

# Utah Bicycle Injury Facts



## Do You Know These Facts About Bicycle Injuries in Utah?

- Bicyclists are 3.5 times more likely to be killed in a motor vehicle crash than occupants of a motor vehicle.<sup>1</sup>
- 93% of bicyclists involved in a bicycle/motor vehicle crash are injured.<sup>1</sup>
- The most serious bicycle related injuries are head injuries.<sup>2</sup>
- Bicyclists most often involved in a crash with a motor vehicle are between the ages of 5-24 years.<sup>3</sup>
- Utah had the 15th highest bicycle fatality rate in the U.S. from 1996-2005.<sup>4</sup>

## 1996-2005 Bicycle Injury Data

### Bicycle/Motor Vehicle Crashes (Bike/MVC)

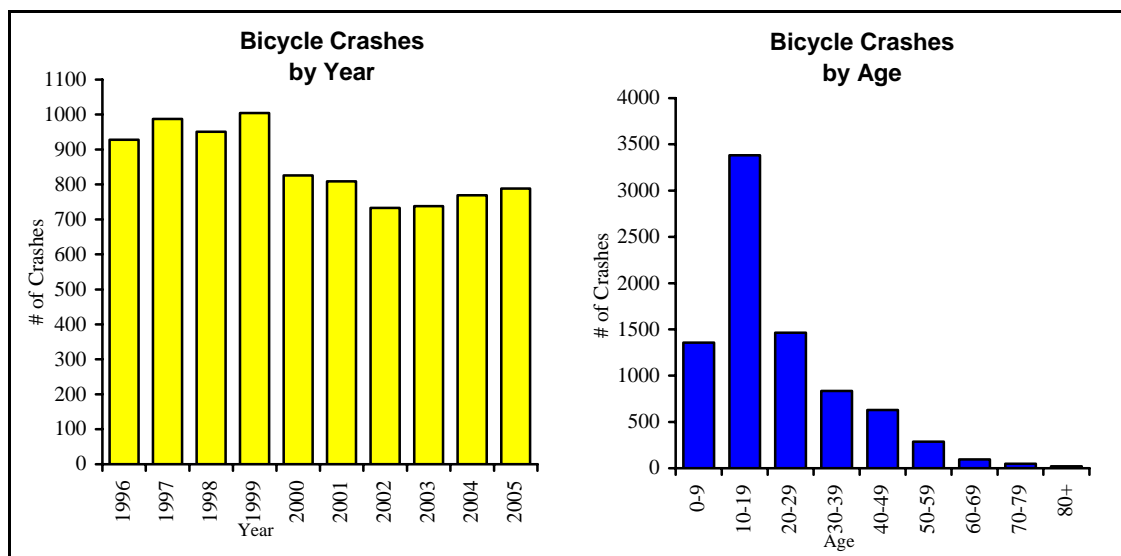
- 8,533 bicyclists were hit by motor vehicles<sup>3</sup>
- 41% of bicyclists hit by motor vehicles were children 5-14 years of age and 27% were between the ages of 15-24 years<sup>3</sup>
- 79% of bicyclists hit by motor vehicles are male<sup>3</sup>
- 32% of Bike/MVC occur between 3 - 6 PM<sup>3</sup>
- \$6.9 million was spent in 2005 in Utah to treat bicyclist injuries sustained in crashes with motor vehicles at hospitals and emergency departments<sup>5</sup>



### Bicycle Fatalities

- 58 bicyclists were killed in crashes with motor vehicles<sup>3</sup>
- 39% of bicyclists killed in crashes with motor vehicles were 14 years of age and younger and 28% were between the ages of 24-34 years<sup>3</sup>
- 74% of bicyclists killed were males<sup>3</sup>

“Bicyclists fare best when they act and are treated as drivers of vehicles”  
- John Forester,  
Author and Bicycle Advocate



## Prevention Information

Most bicycle injuries can be prevented by choosing safe behaviors and obeying traffic laws.



### Tips For Motorists

- Treat bicyclists the same as other vehicles.
- Don't underestimate the speed of a bicycle, many bicyclists can travel 25 to 30 mph.
- Slow down and be careful around young bicyclists.
- Give bicyclists space on the road. The law requires a motorist to allow at least 3 feet of clearance when passing a bicycle.
- Do not drive or park in a bike lane.
- Check for bicycles before opening the car door.

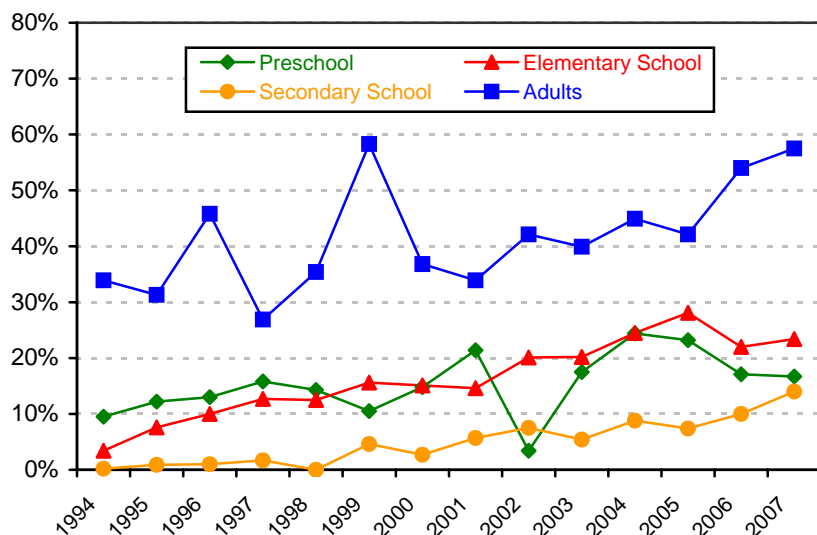
### Tips For Bicyclists

- Bicyclists must obey traffic signs, signals, and lane markings.
- Ride with the flow of traffic on the right side of the road.
- Be predictable, ride in a straight line.
- Bicyclists should use hand signals to let other roads users know where they plan to go.
- Never move to the left on a roadway, without first looking back for faster moving traffic.
- Always wear a helmet.

## Bicycle/Motor Vehicle Crash Rates Per 100,000 People By County 1996-2005

Rank	County	Rate
1	Grand	54.74
2	Salt Lake	46.35
3	Utah	44.11
4	Cache	40.99
—	<b>State</b>	<b>37.43</b>
5	Weber	34.77
6	Washington	27.13
7	Davis	23.68
8	Wasatch	23.44
9	Iron	22.82
10	Carbon	22.46
11	Uintah	22.36
12	Kane	21.63
13	Beaver	21.38
14	Juab	20.45
15	Box Elder	18.68
16	Sevier	18.13
17	Summit	15.32
18	Rich	15.10
19	Sanpete	14.11
20	Millard	12.69
21	San Juan	12.55
22	Duchesne	11.70
23	Daggett	11.27
24	Garfield	10.85
25	Morgan	10.77
26	Tooele	8.99
27	Emery	8.37
28	Wayne	8.08
29	Piute	0.00

### Utah Bicycle Helmet Use by Age 1994-2007



### Bicycle Helmets

- Helmets reduce the risk of head and brain injury by 85 – 88 percent <sup>6</sup>
- Utah is one of 14 states in the U.S. that does not have any type of bicycle helmet law <sup>7</sup>
- In the U.S. 93% of bicyclists killed are not wearing helmets while only 5% of bicyclists wearing helmets are killed <sup>2</sup>
- Bicycle helmet use in Utah for several years was increasing, but recently has started declining for bicyclists under the age of 12 years