

Safety Check ✓

From the Safety Chick

Bicycle Collisions

A number of states now keep statistics on bicycle/car collisions. Reviewing the available information may bring to your attention where cyclists encounter the greatest dangers.

General information

In one study, approximately half the collisions occurred at intersections. Whose fault was the accident? In 22 % of the cases the action of the cyclist was at fault. Motorist's actions caused 19% of the accidents and in 9% it was impossible to determine the fault. Cyclists moving in the opposite direction of traffic accounted for 16% of all collisions. Rates of collisions between cyclists and motor vehicles increase in higher populated areas. However, county roads and state routes have a higher rate of fatal collisions.

The top ten ranking of Car-Bike Collisions in Washington

1. Cyclist on proper side of road runs the stop sign (9.3%)
2. Motorist turning left hits cyclist head-on (7.6)
3. Motorist restarting from stop sign hits wrong way cyclist (6.8%)
4. Cyclist turns left in front of overtaking car (6.1%)
5. Cyclist hit on light change (5.9%)
6. Motorist turns right (4.8%)
7. Cyclist exits residential driveway (4.3%)
8. Motorist restarts from stop sign (4.2%)
9. Cyclist exits commercial driveway (3.9%)
10. Cyclist on sidewalk turns to exit driveway (3.0%)

Note: Recently I have been on a number of rides where I witnessed unsafe riding techniques. I'd like to take a moment and ask everyone to ride more carefully. Distractions are all around us, it only takes a second to miss the edge of a path, to veer into traffic, to ride too close to other riders. The drivers around us are distracted too. They are talking on cell phones, watching their kids, driving erratically but they are still bigger than we are.