

BICYCLE INJURY

Every year, approximately 130 children ages 14 and under die in bike crashes and approximately 270,000 emergency room visits by children ages 14 and under are for biking injuries. Nearly half (47 percent) of children hospitalized for bike-related injuries are diagnosed with a traumatic brain injury.

- ❑ The single most effective safety device available to reduce head injury and death from bicycle crashes is a helmet. Bicycle helmets reduce the risk of brain injury by 88 percent. It is estimated that 75 percent of fatal head injuries among child cyclists could be prevented with a bike helmet.
- ❑ If all children ages 4 to 15 wore a helmet every time they rode a bike, helmets could prevent up to 155 deaths, 45,000 head injuries and 55,000 scalp and face injuries every year.
- ❑ Collisions with motor vehicles account for nearly 90 percent of all bike-related deaths and 10 percent of all other bike-related injuries.
- ❑ Nearly 60 percent of all bike-related child fatalities occur on secondary roads. The typical bicycle crash with a motor vehicle occurs within a mile of the cyclist's home.
- ❑ Among children ages 14 and under, cyclist behavior is a factor in more than 80 percent of bike-related fatalities. Contributing factors include riding into a street without stopping; turning left across traffic or swerving into traffic; running a stop sign; or riding against the flow of traffic.



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