is arranged by content area or by a personalized query.  
<http://user.govoutreach.com/stockton/faq.php>

#### Community Partnerships for Families of San Joaquin

- Community Partnership for Families is a collaboration of neighborhood groups, faith-based organizations, schools, businesses, and public and private health agencies. Resource centers are available in select neighborhoods.  
<http://www.cpfsj.org/>

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<sup>i</sup> City of Stockton, <http://www.stocktongov.com>

<sup>ii</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 Population Estimates, <http://factfinder.census.gov>

<sup>iii</sup> SWITRS, 2003-2007

<sup>iv</sup> California Office of Traffic Safety, 2009 Top 10 A-D Rankings