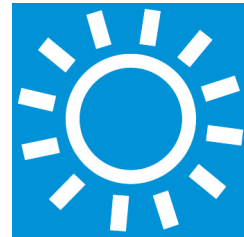




# safe on the street



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## Teachers Guide

Road Safety

## Road Safety Facts

Road ‘crashes’ claim a large number of lives each year:

- **2,946 people were killed on Great Britain’s roads in 2007**
- **around 43,000 people died on roads within the European Union in 2007**
- **around 1.2 million people die on the roads throughout the world each year.**

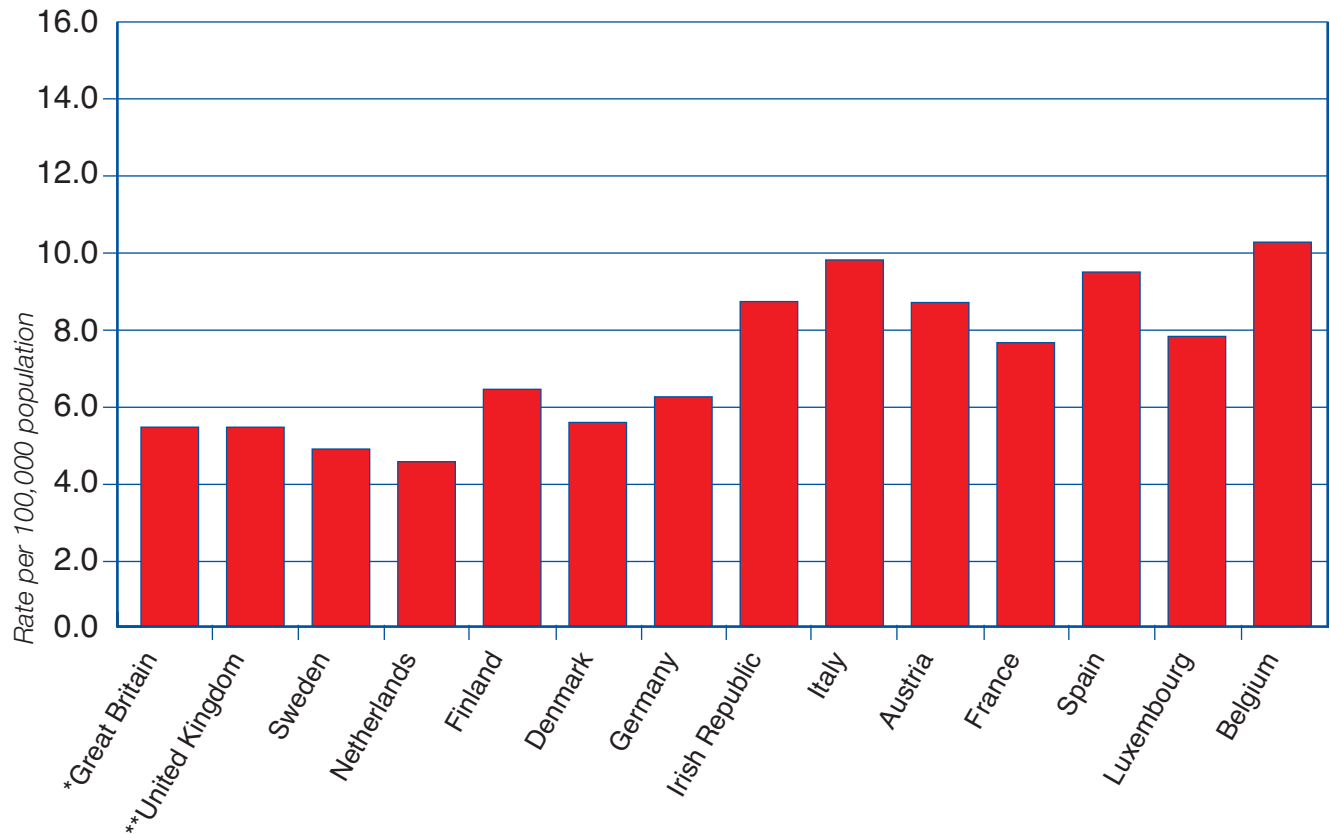
An even larger number of people get injured - some very seriously. In Great Britain, in 2007:

- **217,060 people were injured as a result of road ‘crashes’**

Except for the human suffering, which is immeasurable, road ‘crashes’ cost vast amounts to the economy (hospitals, emergency services, loss of productivity / income, etc). **In 2007, the cost of a fatal accident was estimated to be £1,876,830; those involving serious injuries £215,170 and those involving slight injuries £22,230.**

Great Britain’s overall road casualty record is one of the lowest in Europe.

**Chart 1:** EU members 2006 - Road deaths per 100,000 population



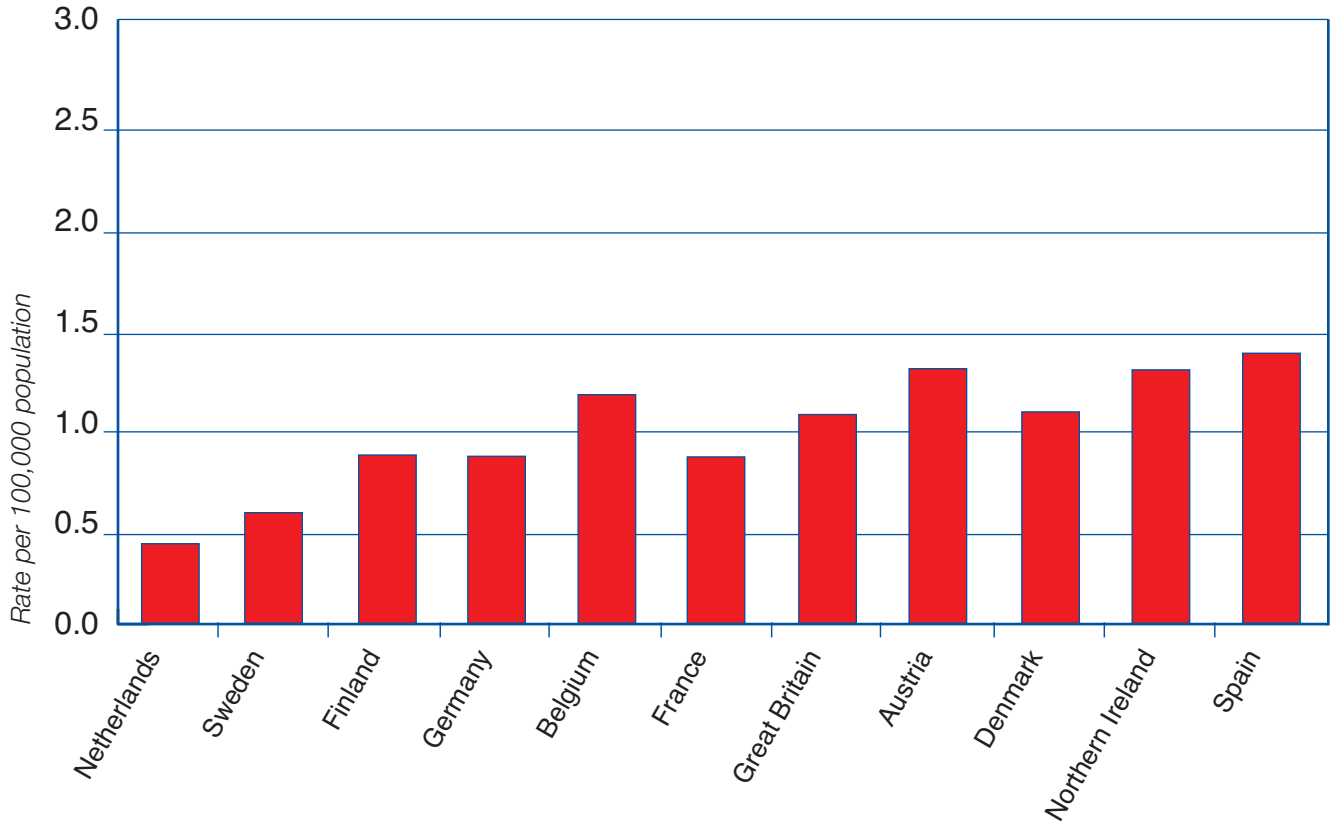
\* comprising England, Scotland and Wales

\*\* comprising England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland

Source: Road Casualties Great Britain 2007: Annual Report

However, our pedestrian safety record is not so good.

**Chart 2:** EU members 2006 – Pedestrian deaths per 100,000 population



Children are particularly vulnerable as road users. In 2007, in Great Britain:

- **57 child pedestrian (aged 0-15) were killed in road crashes**
- **9,527 child pedestrians were injured – some seriously**

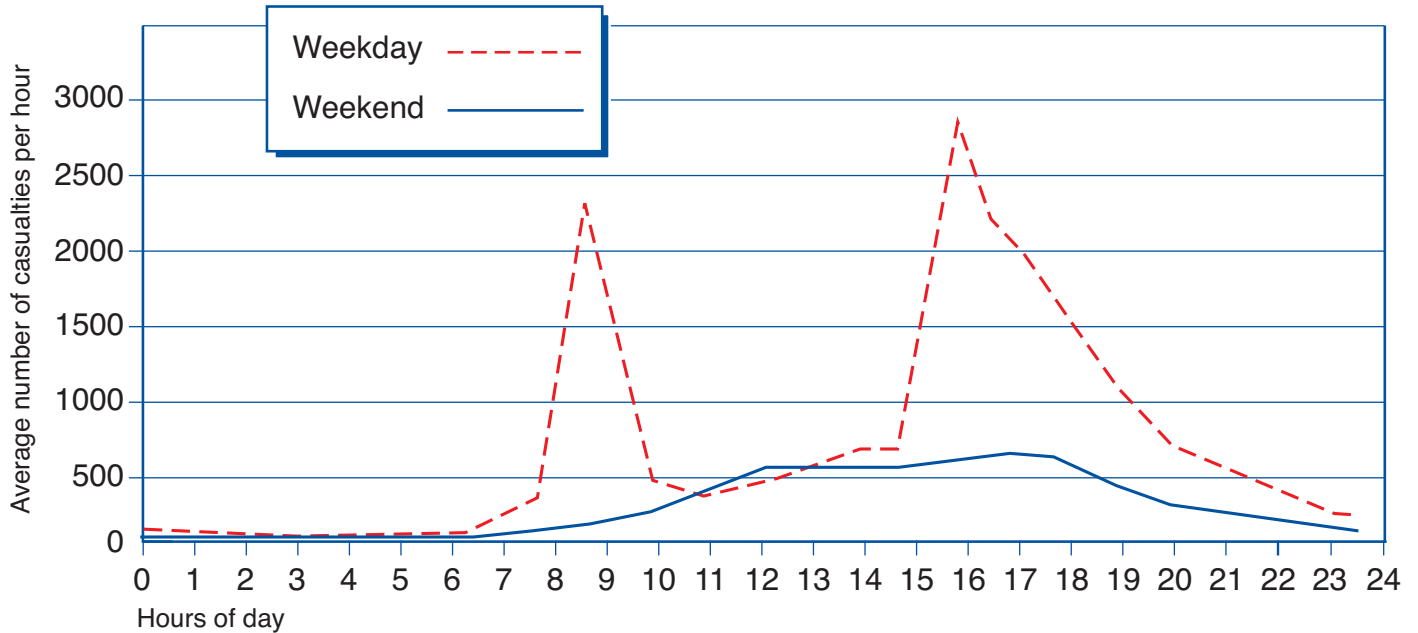
**Chart 3:** Child road deaths by sex and age group in Great Britain – 2006

Ages	Male			Female		
	0-4	5-9	10-14	0-4	5-9	10-14
Deaths from all causes	2,450	216	299	1,938	153	189
All accidental deaths	64	35	70	48	23	32
Road deaths	17	22	43	14	13	26
% of accidental deaths	27	63	61	29	57	81
% of all deaths	0.7	10.2	14.4	0.7	8.5	13.8

Source: Road Casualties Great Britain 2007: Annual Report

Road child casualties are highest during the times children go to/come from school.

**Chart 4:** Child casualty rates by hour of day and day of week in Great Britain – 2007



Road child casualties peak during the summer months when children are on school holidays and they spend more time playing outside or travelling around.

**Chart 5:** Child casualties by month, road user and severity in Great Britain – 2007

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
<b>Child pedestrians</b>												
Killed/seriously injured	138	131	205	186	179	154	181	142	150	180	149	104
All casualties	777	641	987	822	878	811	850	640	827	863	832	621
<b>Child cyclists</b>												
Killed/seriously injured	19	27	23	56	65	56	68	52	65	51	27	13
All casualties	152	138	222	420	394	406	443	384	434	326	207	107
<b>All child road users</b>												
Killed/seriously injured	219	204	280	296	308	265	304	274	268	287	229	156
All casualties	1733	1480	2029	2152	2237	2168	2303	2146	2067	2109	1862	1521

Source: Road Casualties Great Britain 2007: Annual Report



## Road Safety Definitions

### Road 'accident'

An accident that involves personal injury and occurs on a public highway (including footways) and in which at least one road vehicle is involved.

Please note:

As the word 'accident' implies something out of anybody's control, it is best to use the words 'road crashes' whenever possible. Most road 'accidents' are preventable by extra care, consideration for other road users and respect of the road rules.

### Belisha beacon

The black and white pole with a flashing amber globe light on top, which forms part of a Zebra crossing. Named after the Minister of Transport who introduced them, Mr Hore Belisha.

### Casualty

A person killed or injured in a crash. One road crash may give rise to several casualties.

### Cats' Eyes

Reflectors set into the road. These shine light back at drivers and show them where the centre or edge of the road is. These were invented after it was noticed that the eyes of a cat reflect light.

### Fluorescent

Special colours which appear to shine brightly in the day, such as yellow, which is often used for road workers' jackets.

### Goods Vehicle

A vehicle designed or made for carrying large amounts of things, rather than carrying people. These can range from vans to large lorries.

### Harness

A specially designed restraint to keep children secure in their child seats.

### Helmet

What cyclists, motorcyclists and horse riders wear to protect their head.

### Highway Code

A system of rules and regulations for all road users. The 'Highway Code' booklet covers the main topics.

### Passengers

Occupants of vehicles other than the person in control (driver or rider).

### Pedestrian

A person travelling from one place to another by walking.

### Pelican crossing

A Pedestrian Light Controlled crossing – a set of traffic lights that are there just to stop traffic and help pedestrians cross the road more safely. The lights are activated by pedestrians pressing a button at the roadside.

### **Puffin crossing**

A Pedestrian User Friendly Intelligent crossing – a more advanced version of a Pelican crossing. They have sensors which can tell how quickly you are crossing the road, and allow extra time for those moving slowly. Does not have a flashing green man/flashing amber phase, but operates like the pedestrian part of traffic lights at a road junction.

### **Reflective**

Anything which bounces light back towards its source. Reflective materials are effective at night as they reflect light from car headlights back at drivers.

### **Reflectors**

Special reflective items – usually made out of hard plastic – which bounce light back towards its source. Red reflectors are used on the back of all vehicles.

### **Road users**

A term used to include all pedestrians, vehicle riders, drivers and passengers.

### **Safer Crossing Places**

Special places to cross the road. These crossings either ‘stop’ traffic for pedestrians to cross (such as Pelican, Puffin and Zebra crossings), or ‘remove’ pedestrians from the traffic altogether (such as Subways and Footbridges).

### **Speed Limits**

The maximum permitted speeds on a given type of road – NOT safe speeds to travel at!

### **Toucan crossing**

A crossing allowing cyclists and pedestrians to use it at the same time – “Two-can” cross at the same time.

### **Traffic**

This is the word for lots of vehicles that are coming and going. A road may have “heavy traffic” (a lot of vehicles travelling on it) or light traffic (very few vehicles travelling on it). Parked vehicles are not ‘traffic’, as they are not moving.

### **Vehicle**

A machine that carries a person; it can be a machine with an engine (like a car) or a machine for which the person provides the motion (like a bicycle). Road vehicles usually have wheels (some have “caterpillar tracks” to help them move over rough ground).

### **Zebra crossing**

A pedestrian crossing named after the black and white stripes on the road and on the Belisha beacon poles that are on either side.