

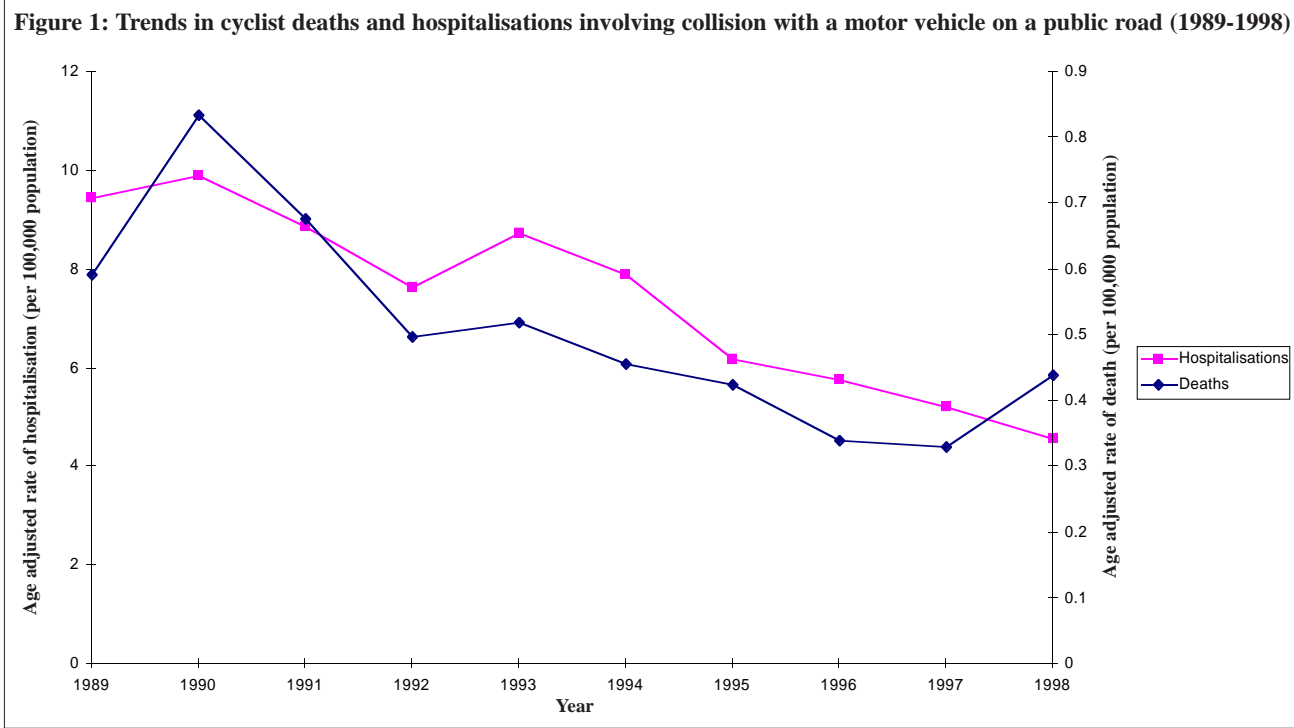
Trends in Cyclist Injury

- Between 1989 and 1998 there were 195 cyclist deaths, an average of 19 per year.
- The vast majority (91%, n=177) of these deaths resulted from a collision with a motor vehicle on a public road.
- Between 1989 and 1998, 12,103 cyclists had injuries requiring hospitalisations^{1,2} (an average of 1210 per year).
- 21% (n=2573) of these injuries involved collision with a motor vehicle on a public road.
- There were 18 deaths and 9,530 hospitalisations that did not involve a motor vehicle.
- Because of changes to coding practices in recent years, it is not possible to accurately estimate the number of these cyclist crashes that occurred on a public road. In other words, an accurate overview of all cycle crashes on a public road is not possible. However, for the period 1979-1998, it has been estimated that 96% of cyclist deaths and 74% of hospitalisations occurred on a public road.³

The remainder of this fact sheet deals only with cycle crashes involving collision with a motor vehicle on a public road.

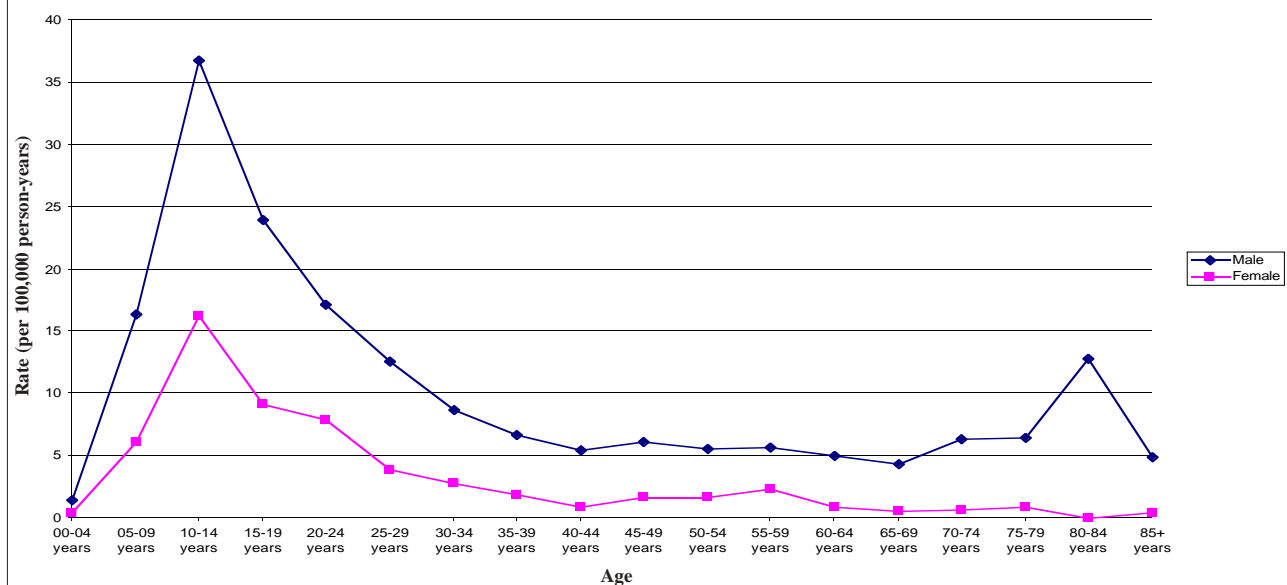
Trends in Cyclist Injury Involving Collision with a Motor Vehicle on a Public Road

- In 1989 there were 28 deaths, whereas in 1998 there were 16. This is a decrease of 43%.
- In 1989 there were 277 hospitalisations, whereas in 1998 there were 148. This is a decrease of 47%.
- 81% of the deaths and 73% of the hospitalisations were male.



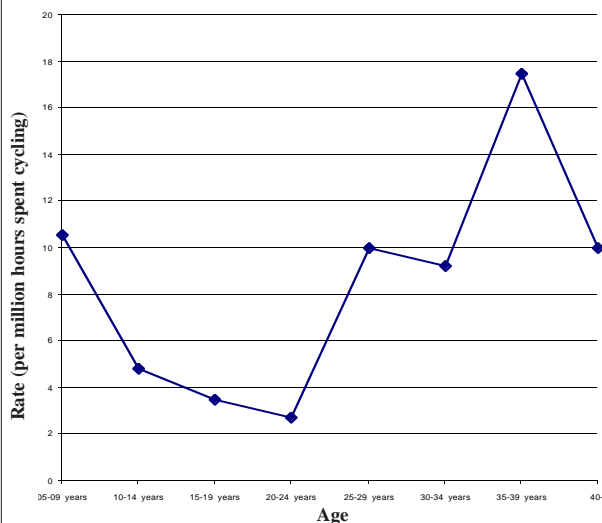
1: Includes: motor vehicle traffic (ICD Ecodes 810-819), and non-traffic crashes (ICD Ecodes 820-825) where the injured person was a cyclist, and other road vehicle accidents (ICD Ecodes 826-829) that involved a cyclist.
 2: Includes all discharges from public hospitals with a primary diagnosis of injury, and excludes the following: readmissions for prior injury, stays of less than 1 day, and those discharged dead.
 3: Collins B, Langley J, Marshall S. (1993) Injuries to pedal cyclists resulting in death and hospitalisation. *New Zealand Medical Journal*, 106: 514-517.

Figure 2: Age and gender specific rates of serious injury¹ to cyclists involving collision with a motor vehicle (1989-1998)



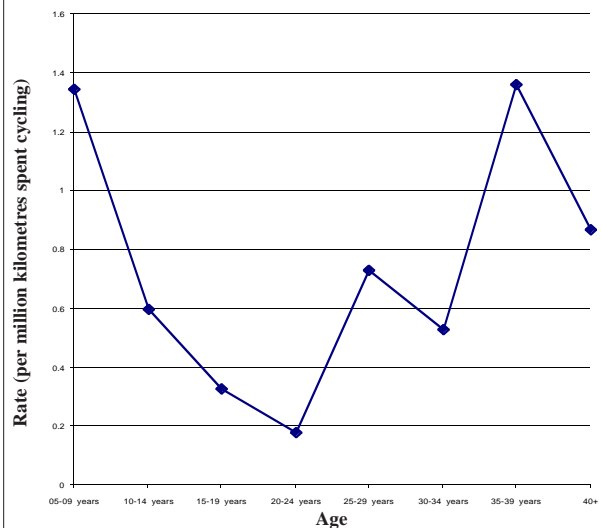
- The rate for males for the period 1989-1998 was 14.3 per 100,000 person-years and that for females was 4.8 per 100,000 person-years.
- For each age group males had a higher rate of serious injury.
- The highest rates occurred among children, especially 10-14 year olds (26% of hospitalisations and deaths were to 10-14 years olds).
- The rates for those over 30 years of age were relatively constant.

Figure 3: Age-specific rate of serious injury¹ per million hours spent cycling² (1997/1998)



- The highest rate of serious injury was in the 35-39 year old age group.

Figure 4: Age-specific rate of serious injury¹ per million kilometres cycled² (1997/1998)



- The 5-9 and 35-39 year age groups had the highest and similar rates of serious injury.
- These findings suggest the high population rates for 10-14 year olds (Figure 2) are probably attributable to the longer number of kilometres cycled.

1. Includes hospitalisations and deaths combined

2. Based on the 1997-1998 Travel Survey Report, LTSA

Data Source: Morbidity and Mortality Data, 1988-1999, NZHIS, Ministry of Health, Wellington
Prepared by: NA Dow, JD Langley, K Kyri, and DM Casey, December 2001