



Injuries to Bicyclists

From a Monograph by the Johns Hopkins Injury Prevention Center Sponsored by the Snell Memorial Foundation

- Each year in the United States:
 - more than 900 bicyclists are killed
 - 20,000 are admitted to hospitals
 - 580,000 receive emergency room treatment
- For the population as a whole, there are approximately:
 - 1.8 billion bicycle trips
 - 300 injuries per million trips
 - 1 death in every 2 million trips (0.5 per million)
- Helmets are needed because head injuries in bicyclists are noted in:
 - 65,000 emergency room cases and 7,700 hospital admissions annually
 - about 40% of bicyclists admitted to hospitals
 - an estimated 70% to 80% of fatally injured bicyclists
- Bicyclists hospitalized with head injuries are 20 times as likely to die as those without.
- Bicyclist injury rates per million trips are highest at age 5-15.
- Bicyclist death rates per million trips are highest above age 50.



- Bicyclist death rates per 100,000 population are highest at age 10-14.
- 56% of fatally injured bicyclists are: age 20 or older.
- Death rates for male bicyclists age 20-54 have substantially increased in recent years.
- Compared with females, males:
 - make 2.5 times as many bicycle trips
 - are 2.4 times as likely to be killed. per trip
 - have a death rate per 100,000 population that is 6 times as high
- The death rate per million trips is 8 times as high from 10 pm - 1 am as from 9 am - 1 pm.
- Motor vehicles are involved in 90-92% of bicyclist deaths and 12% of injuries.
- One third of bicyclist fatalities occur on roads with speed limits of 55 mph or higher.
- Two-thirds of fatally injured bicyclists are tested for alcohol; 32% of those tested have been drinking.
- Bicyclist death rates per trip or per person mile of travel greatly exceed the rates for car occupants

