Right-on-Red Dangers

Right-turns-on-red have always been associated with danger, despite arguments from those who claim otherwise. This is especially true when it comes to pedestrians, who are the most vulnerable in the crash.

Communities gain safer roads as drivers remember to look for pedestrians and bicyclists before turning right on red. Erratic and limited compliance with traffic signs and signals are among the contributing factors in pedestrian-vehicle crashes, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation. Studies show red-light safety cameras improve drivers’ compliance with traffic laws, minimizing the danger to pedestrians. The technology monitors intersections 24 hours a day, seven days a week, freeing up police officers to respond to other crimes.

Federal Highway Administration states that right-turn-on-red movements have a negative impact on the safety of all pedestrians, especially those with vision impairments.

Persons inside a vehicle are 10 times more likely to survive a crash than persons outside a vehicle.


Pedestrians in roadway crashes in 2012 account for nearly...

14% of all traffic fatalities and 76,000 traffic injuries each year.


Within 50 ft of an intersection every day in 2012, an average of...

x11 were killed, 76,000 were injured

At locations with right-turn-on-red allowed, **56.9% of drivers do not come to a complete stop before turning on red.**

Pedestrian fatalities increased 6.4% and pedestrian injuries rose 10% from 2011 to 2012.

Elderly and children are most at risk in pedestrian-vehicle crashes. In 2012, 22% of children ages 5-15 who were killed in traffic crashes were pedestrians. Older persons, age 65 and older, account for 20% of all pedestrian fatalities.

1 Fatal Crash can cost a community **$6 mil.** in related costs.

1 Injury Crash can cost a community **$160k** in related costs.

73% of pedestrian crashes in 2012 occurred in cities.

Red-light safety cameras change driver behavior to comply with traffic laws. Limited and erratic compliance with traffic signs, signals are among the contributing factors in pedestrian-vehicle crashes.

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