

How to reduce pedestrian fatalities: a case-by-case study to evaluate the potential of vehicle and road infrastructure interventions

Downloaded from: https://research.chalmers.se, 2025-12-05 04:16 UTC

Citation for the original published paper (version of record):

Stigson, H., Klingegård, M., Kullgren, A. (2023). How to reduce pedestrian fatalities: a case-by-case study to evaluate the potential of vehicle

and road infrastructure interventions. Traffic Safety Research, 5(Special issue).

http://dx.doi.org/10.55329/rdja1963

N.B. When citing this work, cite the original published paper.

research.chalmers.se offers the possibility of retrieving research publications produced at Chalmers University of Technology. It covers all kind of research output: articles, dissertations, conference papers, reports etc. since 2004. research.chalmers.se is administrated and maintained by Chalmers Library



How to reduce pedestrian fatalities: a case-by-case study to evaluate the potential of vehicle and road infrastructure interventions

Helena Stigson^{1,2}, Maria Klingegård^{1,3}, Anders Kullgren^{1,4}

Handling editor: Aliaksei Laureshyn, Lund University, Sweden

Reviewers: Narelle Haworth, Queensland University of Technology, Australia

Attila Borsos, Széchenyi István University, Hungary

Received: 15 November 2022; Accepted: 6 February 2023; Published: 22 February 2023

Abstract: In line with the UN's global goals on sustainability several initiatives are promoting walking. However, if effective interventions are not implemented an increased number of pedestrians will lead to more road casualties. It is important to take appropriate decisions on interventions to reach Vision Zero adopted by the Swedish Government. This study describes the characteristics of fatal crashes with pedestrians on Swedish roads and investigates the potential of different vehicle and road infrastructure interventions to save lives. The Swedish Transport Administration (STA) in-depth database of fatal crashes was used for a case-by-case investigation. Out of the 226 fatally injured pedestrians during 2011–2016 in Sweden the most common accident scenario was a vehicle hitting a pedestrian while crossing the road. Most crashes occurred in darkness on rural roads (63%), but for urban areas the majority (53%) occurred in daylight. In general, interventions related to vehicle speed were found to address a larger proportion of the studied pedestrian fatalities on urban roads compared to on rural roads, while separated pedestrian paths outside the carriageway were found to address a larger proportion on rural roads compared to on urban roads. The intervention with the largest total potential was pedestrian crossings with speed calming measures for the motor vehicles, which had the potential to address 36% of the identified fatalities. A reduced speed limit in combination with speed calming interventions had the potential to prevent 29% of the studied fatalities while separate pedestrian paths outside the carriageway had the potential to prevent approximately 15%. It was estimated that the vehicle safety technology with the highest potential was autonomous emergency braking with pedestrian detection for passenger cars. With this system available on all cars, 58% of the studied fatalities could potentially be prevented. Most (up to 93%) of the studied fatally injured pedestrians could potentially be saved with known vehicle safety and road infrastructural technologies. However, the analysis of the potential effect of interventions show that it will take a long time until the advanced and potentially effective vehicle safety technologies will be widely spread. This shows the importance of speeding up the implementation. A fast implementation of effective interventions in the road infrastructure is also necessary, preferably using a plan for prioritization. There are two main approaches of doing that, separating road user groups, or reducing vehicle speeds in areas with mixed rod user groups to survivable levels, which is recommended to be 30 km/h. There is a need to identify areas where most pedestrian accidents occur and then use the most effective interventions. The results of this study could be helpful in this process.

¹Folksam Insurance Group, Sweden

²Karolinska Institutet, Sweden

³KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden

⁴Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden

^{*}Corresponding author: maria.klingegard@folksam.se

Keywords: accident analysis, intervention, pedestrian injury, traffic safety

1 Introduction

Traffic safety is on the global agenda. Target 3.6 in the UN Sustainability Development Goals state the ambition to reduce fatalities and injuries by at least 50% by 2030 (UN, 2019). Road traffic fatalities are dominated by car occupants, but the second largest group of road user fatalities worldwide is pedestrians hit by motorised vehicles (Naci et al., 2009; WHO, In the EU, 21% of all road user fatalities are pedestrians EC (2019). It is estimated that 88% of the travels as pedestrians occur on roads that are unsafe (WHO, 2013). Several initiatives are promoting walking, e.g. in the UN's global sustainability goals. If effective countermeasures are not implemented an increased number of pedestrians will lead to an increased number of road casualties. To contribute to Target 3.6 in the Sustainability Development Goal the road infrastructure needs to be designed to be safe for pedestrians.

Sweden has successfully adopted the Vision Zero program, which is a strategic approach towards a safe road transport system whereby no one is at risk of being fatally or severely injured while using it. Since 2000 pedestrian fatalities have been reduced by 65% in Sweden (ITF, 2021). Although 25 pedestrians were killed on Swedish roads in 2020 Sweden is among the safest countries for pedestrians in the EU with 2 road fatalities per 100 000 inhabitants. To reach the ambition of Vision Zero it is important to study the remaining fatalities in depth to identify effective countermeasures.

In crashes between vehicles and pedestrians, impact speed is one of the parameters with the highest influence on risk of fatality and serious injury (Rosén et al., 2011; Rosén & Sander, 2009). To prevent serious injuries and deaths among pedestrians in areas where pedestrians and vehicles are mixed in a planned and frequent manner, a maximum speed limit of 30 km/h should be applied (Stockholm Declaration, 2020). Apart from the speed limits, the vehicle speed could be controlled and reduced by infrastructure countermeasures. Such as speed bumps and chicanes, which can successfully be used to both raise attention and to reduce speeds before entering intersections or at road sections (Agerholm et al., 2017; Lee et al., 2013; Pucher et al., 2010). Likewise, vertical or

lateral shifts in the carriageway and road narrowing to a single lane or to a reduced road width have all been shown to be effective (Harvey, 1992). For rural roads physical separation in form of separated paths for pedestrians and bicyclists and safety barriers preventing non-controlled crossing have been shown to have a large potential (Kullgren et al., 2017). Furthermore, pedestrian accidents have been reduced with one third by tunnels and footbridges (Høye, 2011). However, when introducing separated paths for pedestrians and bicyclists the number of potential conflicts also increases (Jensen Underlien, 2008). Vehicle safety technology has a large potential, for example Autonomous Emergency Breaking (AEB) with pedestrian detection has been shown to reduce pedestrian collisions with 20-25% (Kullgren et al., 2022). Especially on rural roads AEB has a large potential to avoid or mitigate crashes with pedestrians and bicyclist (Kullgren et al., 2019, 2017). There is a need for stakeholders to make appropriate decisions regarding effective interventions to protect pedestrians.

The aim with this study is to describe characteristics of fatal crashes with pedestrians on Swedish roads and to calculate the potential of different effective countermeasures to save lives. The study contributes to reach the Vision Zero goal and the UN sustainability Development Goals.

2 Method

This case-by-case study is based on the Swedish Transport Administration (STA) in-depth database of fatal within the road crashes transport system (Vägverket, 2005). The database has restricted access and consists of police reports, medical journals, autopsy reports, and witness statements. The database also includes accident analyses performed by crash investigators at STA, who systematically inspect the vehicles involved, the crash scene and the involved road users with the aim to evaluate if and how each accident could have been prevented. In total 226 fatally injured pedestrians between 2011 and 2016 were included. Suicides and natural deaths were excluded from the For each fatal crash, extracted variables include date, time, municipality, county, age, accident description, accident type, road type, accident location, crossing, speed limit measures, speed limit, line of sight, road quality, purpose of trip, traffic flow, alcohol, body region, cause of death, and vehicle type.

2.1 Descriptive analysis of pedestrian accidents

A descriptive statistical analysis including frequencies and proportions was conducted on all available variables to identify characteristics of the fatal accidents. The accident location was divided into rural and urban according to the Swedish definition. An urban area is defined as an area with houses with at least 200 inhabitants unless the distance between houses is more than 200 m. Rural area denotes a geographic area not defined as urban with low population density located outside towns and cities. The collisions were also classified and divided according to the direction of the pedestrian and the vehicle prior to the crash (Figure 1).

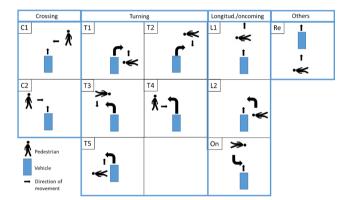


Figure 1 Classification of fatal pedestrian accident scenarios

2.2 Projected potential of countermeasures

A case-by-case analysis was performed to retrospectively determine the potentials of vehicle and infrastructure safety countermeasures. The analysis considered the entire chain of events leading to the fatal crash (Figure 2). This method has previously successfully been used on different data sets (Kullgren et al., 2019; Strandroth et al., 2016; Strandroth, 2015). The method is also used by the Swedish Transport Administration to manage the Swedish national road traffic safety work and to prioritize among future interventions aimed to achieve Vision Zero.

For each crash, estimations of the potential effects of interventions were made by studying crashes from a baseline (normal) and apply assumptions regarding the effectiveness of a specific intervention. The

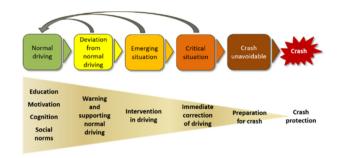


Figure 2 Overview of the chain of events leading up to a crash, from Rizzi (2016)

interventions included in the analysis are listed in Appendix A. The included interventions could be considered as independent but the combined potential of the two areas was assessed without double counting (i.e. a fatality cannot be prevented twice with different interventions).

The assumptions of the potential of the infrastructure to avoid each fatality were based on previous evaluations (Elvik & Vaa, 2004) and the design principles in Vision Zero (Johansson, 2008). The road infrastructure interventions (e.g. speed management (roundabouts, speed cameras, and speed bumps), and physical separation between vehicles and unprotected road users) were analysed and assessed depending on the road width, traffic flow and other road characteristics for each of the cases. In the analysis of future potential of road infrastructure interventions, they were assumed to be implemented immediately and thereby impacting the outcome.

The future potentials of the vehicle safety technology interventions (e.g. ESC, AEB, LDW and LKA) were based on previous evaluations (Cicchino, 2022; Kullgren et al., 2022; Cicchino, 2018; Sternlund, 2017; Cicchino, 2016; Rizzi et al., 2014; Lie et al., 2006) and analysed based on the estimated prognoses on their implementation rates in the Swedish vehicle fleet (Appendix B). The model year when a close to 100% fitment rate of each safety technology in new sold vehicles was predicted by a Swedish group of experts lead by the Swedish Transport Administration (STA) including car manufacturers and senior researchers. The implementation rate of each safety technology in new sold vehicles was based on current technology development and previous implementation rates of various safety technologies in Sweden. example implementations rates of AEB in Ydenius & Kullgren (2019). For each accident, based on the model year of the vehicles involved in the fatal crashes, it was assessed whether the vehicle would be fitted with a certain safety technology in 2030 or 2050 (Appendix B). The effects of two different implementation rates were analysed, one with an expected rate (denoted normal) and the other with a five-year faster implementation rate (denoted fast).

3 Results

3.1 Characteristics of the fatalities

Out of the 226 fatally injured pedestrians (95 women and 131 men) 86 occurred on rural roads and 140 on urban roads (Appendix C). On urban roads an equal distribution between men and women was found, while on rural roads 70% of the fatalities were men. Half of the pedestrians (51%) were 65 years or older. Fifteen were under the age of 15, where of 7 under the age of 10. In 68% the pedestrian was hit by a passenger car, in 10% by a Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) and in 8% by a Light Goods Vehicle (LGV). The distribution was similar in both rural and urban areas apart from a higher proportion of crashes involving buses in urban areas (11%) compared to rural areas (3%). In urban areas the most common accident scenario was that the pedestrian was hit while crossing the road (71%), in daylight (53%), and with a posted speed limit of 50 km/h at the location of the accident. Only 10% occurred on roads with a speed limited of 30 km/h or below. In rural areas it was more likely that the pedestrian was hit while walking along the road (53%), with the majority (63%) occurring in darkness (63%), and most often with a speed limit of 70 to 90 km/h. Most of the accidents on rural roads (71%) occurred under conditions in which a combination of light, weather, and/or sight was assessed to complicate pedestrian detection by the vehicle safety sensors. On urban roads only 47% of the accidents occurred under such conditions. In 19% of the accidents the pedestrian was partly obscured by other vehicles or objects. Regarding intoxicants, 15% of the pedestrians on urban roads were under the influence of alcohol, while the corresponding figure for rural roads was 37%. Six per cent of the drivers of the hitting cars were under the influence of alcohol.

3.2 The potential of countermeasures

It was assessed that 93% of the pedestrian fatalities could be addressed and thereby have been avoided with relevant and known interventions regarding road infrastructure, vehicle safety systems, or a combination

of the two (Table 1). It was assessed that road infrastructure interventions could have prevented 67% of the pedestrian fatalities and vehicle-related intervention could have prevented 80%. percent of the pedestrian fatalities on rural roads and 66% on urban roads would potentially have been prevented if relevant vehicle safety systems had been implemented in the whole vehicle fleet. For 11 (5%) of the fatalities, no known intervention could address the fatal accident (3 on rural and 8 on urban roads). Of these 11, two were hit by a motorcycle, one by a bicycle, one by a large truck, one by a bus, one by a construction vehicle, one by an unknown vehicle and four were hit by a passenger car. Among these four, one driver was under the influence of drugs and without a driving license, one was sitting on the hood of a car, one was run over by an MPV, and one was hit on a 2+1 road with the speed limit of 100 km/h.

 Table 1 Overview of possible interventions to prevent fatalities

	Rural roads	Urban roads	Total
	(n = 86)	(n = 140)	(n = 226)
Road infrastructure	60 (70%)	92 (66%)	152 (67%)
Vehicle	65 (76%)	117 (84%)	181 (80%)
Total addressed	78 (91%)	130 (93%)	210 (93%)
No intervention identified	3 (3%)	8 (6%)	11 (5%)

3.3 Interventions related to the road infrastructure

In general, infrastructural interventions related to speed were found to address a larger proportion of fatal accidents on urban roads compared to rural roads, while separated pedestrian paths outside the carriageway were found to address a larger proportion on rural roads compared to urban roads (see Table 2). The intervention with the largest total potential was pedestrian crossings with speed calming measures for the motor vehicles to ensure a vehicle speed below 30 km/h, which had the potential to address 49% the fatalities on urban roads and 15% on rural roads (in total 36% of the fatalities). A reduced speed limit to 30 km/h in combination with speed calming interventions had the potential to prevent 44% of the fatalities on urban road, while only 5% on rural roads (in total 29% of the fatalities). Separate pedestrian paths outside the

Table 2 Potentials of infrastructure interventions to prevent pedestrian fatalities

Intervention	Rural	Urban	Total
Crossing with speed calming measures	13 (15%)	68 (49%)	81 (36%)
Other speed calming measures, such as speed bumps and chicanes	16 (18%)	60 (43%)	74 (33%)
Changed speed limit (including speed calming measures)	4 (5%)	61 (44%)	65 (29%)
Separate path for VRUs outside the road	30 (35%)	5 (4%)	35 (15%)
Barrier for pedestrians	9 (10%)	15 (11%)	24 (11%)
Other interventions grouped	16 (18%)	7 (5%)	20 (8%)
Tunnel or bridge	7 (8%)	10 (7%)	17 (8%)
Roundabout	4 (5%)	11 (8%)	15 (7%)
Path for VRU on existing road	8 (9%)	4 (3%)	12 (5%)
TOTAL (without double counting)	60 (70%)	92 (66%)	152 (67%)

carriageway had the potential to prevent approximately 35% of fatalities on rural roads and 17% on urban roads (in total 15% of the fatalities), see Table 2.

3.4 Interventions related to the vehicles

It was estimated that the vehicle safety technology with the highest potential was AEB with pedestrian detection for passenger cars (Table 3). With this system available, 63% of the fatalities on urban roads and 50% of those on rural roads could potentially be prevented. Furthermore, autonomous emergency steering system (AES) with detection of pedestrians was found to have potential to prevent 21% of the fatalities on urban roads and 57% on rural roads. Furthermore, it was assessed that especially on urban roads AEB reverse, back cameras/sensors, and side radars for heavy vehicles (trucks and buses) have the potential to prevent 11% and 9% of the fatalities on urban and rural roads respectively. However, it should be noted that no projections related to the implementation rate of these systems were made in this study.

3.5 Future potential of interventions

The full potential of vehicle interventions was estimated to occur far in the future (in 2050), assuming expected implementation rates (Figure 2). In 2030, between 90% and 95% of the accident population would not be addressed by the estimated improvements of the vehicle fleet according to the estimates made. An increased implementation rate (5 years faster) would mean an additional 79 saved lives on urban roads and 44 on rural roads during a 30-year period compared to the expected implementation rate (Figure 2). Expected and increased implementation rates for the various vehicle

safety systems are presented in Appendix A.

4 Discussion

With the method used in this study it could be assessed that as many as 93% of the studied pedestrian fatalities could have been saved on Swedish roads by relevant interventions in the road infrastructure, the vehicle safety systems, or by a combination Improving traffic safety means large of the two. especially for changes of the road investments, The findings of this study provide infrastructure. road authorities and vehicle manufacturers with important recommendations for future priorities to reduce pedestrian fatalities more effectively and to assist them in fulfilling the Vision Zero and the UN global goals on sustainability (UN, 2019).

4.1 The impact of road infrastructure countermeasure

Regarding road infrastructure, two main approaches for controlling crash severity were identified; either to keep the relative velocity between road users within acceptable levels or to separate road user groups from This study shows that infrastructural each other. interventions related to the speed were found to address a large proportion of fatal accidents on urban roads, while separated pedestrian paths outside the carriageway were found to address a large proportion on rural roads. Only 10% of the fatal accidents occurred in areas with a speed limit of 30 km/h or below. A lower speed entails a higher possibility to ensure sufficient time to be able to detect a pedestrian, which means a lower risk of fatal injury (Rosén & Sander, 2009). According to recommendation #8 in 'Saving

Table 3 Potentials of vehicle interventions to prevent pedestrian fatalities

Intervention	Rural	Urban	Total
AEB pedestrian	43 (50%)	88 (63%)	131 (58%)
AES pedestrian	49 (57%)	30 (21%)	79 (35%)
Combinations of systems (majority AEB+AES)	32 (37%)	20 (14%)	52 (23%)
AEB reverse/back camera/back sensors	2 (2%)	16 (11%)	18 (8%)
Side radar HGV and bus	1 (1%)	12 (9%)	13 (6%)
Alcolock	6 (7%)	3 (2%)	9 (4%)
Pedestrian airbag	0 (0%)	7 (5%)	7 (3%)
Run-over protection on buses	0 (0%)	5 (4%)	5 (2%)
Other vehicle systems (AEB city, AEB crossing, LDW, LKA, ELK, ESC, etc.)	10 (12%)	6 (4%)	16 (7%)
At least 12 p in Euro NCAP pedestrian test	0 (0%)	4 (3%)	4 (2%)
TOTAL (without double counting)	65 (76%)	117 (84%)	181 (80%)

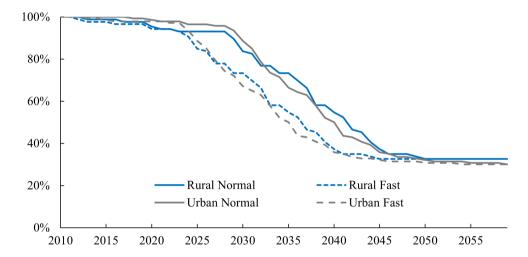


Figure 3 Estimates of saved pedestrian fatalities on rural and urban roads as an effect of the implementation of vehicle safety technologies listed in Appendix A. Dotted lines represent five-year faster implementation rates (denoted fast) and solid lines represent expected implementation rates (denoted normal).

Lives Beyond 2020: The Next Steps' as well as the recommendations based on Vision Zero, the vehicle speed should be limited to 30 km/h in areas where pedestrians and vehicle co-exist (Stigson & Kullgren, 2010; STA, 2019). Several cities in Europe (e.g. Paris, Bilbao, and Brussels) have implemented 30 km/h and it will be very interesting to follow the consequences of these implementations. The present study also shows that many fatalities occurred in crossings, highlighting the need for controlling and reducing the speed in crossings or to implement level crossings. Previous studies have shown that for example speed bumps are effective (Agerholm et al., 2017; Lee et al., 2013; Pucher et al., 2010; Naci et al., 2009). In the present study no accidents occurred on a road with speed reducing interventions. It was also identified that the intervention with the largest total preventive potential was pedestrian crossings with speed calming measures for the motor vehicles. Several studies have shown that there is an increased risk for serious and fatal injury for pedestrians above 60 years age (Rosén et al., 2011; Stigson & Kullgren, 2010). The result from this study show that half of the pedestrian fatalities were above 65 years age. Both the road network and the road environment need to be designed to ensure the safety for this age category. To Achieving equality in the transportation systems is also recognized in the UN sustainability goals. Another risk group identified was pedestrians 18 years or younger in or on their way to school (22 of the 226). The public and private sectors have an important role to increase their safety and this role is highlighted in recommendation #4 in 'Saving Lives Beyond 2020: The Next Steps', in which they are suggested to ensure that children have a safe road environment that enables them to walk and ride a bicycle.

4.2 The impact of vehicle safety technology countermeasures

In addition to changes in the road infrastructure, improvements of the vehicle fleet to protect pedestrians will be very important. Recent studies show that existing AEB aimed for pedestrians only has a 20-25% crash reduction, and no reduction in darkness (Cicchino, 2022; Kullgren et al., 2022). It is in the present study assumed that AEB for vulnerable road will have a large positive effect for avoiding or mitigating pedestrian fatalities. With this system available, 63% of the pedestrian fatalities on urban roads and 50% of those on rural roads could potentially be prevented. However, it was identified that the full potential for vehicle interventions would not occur until many years ahead, not until 2050 with the current expected implementation rates of vehicle safety technologies. In Sweden the average lifetime of vehicles is approximately 18 years, that entails a slow implementation rate. In this study the average age of the vehicles in collision with pedestrians was approximately 10 years. Actions aimed to speed up the implementation rate are required to reach the 2030 sustainability goals. Vehicle procurement policies can be an effective tool to increase the implementation rate. It was estimated that in 2021, 58% of all new vehicles in Sweden were purchased by a business in private or public sector. A recent study shows that it is more common to include environmental requirements than safety requirements in procurement policies (Klingegard et al., 2022).

It was found that most of the accidents on rural roads (71%) and about half on urban roads (47%) occurred under conditions in which a combination of light, weather, and/or sight distance would complicate the detection of the pedestrian by the vehicle safety sensors. In approximately one out of five accidents (19%) the pedestrian was partly obscured by other vehicles or objects, which highlights current design challenges for AEB systems. Since 2018 Euro NCAPs test protocol cover tests of AEB in darkness and with an obscured view. However, studies of real-world pedestrian collisions clearly show that the AEB systems need to be improved, especially in darkness (Cicchino, 2022; Kullgren et al., 2022). With the current performance of pedestrian AEB many of the accidents would be difficult to mitigate.

4.3 Methodological considerations

For each accident, predictions were made whether the accident would lead to a fatality if it occurred in 2030 or 2050. The predictive methodology has successfully been used in previous studies (Kullgren et al., 2017; Strandroth et al., 2012). Fatal accidents that were estimated to be avoided by 2030 or 2050 were removed from the accident sample for the next step, thus providing a population of future crashes that will require further actions. However, there are some limitations with this method.

The study included all fatal crashes with pedestrians in Sweden that occurred during the sampling period (except suicides). The study does not cover serious injuries. Further research should be performed regarding the protection of pedestrians sustaining serious injuries. Preventive interventions aimed for serious injury could differ from those aimed for fatalities. It could also be the case that an avoided fatality will lead to a serious injury. This should also be studied further.

If each fatally injured pedestrian, especially older ones, could have used other transport modes was not considered. Each pedestrian was assumed to still be a pedestrian. Also, the age of the pedestrian was not considered as a factor in the analysis (e.g., there may be a difference in effectiveness of interventions dependent on age group (children vs. adults).

Moreover, the method does not account for the influence of changes of post-crash interventions, such as rescue, hospital care, and rehabilitation on fatality outcomes. It was assumed that rescue, emergency care and rehabilitation would have the same standard in Sweden during the analysis period. Furthermore, it is difficult to account for future trends which may impact the prognoses made in this study. For instance, it is predicted that geo-fencing could have large impact but there is no data so far that can be used to account for the effect of this technology. Other measures such as pedestrian use of reflective material (Lahrmann et al., 2018) and use of illuminated crossings (Høye & Elvik, 2012) have not been included as it to date is difficult to estimate their effects. In the analysis of the future potential, it was assumed that changes to the infrastructure was introduced immediately because implementations rates could not be assessed for these interventions. However, the implementation of these will take long time. And it should be noted that a systematic implementation of the analysed countermeasures of the whole road network is necessary to achieve the safety potentials shown in the present paper.

While the material used was fully representative for Swedish conditions, in such retrospective studies it may be difficult to consider the possible behavioural adaption that could follow the implementation of certain countermeasures. The results apply to Swedish conditions as is based on the current infrastructure and vehicle fleet in Sweden and also the expected developments in Sweden. For example, differences in implementation rates within European countries have been seen. However, recent EU directives have made the differences smaller over the years. One should therefore be careful to generalize the results and proposed interventions to other countries.

5 Conclusions

Most (up to 93%) of the studied fatally injured pedestrians could potentially be saved with the implementation of known vehicle safety systems and changes of the road infrastructure known to be able to address the fatal accidents studied. the analysis of the potential effect show that it will take a long time until the advanced and potentially effective vehicle safety technologies will be widely This shows the importance of speeding spread. up the implementation rate. A fast introduction of effective interventions in the road infrastructure is also necessary, preferably using a plan for prioritization. There are two main approaches of doing that, separating road user groups, or reducing vehicle speeds in areas with mixed road user groups to survivable levels, which is recommended to be 30 km/h. There is a need to identify areas where most pedestrian accidents occur and then use the most effective interventions. results of this study could be helpful in this process.

CRediT contribution statement

Helena Stigson: Conceptualization, Validation, Writing—original draft. **Maria Klingegård:** Formal analysis, Writing—original draft, Writing—review & editing. **Anders Kullgren:** Conceptualization, Formal analysis, Writing—original draft, Validtion, Writing—review & editing.

Declaration of competing interests

The authors report no competing interests.

Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank the Swedish Transport Administration for the access to their in-depth fatal accident database.

References

- Agerholm, N., D. Knudsen, K. Variyeswaran (2017), 'Speed-calming measures and their effect on driving speed - Test of a new technique measuring speeds based on GNSS data', *Transportation Research Part F: Traffic Psychology and Behaviour*, 46, 263–270, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.trf.2016.06.022.
- Cicchino, C. (2016), 'Effectiveness of Forward Collision Warning Systems with and without Autonomous Emergency Braking in Reducing Police-Reported Crash Rates', *Accident Analysis & Prevention*, 99, 142–152, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aap.2016.11.009.
- Cicchino, J. (2022), 'Effects of automatic emergency braking systems on pedestrian crash risk', *Accident Analysis & Prevention*, 172, 106686, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aap.2022.106686.
- Cicchino, J. B. (2018), 'Effects of lane departure warning on police-reported crash rates', *Journal of Safety Research*, 66, 61–70, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jsr.2018.05.006.
- EC (2019), '2019 road safety statistics: what is behind the figures?', European Commission, https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/QANDA_20_1004, accessed 2022-10-10.
- Elvik, R., T. Vaa (2004), *The Handbook of Road Safety Measures* (Oxford, UK: Elsevier).
- Harvey, T. (1992), 'A Review of Current Traffic Calming Techniques', Institute of Transport Studies, University of Leeds, http://www.its.leeds.ac.uk/projects/primavera/p_calming.html.
- Høye, A. (2011), '1.1 Infrastrukturtiltak for syklister [Infrastructure measures for cyclists]', in Høye, A., & Elvik, R. (eds), *Trafikksikkerhetshåndboken [Handbook of Road Safety Measures]* (Oslo, Norway: Institute of Transport Economics), https://www.tshandbok.no/del-2/1-vegutforming-og-vegutstyr/doc617/?highlight=Infrastrukturtiltak%20for%20syklister.
- Høye, A., R. Elvik (2012), Trafikksikkerhetshåndboken [Handbook of Road Safety Measures] (Oslo, Norway: Institute of Transport Economics), https://www.tshandbok.no/info/about-the-handbook-of-road-safety-measures/.
- ITF (2021), 'Road safety report: Sweden', International Transport Forum, https://www.itf-oecd.org/sites/default/files/sweden-road-safety.pdf.
- Jensen Underlien, S. (2008), 'Bicycle Tracks and Lanes: a Before-After Study', TRB 87th Annual Meeting,

- Washington DC, USA., 13-17 January 2008.
- Johansson, R. (2008), 'Vision Zero Implementing a policy for traffic safety', *Safety Science*, 47, 826–831, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssci.2008.10.023.
- Klingegard, M., H. Jarlegard, L. Bastien, A. Kullgren (2022), 'Styrdokument som verktyg f\u00f6r att \u00f6ka trafiks\u00e4kerheten [Governing documents as a tool to increase traffic safety]', VTI Transportforum, Link\u00f6ping, Sweden, 16–17 June 2022, https://vti.diva-portal.org/ smash/get/diva2:1655636/FULLTEXT01.pdf.
- Kullgren, A., K. Amin, C. Tingvall (2022), 'Effects on crash risk of automatic emergency braking systems for pedestrians and bicyclists', *Traffic Injury Prevention*, in press.
- Kullgren, A., M. Rizzi, H. Stigson, A. Ydenius, J. Strandroth (2017), 'The potential of vehicle and road infrastructure interventions in fatal pedestrian and bicyclist accidents on Swedish rural roads: What can in-depth studies tell us?', *International Technical Conference on the Enhanced Safety of Vehicles*, Detroit, MI, USA, 5–8 June 2017, https://www-esv.nhtsa.dot.gov/Proceedings/25/25ESV-000284.pdf.
- Kullgren, A., H. Stigson, A. Ydenius, A. Axelsson, E. Engström, M. Rizzi (2019), 'The potential of vehicle and road infrastructure interventions in fatal bicyclist accidents on Swedish roads: What can in-depth studies tell us?', *Traffic Injury Prevention*, 20(sup1), S7–S12, https://doi.org/10.1080/15389588.2019.1610171.
- Lahrmann, L., T. K. O. Madsen, A. Vingaard Olesen, J. Overgaard Madsen, T. Hels (2018), 'The effect of a yellow bicycle jacket on cyclist accidents', *Safety Science*, 108, 209–217, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssci. 2017.08.001.
- Lee, G., S. Joo, C. Oh, K. Choi (2013), 'An evaluation framework for traffic calming measures in residential areas', *Transportation Research Part D: Transport and Environment*, 25, 68–76, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.trd. 2013.08.002.
- Lie, A., C. Tingvall, M. Krafft, A. Kullgren (2006), 'The effectiveness of electronic stability control (ESC) in reducing real life crashes and injuries', *Traffic Injury Prevention*, 7(1), 38–43, https://doi.org/10.1080/15389580500346838.
- Naci, H., D. Chisholm, T. D. Baker (2009), 'Distribution of road traffic deaths by road user group: a global comparison', *Injury Prevention*, 15(1), 55–64, https://doi.org/10.1136/ip.2008.018721.
- Pucher, J., J. Dill, S. Handy (2010), 'Infrastructure, programs, and policies to increase bicycling: An international review', *Preventive Medicine*, 50(Supplement), S106–S125, https://doi.org/10.1016/j. ypmed.2009.07.028.
- Rizzi, M. (2016), 'Towards a Safe System Approach to Prevent Health Loss among Motorcyclists: The Importance of Motorcycle Stability as a Condition for Integrated Safety', PhD thesis, Chalmers University of Technology, Gothenburg, Sweden, ISBN 978-91-7597-

- 376-0.
- Rizzi, M., A. Kullgren, C. Tingvall (2014), 'Injury crash reduction of low-speed Autonomous Emergency Braking (AEB) on passenger cars', *International Research Council on the Biomechanics of Injury (IRCOBI) conference*, Berlin, Germany, 10–12 September 2014, paper IRC-14-73, http://www.ircobi.org/wordpress/downloads/irc14/pdf files/73.pdf.
- Rosén, E., U. Sander (2009), 'Pedestrian fatality risk as a function of car impact speed', *Accident Analysis & Prevention*, 41(3), 536–542, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aap.2009.02.002.
- Rosén, E., H. Stigson, U. Sander (2011), 'Literature review of pedestrian fatality risk as a function of car impact speed', *Accident Analysis & Prevention*, 43(1), 25–33, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aap.2010.04.003.
- STA (2019), 'Saving Lives Beyond 2020: The Next Steps. Recommendations of the Academic Expert Group for the 3rd Ministerial Conference on Global Road Safety', Swedish Transport Administration, https://www.roadsafetysweden.com/contentassets/c65bb9192abb44d5b26b633e70e0be2c/200113_final-report-single.pdf.
- Sternlund, S. (2017), 'The safety potential of lane departure warning systems-A descriptive real-world study of fatal lane departure passenger car crashes in Sweden', *Traffic Injury Prevention*, 18(sup1), S18–S23, https://doi.org/10.1080/15389588.2017.1313413.
- Stigson, H., A. Kullgren (2010), 'Fotgängares risk i trafiken-Analys av tidigare forskningsrön', Karolinska Institutet, Institutionen för folkhälsovetenskap, Avdelningen för interventions- och implementeringsforskning.
- Stockholm_Declaration (2020), 'Stockholm Declaration on Road Safety', 3rd Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety, Stockholm, Sweden, 19–20 February 2020, https://www.government.se/492199/contentassets/2b0b907242fc407da58757bf2b70370e/stockholm-declaration-english.pdf.
- Strandroth, J. (2015), 'Identifying the Potential of Combined Road Safety Interventions: A Method to Evaluate Future Effects of Integrated Road and Vehicle Safety Technologies', PhD thesis, Chalmers University of Technology, Gothenburg, Sweden, ISBN 978-91-7597-143-8.
- Strandroth, J., P. Nilsson, S. Sterlund (2016), 'Characteristics of future crashes in Sweden - identifying road safety challenges in 2020 and 2030', International Research Council on the Biomechanics of Injury (IRCOBI) conference, Malaga, Spain, 14–16 September 2016, paper IRC-16-15, http://www.ircobi.org/wordpress/downloads/irc16/pdf-files/15.pdf.
- Strandroth, J., S. Sternlund, C. Tingvall, R. Johansson, M. Rizzi, A. Kullgren (2012), 'A new method to evaluate future impact of vehicle safety technology in Sweden', *Stapp Car Crash Journal*, 56, 497–509, https://doi.org/10.4271/2012-22-0015.

UN (2019), 'The global suistanable report development report 2019. The future is now: Science for achieving sustainable development', United Nations, https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/24797GSDR_report_2019.pdf.

Vägverket (2005), 'In-depth studies of fatal accidents save lives', Swedish Road Administration, https://trafikverket.ineko.se/Files/sv-SE/10293/RelatedFiles/88654_in_depth_studies_of_fatal_accidents_save_lives.pdf.

WHO (2013), 'Pedestrain safety: a road safety manual for decision-makers and practitioners', World Health Organization, https://apps.who.int/iris/rest/bitstreams/279316/retrieve.

WHO (2018), 'Global Status Report on Road Safety', World Health Organization, https://apps.who.int/iris/rest/bitstreams/1164010/retrieve.

Ydenius, A., A. Kullgren (2019), 'Guideline for a Vehicle Purchase Policy Aiming at a Safe and Sustainable Vehicle Fleet', 26th International Technical Conference on The Enhanced Safety of Vehicles, Eindhoven, the Netherlands, 10–13 June 2019, https://www-esv.nhtsa.dot.gov/Proceedings/26/26ESV-000290.pdf.



Anders Kullgren has been working as a traffic safety researcher at Folksam since 1988 and since 1995 as head of the research department. Since 2011 he also has a position as an adjunct professor at Chalmers

University of Technology (20%). The research is primarily based on real-world crash data, including crashworthiness analyses of cars and effectiveness studies of various safety technologies.



All contents are licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.

About the authors



Helena Stigson is a researcher at Folksam Insurance Group and has a PhD at Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm, Sweden. She is an associate professor at the vehicle safety division at Chalmers

University of Technology in Gothenburg. Her research area is mainly analysis of real-world crashes with a special focus on injury prevention for bicyclists and pedestrians.



Maria Klingegård is a researcher at Folksam Insurance Group and has a PhD in information technology from Örebro University. She is associate to the Integrated Transport Research Lab, KTH, Sweden. Maria

performs research in the intersection between human and technology and investigates its effect on traffic safety.

A List of interventions considered

Category	Countermeasure
Infrastructure	Separated pedestrian and bicycle paths within the existing road width, for example within the paved road shoulder
	Separated new pedestrian and bicycle paths
	Other road designs such as 2-1 roads or shared space
	Pedestrian barriers (e.g. fences at highways)
	Rumble strips
	Roundabouts
	Pedestrian and bicyclist crossings with speed calming measures (e.g. raised crossings) Changed speed limit
	Other speed calming measures (e.g. speed bumps or chicanes forcing the vehicles to reduce speed)
	Improved winter road maintenance
	Safe bus stops
Vehicle	Electronic Stability Control (ESC)
	Antilock brakes (ABS) for two-wheelers (incl. bicycles)
	AEB (Autonomous Emergency Braking) low-speed rear-end (up to 50 km/h)
	AEB with pedestrian and bicyclist detection
	AEB reversing with pedestrian and bicyclist detection
	AEB at intersections
	AEB interurban rear-end
	Lane Departure Warning (LDW) - Lane Keeping Assist (LKA)
	Autonomous Emergency Steering (AES), warns and steers automatically maximum 1 m aside (when there is space) to avoid collisions
	Side radar for HGVs and buses
	Alcohol interlock systems

B Estimated implementation rates for the assessed vehicle system

Vehicle type	System	Impleme	Implementation rate	
		Fast 100% fitment by MY	Normal 100% fitment by MY	
Passenger car	ESC	2008	2008	
	AEB city	2020	2020	
	AEB VRU	2025	2030	
	AEB reverse	2025	2030	
	AEB intersection	2025	2030	
	LDW - LKA	2025	2030	
	AES VRU	2025	2030	
	Alcohol interlock system	-	-	
HGV	ESC	2020	2020	
	AEB City	2016	2016	
	AEB VRU	-	-	
	LDW - LKA	2016	2016	
	Side radar	-	-	
LGV	AEB VRU	-	-	
	AES VRU	-	-	
Powered two-wheeler	ABS	2016	2016	
Bus	AEB VRU	-	-	
	AES VRU	-	-	
	LDW - LKA	-	-	
	Side radar	-	-	
	Alcohol interlock system	-	-	

C Characteristics of the fatal pedestrian accidents

	Rural roads	Urban roads	Total
	(n = 86)	(n = 140)	(n = 226)
Gender related, female male			
Proportion of fatalities	30% 70%	30% 70%	30% 70%
Mean age	59 51	64 62	53 63
Body regions injured			
Head	64%	66%	64%
Thorax	18%	18%	19%
Neck	7%	2%	4%
Other	10%	13%	12%
Influence of alcohol/drugs			
Pedestrian	37%	16%	24%
Vehicle driver	7%	5%	6%
Lighting condition			
Daylight	33%	53%	45%
Darkness	63%	39%	48%
Twilight (dusk/dawn)	3%	8%	6%
Unknown	1%	0%	0%
Accident type			
Vehicle reversing	3%	11%	8%
Crossing, pedestrian from right (C1)	14%	38%	29%
Crossing, pedestrian from left (C2)	23%	22%	23%
Longitudinal, pedestrian hit from behind (L1)	42%	9%	21%
Longitudinal, pedestrian turning left (L2)	1%	1%	1%
Vehicle turning (T1, T2, T3, T4, T5)	1%	11%	8%
Oncoming, pedestrian turning left (On)	7%	1%	3%
Remaining/unknown	2%	4%	4%
Accident location			
Carriageway	74%	41%	54%
Shoulder/paved shoulder	14%	2%	7%
Pedestrian crossing	2%	38%	24%
Crossing	3%	4%	4%
Roadside area (e.g. parking space)	2%	4%	3%
Path for VRU on existing road	-	1%	1%
Sidewalk	-	7%	4%
Unknown/other	1%	3%	2%
Distribution of fatalities per vehicle type			
Passenger car	71%	66%	68%
HGV	10%	10%	10%
LGV	10%	7%	8%
Bus	3%	11%	8%
Other vehicles	6%	6%	6%