

## Vision Zero Goal

In 2023, Mayor Ben Walsh committed to a goal to achieve **zero** deaths or serious injuries from traffic fatalities in Syracuse. Syracuse's goal recognizes what professionals in states, cities, and countries have concluded: serious crashes are preventable, therefore, zero is our only acceptable goal.

## How is Vision Zero Different?

### Leadership and commitment:

Vision Zero is a holistic approach with support and leadership from the highest political offices underpinned by authentic and equitable engagement and partnerships

### Safe roadways and speeds:

Vision Zero focuses on the upstream causes of severe crashes, especially the built environment, and the factor that makes the biggest difference whether someone lives or dies in a crash: vehicle speeds

### Data, transparency, and accountability:

Vision Zero focuses on prioritizing resources where they make the most impact, consistently evaluating our work, changing what's not working, and sticking to our commitments

### Addressing disparities:

Vision Zero is rooted in public health and equity, recognizing that the burden of deaths and serious injuries from crashes are not borne equally and thus we must focus on working with and for those most impacted

## What are the Basic Principles of Vision Zero?

### Death and Serious Injuries are Unacceptable

We can and we must design a system where tragedies don't happen. Our primary focus should be on severe crashes.

### Redundancy is Crucial

We need all parts of the system to be strengthened so that if one part fails, others still protect people.

### Humans Make Mistakes

We can't expect perfect behavior. Our system should anticipate mistakes and mitigate the chance of death when they occur.



### Safety is Proactive

We should use tools that identify and address issues in our system, rather than waiting for severe crashes to occur and react after.

### Humans Are Vulnerable

Our bodies have physical limits for tolerating crash forces, the design of our system should accommodate these human vulnerabilities.

### Responsibility is Shared

We all (government leaders, engineers, planners, industry, researchers, the public) have a responsibility to prevent fatalities and serious injuries on our roadways.

## What is the Vision Zero Action Plan?

The Vision Zero Action plan is the road map for the City of Syracuse to get to zero traffic fatalities and serious injuries.

The Vision Zero Syracuse Action Plan will be organized around four goals to organize and implement an effective response to the most pressing traffic safety challenges facing Syracuse. For each goal we will develop strategies that are backed up by actions assigned to City departments and partners.

## Action Plan Goals

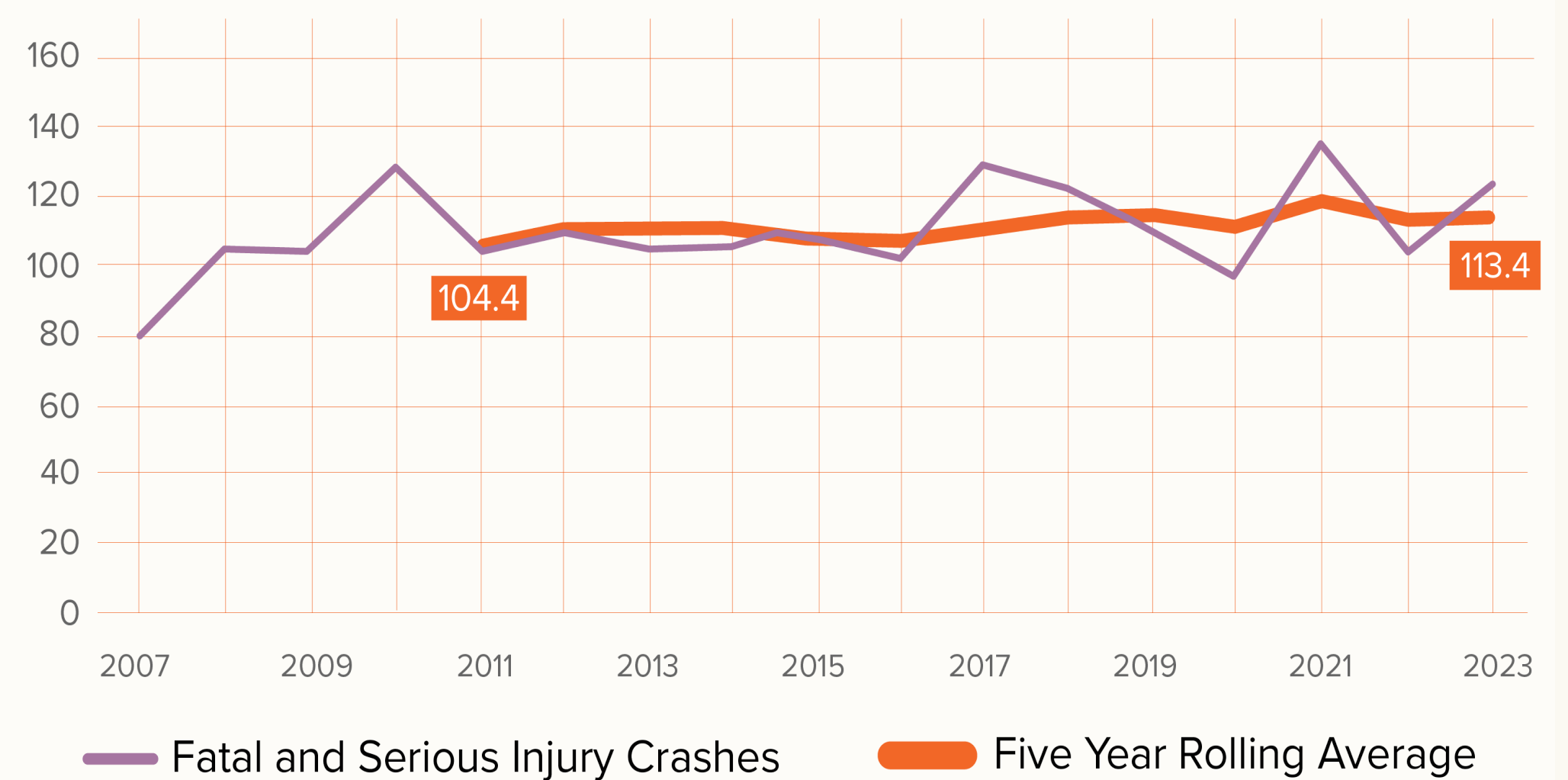
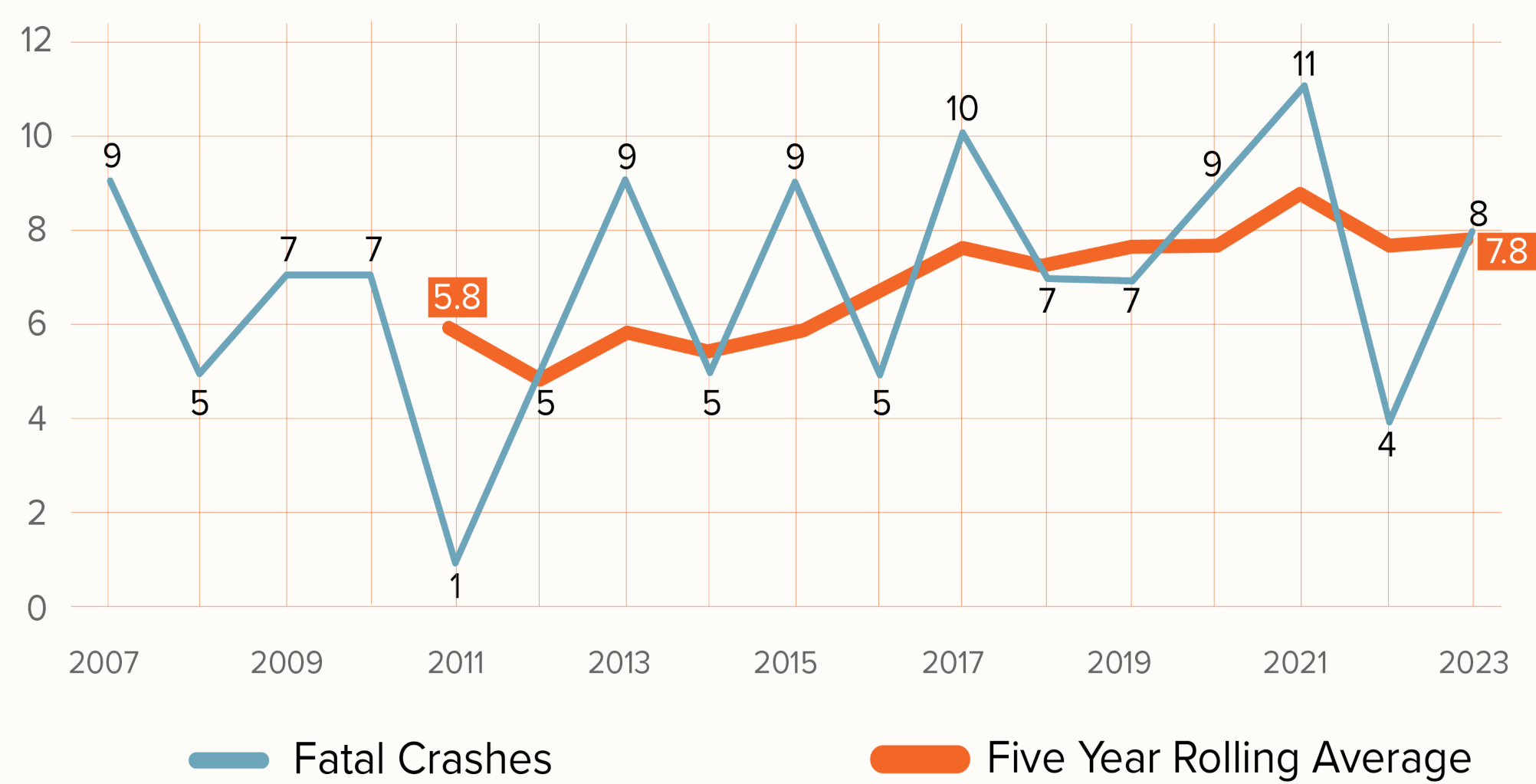
- **Slow Vehicle Speeds** so that when crashes occur, they don't result in tragedy
- **Design Safe Streets for People Walking, Rolling, and Biking** because when our streets are safe for people outside of vehicles, they're safer and more vibrant for everyone
- **Promote a Culture of Safety** by addressing the causes of hazardous behaviors and cultivating and deepening partnerships, especially with those most affected by traffic violence
- **Commit Resources Equitably** so that everyone benefits from safe, connected, affordable, sustainable, and convenient travel options



## Vision Zero Action Plan Timeline



## Why Do We Need a Vision Zero Action Plan?



Source: NYSDOT 2007-2023, analyzed by Sam Schwartz

**Fatal crashes are rising in Syracuse**, with 7.8 occurring on average over the last five years. The five-year annual average **increased 34%** from 2007-2011 to 2019-2023.

Total crashes resulting in deaths or serious injuries are rising in Syracuse, but not as fast as fatal crashes alone. The five-year annual average **increased 9%** from 2017-2021 to 2019-2023.

### Between 2019 and 2023...



**567 crashes** resulting in serious injuries and fatalities **over 113 per year**



**42 people** lost their lives in traffic crashes **over 8 per year**



**608 people** were seriously injured in traffic crashes **over 122 per year**

Syracuse has a higher number of traffic crash fatalities than Onondaga County or the State of New York, but has fewer fatalities per capita than the nation as a whole based on data from 2018-2022.

Source: NHTSA FIRST, 2018-2022

SYRACUSE	ONONDAGA	NEW YORK	UNITED STATES
7.27 fatalities/year per 100,000 residents	5.64 fatalities/year per 100,000 residents	5.22 fatalities/year per 100,000 residents	11.94 fatalities/year per 100,000 residents
10.8 fatalities per year	26.4 fatalities per year	1,055 fatalities per year	39,588 fatalities per year

## Who's Most Affected?

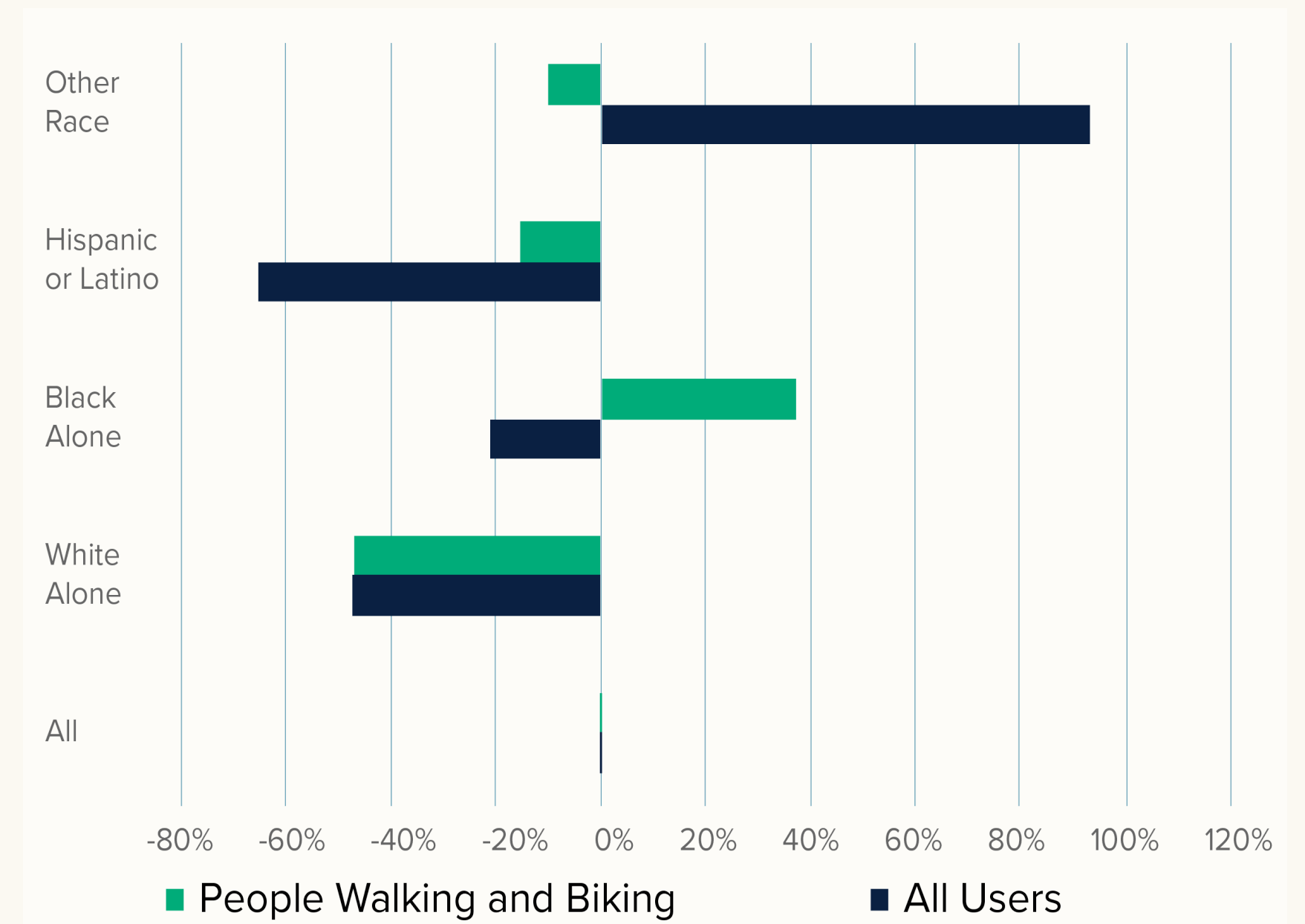
**People outside of vehicles** are at especially **high risk of fatal and serious crashes** **18 fatal crashes** involved people walking and biking between 2019 and 2023 and **21 fatal crashes** involved people in cars

**Bike/ped crashes** account for **46%** of fatal crashes and **34%** of all fatal and serious injury crashes.

**A fatal or serious injury** occurs once every...

- 53 motor vehicle crashes
- 8 cyclist crashes
- 5 pedestrian crashes

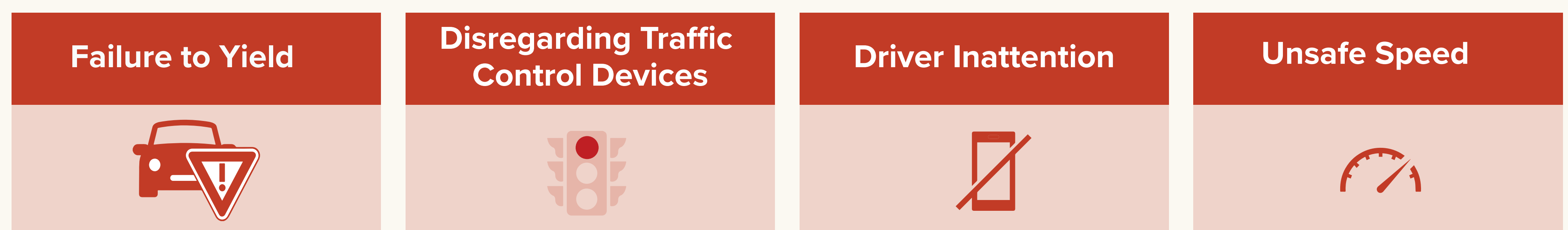
**People of color** are **disproportionately impacted by severe crashes**. People identified as Other Race (multiracial, Indigenous, Asian) were **almost two times more likely** to be killed in a traffic crash on a per capita basis than their peers. People identified as Black were **37% more likely** to die in a pedestrian/bicyclist crash.



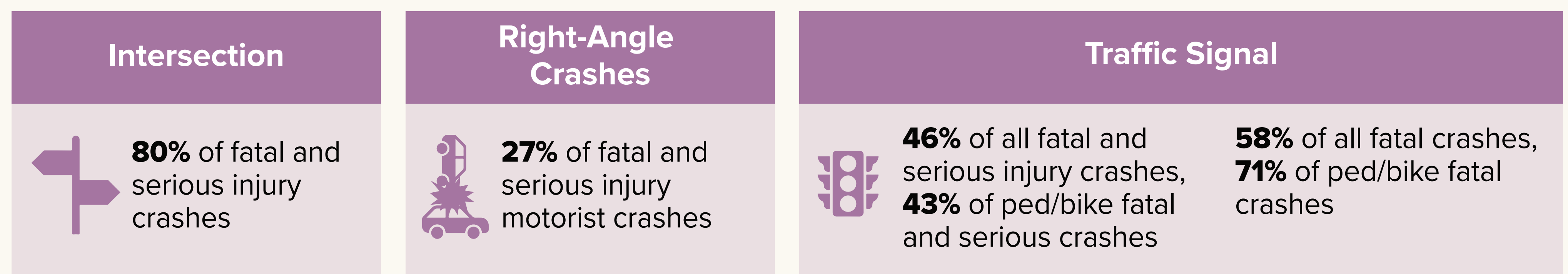
Source: NHTSA FIRST, 2018-2022

## What Factors Affect Crash Severity?

**Four driving behaviors** represented **57%** of all primary contributory causes in fatal and serious injury crashes between 2019 and 2023 where a cause was assigned



**Intersections** are of particular concern: the vast majority of fatal and serious injury crashes among all users in Syracuse occur at **intersections**.



**Arterials**, the widest and busiest streets, have more than **3x** the number of fatal and serious injury crashes per mile than the city average.

