



Bicycle-Related Injuries

United States (2003)

- More than 600 bicyclists were killed in crashes with motor vehicles, 85% were not wearing helmets.
- 24% of bicyclists killed had a blood alcohol concentration above the legal limit.
- 23% of all bicyclist deaths occurred to children ages 16 or younger.
- Bicycle deaths per million people were highest among 12 year-old males.
- The male to female ratio of bicycle deaths for all ages is 8 to 1.
- About 54% of deaths occurred between noon and 9 p.m. with a peak time period from 6 to 9 p.m.
- The majority (68%) of bicyclists were killed in crashes in urban areas on major roadways (not at intersections).
- Bicyclist deaths are more likely to occur during the summer and fall months, peaking in July.
- 2 of 3 bicycle-related deaths involve head injury.
- Helmets have been found to be 88% effective in reducing or preventing traumatic brain injury (TBI).
- Universal helmet use could:
 - Save 1 life every day;
 - Prevent 1 head injury every 4 minutes;
 - Save at least \$70 million annually.



Oklahoma

- In 2002, 4 bicyclists were killed in crashes with motor vehicles
- In 2003, 56 bicyclists were treated for a TBI, 3 of which were fatal.
- Bicycle-related injuries are a leading cause of nonfatal TBI among elementary school aged children 5-12 years.
- Nonfatal TBI is a devastating injury with many survivors having severe physical, emotional or cognitive problems resulting in long-term disability.
- Persons with mild or moderate brain injuries may have long lasting difficulties with learning and activities of daily living.
- A substantial portion of medical costs associated with brain injuries is paid by public tax dollars.
- According to the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, only 25% of Oklahoma children wear a bicycle helmet.

PREVENTION should focus on: bicycle helmet use, learning and obeying all traffic laws, and constant adult supervision of young children.