

Hit-and-run drivers not uncommon, but not well understood

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The Baltimore Sun:

Over the past eight days, three people died and another was injured in three hit-and-run accidents in the Baltimore region. Police are still seeking the drivers in all three incidents.

On Wednesday, Bishop Heather Elizabeth Cook was indicted on charges of automobile manslaughter, driving under the influence, texting while driving, and leaving the scene of the accident that killed bicyclist Thomas Palermo just days after Christmas.

What leads someone to flee an accident where another person might have suffered harm?

Data shows fleeing an accident is not uncommon, but there's little research on the behavior. Psychologists and others struggle to explain the hit-and-run phenomenon.

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"Rational decision-making is clearly difficult in an intoxicated state, particularly as blood-alcohol levels increase," said Carlo DiClemente, a psychology professor at University of Maryland, Baltimore County who studies addictive behavior. "Fear and escape motivations kick in and, without good executive functioning, make flight more probable."

Read the whole story: [*The Baltimore Sun*](#)