SKATEBOARDING AND NON-POWERED SCOOTER SAFETY
FACT SHEET

Every year, an estimated 23,000 head injuries due to skateboarding and non-powered scooter accidents are treated in emergency rooms nationwide.

Always use a helmet while riding a skateboard or non-powered scooter to help prevent injury. Riders should use a bike helmet that meets Consumer Product Safety Commission standards or a multi-sport helmet that meets the N-94 standard of the Snell Memorial Foundation. In Indiana, riders 17 or younger of motorcycles and low-powered motor-driven cycles like scooters or mopeds are required to wear motorcycle helmets.

More than 20 states and the District of Columbia require children under the age of 15 to wear a helmet while riding a bicycle or participating in other wheeled sports (i.e. scooters, in-line skates, skateboards). Local laws may also apply.

Skateboard Safety

In 2014, there were 84,414 injuries to children involving skateboards.

Children under the age of 5 should not use skateboards. Children between 6 and 10 years old who are skateboarding should be supervised by an adult.

Children who skateboard should wear a helmet and safety gear (including wrist guards, elbow pads, and knee pads) to prevent or reduce injuries from falls.

Never grab onto the side or back of a car, bus, truck, or bicycle while riding a skateboard (called “skitching a ride”).

Support skateboarding parks in your community where youth can practice in a safe setting and away from pedestrian and motor vehicle traffic.

Non-Powered Scooter Safety

Children younger than 8 years old need close adult supervision when riding non-powered scooters.

Do not allow children to ride non-powered scooters on streets, in traffic, or at night.

Helmets, knee pads, and elbow pads should be worn by children while using non-powered scooters.

Sources: