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Fact Sheet

Title

2019 SafeTREC Traffic Safety Facts: Bicycle Safety

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TRAFFIC SAFETY FACTS

Bicycle Safety

—Katherine L. Chen, Bor-Wen Tsai, Garrett Fortin, and Jill F. Cooper—

INTRODUCTION

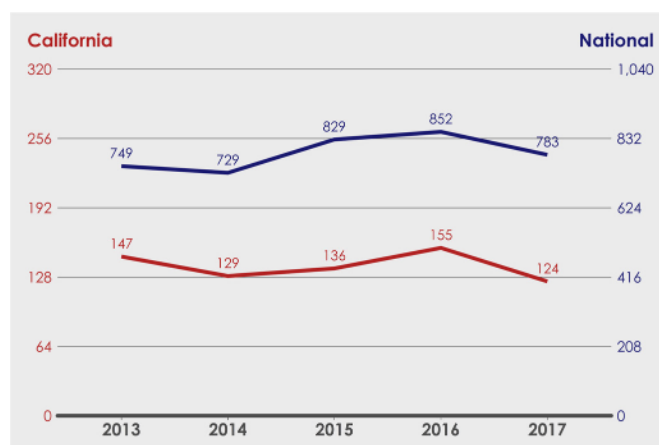
Bicycling is becoming more popular across the country, for commuting, exercise, and leisure. In 2017, there were 783 bicyclists killed in a traffic collision in the US. In citing concern about the level of bicycle fatalities, the Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) identified key recommendations for improving safety, including collection of better crash data, increased training for law enforcement to understand laws designed to protect bicyclists, partnerships with bicycling and community organizations regarding safety messaging and public education campaigns about infrastructure improvements.

CALIFORNIA FACTS

CALIFORNIA DATA

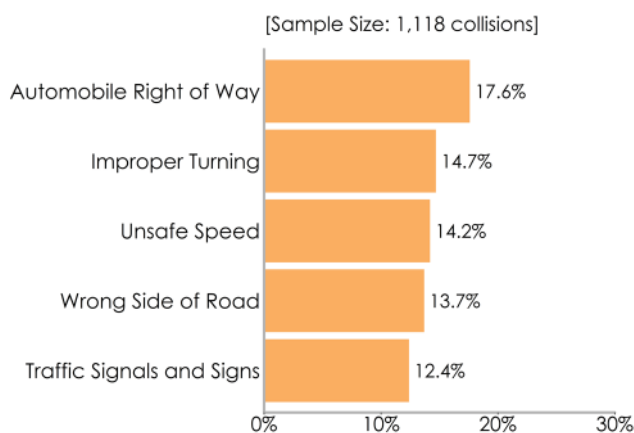
- Bicycle fatalities decreased 20.0 percent from 155 fatalities in 2016 to 124 fatalities in 2017.
- Bicycle fatalities represented 3.4 percent of the total number of traffic fatalities in 2017 in California.
- Bicyclists are required to follow the California Vehicle Code while riding on California roadways. Unless prohibited, bicyclists are allowed to ride in travel lanes. In the 2018 California Traffic Safety Survey, 73.8 percent of drivers surveyed believed it is legal for bicyclists to ride on roadways when there is not a bicycle lane present, a 1.6 percent increase from 2017.
- Eleven counties reported no bicycle fatal or serious injuries: Amador, Calaveras, Colusa, Glenn, Imperial, Inyo, Lassen, Mariposa, Modoc, Plumas, and Trinity. An additional eleven counties reported three or fewer bicycle fatal and serious injuries.
- Bicycle fatal and serious injuries were highest in densely populated areas of the state. Los Angeles County had the highest number of fatal and serious injuries. The counties of Orange, Sacramento, San Diego, Santa Clara, San Francisco, Riverside, and Alameda also had relatively high numbers.
- Rates of bicycle fatal and serious injuries per population were highest in more rural areas, including Alpine, Sierra, and Mono counties. Santa Cruz, Yuba, Marin, Del Norte, and Napa counties also had relatively high rates of injury per population.

Bicycling Fatality Trends, Nationwide and California, 2013-2017



Source: FARS 2013-2016, FARS ARF 2017

Top Five Primary Collision Factors for Bicycling Fatal and Serious Injury Collisions, 2017

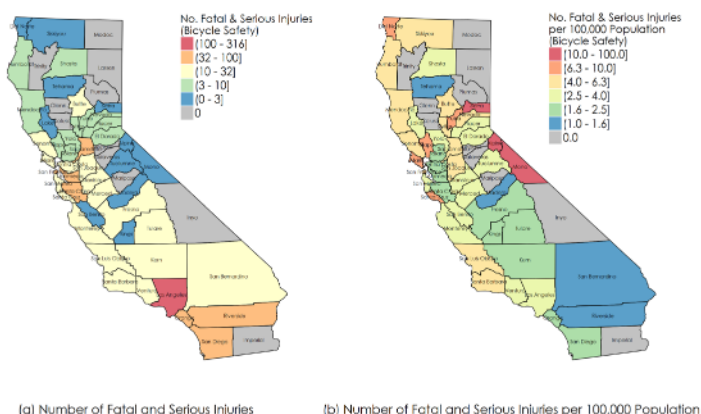


Source: Provisional SWITRS 2017

CALIFORNIA DATA (continued)

- Primary collision factors (PCF) varied considerably for bicycling fatal and serious injury collisions. The two top PCFs were automobile right-of-way at 17.6 percent and improper turning at 14.7 percent. Unsafe speed, wrong side of road, and traffic signals and signs were clustered between 12.4 and 14.2 percent.
- More male (83.4 percent) than female (16.6 percent) bicyclists sustained fatal and serious injuries in 2017.
- The bicyclists most likely to be fatally or seriously injured were middle aged, especially those aged 45 to 54 (21.2 percent) and those aged 55 to 64 (18.0 percent). Youth and young adults, aged 15 to 34, also experienced higher levels of injury at over 15 percent for each age group.
- White people comprised 55.6 percent of bicyclist fatalities.
- Three-quarter (75.0 percent) of bicycle fatalities occurred in urban areas compared to 25.0 percent on rural roads.

Bicycling Fatal and Serious Injury
Number and Rate per 100K Population by County, 2017



Source: FARS ARF 2017; Provisional SWITRS 2017; California Department of Finance 2018

Time of Day and Day of Week for Bicycling Fatal and Serious Injury Victims, California, 2017

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	TOTAL
Midnight-3AM	2	1	7	2	8	9	9	38 [3.5%]
3-6AM	4	8	5	9	4	7	2	39 [3.6%]
6-9AM	20	23	21	20	15	14	8	121 [11.0%]
9AM-Noon	13	19	24	24	18	40	28	166 [15.1%]
Noon-3PM	23	20	19	15	19	35	29	160 [14.6%]
3-6PM	33	32	51	34	32	28	31	241 [21.9%]
6-9PM	35	34	34	24	35	29	23	214 [19.5%]
9PM-Midnight	18	14	25	14	9	13	19	112 [10.2%]
Unknown	0	0	1	1	1	1	3	7 [0.6%]
TOTAL	148 [13.5%]	151 [13.8%]	187 [17.0%]	143 [13.0%]	141 [12.8%]	176 [16.0%]	152 [13.8%]	1,098 [100.0%]

FSI | Num+% | 0 | 1 - 22 | 23 - 37 | 38 - 50 | 51 - 73 | 74 - 131

Source: FARS ARF 2017, Provisional SWITRS 2017

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