

Bicycle Safety Facts

Americans are increasingly bicycling to commute, for exercise, or just for fun. By law, bicycles on the roadway are vehicles with the same rights and responsibilities as motorized vehicles.



Every bike ride begins with putting on a helmet. But it's equally important that you ensure a proper fit so your helmet can best protect you.

966

Bicyclist killed in traffic crashes in 2021

- Regardless of the season, bicyclist deaths occurred most often between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m.
- Bicyclist deaths occur most often in urban areas (64%) compared to rural areas (27%).
- Male bicyclists have death rates 6 times higher and injury rates 5 times higher than females.
- One- third of fatal bike crashes involved a bicyclist who had been drinking alcohol.



Sharing the Road – Safety on wheels

Be focused and alert to the road and all traffic around you; anticipate what others may do, before they do it.

This is defensive driving, the quicker you notice a potential conflict, the quicker you can act to avoid a potential crash.

Safety on wheels also includes bicycles, hover boards, scooters, skateboards.



1. Check your law to make sure sidewalk riding is legal; obey street signs, signals, and road markings, just like a car.
2. Ride in the same direction as traffic. This way, if the sidewalk ends, you are already riding with the flow of traffic. If crossing a street, motorists will look left, right, left for traffic. When you are to the driver's left, the driver is more likely to see you.
3. Assume the other person doesn't see you; look ahead for hazards or situations to avoid that may cause you to fall, like toys, pebbles, potholes, grates, train tracks.
4. Watch for pedestrians; pass pedestrians with care by first announcing "on your left" or "passing on your left" or use a bell.