

Race, Class, and the Silent Epidemic  
of Pedestrian Deaths in America

RIGHT

OF

WAY

ANGIE SCHMITT

FOREWORD BY CHARLES T. BROWN

# The Pedestrian Safety Crisis in the U.S.

Why it's happening. What we can do about it. Why we haven't done it already.

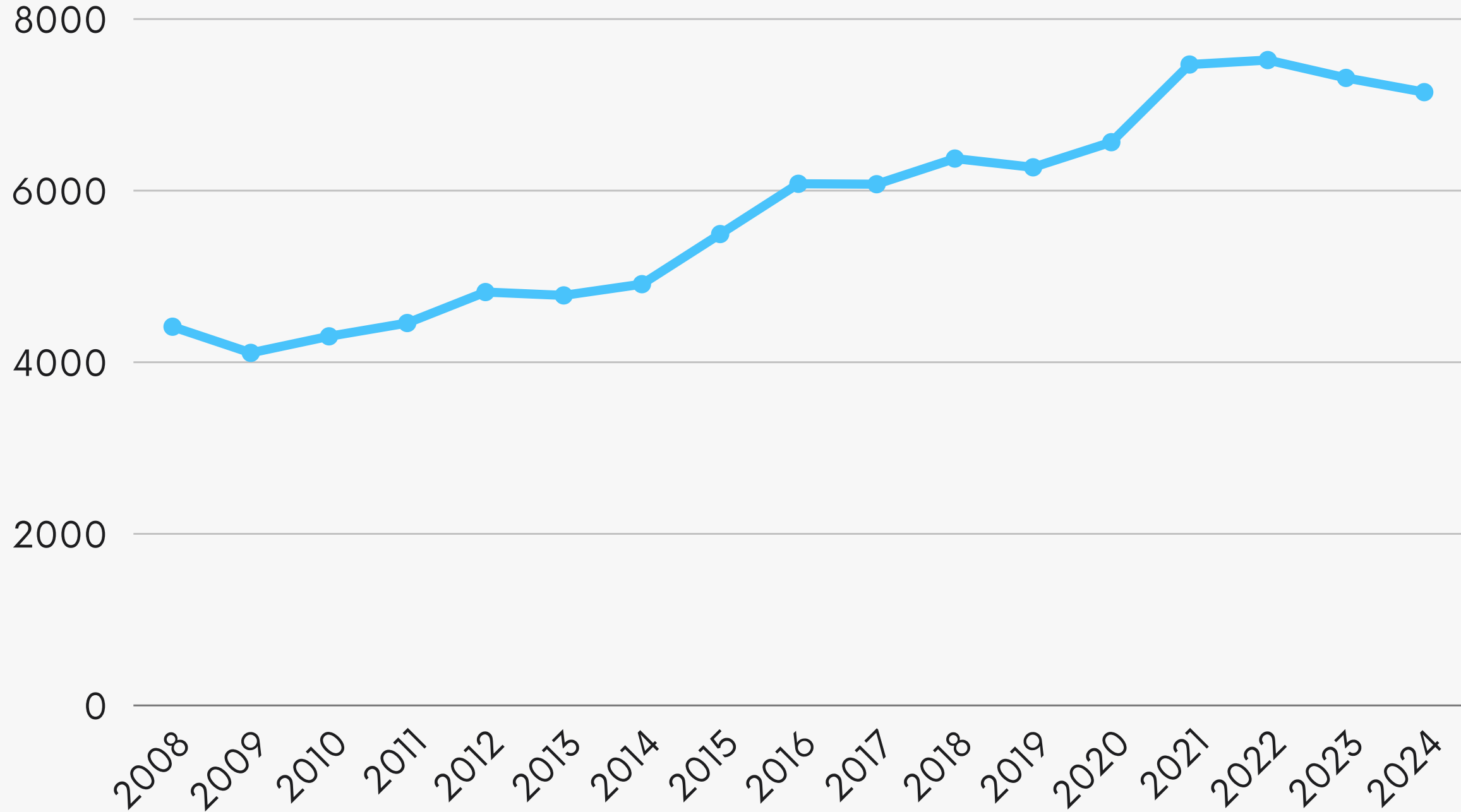




Photo 1930, Cleveland Memory Project



# PEDESTRIAN DEATHS

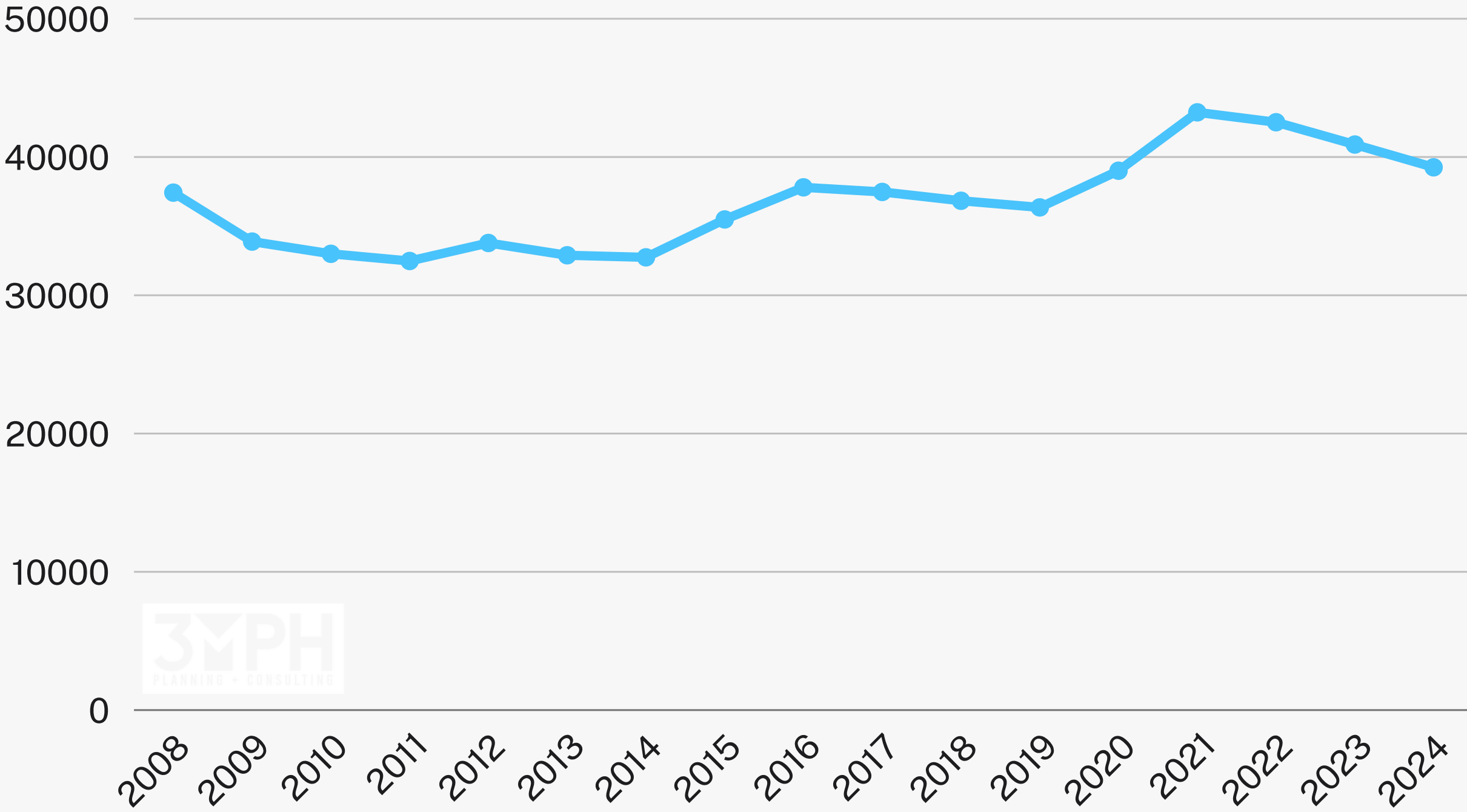


**45% increase**

Between 2014 and 2024

(73% increase since 2009)

# US TRAFFIC DEATHS

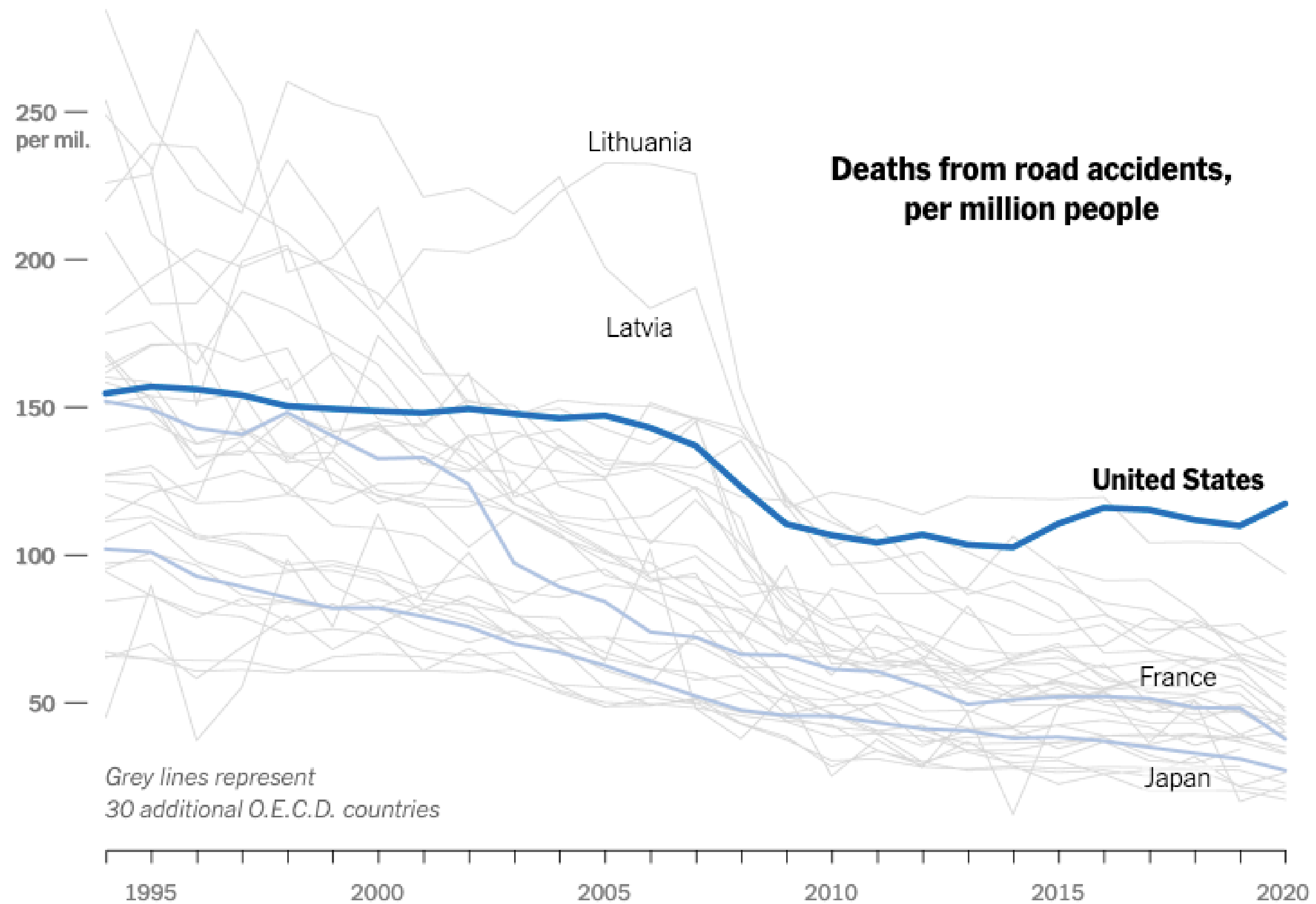


**19% increase**

From 2014 to 2024  
the increase is equal  
to 6,500 lives a year



Source: NHTSA



Grey lines represent  
30 additional O.E.C.D. countries

Source: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development • The New York Times

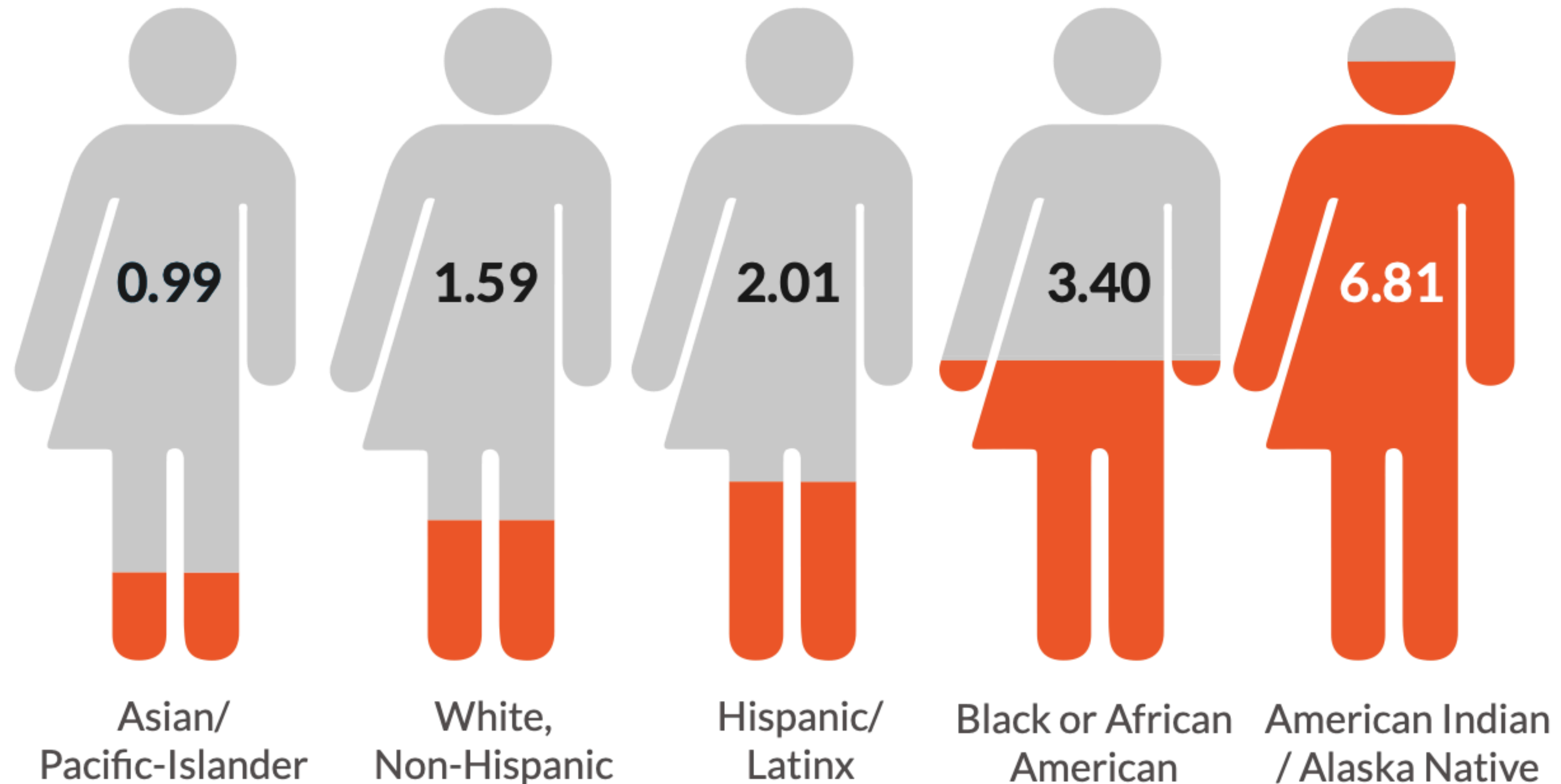
Not this guy



This guy

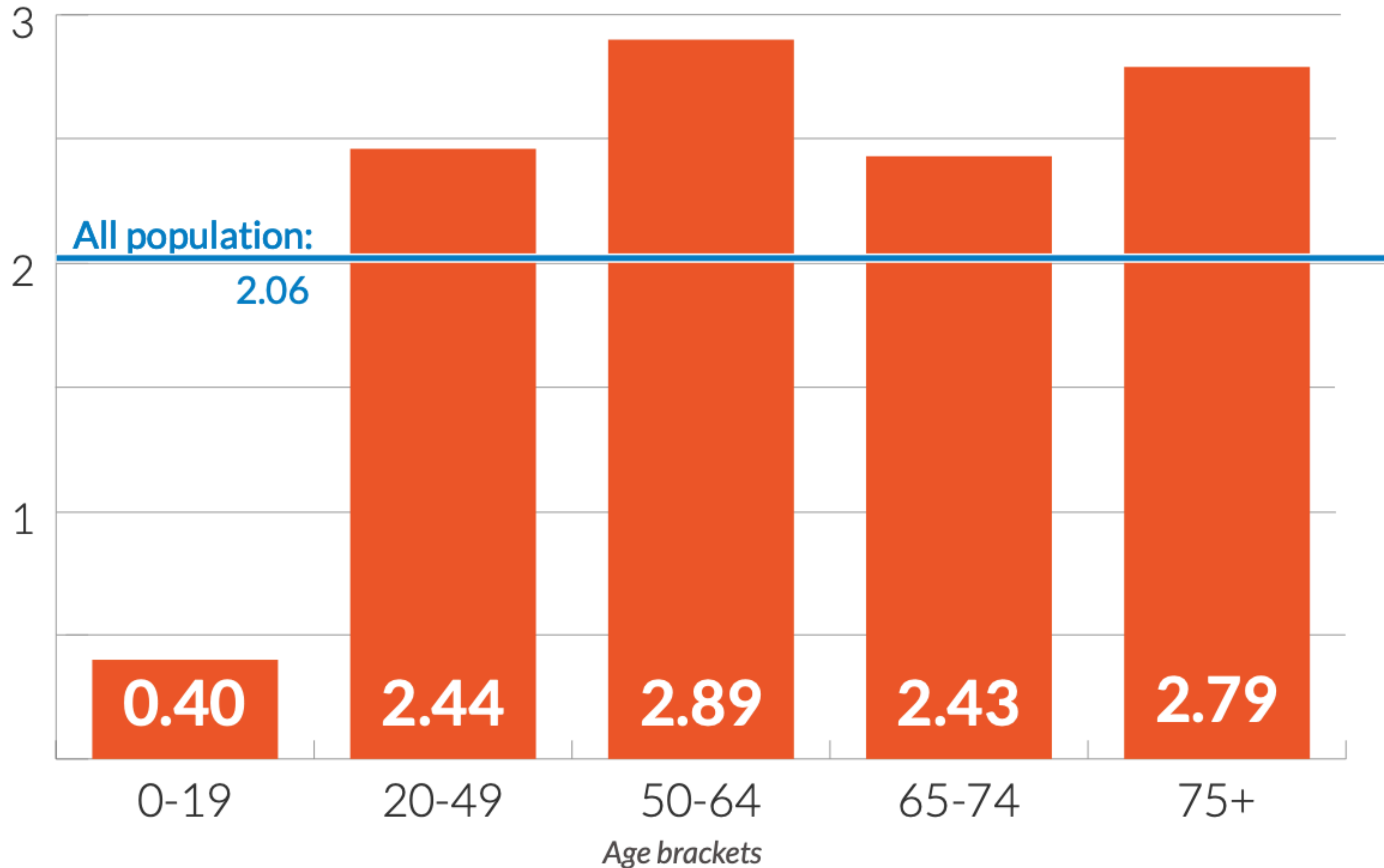


# Pedestrian deaths per 100,000 by race & ethnicity (2018-2022)



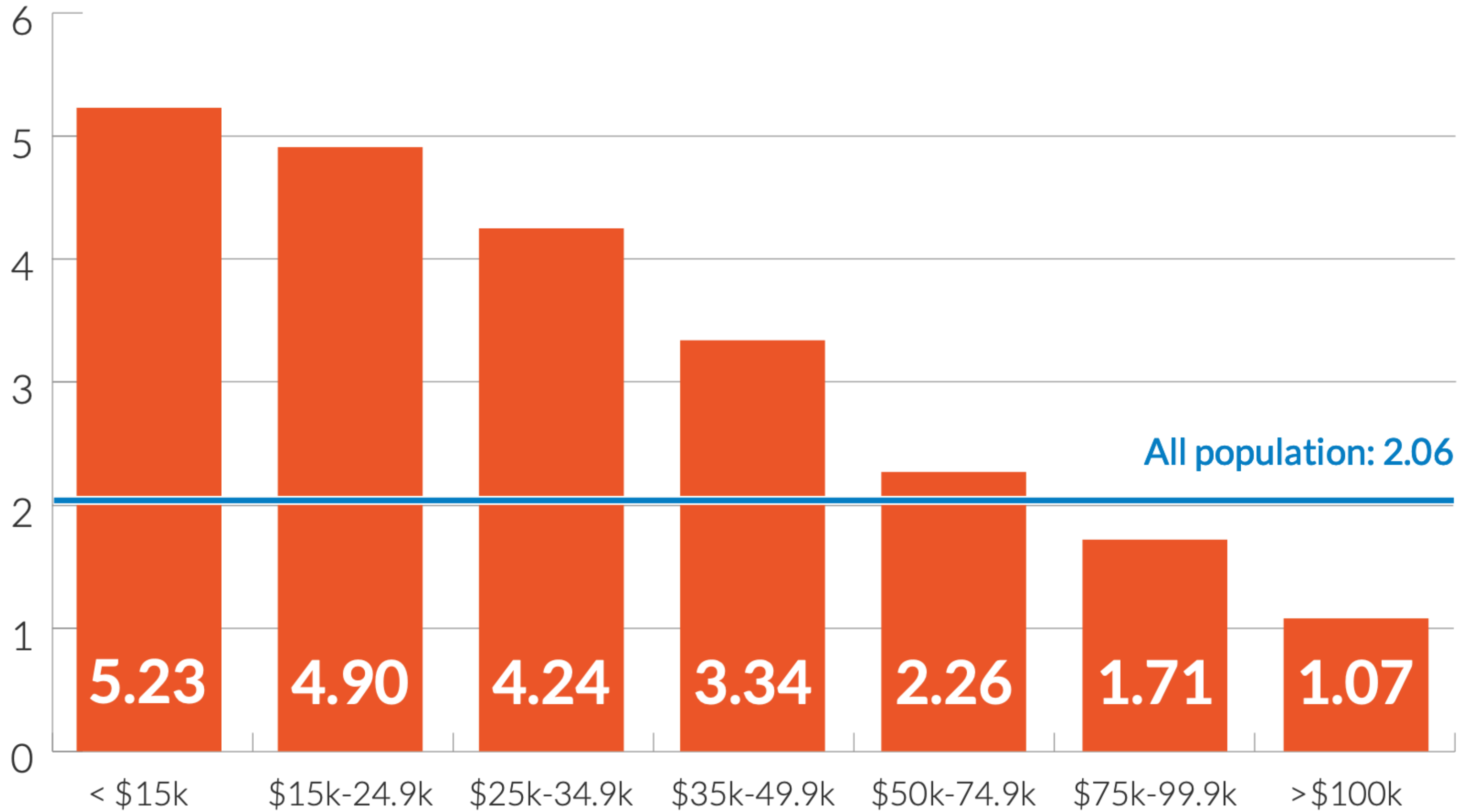
# Adults between age 50-64 are most likely to be killed

Pedestrian fatalities per 100,000 people by age



# Lower-income areas have far higher rates of pedestrian deaths

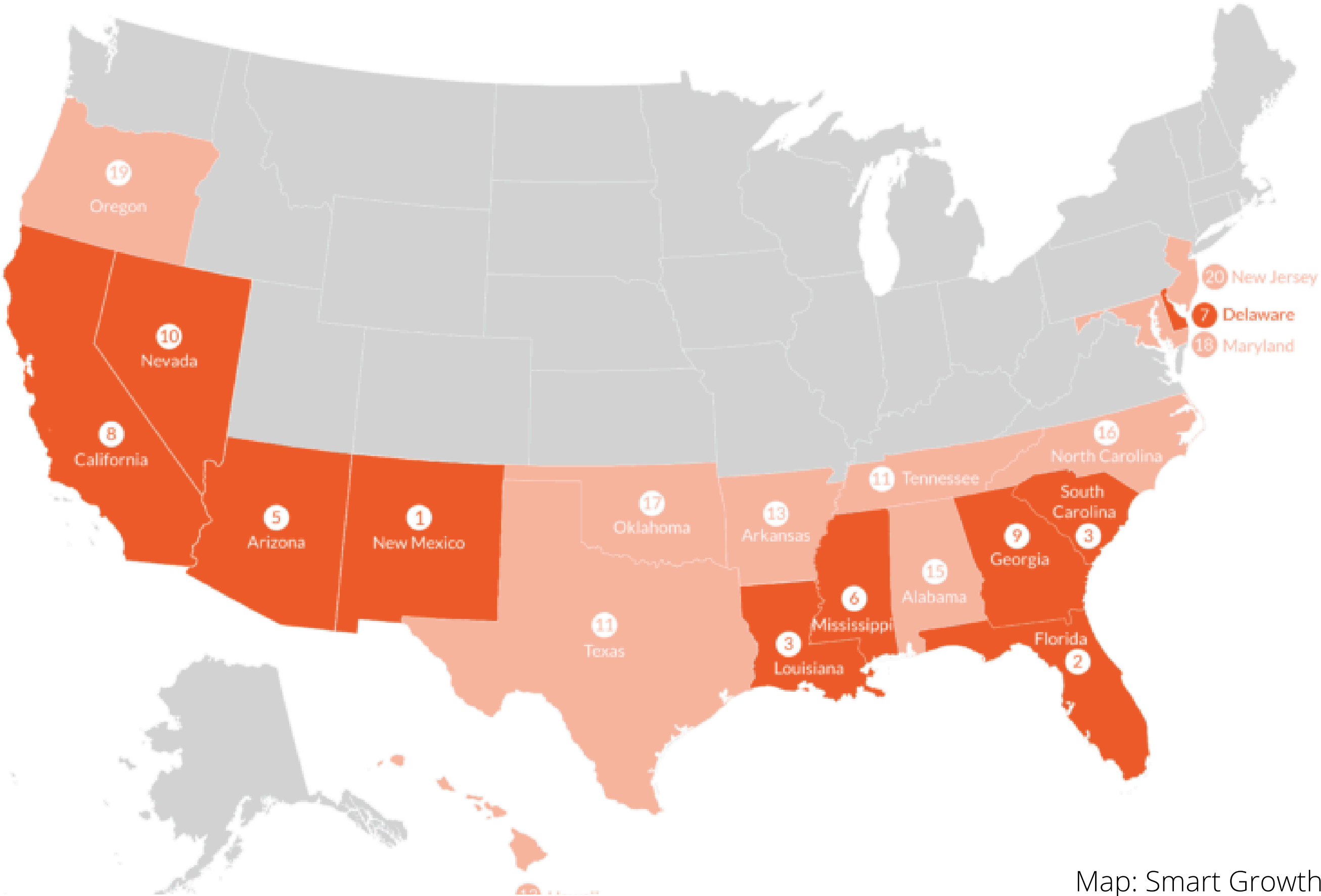
Pedestrian fatalities per 100,000 people by census tract income



Census tract median household income, 2018-2022

# The top 20 most deadly states for people walking

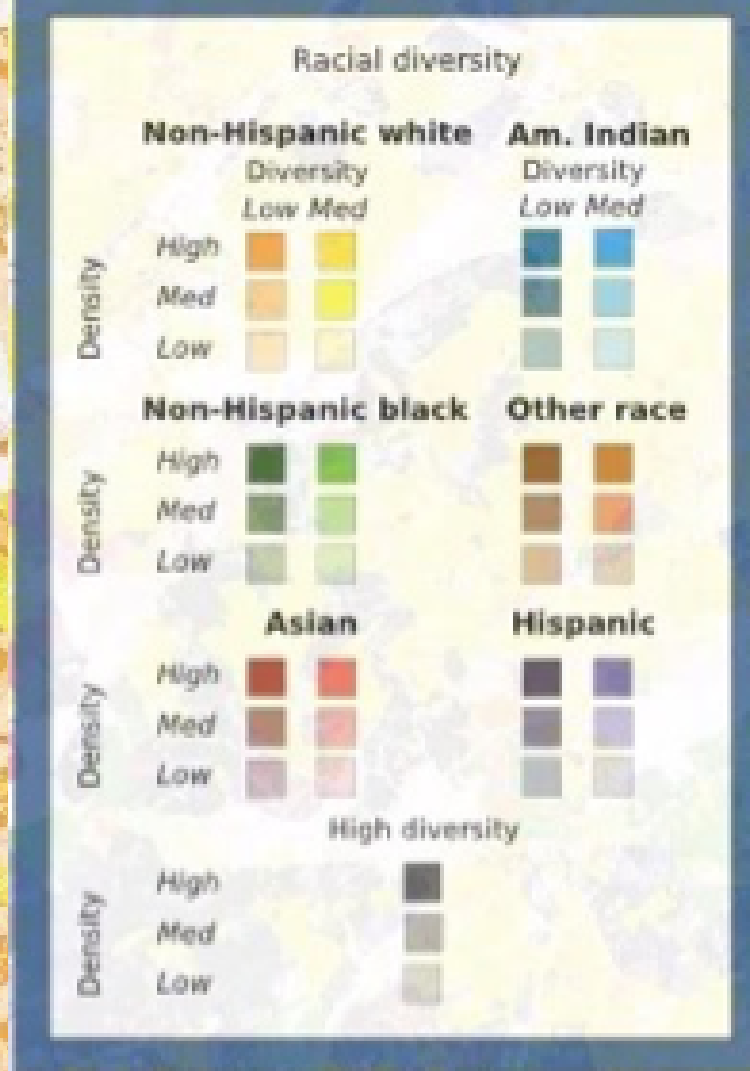
By number of deaths per 100,000 people, 2018-2022



1990

Dunwoody

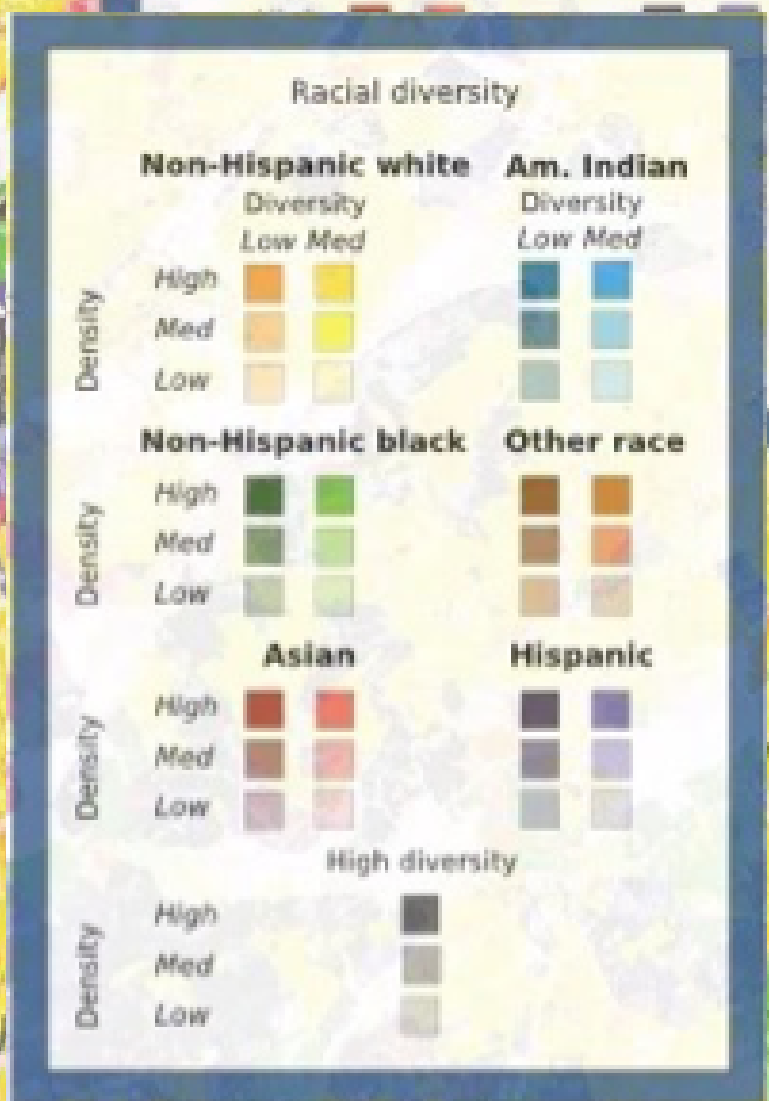
Atlanta



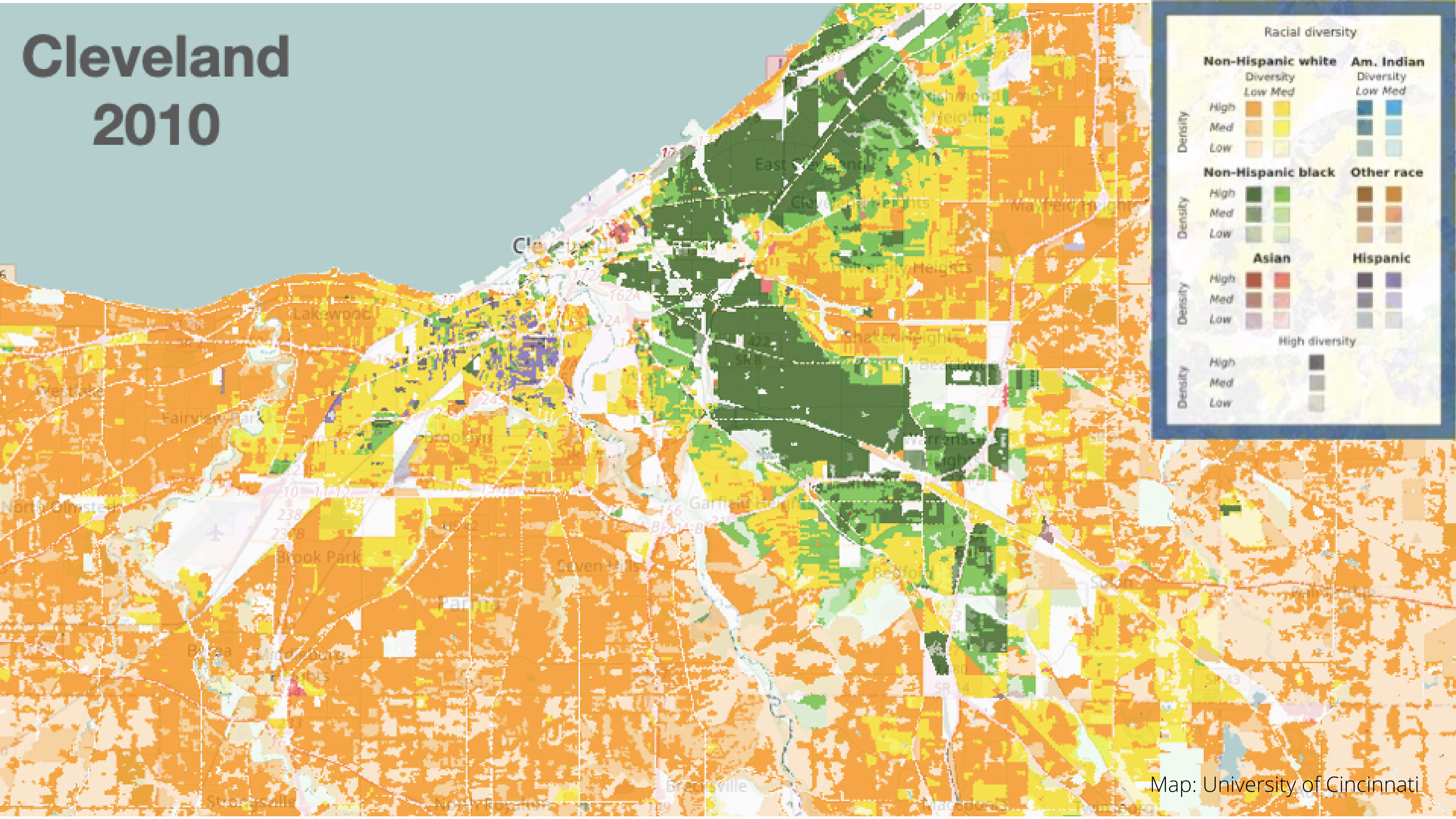
2010

Dunwoody

Atlanta



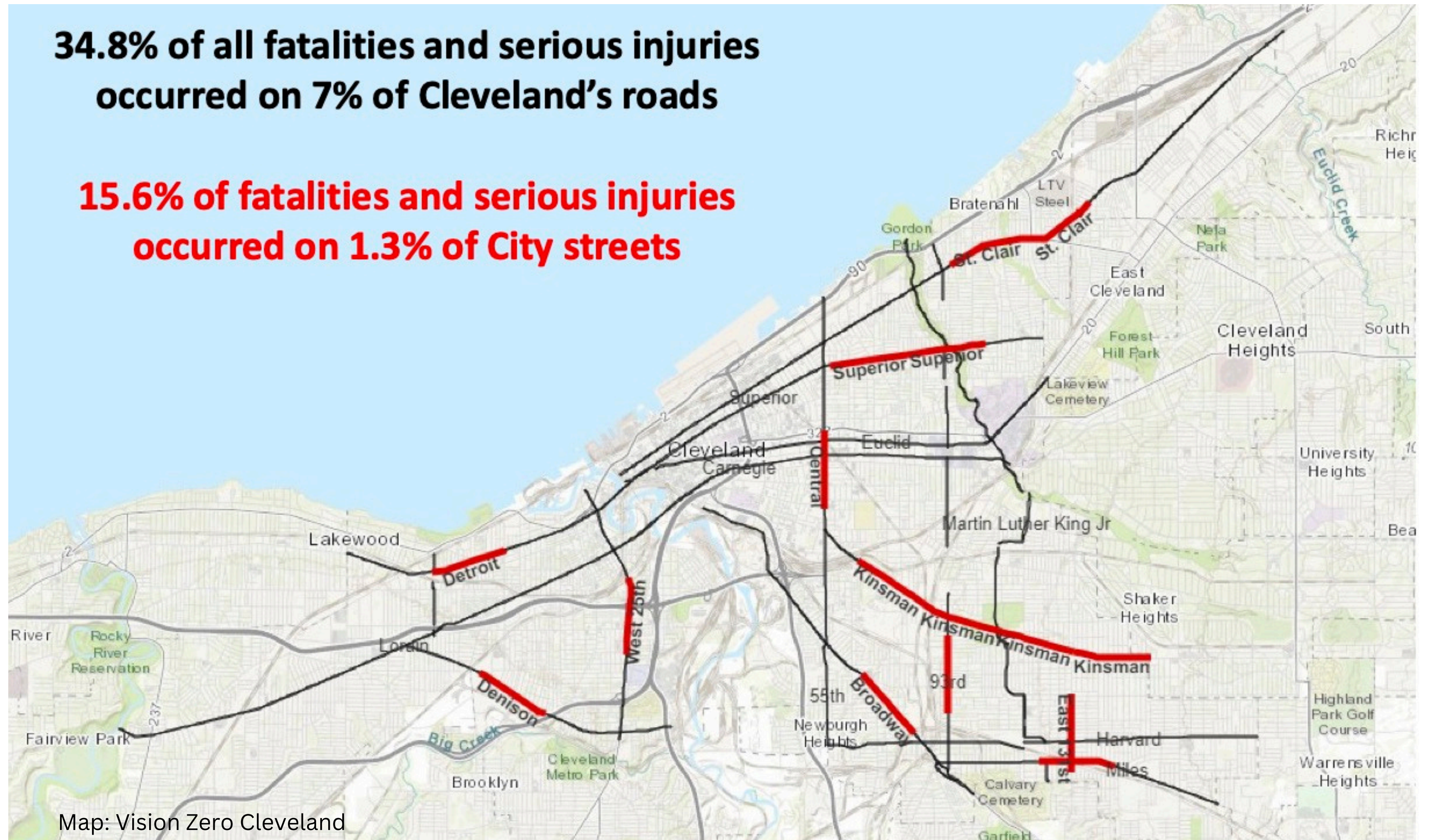
# Cleveland 2010



Map: University of Cincinnati

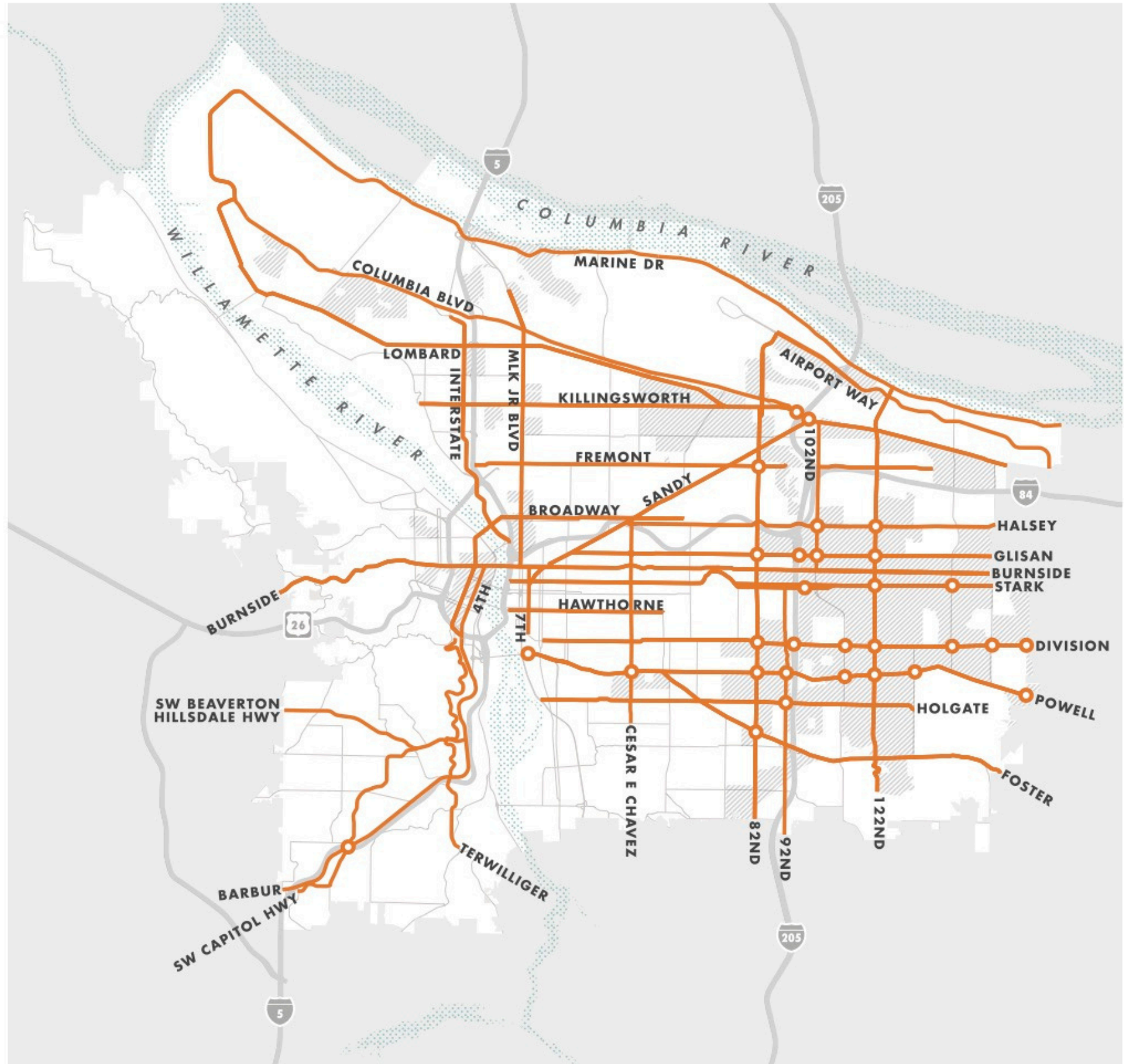
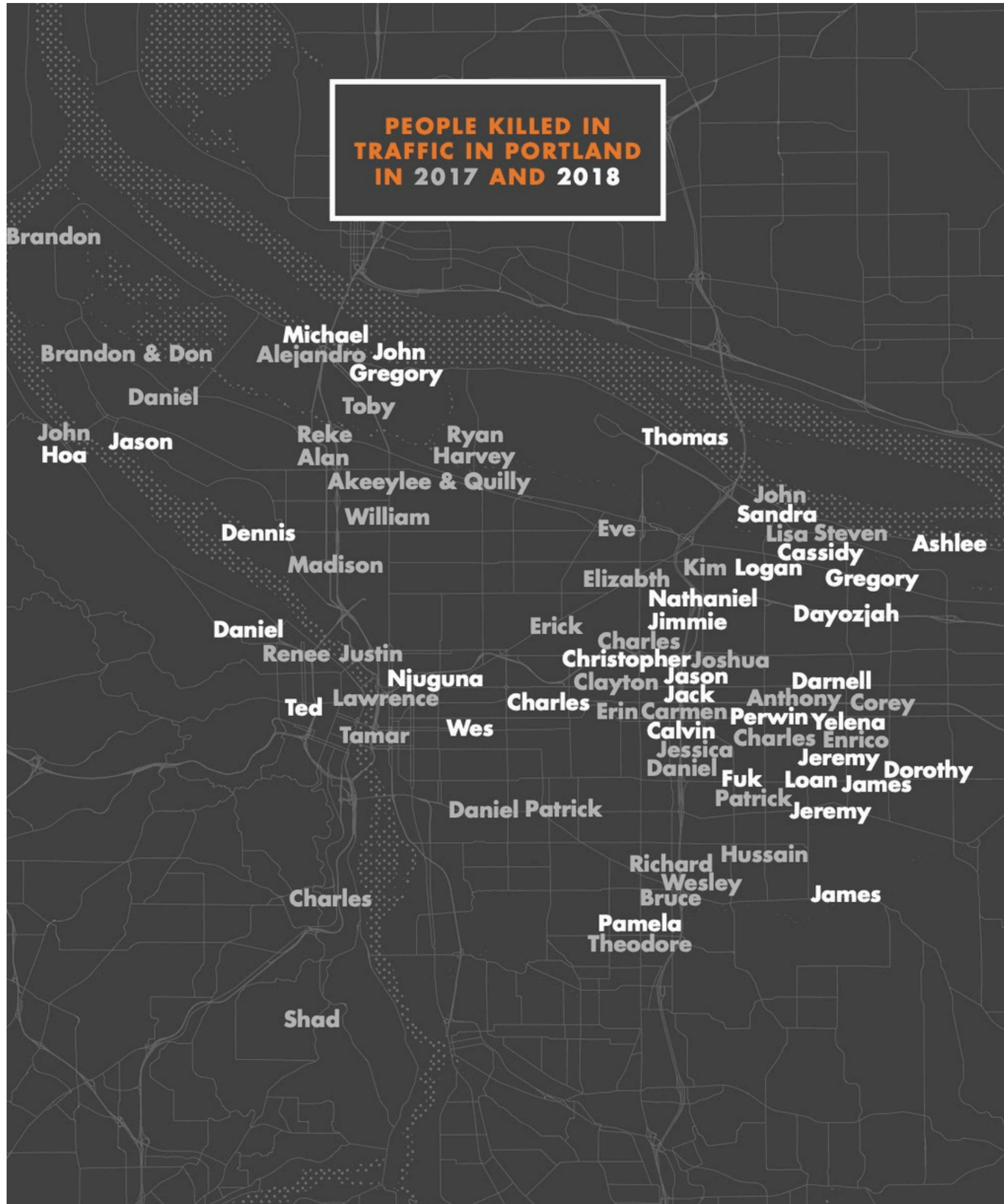
**34.8% of all fatalities and serious injuries occurred on 7% of Cleveland's roads**

**15.6% of fatalities and serious injuries occurred on 1.3% of City streets**



Map: Vision Zero Cleveland

**PEOPLE KILLED IN TRAFFIC IN PORTLAND IN 2017 AND 2018**



**HIGH CRASH NETWORK**

Composite of motor vehicle, bicycle, and pedestrian high crash networks  
Source: PBOT

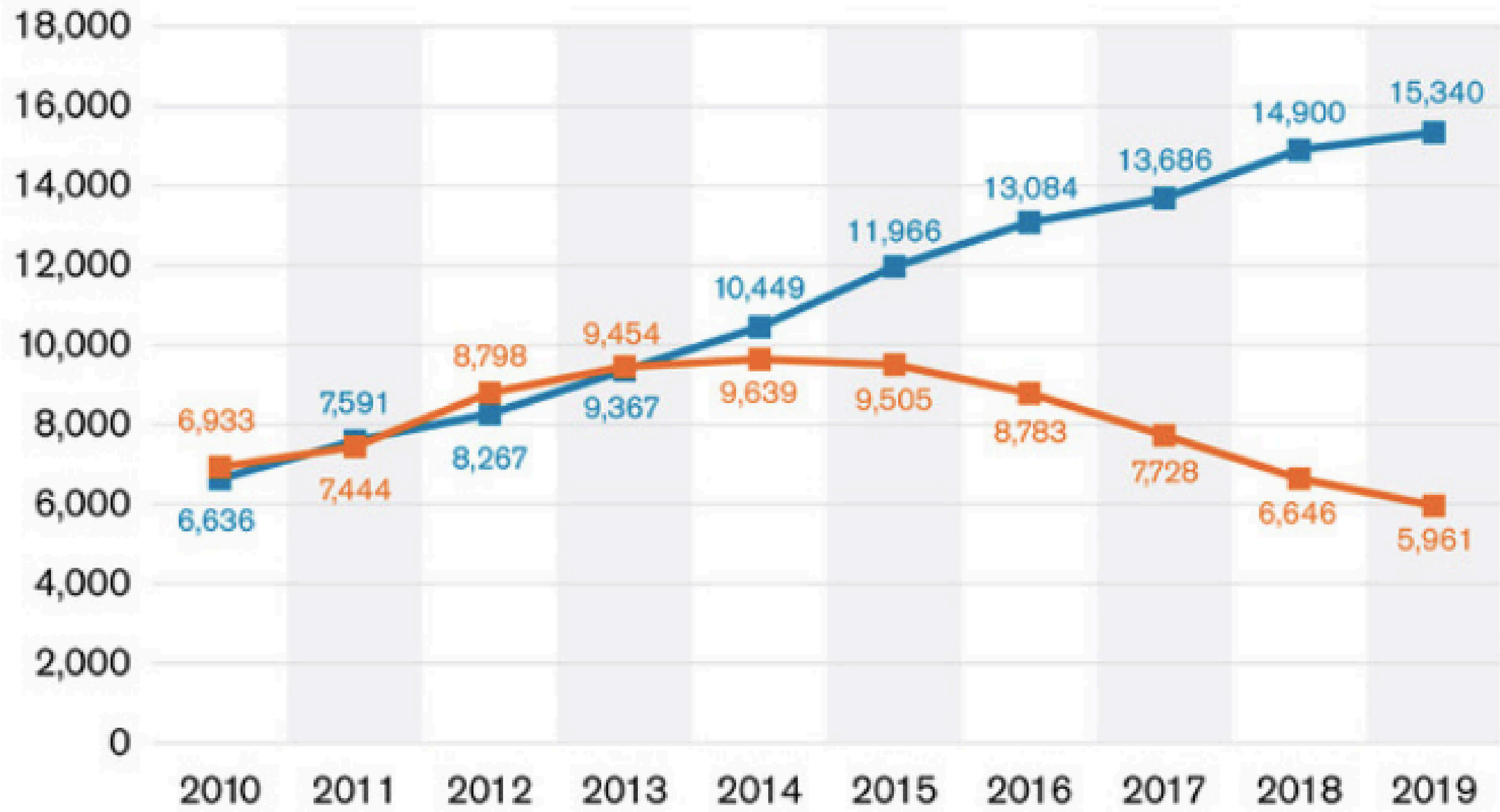
- = TOP 30 HIGH CRASH STREETS
- = TOP 30 HIGH CRASH INTERSECTIONS
- = COMMUNITY OF CONCERN

Photo: Guillermo E. Narváez,  
University of Minnesota



**Figure 17** Light Vehicle Sales & Leases (in Thousands), 2010-2019

■ Passenger Cars ■ Light Trucks



Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Graph: GHSA



**1996 Rav4**  
**2,500-3,000 lbs**



**2021 Rav4**  
**3,370 - 3,655 lbs**



Photo: NASA

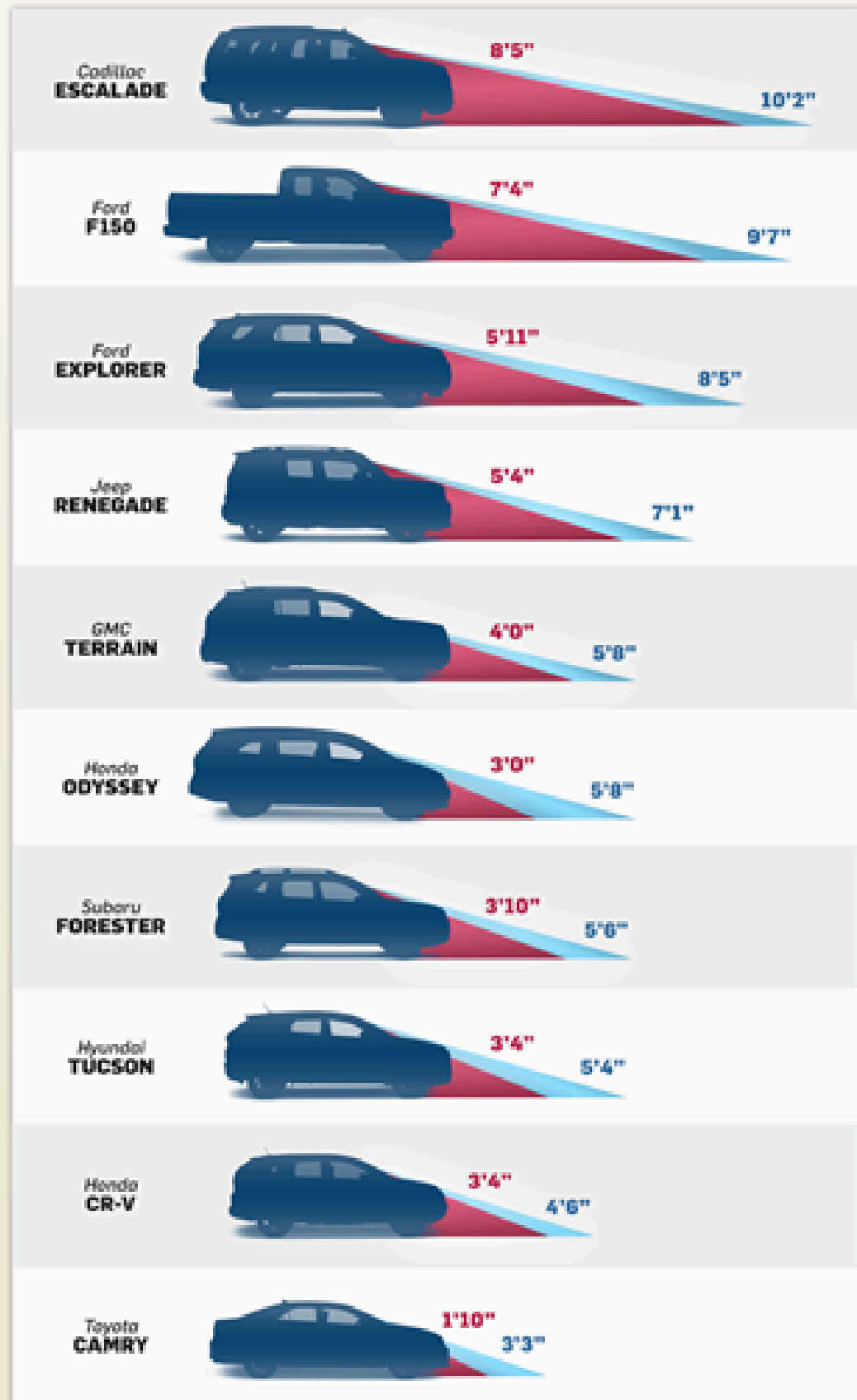


MORGANTOWN  
VILLAGE



# WTHR BLIND ZONE TEST

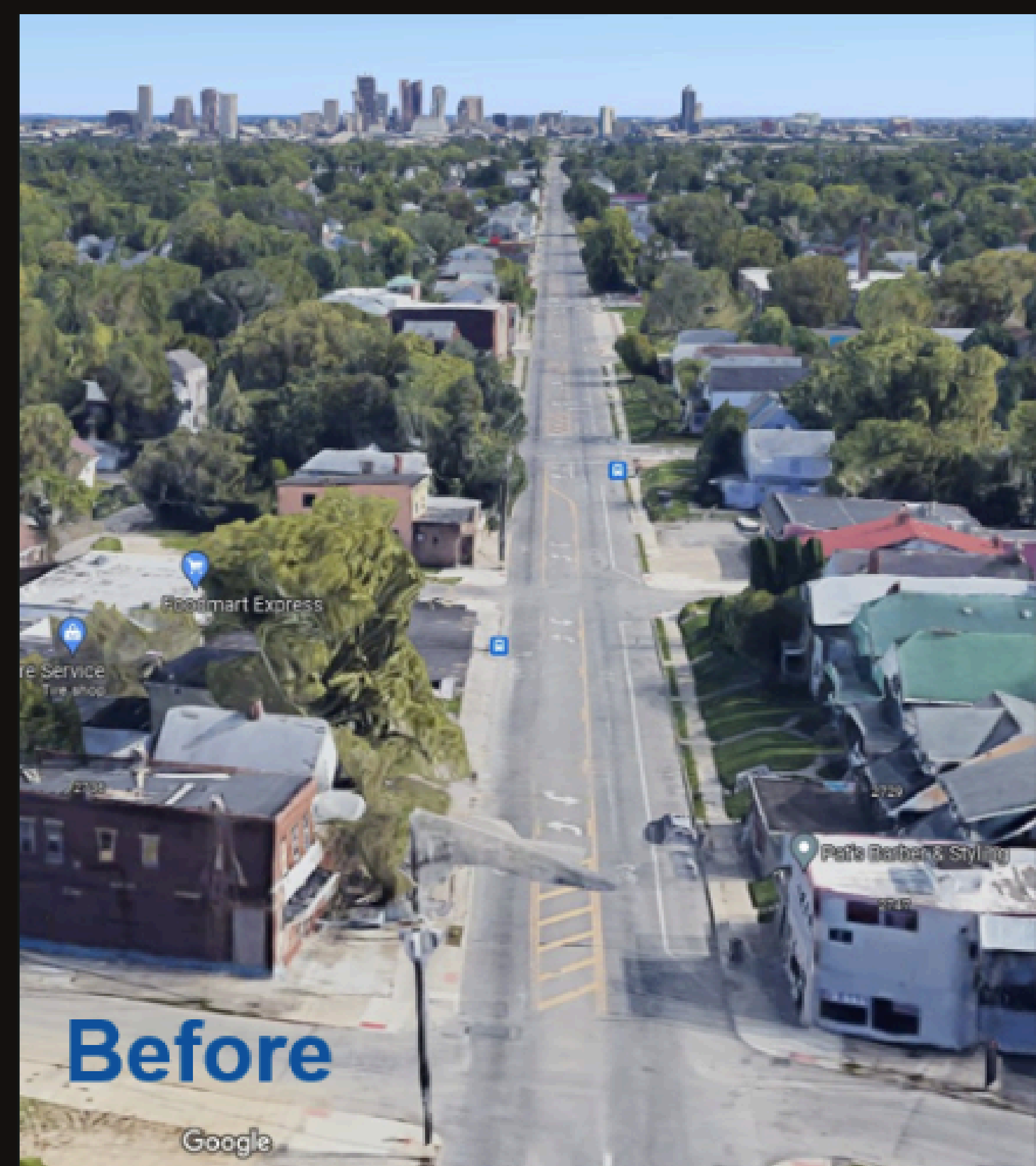
— Driver Sitting In Traditional, Relaxed Position  
— Driver Leaning Forward Over Steering Wheel



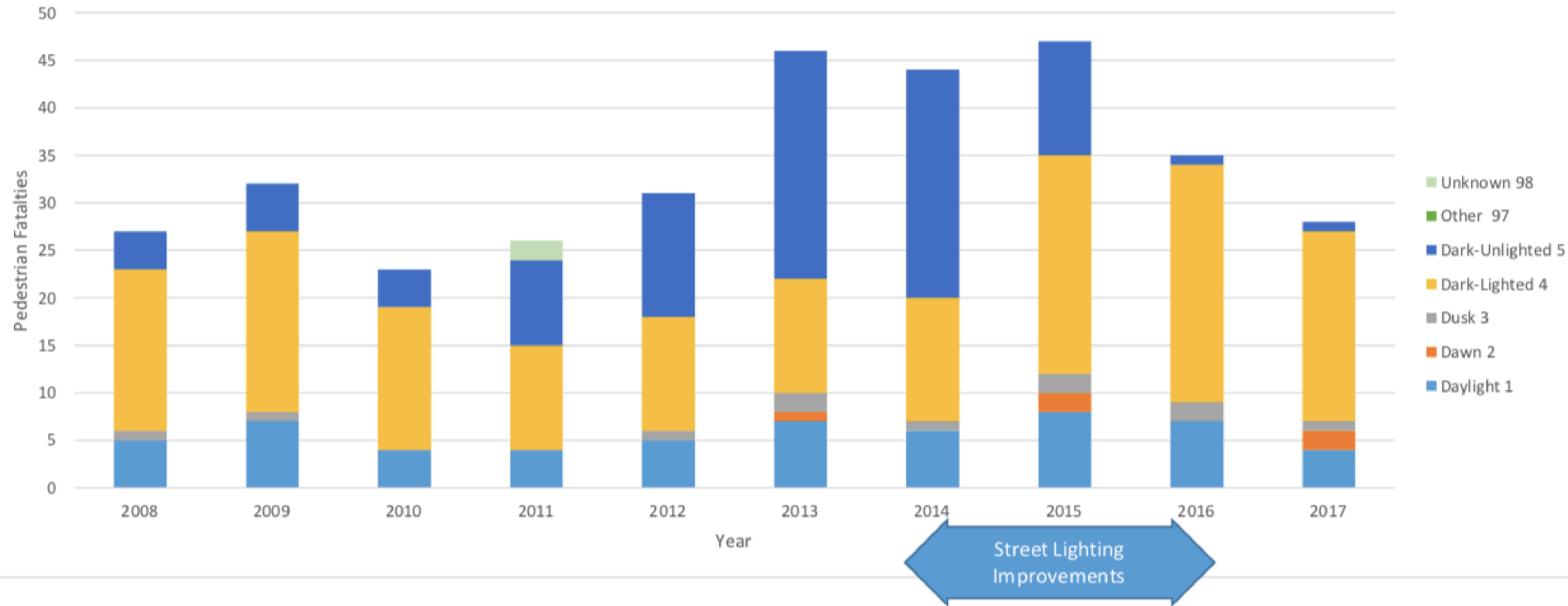
Blind zone distances vary greatly based on factors such as seat position, driver height and object size. Above results were calculated using standardized measurements with an average height (5'4") female driver and a traffic cone that is about the average height of a 1-year-old child (29"). Measurements were taken from two different seating positions when the driver could see the top of the traffic cone.

Photo: Kidsandcars.org









Graph: Detroit Greenways



Sixth St

ONE WAY  
←

Photo: City of Hoboken