

# **BICYCLE SAFETY**

## **1998**

### **National Statistics**

The 761 bicyclist deaths in 1998 accounted for 2 percent of all traffic fatalities during the year. (*NHTSA*)

In 1998, 53,000 bicyclists were injured in traffic crashes. (*NHTSA*)

Bicycle deaths are most likely to occur in summer; the peak time is 3:00 to 9:00 p.m. (*IIHS*)

The risk of sustaining an injury during non-daylight conditions is nearly four times greater than during the daytime. (*NSKC*)

More bicyclists were killed in urban areas (63%) than in rural areas (37%) in 1998. (*IIHS*)

Thirty-two percent of bicycle deaths in 1998 occurred at intersections. (*IIHS*)

Fifty-nine percent of bicycle deaths in 1998 occurred on major roads, and 36% occurred on local roads. (*IIHS*)

Seventy percent of bicycle deaths in 1998 were riders 16 years and older. (*IIHS*)

The most common factor contributing to bicyclist fatalities is the cyclist's failure to yield right-of-way. (*NHTSA*)

Head injuries cause three out of four serious injuries and deaths that occur in bicycle accidents. (*NHTSA*)

Today there are an estimated 80.6 million riders, 43% of whom never wear helmets and 7% of whom wear helmets less than half the time. (*USCPSC*)

Ninety-eight percent of bicyclists killed in 1998 reportedly were not wearing helmets. (*IIHS*)

Bicycle helmets are 85 to 88% effective in preventing head and brain injuries in all types of bicycle crashes. (*NHTSA*)

Thirty-eight percent of adult bike riders regularly wear their helmets. (*USCPSC*)

Eighteen percent of the bicyclists killed in 1998 were intoxicated. (*NHTSA*)

### **Children:**

Each year, approximately 350,000 children under the age of 15 are treated for bicycle-related injuries in US hospital emergency rooms or in other medical settings. (*NHTSA*)

In 1998, 761 bicyclists were killed in motor vehicle crashes, 212 (28%) of those fatalities were children under 15 years old. (*NHTSA*)

Thirty percent of bicycle deaths in 1998 and 44% of bicycle injuries were riders younger than 16. (*IIHS*)

Ninety-five children under 15 years old who were killed in traffic crashes in 1998 were pedestrians or bicyclists who were struck by intoxicated drivers. (*NHTSA*)

Among children ages 14 and under, more than 80% of bicycle-related fatalities are associated with the bicyclist's behavior. The most common crashes include riding into a street without stopping; turning left or swerving into traffic that is coming from behind; running a stop sign; and riding against the flow of traffic. (*NSKC*)

Fifty-two percent of all childhood bicycle-related deaths occur on minor roads. The typical bicycle/motor vehicle crash occurs within one mile of the bicyclist's home. (*IIHS*)

Sixty-nine percent of children under 16 wear a helmet on a regular basis while riding a bike. (*USCPSC*)

It is estimated that 75% of bicycle-related fatalities among children could be prevented with a bicycle helmet. (*NSKC*)

Universal use of bicycle helmets by children ages 4 to 15 could prevent between 135 and 155 deaths, between 39,000 and 45,000 head injuries, and between 18,000 and 55,000 scalp and face injuries annually. (*NSKC*)

Children are more likely to wear a bicycle helmet if riding with others (peers or adults) who are also wearing one and less likely to wear one if their companions are not. (*NSKC*)