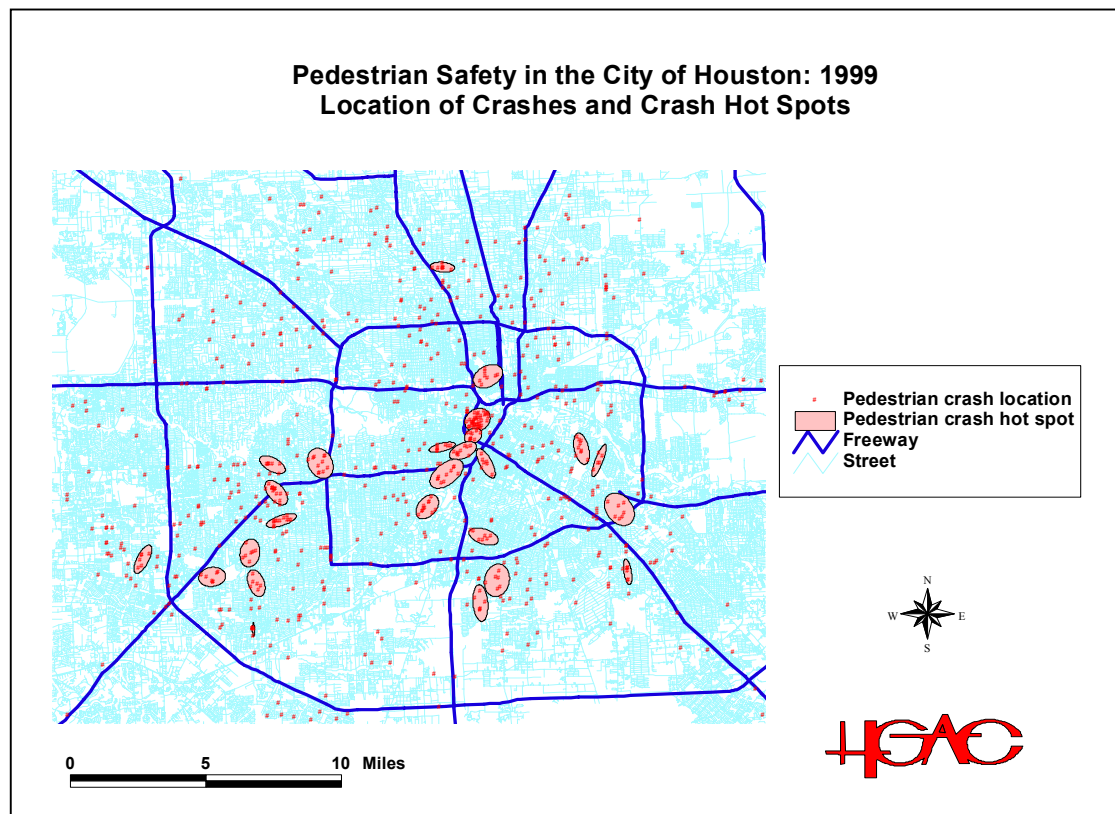


## Pedestrian Safety in the City of Houston

1. Our region has severe safety problems.
  - A. In 1999, there were 80,030 serious crashes in our eight county region (Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Montgomery, Liberty, Waller). These included crashes involving fatalities, injuries, and property damage where one or more vehicles were towed (the figure does not include typical 'fender benders' where no one is hurt and all vehicles are driven away from the scene). (Source: DPS, 1999a).
  - B. The 80,030 serious crashes represent 25.7% of the State's motor vehicle crashes that were documented in 1999.
  - C. There were more crashes in our region than in any other region in the State. Even the Dallas-Fort Worth area had fewer crashes (72,380).
  - D. In the same year, 26.1% of the State's injury crashes and 16.7% of the State's fatal crashes occurred in our region
  - E. Compared to the State as a whole, our region has a disproportionate share of crashes since the eight counties accounted for only 22% of the population and about 18.7% of the vehicle miles traveled in 1999. (Source U.S. Census Bureau, 2000a; DPS, 1999b; HGAC, 2002).
2. On a per capita basis, the likelihood of an individual living in our region being involved in a fatal or injury crash is more than double the national average (11.5 per 1000 persons compared to 5.2 per 1000 persons). (Source: NSC, 2000a; U.S. Census Bureau, 2000b).
3. Relative to vehicle miles traveled (VMT), our region is the worst in the State (source: NSC, 2000b; DPS, 1999b).
  - A. For the U.S. as a whole, there were 53.6 fatal and injury crashes per 100 million VMT in 1999.
  - B. For Texas, the rate was 80% higher than the national average - 96.5 fatal and injury crashes per 100 million VMT in 1999.
  - C. For our region, the rate was 144% higher than the national average - 130.9 fatal and injury crashes per 100 million VMT.
  - D. Within our region, Galveston and Harris counties are particular risky. The injury and fatality crashes rates are 144.5 and 143.0 per 100

million VMT respectively. These rates are about 50% higher than the statewide average.

- E. Since the City of Houston has a high proportion of all crashes within Harris County (70.0%), the City of Houston has a very high crash risk as well.<sup>1</sup>
4. Of all motor vehicle crashes, pedestrian crashes are a serious problem.
- A. In 1999, there were 1,102 pedestrian crashes in the eight counties. This was 24.2% of the State's total.
  - B. Of these pedestrian crashes, 828 occurred within the City of Houston, which alone accounted for 18.3% of the entire pedestrian crashes in the State for 1999. These included 44 fatalities and 784 injury crashes.
  - C. The pedestrian crashes tend to concentrate in certain areas. See the map below for the location of all pedestrian crashes and for concentrations of pedestrian crashes ('hot spots').



<sup>1</sup> Since the VMT for the City of Houston is not known, this couldn't be calculated.

## Sources

1. DPS (1999a). "Reported motor vehicle traffic accidents and casualties by county – calendar year 1999". Accident Records Bureau, Texas Department of Transportation, Austin.  
[http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/administration/driver\\_licensing\\_control/accident\\_records/mvta1999/21-23.pdf](http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/administration/driver_licensing_control/accident_records/mvta1999/21-23.pdf)
2. DPS (1999b). "Chart showing changes in motor vehicle traffic deaths, vehicle miles, death rates, and economic loss from 1980 through 1999". Accident Records Bureau, Texas Department of Transportation, Austin.  
[http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/administration/driver\\_licensing\\_control/accident\\_records/mvta1999/5.pdf](http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/administration/driver_licensing_control/accident_records/mvta1999/5.pdf)
3. HGAC (2002). "Travel demand estimates for 2000". Modeling group, Houston-Galveston Area Council. In-house calculation.
4. NSC (2000a). "Type of motor vehicle accident", *Injury Facts: 2000 Edition*. National Safety Council: Itasca, IL. 78.
5. NSC (2000b). "Motor vehicle: 199", *Injury Facts: 2000 Edition*. National Safety Council: Itasca, IL. 74.
6. U.S. Census Bureau (2000a). "Geographic comparison table: Population, housing units, area, and density: 2000". GCT-PH1. Summary File 1. U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce: Washington, DC.  
[http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/GCTTable?ds\\_name=DEC\\_2000\\_SF1\\_U&geo\\_id=04000US48&box\\_head\\_nbr=GCT-PH1&format=ST-2](http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/GCTTable?ds_name=DEC_2000_SF1_U&geo_id=04000US48&box_head_nbr=GCT-PH1&format=ST-2)
7. U.S. Census Bureau (2000b). "State and county quick facts". U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce: Washington, DC.  
<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/48000.html>