

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:

Skateboard and Scooter Injuries Policy Statement, American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Injury and Poison Prevention, *Pediatrics*, Vol. 109 No. 3, March 2002, pp, 542-543. HealthyChildren.org (AAP) Skateboarding and In-line Skating November 2015. Retrieved May 2017. SAFE KIDS Worldwide, Bicycle, Rollerblade, and Skateboard Injuries, Washington (DC) SKW, 2016. Retrieved May 2017. Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, Current US Motorcycle and Bicycle Helmet Laws, May 2017; <http://www.iihs.org/iihs/topics/laws/bicycle-laws> .



INDIANA UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Safety Education and Outreach