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**

![Graph showing the number of deaths and death rate per 100,000 children from 1999 to 2010.](chart)

Injuries
- 271,099 children ages 19 and under were seen in emergency rooms for injuries from riding bikes in 2012.¹
- 80,040 children ages 19 and under had skateboard-related injuries, and 5,283 had skating-related injuries, in 2012.²
- More children ages 5 to 14 are seen in emergency departments for injuries related to biking than any other sport.³ ⁴ ⁵
Additional Statistics

- Each month, three out of four children in the U.S. ride a bicycle.\(^6\)
- Approximately 55 percent of children don’t always wear a helmet while bicycling.\(^6\)
- Apart from the automobile, bicycles are tied to more childhood injuries than any other consumer product.\(^7,8\)
- A child who rides with companions wearing helmets or adults in general is more likely to wear a helmet himself.\(^9\)
- Compared to older children, younger children are more likely to wear helmets.\(^10\)
- Helmet use is the single most effective way to reduce bicycle-related fatalities.\(^11\)
- A helmet on the head of a younger bicyclist saves society $580.\(^12\)
- 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.\(^6\) One study suggests that helmet use can reduce the risk of head injury by 85 percent and severe brain injury by 88 percent.\(^13\)
- Nonmotorized scooters cause more injuries to kids than any other toy.\(^14\)

References


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