



WALKROLLMAP.ORG

PEDESTRIAN REPORTS

In the Capital Regional District,
British Columbia, Canada

PREPARED BY:
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MARCH 31, 2024



University
of Victoria



Public Health
Agency of Canada

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We acknowledge and respect the ləkʷəŋən peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands, and the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

The WalkRollMap.org Team would like to thank the residents of the Capital Regional District who contributed their observations and concerns about their pedestrian environments to the WalkRollMap.org website. Their shared observations provide vitally important information about the condition of the pedestrian environment that in turn affect our community's health and safety. Their contributions are summarized in this report, and will inform pedestrian-focused research.

We acknowledge Darren Boss who created the WalkRollMap.org platform and Dr. Colin Ferster who created the Explore page. We also appreciate the hard work and creativity of Colby Harder who helped launch WalkRollMap.org in the Capital Region.

We also extend our gratitude to the Greater Victoria Public Library and to the numerous community organizations and outdoor markets who helped us spread awareness about WalkRollMap.org by welcoming us to participate in their events or to present to their groups.

We invite residents to continue to report their pedestrian experiences to WalkRollMap.org - to keep filling in the gaps of knowledge concerning the location and characteristics of pedestrian hazards, missing amenities, or incidents in the Capital Regional District.

Creation of [WalkRollMap.org](https://walkrollmap.org) and public engagement was supported by the Public Health Agency of Canada.



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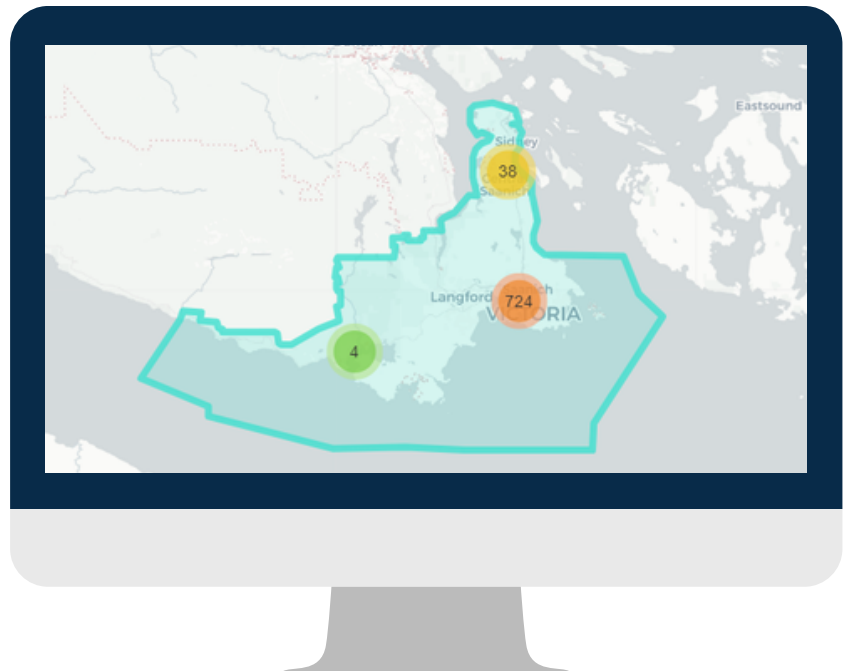


BACKGROUND

WalkRollMap.org is a map-based crowdsourcing website where pedestrians report hazards, incidents, and needed amenities.

WalkRollMap in the CRD

WalkRollMap.org (WRM) was launched as a pilot project in the Capital Regional District (CRD) on Vancouver Island, BC in October 2021. The research-driven, pedestrian-focused crowdsourcing platform was subsequently promoted across Canada in 2022 and 2023.



This report summarizes data contributed by pedestrians in the Capital Regional District (CRD) from October 1, 2021 through February 9, 2024, or as otherwise noted.

Most of the reporting in the CRD has occurred in Victoria (209), Saanich (189), Langford (113), Oak Bay (47), View Royal (48), and Colwood (37).

Visit WalkRollMap.org to see where people have reported concerns!

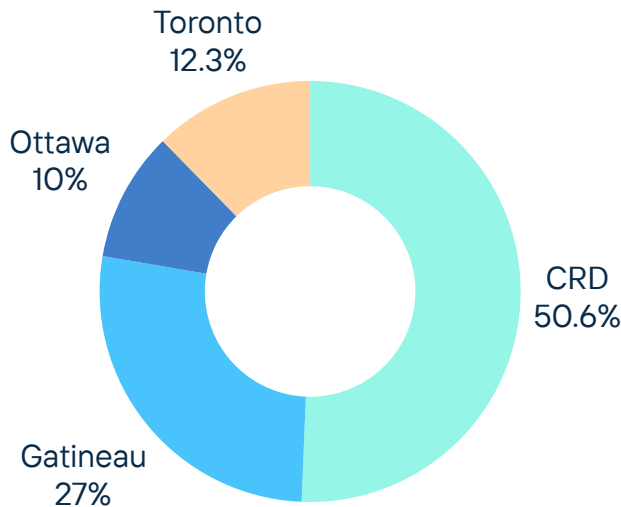
PROMOTION & REPORTING

Promotional activities varied across Canada and occurred at different times. In the CRD, WRM-hosted information tables at public libraries and community events were the most frequently-used promotional approach. The WRM Team shared social media posts and advertisements on WRM accounts; gave in-person and online presentations at seniors' centres and community associations; organized or participated in walks; prepared a Valentine's Day promotion, and participated in the Victoria Pride Festival, Oaklands Sunset Market, Wicked Victoria, GoByBike Week, and Saanich Earth Day events.

People in the CRD submitted the highest number of WRM reports per 10,000 persons (16.99) among key areas analyzed in Canada.

THE BIG PICTURE...

WalkRollMap Reports in Selected Areas
Across Canada n=1396



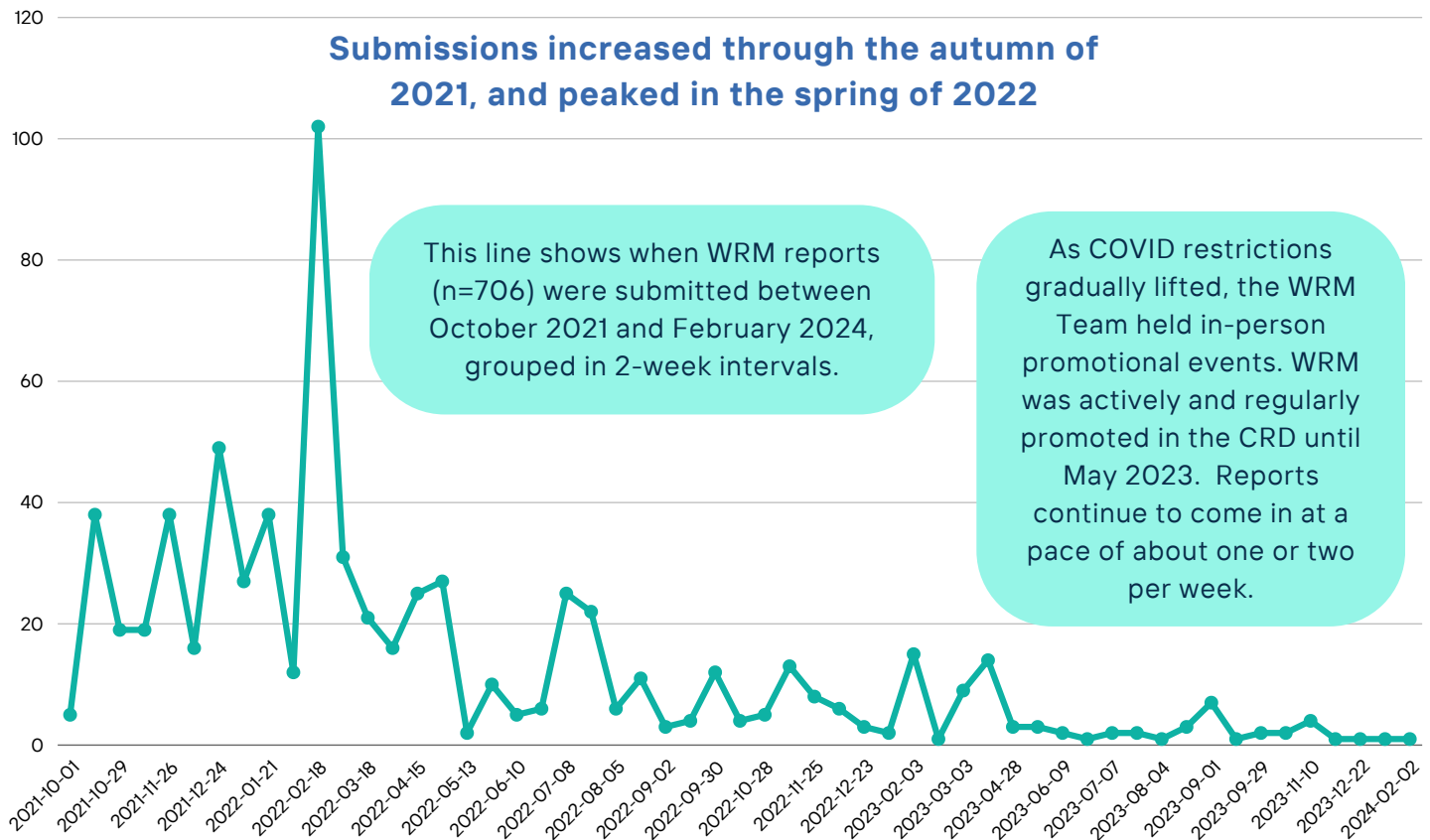
PLACE	NO. OF REPORTS	REPORTS / 10K POP'N
CRD	706	16.99
Gatineau	377	12.95
Ottawa	139	1.37
Toronto	172	0.62

Population Statistics from Stats Canada

tables - presentations - interviews - social media - news articles - special promos - walks



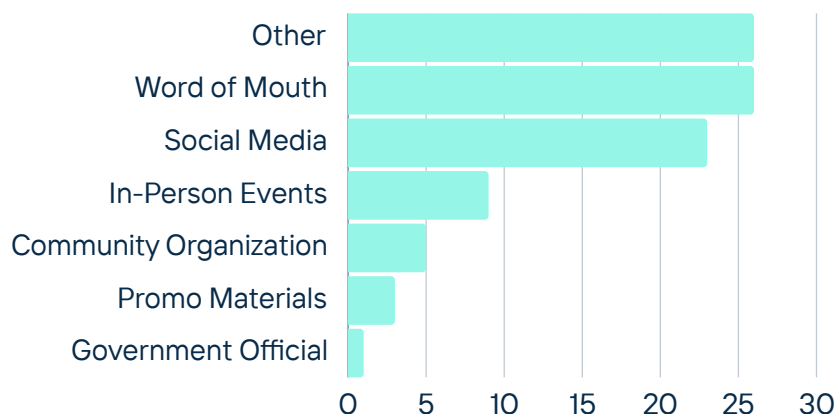
WRM Reports in the CRD from Oct 1, 2021 through Feb 9, 2024, n=706



HOW DID PEOPLE HEAR ABOUT WRM?

In December 2022, the WRM team added the question, 'How did you hear about WalkRollMap?' to the report forms.

'How did you hear?', CRD reports, Dec 1, 2022 to Feb 9, 2024, n=93

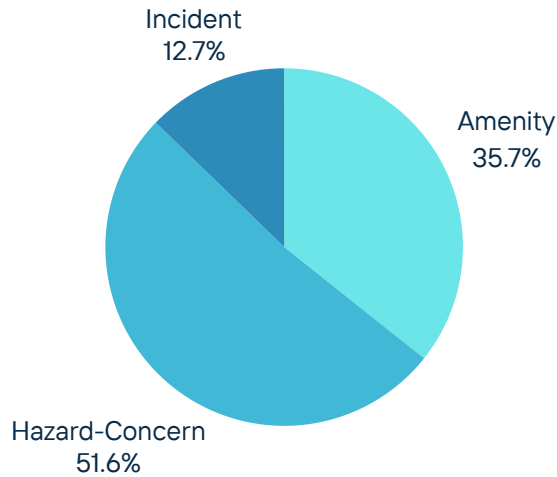


93 responses to 'how did you hear' were submitted between December 1, 2022 and February 9, 2024.

Most (87%) of the reports in the CRD were submitted before the question was added to the report forms.

WHAT DID THEY SAY?

Of the **706 reports from the CRD**, 364 were about hazards or concerns, 252 were about missing amenities, and 90 were about incidents (near misses, hits, or falls).



"There is no sidewalk from here to the roundabout down the road. This is a brand new road near multiple recreational facilities and Belmont School. How is that possible?"

ID 768

"My friend and I were walking IN THE CROSSWALK and got struck by a van going about 40-45 km/hr. This woman did not slow down even though there is a clear X on the ground stating there's a crosswalk ahead, as well as a sign saying to reduce speed to 30km/h as vision is limited. I see cars FLY through here everyday. This is a crosswalk that young children must cross to take the bus. accidents happen here all the time and nothing seems to change. People need to slow down here and pay attention." ID 2141

"Omg...how do you actually get to these businesses on foot? You don't." ID 1161

"There is not great space for people to wait for the bus here. Either you must stand on the shoulder, close to automobile traffic, or on uneven grass. I imagine most of the transit facilities along W.Saanich south of here are similar conditions. Not very comfortable for vulnerable road users, esp. with wheel chairs/strollers/etc." ID 1178

"Neighbourhood access to the park is difficult here. 4 lanes of fast-moving traffic on the regular. <sic> 2 blocks in either direction to nearest safe crossing. Not ideal for anyone but especially hard for the elderly and handicapped." ID 792

"Drivers often encroach through the crosswalk without stopping at the stop line first. There is a property fence on the south side that obstructs some view making pedestrians more difficult to see. Right turning vehicles often go into the crosswalk while looking left for oncoming traffic without noticing oncoming runners/walkers. Have had several vehicles nearly hit me." ID 1455

"This is a crosswalk. I was almost hit by a truck speeding down Fernwood Road. I am wearing a baby carrier with an infant, and walking two dogs. A near miss or folks speeding through the crosswalk while i am crossing or about to cross happens to me every week."

ID 505

"There is only one sidewalk and the other side is just a ditch and gravel driveways. If you get off a bus on the no sidewalk side you are expected to walk on the road or in a ditch?" ID 3540

"Man getting off the bus with a walker had trouble getting to the sidewalk due to it not being cleared." ID 2212

"The uneven sidewalk bump is dangerous for wheelchairs and strollers." ID 1501

HAZARDS OR CONCERNS

What hazards or concerns were reported by pedestrians in the CRD?

Most hazard or concern reports were about crossings (39%), or safety / comfort (31.9%).

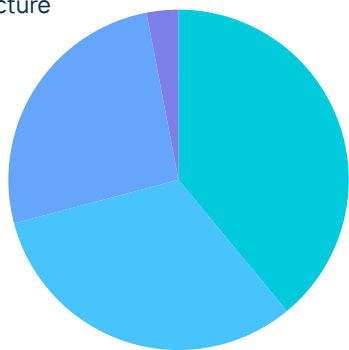
"Sidewalk has poles and mailboxes and industrial traffic blocking it. Not accessible for anyone in a wheelchair. Need a sidewalk on the residential side." ID 536

WRM Hazards or Concerns in the CRD n=364, Oct 1, 2021 to Feb 9, 2024

Sidewalk Infrastructure
26.1%

Weather / Seasonal
3%

Crossing
39%



"Braefoot Park is a Saanich Park yet the sidewalk on McKenzie Avenue adjacent to the property was not cleared of snow throughout Dec 24-January 4. Interestingly, the parking lot was completely clear, plowed, and salted." ID 622

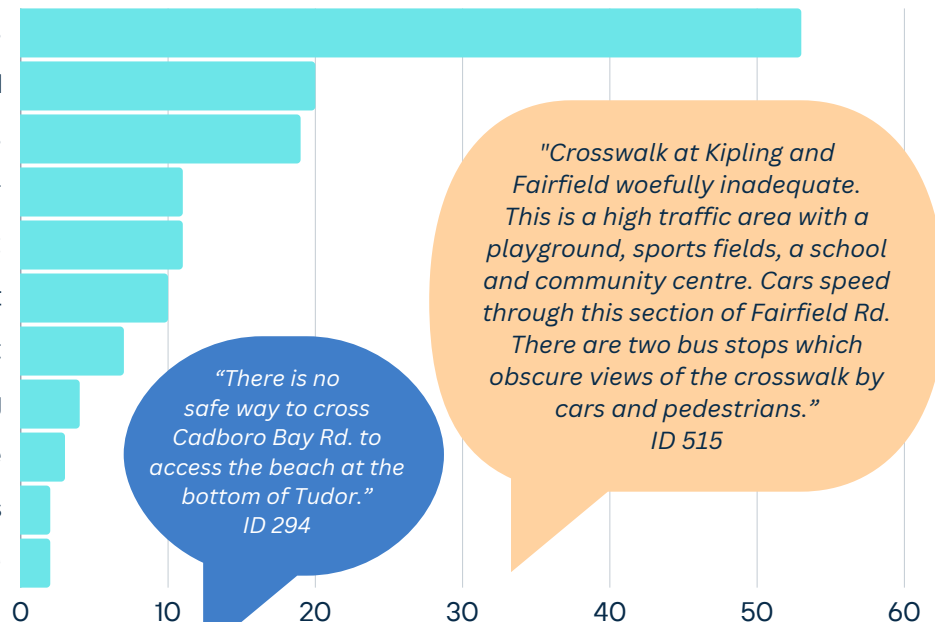
"I use this crosswalk almost every day. I can have a reflector on, a headlamp, lights on my dogs and still cars do not stop." ID 950

"Many seniors live close by (e.g., Highgate Lodge) and need to cross, often with walkers. The crossing time is too short for them. I've seen other pedestrians, concerned for their safety, escorting them across." ID 241

"Vehicles travel at high rate of speed, often close to pedestrians. Pedestrians forced to walk in bike lane, where it exists at all, or on a small shoulder." ID 770

Crossing Issues in the CRD, n=142, Oct 1, 2021 to Feb 9, 2024

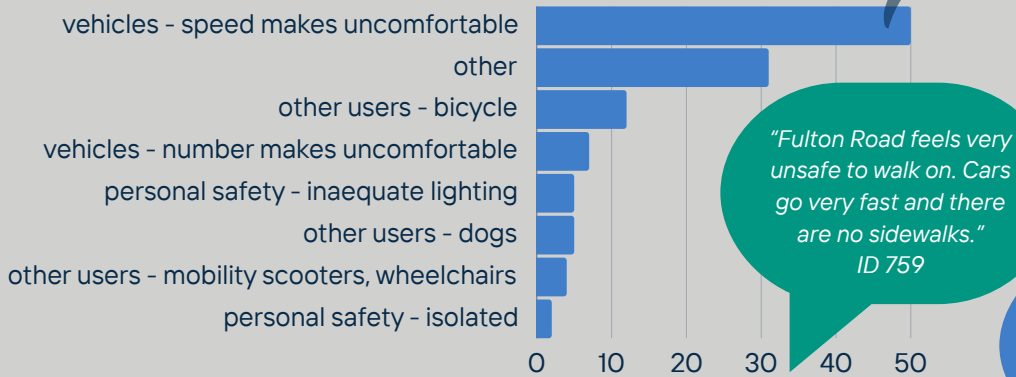
drivers don't stop or yield to pedestrians
crosswalk needed
poor visibility of pedestrians
other
conflict with vehicles turning right
signal - pedestrian interval too short
conflict with vehicles turning left
signal - wait time to cross too long
signal - needs an audible
signal - button difficult to access
crosswalk markings no longer visible



"There is no safe way to cross Cadboro Bay Rd. to access the beach at the bottom of Tudor." ID 294

"Crosswalk at Kipling and Fairfield woefully inadequate. This is a high traffic area with a playground, sports fields, a school and community centre. Cars speed through this section of Fairfield Rd. There are two bus stops which obscure views of the crosswalk by cars and pedestrians." ID 515

HAZARDS OR CONCERNS, CONTINUED...

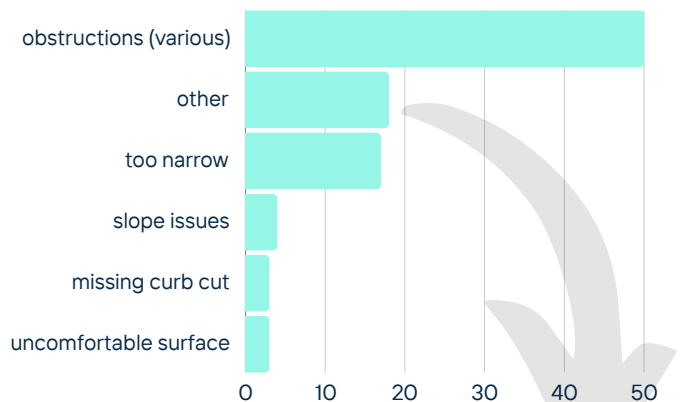
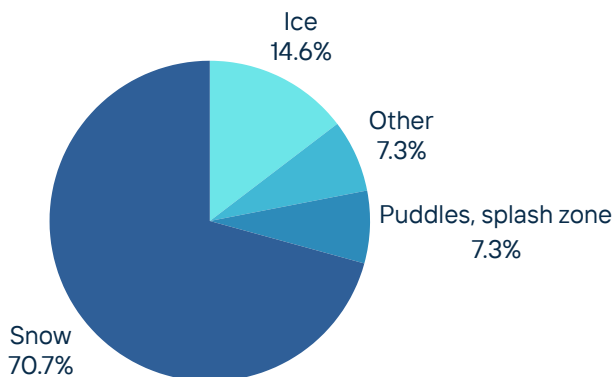
Safety / Comfort Concerns in the CRD
n=116, Oct 1, 2021 to Feb 9, 2024


Vehicle speed was the most commonly reported hazard or concern related to safety and was often mentioned in the context of poor visibility; the locations of crossings or bus stops, or the narrowness or lack of sidewalks.

"The bus stop is right next to the road with no sidewalk to get to it or even at the bus stop it self. Vehicles are traveling at a high speed in the area." ID 687

"The sidewalk has no buffer from the road. There is a lot of traffic that moves quite fast. When walking on the inside of this corner, vehicles moving in excess of 50km/h come within a foot or less of you. It's extremely uncomfortable to walk here. You can sometimes feel the wind off the vehicles passing you by!" ID 663

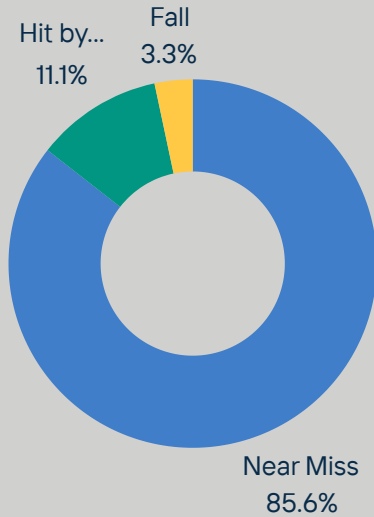
Sidewalks that are obstructed or too narrow are the most common hazards or concerns reported.

Sidewalk Infrastructure Concerns,
CRD, n=95, Oct 1, 2021 to Feb 9, 2023

Weather or Seasonal Reports, CRD,
n=11, Oct 1, 2021 to Feb 9, 2024

What did 'other' include?

Contributors provided details about sidewalk infrastructure issues - such as lack of sidewalks or crosswalks; poor maintenance; traffic and safety concerns; accessibility for people with disabilities; and the need for infrastructure improvement.

INCIDENTS

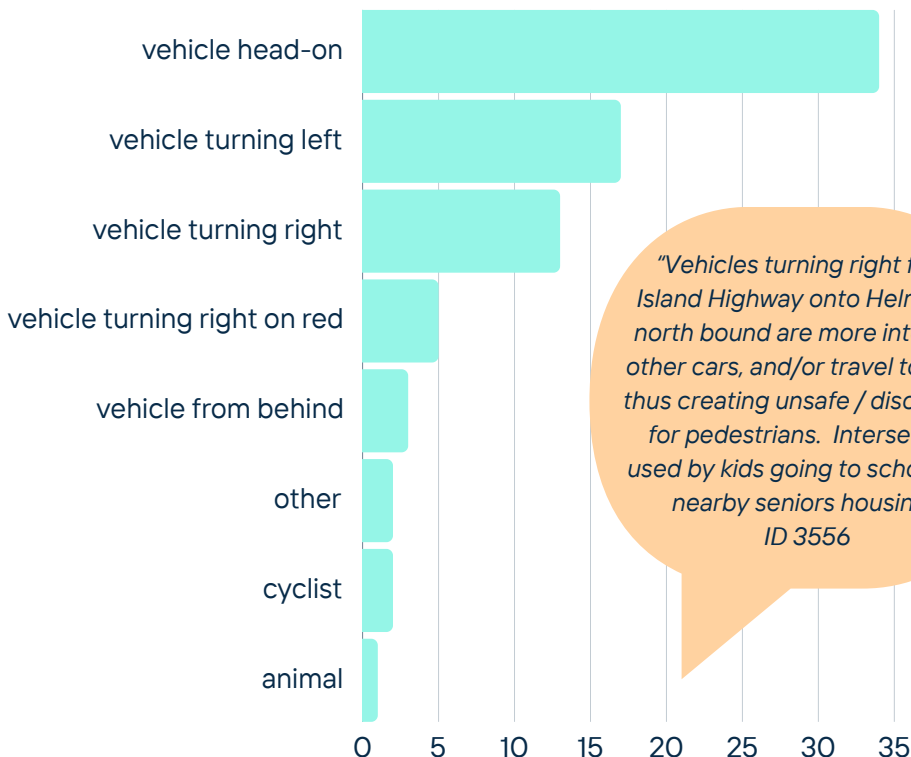
What incidents (near misses, collisions, falls) were reported by CRD pedestrians?



WRM Incidents, CRD, n=90, Oct 1, 2021 to Feb 9, 2024

'Near misses' (n=77) were the most frequently-reported type of incident. Near-miss reports provide important spatial-temporal information that is rarely collected.

Near Miss Reports, CRD, n=77, Oct 1, 2021 to Feb 9, 2024



"Driver saw me walking half way thru the crosswalk, but he did not stop or slow down to yield the pedestrian at all. This is common to all residents that using the crosswalk, a YELLOW flashing light should be installed." ID 496

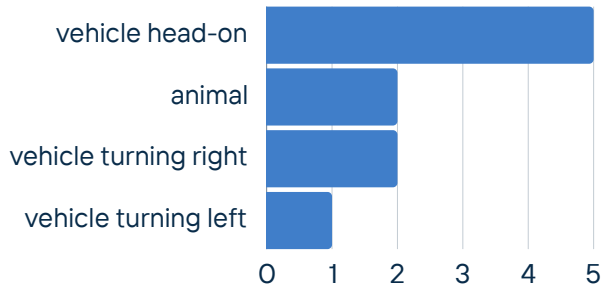
"Vehicle turning left didn't even see me (or look right) as I was walking north in the crosswalk. This is a terrible intersection. Vehicles need a light here." ID 375

"Vehicles turning right from Island Highway onto Helmcken north bound are more intent on other cars, and/or travel too fast, thus creating unsafe / discomfort for pedestrians. Intersection used by kids going to school and nearby seniors housing." ID 3556

"Attempting to cross in a marked cross walk with the beeping cross walk signage, and several cars also trying to turn left directly into the cross walk. This is a regular occurrence." ID 601

INCIDENT REPORTS, CONTINUED...

Incident Reports, 'Hit by', CRD, n=10, Oct 1, 2021 to Feb 9, 2024



"We came upon an older woman who had an off leash dog jump up on her. After a few attempts the owner got the dog on leash but didn't do much besides apologize. Woman had a bleeding elbow." ID 1507

"I didn't witness the incident, but did attend the rally the following day. A child was struck in the marked crosswalk. Aside from the straight road encouraging speed, this crosswalk is about as good as it gets in Saanich: fresh paint, flashing lights, good visibility, only one lane in each direction, refuge island, etc."

ID 1708

"Elderly woman using a walker was hit by a car. Car didn't yield for woman in the crosswalk. Woman knocked down backwards, struck her head, feet/legs injured." ID 489

There were two reports of a 'trip' and one report of a 'slip'.

Incident Reports, Falls, CRD, n=3, Oct 1, 2021 to Feb 9, 2024

"I tripped over an uneven piece of pavement. Not broken, just raised about 1/4 inch - just enough to catch me shoe. It is not obvious. I watch where I'm going. Have tripped there on two other occasions, but caught myself and used my cane to prevent falling. ID 3686

"The paint used on the curbs is really slippery when it rains! Many people walk along this section of Fort and the sidewalk is really narrow. People often have to walk on the outside of hydro poles or into the bike lane to pass each other. The person I was walking with slipped on the curb trying to give space to another group we were passing. He fell pretty hard into the bike lane/road. Luckily no one was there at the time!" ID 932

"My son was scooting with his scooter across Bay St when he hit a very large divot that was wider than his scooter wheel and fell. This stretch of Bay St needs a lot of work, as this should be a marked crosswalk to make it safer to cross on foot or rolling, and these holes should be filled in." ID 1482



MISSING AMENITIES

What missing amenities did pedestrians in the CRD report?

Missing Amenities - Selection of Quotes, CRD, Oct 1, 2021 to Nov 7, 2023

CONNECTIONS

"There is a long walk from these neighbourhoods to the nearest highway crossing, which makes walking impractical or impossible." ID 812

CURB CUT

"Sidewalk leads directly to this crossing but wheelchair users, strollers, mobility walkers etc have to walk around rather than the shortest path. No curb cut." ID 894

LIGHTING

"Not enough lighting at night especially during winter months. Dangerous for pedestrians, dog walkers, elders, and children." ID 1159

SIDEWALK

"The sidewalk only goes partially up Veyannes from East Saanich. There is no shoulder when it ends putting pedestrians in the roadway. Cars also drive faster then the 40km speed limit putting pedestrians at risk." ID 415

SIDEWALK

"There isn't a sidewalk for most of this road. There is one closer to Quadra but it ends after two houses and then there is a hill to navigate and there can be limited visibility. Cars are parked on the sides so you are forced to walk on the street." ID 630

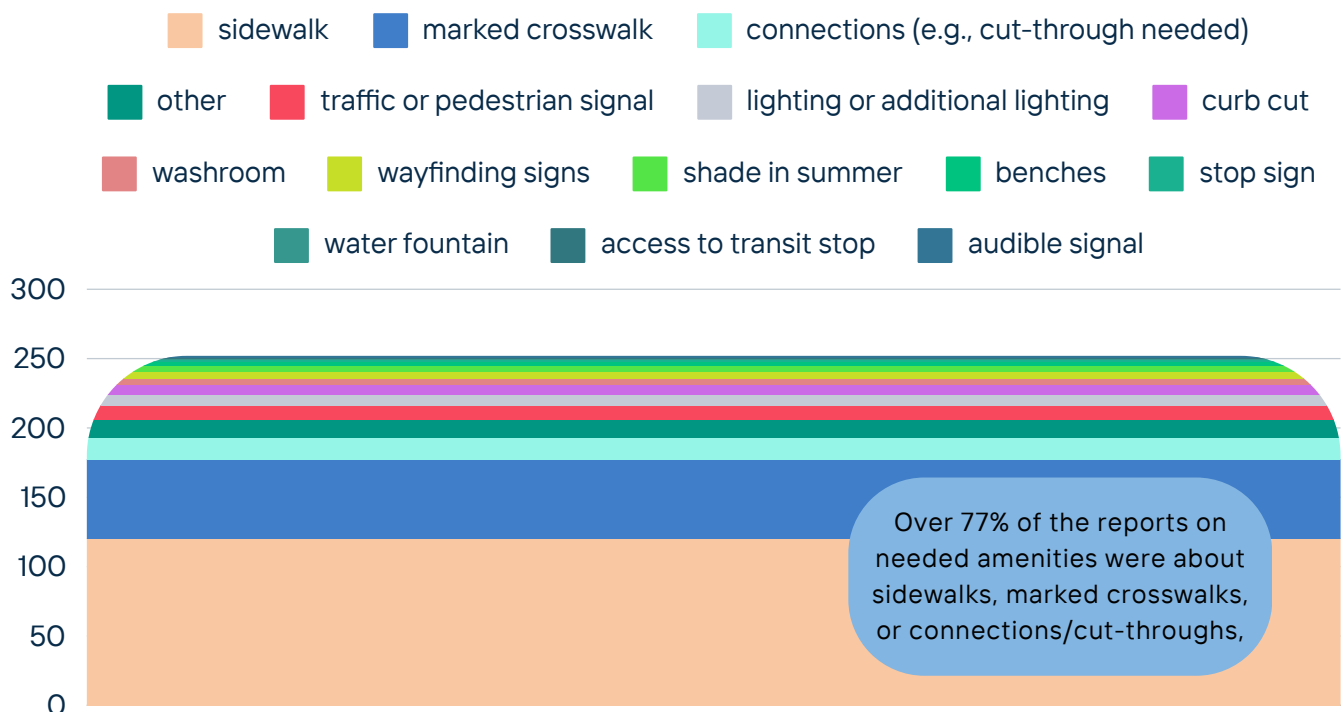
CONNECTIONS

"Belmont Market businesses are oriented in a way that forces people who walk to it to walk around the entire building, or cut through a garden to access business front doors. The entire place is designed to be inconvenient and unpleasant to walk through. I avoid visiting businesses in it because of this." ID 918

MARKED CROSSWALK

"There is a new subdivision on Bakerview Close with lots of families with young children and lots of seniors. Crossing Lochside is treacherous. We need a lighted crosswalk and also a sidewalk on the ocean side so we can safely walk. Thank you." ID 429

WRM Missing Amenity Reports, CRD, n=252, Oct 1, 2021 to Feb 9, 2024



REPORTS FROM PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

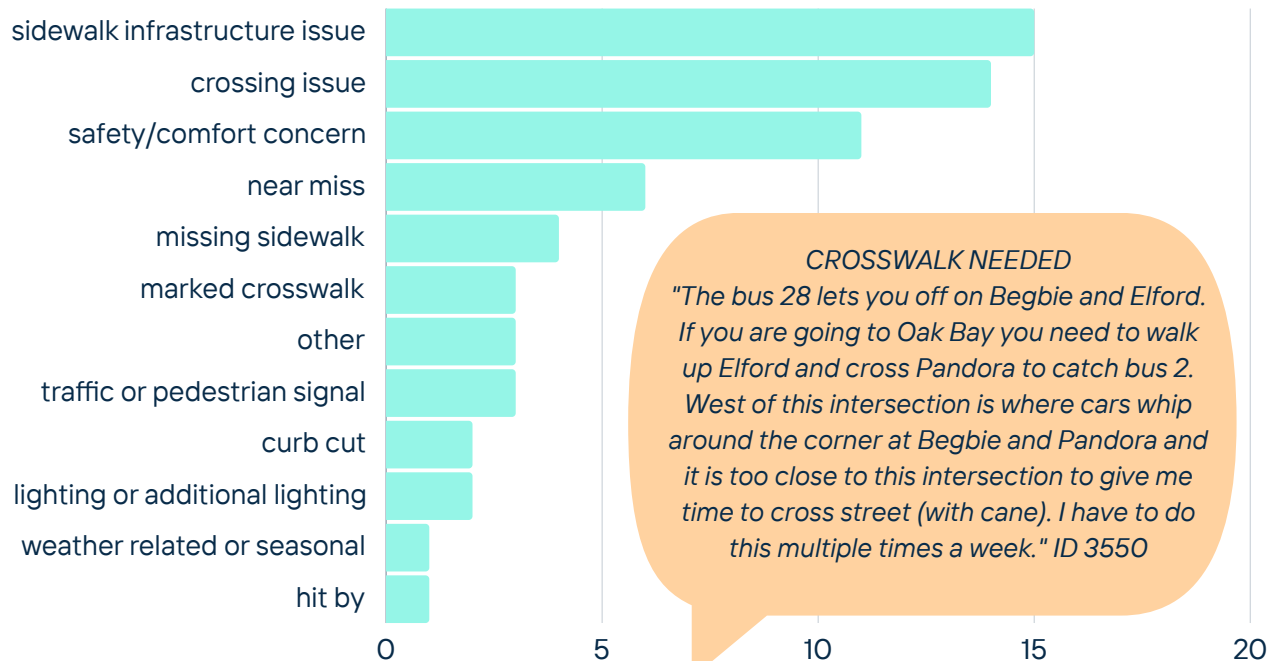
About 9% of CRD reports were contributed by a person with a disability

Pedestrians and Disability, CRD, Oct 2021 to Feb 9, 2024, n=706

Reporting Disability	Number of Reports*	Top 5 Ranked Concerns
Yes	65	1. sidewalk infrastructure issue; 2. crossing issue, 3. safety/comfort 4. near miss, 5. missing sidewalk
No	592	1. crossing issue, 2. missing sidewalk, 3. safety / comfort, 4. sidewalk infrastructure issue, 5. near miss
No Response or Blank	49	1. safety / comfort, 2. crossing issue, 3. missing sidewalk, 4. sidewalk infrastructure issue, 5. marked crosswalk

Most of the 65 reports from people with disabilities were about hazards or concerns (41); 17 were about amenities and 7 were about incidents.

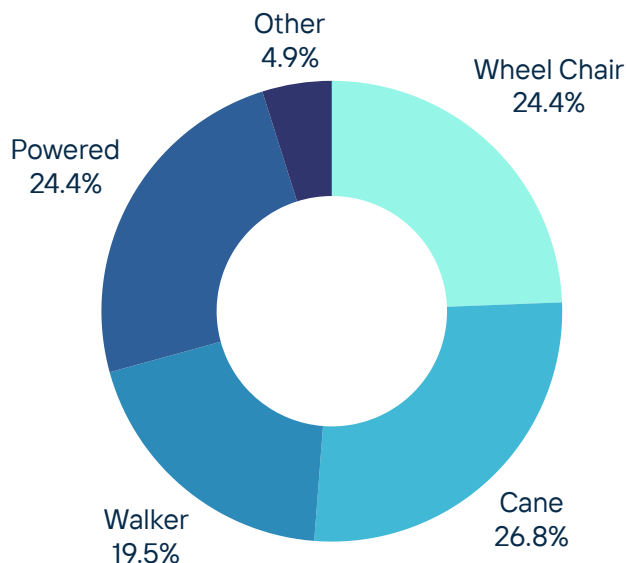
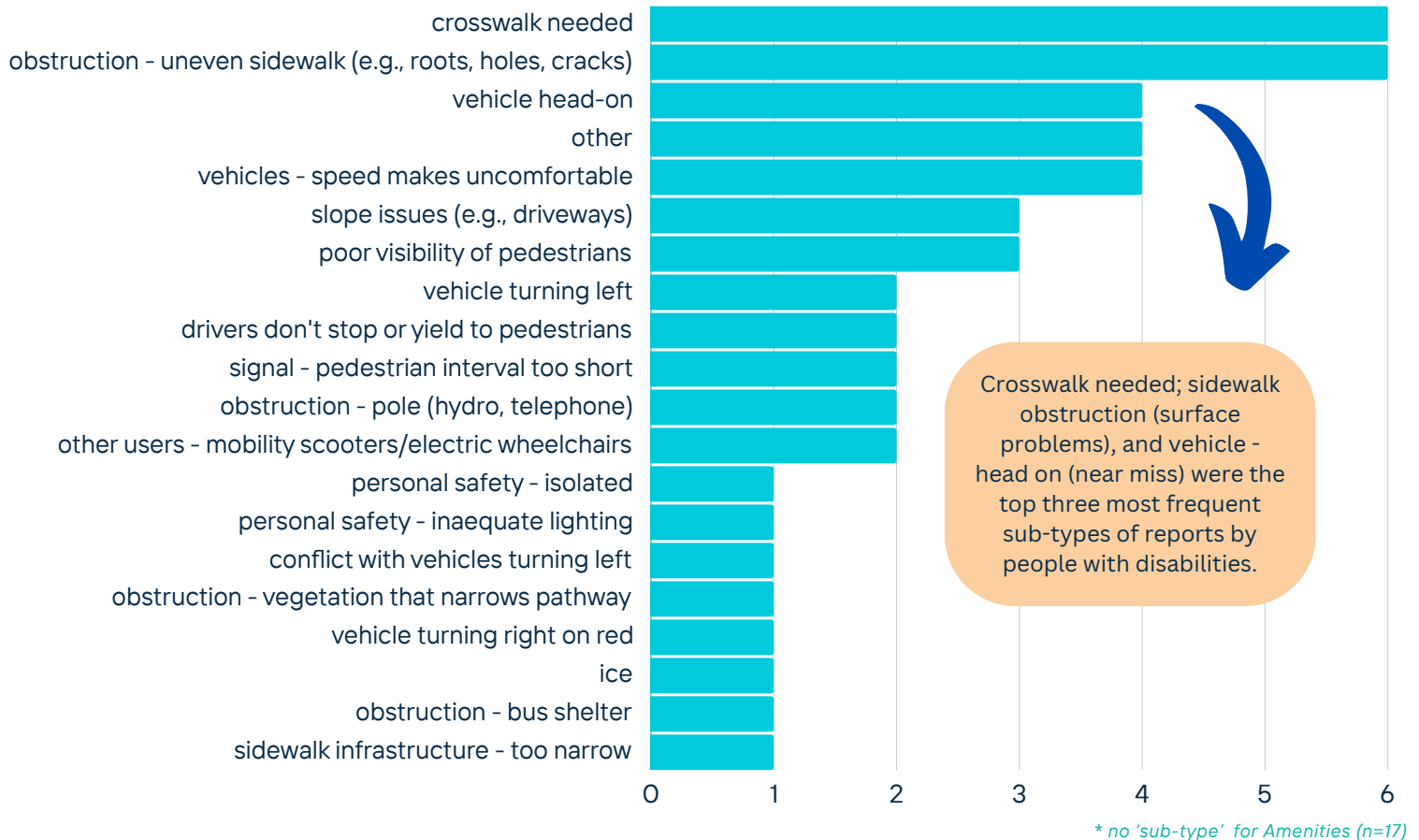
Reports from People with Disabilities, CRD, Oct 1, 2021 to Feb 9, 2024, n=65



REPORTS FROM PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, CONTINUED...

What specific concerns were reported?

Hazards and Incidents Reported by People with Disabilities, by Sub-Type, CRD, Oct, 2021 to Feb 9, 2024, *n=48



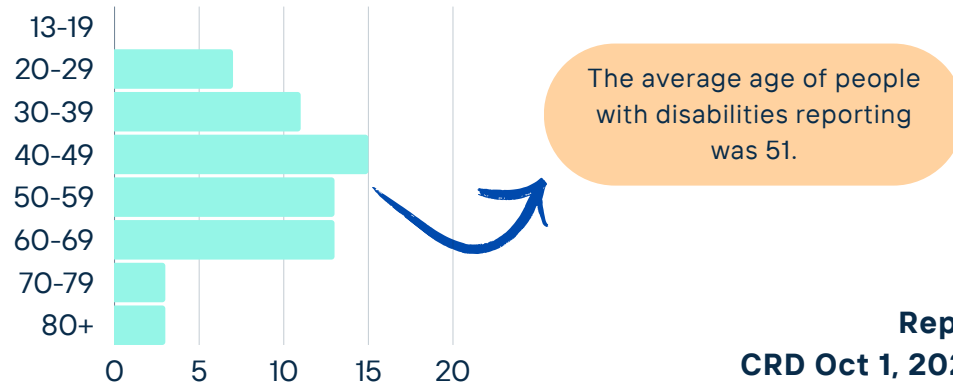
Types of Mobility Aids Used by Contributors, CRD, Oct 1, 2021 to Feb 9, 2024, n=41

63% of reports from people with disabilities mentioned the use of mobility aids

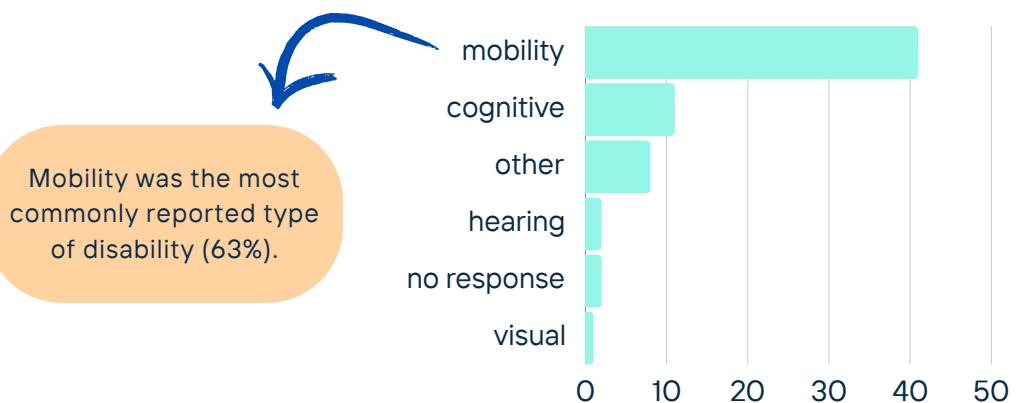
REPORTS FROM PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, CONTINUED...

Here is a closer look at the demographics of people reporting with disabilities...

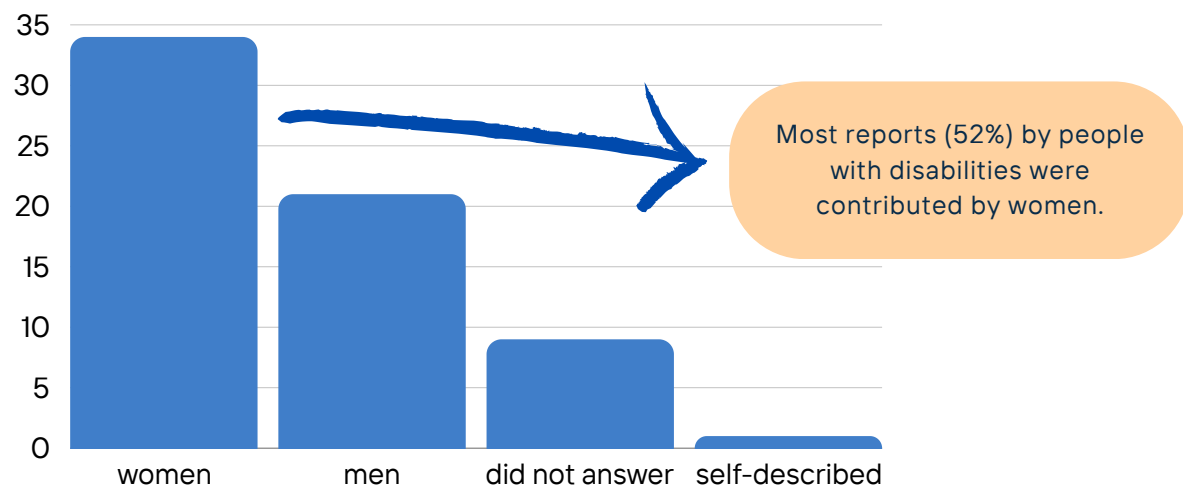
Age of Contributors with Disabilities, CRD, Oct, 2021 to Feb 9, 2024, n=65



Types of Disabilities Reported by Contributors, CRD Oct 1, 2021 to Feb 9 2024, n=65



Gender of People with Disabilities, CRD, Oct 1, 2021 to Feb 9, 2024, n=65



REPORTS FROM PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, CONTINUED...

Here are only 10 of the 65 experiences shared by pedestrians with disabilities.

DRIVERS DON'T STOP OR YIELD

"Crossing this intersection is a nightmare! Cars turning from McCallum do not look for pedestrians when turning onto Millstream! I've nearly been hit a dozen times in 8 years." ID 1197

AMENITY NEEDED - CURB CUT

"Crosswalk is popular for elderly trail users with mobility devices who have challenges at this crossing." ID 398

HAZARD-CONCERN - CROSSWALK NEEDED

"Our family wants to let our daughter walk to school but she has no crosswalk and it's busy in the mornings and summers during camping season." ID 733

HAZARD-CONCERN - SIDEWALK INFRASTRUCTURE - SLOPE ISSUES

"This sidewalk has a very very steep grade. There is a community agency with many individuals using walkers/wheelchairs/ who have other mobility issues. We often go on community walks together, however the steep grade of the sidewalk is a real safety risk and causes some stress to the clients trying to ambulate." ID 1284

HAZARD-CONCERN - SIDEWALK INFRASTRUCTURE - SLOPE ISSUES

"Mobility Aid Users + those with disabilities beware of Green Street. Driveways severely sloped you can tip over or roll out into road. I recommend walking on the road instead. Watch for 2 way traffic!" ID 380

HAZARD-CONCERN - SAFETY/COMFORT - VEHICLES - SPEED

*"There is a huge need for some sidewalk or path for pedestrians .
The cars rip around this corner and there is no safe place to walk or even cross." ID 422*

SIDEWALK INFRASTRUCTURE ISSUE

"Sidewalk is narrow and sharply curves around pole, with a drop-off into fence/hedge. Too sharp for a mobility scooter to comfortably maneuver." ID 1287

LIGHTING OR ADDITIONAL LIGHTING NEEDED

"Path is very dark and uneven." ID 1532

SIDEWALK INFRASTRUCTURE ISSUE

"Gravel pathway meets sidewalk. Pathway is eroded and difficult for wheel chair to get over bump." ID 1496

HAZARD CONCERN - CROSSING ISSUE - PEDESTRIAN SIGNAL TOO SHORT

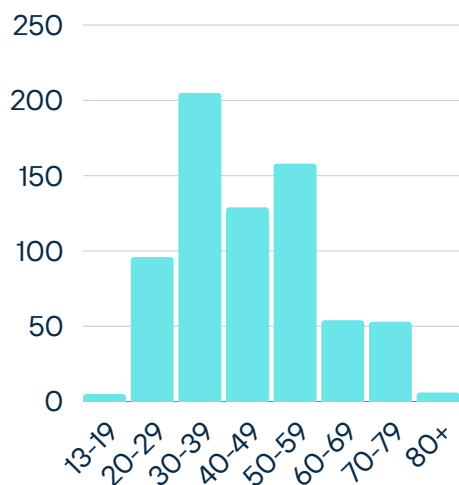
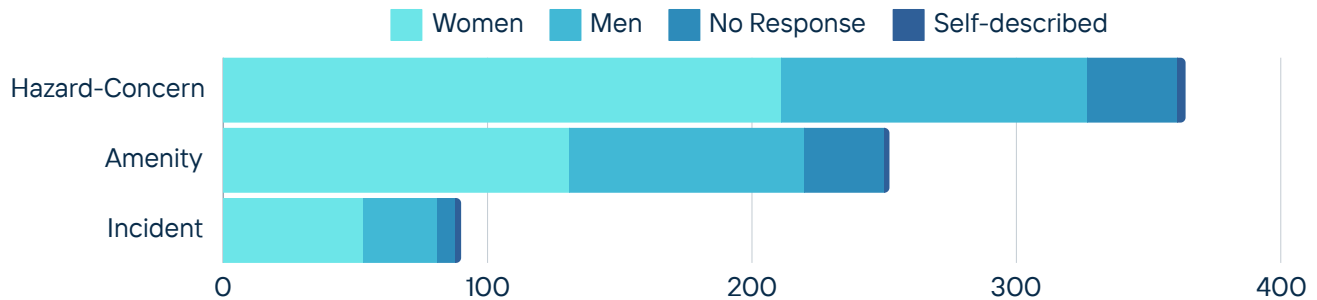
"There are many elders and people with mobility issues who live in the area. When crossing Veterans Memorial Pkwy, the pedestrian light will often turn red before I can get to the other side." ID 706

DEMOGRAPHICS OF CONTRIBUTORS

About all CRD WalkRollMap.org contributors...
gender, race, and age.

Overall, 56% of reports were made by women, 33% were made by men, 1% self-described gender, and 10% did not respond.

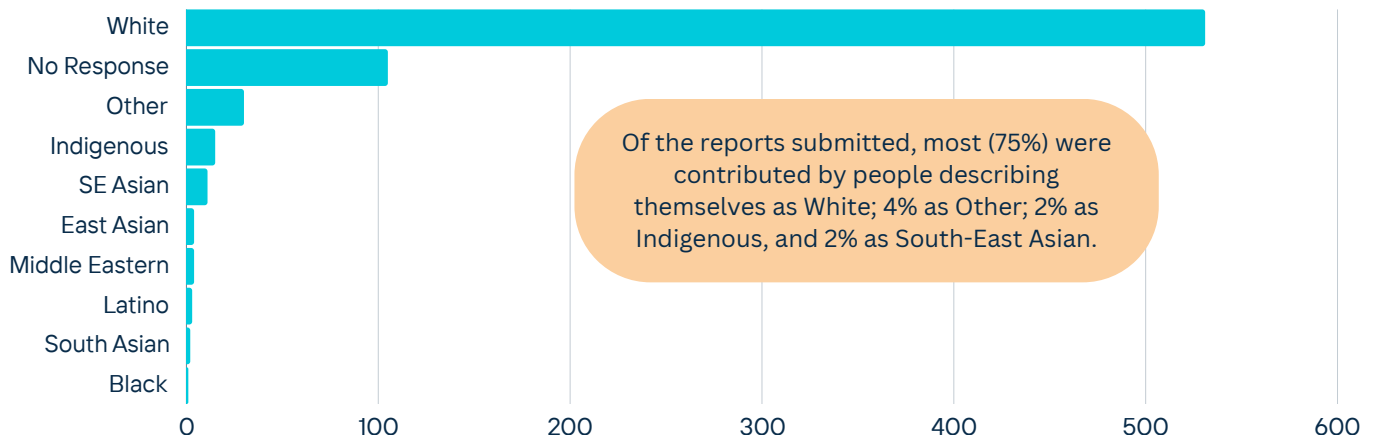
Report Type, by Gender, CRD Oct 1, 2021 to Feb 9, 2024, n=706



WRM Reports, by Age Group, CRD, Oct 1, 2021 to Feb 9, 2024, n=706

Most (70%) of the reports were contributed by people between the ages of 30 and 59.

WRM Contributors, by Race, CRD, Oct 1, 2021 to Feb 9, 2024, n=706



Of the reports submitted, most (75%) were contributed by people describing themselves as White; 4% as Other; 2% as Indigenous, and 2% as South-East Asian.



TAKEAWAYS

Promotion and Reporting

- 706 WRM reports were submitted in the CRD between Oct 1, 2021 and Feb 9, 2024.
- The CRD had the highest reporting level (16.99 reports per 10,000 persons) of key areas analyzed in Canada with Gatineau, Quebec, next highest (12.95 per 10,000 persons).
- Promotion in the CRD relied on in-person WRM-hosted tables at libraries, or at outdoor locations near pedestrian routes, or community events, social media posts, and presentations to community organizations.
- A special Valentine's Day promotion helped reach people with disabilities and older adults.
- WRM connected with community groups and organizations such as the public libraries, neighbourhood associations, groups dedicated to people with disabilities, and active transportation advocacy groups.
- Most contributors in the CRD heard about WRM.org through word of mouth, social media, in-person events, and community organizations. However, the large majority of reports in the CRD were made before this question was added to the reporting forms in December 2023.

What Was Reported?

- Most (51.6%) of the reports were about hazards-concerns (364); 35.7% were about missing amenities (252), and 12.7% were about incidents (90).
- Of the **hazards-concerns**, 39% were about crossing issues, 32% about safety-comfort concerns; 26% were about sidewalk infrastructure issues; 3% were about weather-seasonal issues. The most-reported crossing concern was that drivers don't stop or yield to pedestrians; the most reported safety-comfort concern was that vehicle speed made people feel uncomfortable; the most common concerns about sidewalk infrastructure were that they were too narrow or obstructed.
- 77% of the 252 reports of **missing amenities** were about needed sidewalks, marked crosswalks, and connections or cut-throughs
- Most of the 90 **incident reports** were about near misses (86%), with 11% reports of 'hit by...' and 3% falls.
- Most of the WRM reports in the CRD were made for locations in Victoria (209), Saanich (189), Langford (113), Oak Bay (47), View Royal (48), and Colwood (37).

People with Disabilities

- 65 reports were made by, or on behalf of, people with disabilities.
- 41 reports were about hazards-concerns; 17 concerning needed amenities, and 7 were about incidents.
- The 5 most frequently reported concerns were about sidewalk infrastructure issues, crossing issues, safety-comfort issues, near-misses, and missing sidewalks.
- Mobility was the most common type of disability reported (83%).
- 63% of reports made by, or made on behalf of, people with disabilities, mentioned they used mobility aids; canes were the most common type of aid used (27%); followed by powered mobility devices (24%) and wheel chairs (24%).

Demographics of WRM Contributors

- 56% of reports were made by women, 33% by men, 1% were self-described, and 10% did not respond.
- Most (70%) of the reports were contributed by people between the ages of 30 and 59.
- 75% of the reports were contributed by people who described themselves as White; 4% as Other, 2% as South-East Asian, and 2% as Indigenous.