

Demographic Review Of Accidents Among Motorcyclists Aged Below 16 Years Old, Treated Inpatient By Orthopedic Team In Hospital Seri Manjung

Krishnan T; Shanmugam S

Orthopaedic Department, Hospital Seri Manjung, Perak

PURPOSE:

To quantify an anecdote apparent increase in motorcycle-related injuries in unlicensed adolescence below 16 years old.

MATERIALS & METHODS:

A retrospective cross-sectional study conducted on all inpatients below 16 years old involved in motorcycle accident from 1/1/2015 to 31/12/2016. Their demographic data and usage of helmet was extracted.

RESULTS:

Total of 80 inpatient motorcyclists were obtained in this study. Their age, range from 10 to 15 years, with mean age of 14 years. 66 of them were boys and the rest were girls with ratio of 33:7. 99% of these 80 patients were staying with their parents. Based on ethnic group, 59 of them are Malays, 11 Indians and 10 Chinese (Figure 1).

Meanwhile 55% of these adolescences did not wear helmet at the time of accident (Figure 2).

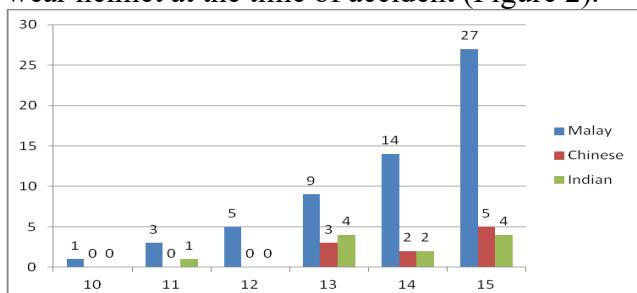


Figure 1: motorcyclist age and ethnic group

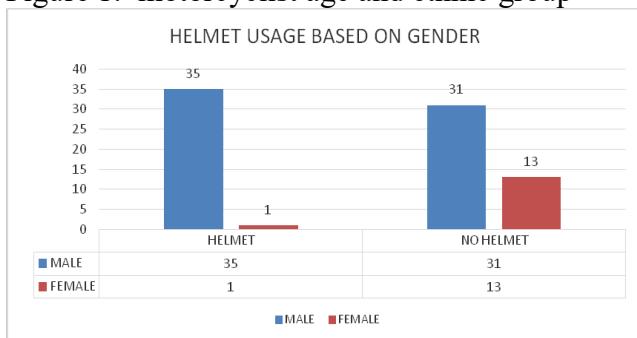


Figure 2: helmet usage based on gender

DISCUSSIONS:

Motorcycle is undoubtedly a convenient, economical and readily available transport for all socioeconomic background. Due to this unlicensed motorcycle riders among adolescence have been booming in recent years. A study conducted by Malaysian Institute Of Road Safety Research (MIROS) in 2008 at Hulu Langat District, discovered initial age of unlicensed riding was between 13-15 years old.⁽¹⁾ Their commonly uttered excuses to ride motorbike are easier commute to school while parents at work, recreational purpose, curiosity and peer influence. Familial impacts which include disruptive household, poor parental supervision and freedom are among other contributing factors. Underage riders certainly have no exposure to traffic norms and road safety. Hence the possible offence committed are speeding, not stopping at the junction, beating the traffic light and not wearing a helmet. All of which have its own implication.

CONCLUSION:

Adolescence riding motorbike without license is defying Malaysia Road Transport Act. There is an urgent need for coordinated legislative changes, educational efforts and close parental monitoring to decrease motorcycle injuries in children and adolescents.

REFERENCES:

1. Norainy O, et al. Age and Contributing Factors of Unlicensed Motorcycling Behaviour among School Students in Hulu Langat District. MIROS 2018;MRR 251,1-34