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**Press Contact**

Name: Mickey Edwards, MPA, PhD

Title: Visiting Research Specialist, University of Illinois Springfield

Phone: (260) 418-3475

Email: [hedwa4@uis.edu](mailto:hedwa4@uis.edu)

**CRASH DATA REVEAL DANGERS FOR PEDESTRIANS AND CYCLISTS**

**Springfield, IL (Date)** – In a report, “Effects of Large Vehicles on Pedestrian and Pedal-Cyclist Injury Severity,” researchers have noticed a trend over the past several years: a drop in passenger car sales and an increase in purchases of larger vehicles. Data show this increase in larger vehicles on the road has created an increase in dangerous situations and severe injuries for pedestrians and cyclists.

When a pedestrian or cyclist is struck by a large vehicle (pickup truck, SUV, or van/minivan), an increased risk of death follows. Of all pedestrian and cyclist fatalities, 44% involved a large vehicle, but large vehicles were involved in just 26% of cases. Children are especially in danger. When struck by a pickup truck or van, children were seven times more likely to die. And when struck by an SUV, children were eight times more likely to die compared to children struck by a passenger car.

All of that extra bodily damage caused by large vehicles shows up in hospital charges, too. Data show hospital charges were, on average, \$4,380 more when victims were struck by a large vehicle – with those struck by pickup trucks facing the highest charges.

When walking or cycling, be on the look out for vehicles of all sizes. Follow traffic signals and watch for turning vehicles. Drivers, be mindful of walkers and cyclists who may be hard to see. Take a moment of caution to watch for children walking and playing near the street. The safety of our roadways depends on it.

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**Disclaimer**

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