

BICYCLE-MOTOR VEHICLE CRASHES

Data are from the
CRASH OUTCOME DATA EVALUATION SYSTEM (CODES): 1995/1996

➔ During the 2 year period, 1995 -1996, 713 Maine bicycle riders were involved in crashes with motor vehicles; 578 of these riders were injured.

➔ Half of all bicycle riders who were injured in crashes with motor vehicles were between 5 and 14 years old. Male riders, 10 - 14 years old, had the highest crash rate of any age group (160.0 crashes / 100,000 population) - a rate significantly higher than the crash rate for any other group.

➔ For bicycle riders 5 -19 years old, the activity that resulted in the most crashes was

the rider crossing the road (44%). For older riders, 20 years old and older, most crashes happened when the bicyclist was riding either with traffic (43%) or against traffic (25%).

➔ Although bicycle riders accounted for approximately 1 of every 275 crash victims from all types of crashes (car, motorcycle, etc), they accounted for 1 in 20 of all crash victims who were hospitalized or died with a head injury.

➔ More crashes happened in urban locations with lower speed limits, at intersections or driveways; however, crashes in rural areas, with higher speed limits were more likely to result in hospitalization or death - 7% of urban crashes resulted in hospitalization or death compared to 20% of rural crashes.

➔ In fact, rural crashes as a whole accounted for just 20% of all bicycle/motor vehicle crashes (145 crashes), but accounted for 43% of all bicycle riders who were hospitalized or who died.

➔ The average inpatient hospital charge for injured bicycle riders, \$19,500, was \$4,300 higher than for other motor vehicle crash victims.

➔ Medicaid was the payer for 44% of all bicyclist hospitalization charges.

Notes: CODES is a data network comprised of information obtained from police traffic accident reports, hospital inpatient discharges, ambulance reports, and death certificates. The Office of Data, Research, and Vital Statistics, Emergency Medical Services, the Bureau of Highway Safety, the Department of Transportation, and the Maine Health Information Center (which was responsible for the linked data set and analysis appearing in this Fact Sheet) cooperated in this effort. The CODES linkage project was funded by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

This analysis is based on linked records; as a result, some bicycle crash data are underestimated.

For further data on this topic, please contact:
the Office of Data, Research, and Vital Statistics, BUREAU OF HEALTH
at 161 Capitol Street, #11 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0011
The contact person is: Cathy St. Pierre - (207) 287-5500 287-2070 (TTY)

Visit our website at: <http://www.state.me.us/dhs/bohodr/index.htm>

For prevention information, please contact: Diane Arbour at 287-3265

Angus S. King, Jr.
Governor



Kevin W. Concannon
Commissioner

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