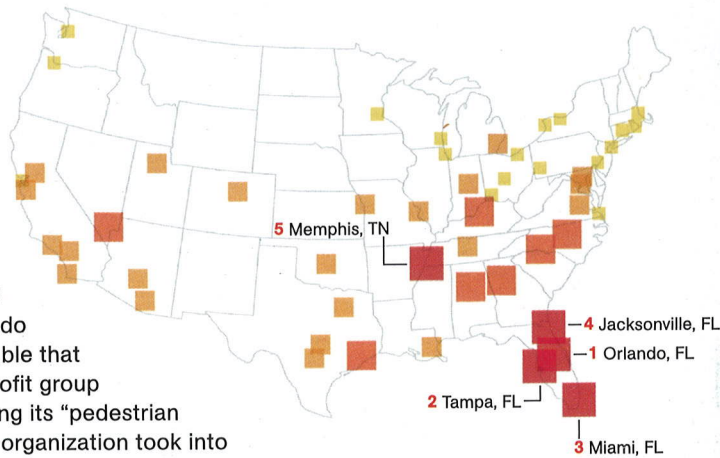


G E O G R A P H Y

Don't Walk in Memphis

The worst city for walkers in the U.S.? Not New York, which ranks among the safest in a 2009 study of pedestrian-unfriendly cities. The four deadliest metropolitan areas are all in Florida: Orlando, Tampa, Miami, and Jacksonville. True, New York has a higher number of fatalities, but with 2.86 deaths per 100,000 people a year, Orlando has a pedestrian fatality rate almost double that of the Big Apple, according to the nonprofit group Transportation for America. When devising its "pedestrian danger index," which measures risk, the organization took into account the amount of walking people do in each location. Other problem cities include Memphis, Houston, and Atlanta.

Florida's abundance of older drivers is not to blame for its dubious status. Transportation for America faults the state's urban sprawl and roads designed to move high volumes of cars as quickly as possible. Still, there's hope for walkers: In Florida and other states the addition of sidewalks, crossing signals, and speed humps has helped lower the number of pedestrian deaths. —Vikki Valentine



Pedestrian danger index* (2007-2008)
for metropolitan areas of one million
people or more

Less risk | More risk

*INDICATES RISK OF FATALITY



Cities with the highest risk of fatality to pedestrians often lack sufficient sidewalks and crosswalks.