Every hour, nearly 50 children visit emergency departments with an injury related to bikes, scooters, skates or skateboards.

Serious head injuries (concussions, internal injuries and fractures) made up 11% of ED visits across the four wheeled sports. Fractures to the shoulder, arm, elbow, wrist or hand were the most frequent diagnoses for hospital admissions.

19% of hospital admissions for scooter injuries to children in 2015 were because of a head injury.

Almost 40% of parents of children ages 5-14 years indicated that their child did not always wear a helmet when participating in one of the four wheeled sports. Among parents who say they always wear a helmet when riding a bike, 86% say their child also does. However, among parents who say they never wear a helmet, only 38% say their child always does.

Reasons why parents report their children do not always wear a helmet:

47% Parents think area is safe/View child as experienced/Don’t see helmets as necessary.
27% Child finds helmet uncomfortable.
24% Other kids don’t wear one.
22% Child thinks helmets aren’t cool.

Top Tips to Keep Kids Safe on Wheels

- All riders should wear a properly-fitted helmet. It is the best way to prevent head injuries and death.
- Ensuring correct fit of a helmet can increase comfort and use.
- Knee pads and elbow pads are recommended for scooters, skaters and skateboarders. Wrist guards are also recommended for skaters and skateboarders.

For more information visit safekids.org