



# BICYCLES FACTSHEET

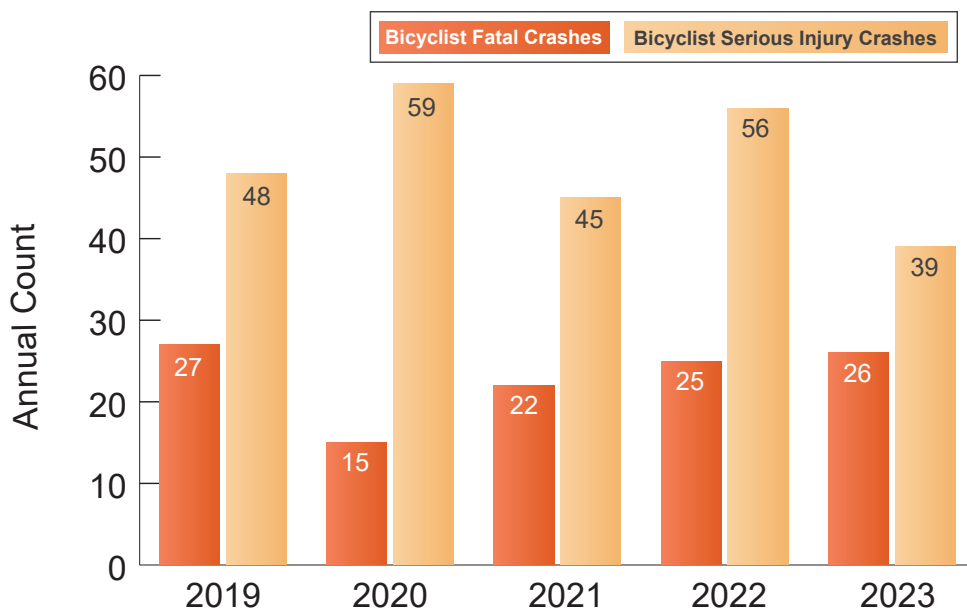
F&SI Crashes = Fatal and Serious Injury Crashes

## WHAT IS THE SHSP?

South Carolina's 2025-2029 SHSP is a statewide, comprehensive safety plan that provides guidance for all statewide transportation safety professionals to coordinate efforts toward a common goal of reducing traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries on South Carolina roadways. The SHSP includes information on ongoing state and national safety programs and highlights achievements of SCDOT and SCDPS to improve roadway safety. Thirteen emphasis areas have been identified as the primary focus of the 2025-2029 SHSP, including Bicycles.

## BICYCLES OVERVIEW

South Carolina's transportation system is intended to serve all users, including bicyclists. Bicyclists include all roadway users riding a bicycle or related vehicle for transportation on the roadway. Between 2019 and 2023, 362 crashes involving bicyclists resulted in fatality or serious injury. **More than 2% of all fatal crashes and 2% of all serious injury crashes in South Carolina involve bicyclists.**



Between 2019 and 2023, an average of 49 serious injury and 23 fatal bicycle crashes occurred each year. Over this time period, fatal and serious injury crashes have fluctuated.



Bicycle F&SI crashes most commonly occur with the following four emphasis areas: Young Drivers (16.5%), Speeding (16.0%), Older Drivers (13.2%), and Distracted Drivers (4.5%). This emphasis area has the least overlap with other emphasis areas.



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## Crash Statistics (2019–2023)

- Annual average: 23 fatal and 49 serious injury bicycle crashes
- Fatal and serious injury crashes have fluctuated across the five-year period
- 52% of bicycle F&SI crashes occurred at night, indicating severe visibility risks
- 90% of crashes occurred on dry pavement and 88% in clear weather
- Top Contributing Factors:
  - » Failure to Yield (13.0%)
  - » Driving Too Fast for Conditions (7.2%)
  - » Improper Crossing (6.1%)
  - » Disregarded Signs/Signals (4.4%)
  - » Unknown (4.1%)

## POTENTIAL STRATEGIES



## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Bicyclists represent a meaningful portion of fatal and serious injury crashes despite being a smaller user group
- Nighttime visibility is a critical safety issue, with more than half of bicycle F&SI crashes happening after dark
- Crashes involving bicyclists often occur in clear, dry conditions, indicating behavioral rather than environmental causes
- Failure to yield remains the leading contributor to bicycle-related F&SI crashes
- Overlap with nearby emphasis areas is relatively low, but speed, young drivers, and older drivers remain notable contributors
- Charleston County consistently experiences the highest number of bicycle F&SI crashes, more than double the next highest county