

SKATE RELATED INJURIES

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) was asked to provide data on injuries associated with skateboards. Data was not obtained for BMX bikes. The overall number of injuries related to in-line and other types of skates has been compared to skateboards.

To obtain statistical extrapolations of the total number of injuries, the CPSC relies on reported injuries from a network of hospital emergency rooms. During 1995, 745 injuries were reported where the patient said that the injury occurred while skateboarding. The CPSC notes, therefore, that injuries are related to skateboards, not caused by them.

KEY POINTS

The following will summarize the key points. (For a detailed discussion of the frequency and types of injuries see Appendix II.)

- Nearly 97% of skateboard related injuries were treated and the skater immediately released.
 - Approximately 2% of injuries required hospitalization; the rest were treated and transferred.
- Approximately 50% of skateboard related injuries occur between the ages of 5 and 14 nearly 37% between the ages of 15 and 24.
 - Nearly 83% of all skateboard related injuries are to males.
- Approximately 70% of skateboard related injuries are: fractures; sprains; contusions; and abrasions.
- Nearly 69% of skateboard related injuries are to the area of the head, wrist and hand, and ankle and foot.
- Injuries Related to Various Types of Skating - Comparison

Sport	Number of Injuries ¹	% of Total Injuries
1. In-line Skating	106,014	40.9%
2. Roller Skating	<u>81,085</u>	<u>31.2%</u>
Total	187,099	72.1%
3. Ice Skating	39,959	15.4%
4. Skateboarding	32,403	12.5%
TOTAL	259,461	100.0%

¹ The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission Report compares Ice Hockey, Skateboards, Roller Skating, Unspecified Skating, Ice Skating, In-Line Skating and Roller Hockey. For this analysis Ice Hockey (24,948 injuries) and Roller Hockey (3,685 injuries) have been eliminated; unspecified skating (15,762) injuries have been prorated among the remaining categories.