Bicycle, Skate and Skateboard Safety Fact Sheet (2013)

Fatalities
- 112 children ages 19 and under died while riding a bike in 2010.1
  - 48% of children who died while bike-riding in 2010 were 15-19 years old.1
  - 79% of children who died while bike-riding were boys.1
- This is the smallest number of deaths since 1999, and is a 56% reduction in the number of deaths since that year and a 59% decrease in the death rate.1

1999-2010 Bike Fatalities and Death Rate Among Children Ages 19 and Under

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Deaths</th>
<th>Death Rate per 100,000 Children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>0.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>227</td>
<td>0.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>0.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>0.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>0.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>0.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>0.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>0.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>148</td>
<td>0.17</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008</td>
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<td>0.14</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>0.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>0.13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Injuries
- 289,473 children ages 19 and under were seen in emergency rooms for injuries from riding bikes in 2011.1
- 78,303 children ages 19 and under had skateboard-related injuries, and 4,703 had skating-related injuries, in 2011.2
- More children ages 5 to 14 are seen in emergency departments for injuries related to biking than any other sport.345
Additional Statistics

- Each month, three out of four children in the U.S. ride a bicycle.  
- Approximately 55 percent of children don’t always wear a helmet while bicycling.  
- Apart from the automobile, bicycles are tied to more childhood injuries than any other consumer product.  
- A child who rides with companions wearing helmets or adults in general is more likely to wear a helmet himself.  
- Compared to older children, younger children are more likely to wear helmets.  
- Helmet use is the single most effective way to reduce bicycle-related fatalities.  
- A helmet on the head of a younger bicyclist saves society $580.  
- Helmets reduce the risk of head injury by at least 45 percent, brain injury by 33 percent, facial injury by 27 percent and fatal injury by 29 percent. One study suggests that helmet use can reduce the risk of head injury by 85 percent and severe brain injury by 88 percent.  
- Nonmotorized scooters cause more injuries to kids than any other toy.

References


Last updated March 2013. If you have a question about this factsheet, please call 202-662-0600.