

# Bike Messenger Safety Stats and Facts

## FACTS

**Bike messengers should be aware that any of the following can cause serious bodily harm**

- 1. Motor Vehicle Collisions:** Distracted drivers, drivers with road rage, speeding, and even vehicle part failure can all result in a car crash that could easily kill a messenger.
- 2. Being “Doored”:** When a car passenger opens their door right in front of a bike rider, causing them to crash into the door.
- 3. Pedestrians:** Pedestrians frequently step right into bike lanes without first looking, causing a collision between body and bike.
- 4. Accidents Caused by Poorly Maintained Roads:** Towns, townships, cities, and states are responsible for maintaining roads, street signs, and traffic lights. Potholes, missing street signs, and broken sidewalks are all serious issues that could result in an accident.
- 5. Injuries Commonly Diagnosed After a Bike Messenger Accident**

- **Traumatic Brain Injury:** Even with a helmet, a traumatic brain injury can occur. Damage to the brain can cause issues with mobility, fine motor skills, memory, speech, vision, and sense of smell.
- **Spinal Trauma:** Damage can impact the vertebrae, spinal cord, nerves, and muscles.
- **Damage To Internal Organs:** Any of the internal organs can be bruised, torn, impaled, or punctured in an accident.

## STATS

- The number of deaths from bicycle incidents increased 6% in 2019 and 37% in the last 10 years, from 793 in 2010 to 1,089 in 2019. Of the 1,089 bicyclist deaths in 2019, 712 involved motor vehicles.
- 62 percent of working cyclists interviewed in a 2017 survey by the Biking Public Project said that they had been involved in a motor-vehicle collision at least once, and an average of 30 percent said they had missed work because of work-related injuries in the last year.
- Bicyclist deaths were 8 times higher in males than females. Alcohol was involved in 37% of crashes.
- The average age of cyclists who died in motor-vehicle collisions increased from 2007, when it was 40, to between 41 and 47 in 2018.
- Around 75% of fatal or serious cyclist accidents occur in urban areas and 80% of cyclist casualties occur in daylight. These injuries are often caused by cyclist and driver inattentiveness.