



Wednesday 26 July 2017

Bicycle crash report: Riding a bike is safer than sitting on a chair

New data into the causes of bike crashes has revealed that a person riding a bike has a 0.003% chance of being involved in a crash on any given day.

The crash report released by Bicycle Network analyses details from 2,480 bicycle crashes reported over five years (2012 to 2016) by its members, including when and where they happened.

Bicycle Network CEO Craig Richards said that the data goes a long way in dispelling the myth that riding a bike is a dangerous and risky activity.

“Our crash report shows that the chance of being involved in a crash when you ride a bike is miniscule, just 0.003% on any day, and 0.99% in a year,” said Mr Richards.

“More people go to hospital each year from falling off chairs than they do falling off bikes.”

Another key finding from the report is that despite popular belief, the vast majority of crashes happen during good weather conditions, on flat roads and at intersections – not when riders are travelling downhill and in the rain.

“These results are not entirely surprising when you consider that when it comes to bike crashes or collisions with vehicles, studies show that car drivers are mostly at fault,” Mr Richards said.

“While our data shows that crashes are minimal, they are still avoidable and it is clear that the number one action we need to take to make bike riding even safer is to improve separation between bikes and cars.”

“Crashes occurring in areas that are seemingly non-risky but are dominated by cars show just how important it is that we build more bike paths and lanes that keep bikes and cars separate.”

The most crashes occur in October when many bike riders wake from winter hibernation, followed by January. The morning peak is the most prevalent time for crashes, when traffic is most concentrated.

All Bicycle Network members are entitled to free consultations after a crash and are comprehensively insured for medical, third party damage and other costs associated with a crash.

–ENDS–

Making bike riding easy for everyone

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Bicycle crashes – the statistics

- Most crashes happen when the weather is fine (81.4%) and the road is flat (70.7%)
- October and January are the two most common months for crashes, with the fewest recorded during winter months
- Crashes are most common during peak hour, but the number of crashes in the morning peak almost double those of the afternoon peak
- Intersections are the highest risk area, where 42.8% of crashes occur
- Only 20.9% of crashes occur in environments where there are no motor vehicles
- 13.8% of crashes occur when the rider is travelling at less than 11km/h, and almost half of crashes (46.1%) when the rider is travelling at less than 21km/h
- The chance of a bike rider crashing are just 0.003% on any day, and 0.99% in a year. The chance of having a crash that requires hospitalisation on any day is just 0.001%

About Bicycle Network

- Bicycle Network is a health promotion charity combating physical inactivity – two of three Australians don't get enough physical activity and the best way to address this is through bike riding
- Represents 50,000 bike riding members across Australia
- Campaigns to build more places to ride and make bike riding safer for all Australians
- Conducts national behaviour change programs including Ride2School and Ride2Work
- Runs world class events including Around the Bay, Newcrest Orange Challenge, Peaks Challenge Series and Gravel Grit as well as the RACV Great Vic
- For more information visit bicyclenetwork.com.au
- Follow Bicycle Network on Facebook at /BicycleNetwork, Instagram at @Bicycle_Network and Twitter at @Bicycle_Network

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