

# SKATEBOARDING AND NON-POWERED SCOOTER SAFETY FACT SHEET

## Skateboard Safety

Children under the age of 5 should not use skateboards. Children between 6 and 10 years old who are skateboarding should be supervised by an adult.

Children who skateboard should wear a helmet and safety gear (including wrist guards, elbow pads, and knee pads) to prevent or reduce injuries from falls.

Each year, there are about 61,000 injuries to children involving skateboards.

In 2004, an estimated 18,743 head injuries due to skateboarding were treated in emergency rooms nationwide.

Always use a helmet while riding a skateboard or non-powered scooter to help prevent injury. Riders should use a bike helmet that meets Consumer Product Safety Commission standards or a multi-sport helmet that meets the N-94 standard of the Snell Memorial Foundation. In Indiana, riders 17 or younger of motorcycles and low-powered motor-driven cycles like scooters or mopeds are required to wear motorcycle helmets.

Never grab onto the side or back of a car, bus, truck, or bicycle while riding a skateboard (called “skitching a ride”).

Support skateboarding parks in your community where youth can practice in a safe setting and away from pedestrian and motor vehicle traffic.

## Non-Powered Scooter Safety

Children younger than 8 years old need close adult supervision when riding non-powered scooters.

Do not allow children to ride non-powered scooters on streets, in traffic, or at night.

Helmets, knee pads, and elbow pads should be worn by children while using non-powered scooters.

Eight states and the District of Columbia require children to wear a helmet while participating in other wheeled sports (i.e. scooters, inline skates, skateboards).

### Sources:

Skateboard and Scooter Injuries Policy Statement, American Academy of Pediatrics Committee on Injury and Poison Prevention, Pediatrics, Vol. 109 No. 3, March 2002, pp, 542-543. Reaffirmed, January 1, 2009.  
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Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, Current US Motorcycle and Bicycle Helmet Laws, April 2011; [www.iihs.org/laws/helmetusecurrent.aspx](http://www.iihs.org/laws/helmetusecurrent.aspx) retrieved April 2011.