



DATA

Cyclists requiring treatment in US Hospitals 1991 to 2000

Year	Total injuries	Total head injuries	% head injuries	All injuries < 15 yrs	Head injuries < 15 yrs	% head < 15 yrs
1991	567,700	66,820	12%	381,450	50,160	13%
1992	607,615	70,616	12%	423,671	55,239	13%
1993	559,197	62,866	11%	377,369	46,516	12%
1994	570,985	65,688	12%	369,207	46,747	13%
1995	553,064	63,216	11%	339,866	42,843	13%
1996	533,501	61,192	11%	335,245	43,201	13%
1997	567,002	61,861	11%	350,546	41,261	12%
1998	597,280	66,890	11%	362,330	43,280	12%
1999	614,590	71,720	12%	378,260	47,920	13%
2000	627,160	73,750	12%	373,090	49,250	13%
Totals	5,798,094	664,619	11%	3,691,034	466,417	13%

Source: Consumer Product Safety Commission

Note:

The proportions of head injuries did not change over the period despite helmet use in the USA increasing from 18% of cyclists in 1991 to 50% in 2000. However, cycle use during the period fell by 21%. Thus those who continued to cycle were 40% more likely to suffer head injury by 2001 than in 1991.

The Bicycle Helmet Research Foundation (BHRF), an incorporated body with an international membership, exists to undertake, encourage and spread the scientific study of the use of bicycle helmets. Also to consider the effect of the promotion and use of helmets on the perception of cycling in terms of risk and the achievement of wider public health and societal goals.

BHRF strives to provide a resource of best-available factual information to assist the understanding of a complex subject, and one where some of the reasoning may conflict with received opinion. In particular BHRF seeks to provide access to a wider range of information than is commonly made available by those that take a strong helmet promotion stance. It is hoped that this will assist informed judgements about the pros and cons of cycle helmets.

For more information, please visit www.cyclehelmets.org.

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