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VETERANS DISABILITY
& SOCIAL SECURITY**
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Happy 2018. We hope you made some great, *realistic* resolutions to make yourself the best person you can be!

Of course, events happen in our lives we could never have foreseen. Brain injuries are nothing new, but fortunately they are receiving greater attention in the mainstream. The fact is, some brain injuries are hard to detect. The first article is intended to help be a part of the movement to raise awareness and get the injured needed help. The most important take away is to seek a medical evaluation should you suspect an injury.

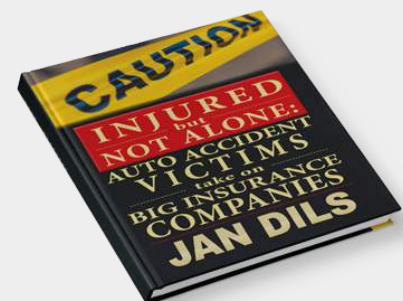
The New Year is the traditional time to reflect on our habits and focus. That includes road safety. Of course, you may be doing everything right and some careless individual puts you and your family in harm's way. For example, pedestrian deaths by vehicle are up by 9 percent. That's alarming.

The Jan Dils team has been advocating for victims of auto accidents for decades. Over the years we have successfully represented victims

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injured in auto accidents forced to fight with big insurance companies. Winning their cases and getting them the compensation is what drove me to write a new book: *Injured But Not Alone: Auto Accident Victims Take on "Big Insurance Companies."* As a subscriber of this newsletter, I am offering your family a complimentary copy. Supplies are limited, so don't delay! [Click here now](#). Of course, if you ever need Personal Injury advice, do not hesitate to give us a call at 877.526.3457. We won't take "no" for an answer.

Sincerely,



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**FOR EVERYONE WHO HAS A BRAIN,
PLEASE READ**



Every year, as many as 1.4 million Americans suffer a brain injury, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Brain injuries can be caused by anything from a car accident to a fall in the shower. Since some brain injuries can be difficult to detect (particularly so-called "mild" brain injuries), they are often

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misdiagnosed or missed altogether. This article has been written to help you to understand what to look for and tips on what to do if you or a loved one has been involved in an accident involving any kind of head or brain injury.

What Is Brain Injury?

Brain injuries can range from mild to severe, and symptoms can be subtle. You don't have to be involved in a major accident to suffer brain injury. Common causes of brain injury include car accidents, slipping and falling, contact sports (i.e. football), non-contact sports (i.e. bicycling), workplace accidents, and assaults or other acts of violence.

Concussion | "Closed" and "Open" Head Injuries: A common type of traumatic brain injury is called a "concussion." A concussion is a violent shaking of the brain caused by a jolt or blow to the head. Concussions are common in contact sports (it's estimated that 30 percent of football players suffer a concussion every season) and can result in permanent brain damage. A concussion could be an "open" or "closed" head injury. Some brain injuries can be obvious, like those caused by a sharp object (a rock or bullet) penetrating the skull — "open" head injuries. But brain injuries can also result from so-called "closed" head injuries. With a closed head injury (whiplash, for example), there is little noticeable damage to the head (no external bleeding, for example), but damage to the brain can still be significant.

Acquired Brain Injury: This is the name given to a type of brain damage that doesn't result from external physical trauma to the head. Acquired brain injury has an internal cause and results when brain cells are deprived of oxygen. Common causes of Acquired Brain Injury include near-drowning accidents, exposure to toxic substances (a variety of chemicals), and medication misuse.



What to Do If You Suspect a Brain Injury

If you suspect that you or a loved one has suffered a brain injury after an accident, the first thing you should do is get proper medical treatment and advice — even if you think the accident was "minor" or there is no "open" or obvious injury to the head. Remember, symptoms of brain injury can take a while to appear. Getting a medical evaluation

is also important if you're thinking about bringing a lawsuit for brain injury, as it can help to establish the severity of the harm suffered.

If you think someone is legally liable for your head or brain injury don't hesitate to call Jan Dils, Attorneys at Law. Brain injury cases raise complex legal and medical issues, so it's really important to speak with an experienced Personal Injury firm. Initial consultations are always free, and can take place in one of our [six offices](#), via telephone, or even at your home.

Sources:

<https://www.nolo.com/legal-encyclopedia/brain-injury-basics-32218.html>

<https://www.nolo.com/legal-encyclopedia/brain-injury-lawsuits-32219.html>



According to the National Highway Transportation System (NHTSA), in 2010, almost 33,000 Americans died in over 5.4 million police-reported motor vehicle crashes. That averages out to crashes causing the deaths of 90 people each day, one every 16 minutes.

Each fall, the NHTSA puts out a detailed report summarizing the previous year. In October 2017, NHTSA released its fatal traffic crash data for calendar year 2016.

According to NHTSA data, which was collected from all 50 states and the District of Columbia, 37,461 lives were lost on U.S. roads in 2016, an increase of 5.6 percent from calendar year 2015.

The number of vehicle miles traveled (VMT) on U.S. roads in 2016

increased by 2.2 percent, and resulted in a fatality rate of 1.18 deaths per 100 million VMT – a 2.6-percent increase from the previous year.

NHTSA found that distracted driving and drowsy driving fatalities declined, while deaths related to other reckless behaviors – including speeding, alcohol impairment, and not wearing seat belts – continued to increase. Motorcyclist and pedestrian deaths accounted for more than a third of the year-to-year increase.

The 2016 national data revealed:

- Distraction-related deaths (3,450 fatalities) decreased by 2.2 percent
- Drowsy-driving deaths (803 fatalities) decreased by 3.5 percent
- Drunk-driving deaths (10,497 fatalities) increased by 1.7 percent
- Speeding-related deaths (10,111 fatalities) increased by 4 percent
- Unbelted deaths (10,428 fatalities) increased by 4.6 percent
- Motorcyclist deaths (5,286 fatalities – the largest number of motorcyclist fatalities since 2008) increased by 5.1 percent
- Pedestrian deaths (5,987 fatalities – the highest number since 1990) increased by 9.0 percent
- Bicyclist deaths (840 fatalities – the highest number since 1991) increased by 1.3 percent.

NHTSA continues to work closely with its state and local partners, law enforcement agencies, and the more than 350 members of the [Road to Zero Coalition](#) to help address the human choices that are linked to 94 percent of serious crashes. NHTSA also continues to promote vehicle technologies that hold the potential to reduce the number of crashes and save thousands of lives every year, and may eventually help reduce or eliminate human error and the mistakes that drivers make behind the wheel.



When Do You Need a Legal Advocate?

If your or a loved one have been injured in a car accident, no one can begin to feel your physical and emotional pain. However, the experienced, compassionate team at Jan Dils, Attorneys at Law work

with families of accidents every day. Nothing will get us more impassioned than seeing families being taken advantage of in their time of need or grief by big insurance companies.

Throughout her career, Jan Dils has heard from so many of those represented by her team tell friends and family how important it was to have an experienced, caring attorney working for them. Their stories have inspired her to write a book – *Injured But Not Alone: Auto Accident Victims Take on “Big Insurance Companies”* – to help other victims of injuries avoid potential stumbling blocks, and understand the importance of having professional representation throughout the injury claims process. This book is written in plain English, without complicated legal language. It is intended to be a valued aid for everyone forced to fight with the big insurance companies in order to receive the compensation they deserve.

Now, for a limited time, Jan Dils is offering complimentary copies of this new book. [Click here](#) to request your copy. Hurry, supplies are limited.

Sources: <http://exchange.aaa.com/safety/driving-advice/#.WmX1GCOZNcA>

<https://www.nhtsa.gov/press-releases/usdot-releases-2016-fatal-traffic-crash-data>

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Jan Dils, Attorneys at Law, handles Personal Injury Claims, Social Security and Veterans Disability for clients throughout West Virginia with offices located in Parkersburg-Beckley-Charleston-Huntington-Logan as well as one additional office located in Charlotte, North Carolina. But regardless of where you are located we are able to serve you or a family member nationwide.

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