

Pedestrian Safety Behavior Among Teenagers

While there are many hazards that parents of teenagers face such as collision while driving, drinking alcohol, later curfews and dating, one hazard that may not seem obvious is walking. A 2012 report from Safe Kids Worldwide found that the pedestrian death rate for teenagers was twice that of younger children. In fact, teenagers between 15 and 19 years of age account for half of all pedestrian deaths among children 19 years of age and under. Distraction by mobile technologies



plays a role in these tragedies.

Safe Kids, with the support of FedEx, sought to explore the issue of distraction while walking among this at-risk population and created a study that looked at the frequency of middle and high school students crossing the street with

mobile devices. In addition, they asked students about their walking behaviors and how they perceive their safety as pedestrians. Learn more about their findings [here](#).

Walking Tips



What Can Be Done?

Based on these insights, here are four recommendations for parents and teens while walking:

1. Discuss the dangers of distraction and the importance of putting devices (cell phone, headphones, etc.) away when crossing the street.
2. Start the discussion about safely using technology when kids get their first mobile device - and keep talking about it.
3. Set a good example of what crossing the street safely looks like.
4. Be aware of others who may be distracted and speak up!

Resources: [Teens and Distraction](#)