Underreported Pedestrian Crashes

Are Pedestrian Injuries Under-reported in Disadvantaged Communities?
What if communities with high rates of pedestrians being struck by motor vehicles are never reported to the police?

Communities
Resources are distributed to communities where incidents of struck pedestrians are high.

Policymakers
Crash reports are used by policymakers to allocate these resources.

Assistance
Communities with high areas of under-reporting may not receive the resources they need.
6,447 instances of a pedestrian being struck by a motor vehicle and showing up at the hospital without reporting it to the police
Where is this happening?
Statewide Pedestrian Crash Statistics

Cook County had a lower discordance rate than the rest of Illinois; 50% compared to 60%.

Nearly 64% of unreported struck pedestrians occurred in Cook County, with 33.5% of them in Chicago.

44% White Victims

35.3% Black Victims

14.3% Hispanic/Latino Victims
Statewide Statistics

Age
In Cook County and throughout the state, kids had lowest discordance rate.

Race
Black people had the highest discordance rate both inside and outside of Cook County.

Intoxicating Substances
Some 6.4% of unreported cases statewide were diagnosed as having intoxicating substance in their system at the hospital.
Cannabis, Alcohol and Race

Intoxicating substances may be a contributing factor in under-reporting.

Race & Cannabis
Blacks made up 40.6% of unreported pedestrian crash cases in Cook County, but 50% of those who had cannabis in their system.

Whites made up 33.2% of unreported pedestrian cases in Cook County, and 24.2% of those who had cannabis in their system.

Race & Alcohol
Whites made up 39% of cases of those diagnosed at the hospital as positive for alcohol in their system.

Blacks were underrepresented in cases involving alcohol.
Injury Severity

As injury severity increased the discordance rate decreased.

Serious head injury discordance rates were in the mid to upper 40% range both within and outside of Cook County.

Pedestrian crash victims with serious upper body injuries had a discordance rate over 50% outside of Cook County.
Do Places with High Discordance Rates Have Anything in Common?

Yes.

Areas with high rates of poverty & high rates of carless households are where cases go unreported.
How do hospital charges differ between linked and unlinked cases?

$2,500 less in charges
Unlinked cases had average charges that were about $2,500 less than linked cases.

Shorter Hospital Stays
Unlinked cases stayed in the hospital about a half day shorter on average compared to linked cases.

Higher Costs & Longer Stays
Linked cases showed higher costs and longer stays, which may be related to the severity of these cases.
WHAT CAN BE DONE?

- Reach out to Communities with High Cases of Unreported Crashes to encourage incident reporting.
- Use discordance rates and crash reports to equitably distribute resources.
- Implement interventions to help lower the risk of pedestrians in Illinois communities.