



# MARYLAND Department of Health

## **Bicycle Related Injuries**

Bicyclist crashes are defined as crashes involving a person reported as a bicyclist or pedalcyclist.<sup>1</sup>

### **How does this affect the United States?**

- In 2015, a total of 817 bicyclists were killed in crashes with motor vehicles. This represents a 13 percent increase from 2014 and the highest number of bicyclist deaths since 1995.<sup>2</sup>
- In 2015, 54 percent of bicyclists killed were not wearing helmets, among those for whom helmet status was known.<sup>2</sup>
- Since 1975, deaths among bicyclists younger than 20 have declined 88 percent, while deaths among bicyclists 20 and older have more than tripled.<sup>2</sup>
- In 2014, more than 50,000 bicyclists were injured in motor vehicle traffic crashes.<sup>3</sup>

### **How does it affect Maryland?**

- In 2015, there were 11 bicycle fatalities and 51 serious bicycle crash injuries in the state of Maryland.<sup>4</sup>
- An average of 7 bicyclists were killed and 68 are seriously injured each year.<sup>5</sup>
- Each year from 2009-2013, there was an average of 738 bicyclist-involved crashes resulting in 600 injured people.<sup>5</sup>

### **How do we address this problem?**

- Helmet use has been estimated to reduce the odds of head injury by 50 percent, and the odds of head, face or neck injury by 33 percent.<sup>6</sup>
- Twenty-one states and the District of Columbia have helmet laws applying to young bicyclists; none of these laws applies to all riders.<sup>1</sup> Maryland's law states that all bicyclists 15 and younger must wear a helmet.<sup>2</sup>
- Maryland has passed laws regarding bicycle safety that apply to bicyclists and motorists, a helmet use law and laws regarding other safety equipment.<sup>5</sup>

### **Additional resources**

- Maryland Strategic Highway Safety Plan 2016-2020. [http://www.mva.maryland.gov/\\_resources/docs/MarylandSHSP\\_2016-2020-Final.pdf%20](http://www.mva.maryland.gov/_resources/docs/MarylandSHSP_2016-2020-Final.pdf%20)
- Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration Bicycle Safety Program: <http://www.sha.maryland.gov/index.aspx?PageId=357>
- Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Association <http://www.mva.maryland.gov/safety/mhso/program-bicycle-safety.htm>



# Bicycle Related Injuries

## References

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2. Pedestrians and bicyclists. (n.d.). Retrieved January 24, 2017, from <http://www.iihs.org/iihs/topics/t/pedestrians-and-bicyclists/fatalityfacts/bicycles/2015>
3. Traffic Safety Facts 2014 Data. (May 2016). Retrieved January 30, 2017, from <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/812282>.
4. Maryland Highway Safety Office 2016 Annual Report (2016).
5. BICYCLE SAFETY IN MARYLAND. (n.d.). Retrieved January 24, 2017, from [http://www.mva.maryland.gov/safety/\\_docs/FY15\\_Bike\\_ProgramAreaBriefCombinedFinal.pdf](http://www.mva.maryland.gov/safety/_docs/FY15_Bike_ProgramAreaBriefCombinedFinal.pdf)
6. Elvik, R. 2013. Corrigendum to: "Publication bias and time-trend bias in meta-analysis of bicycle helmet efficacy: A re-analysis of Attewell, Glase and McFadden, 2001". Accident Analysis and Prevention 60:245-53.

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