

Dockless Electric Scooter- Related Injuries Study

Brief Summary of Data Results



This investigation was conducted by Austin Public Health (APH) with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Austin-Travis County Emergency Medical Services (ATCEMS), Austin Transportation Department (ATD), and area hospitals

Investigation goal: Collect data on injuries involving electric scooters in Austin, TX to describe injury characteristics of people, places, and times

Staffing: APH epidemiologists and researchers, and officers from CDC Epidemic Intelligence Service, with support from ATD traffic experts

Data sources: Telephone interviews, ATCEMS data, and emergency department (ED) medical records

Individual interviews: Staff interviewed injured persons to learn about environmental factors as well as clinical information about their injuries

Study period: September 5 - November 30, 2018

PEOPLE

- Identified 192 persons with dockless electric scooter injuries ¹
 - Scooter riders ranged in age from 9-79 years
 - Nearly half were 18-29 years of age
- 33% of injured persons lived outside of Austin at the time of injury ²
- 33% of interviewed scooter riders were injured during their first scooter ride
- Type of injury
 - 48% sustained a head injury
 - Many sustained injuries on their arms, knees, hands, or face (37%-43%)
 - 35% individuals sustained bone fractures (excluding nose/fingers/toes)
 - 42% sustained severe injuries which included:
 - bone fractures (excluding nose/fingers/toes)
 - nerve/tendon/ligament damage
 - hospitalized for over 48 hours
- 14% were hospitalized
- One interviewed person was wearing a helmet at the time of their injury

¹ Injuries resulting in ATCEMS response and/or ED visit

² Please note the denominator for percent calculations varies

TIME

- 39% of injuries occurred on the weekend (Saturday and Sunday)
- 4% of injuries occurred during morning rush hour and 16% occurred during evening rush hour (Monday-Friday)
- On average, two injuries occurred per day

PLACES

- 10% of injured riders reported a collision with motor vehicle
- One pedestrian was injured after colliding with a scooter; one bicyclist was injured after colliding with a scooter
- 31% of individuals were injured in the downtown area
- 55% of interviewed individuals were injured while riding on the street, 33% while riding on the sidewalk
- Among those interviewed, 50% of individuals reported that surface conditions contributed to their injuries (cracks, potholes, loose gravel, etc.)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- 29% reported drinking alcohol in the 12 hours preceding their injury
- 37% believed that excessive scooter speed contributed to their injury
- 19% believed the scooter malfunctioned (brakes, wheels, etc.)
- One person injured while on a phone call, six persons listening to music/podcast
- Total hours ridden: 182,333
- Total Miles: 891,121
- Total Trips: 936,110
- There were 20 injured riders per 100,000 scooter trips

