



Serious injuries among cyclists

Summary report

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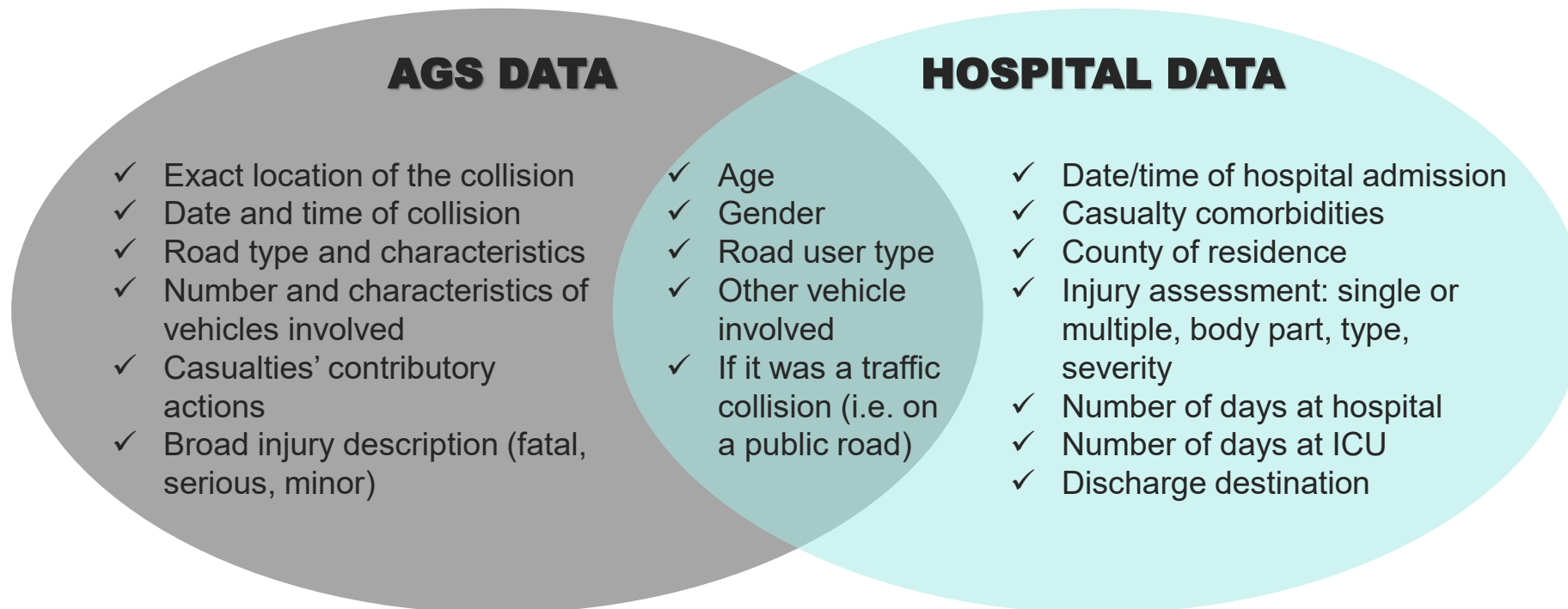
Background

- This report summarises the key characteristics of seriously injured pedal cyclists based on the analysis of the most recent data available at the time of publication.
- **The first section** of this report was prepared using data from the Irish Road Traffic Collision Database (2021-2025), which is based on collision records transferred from An Garda Síochána (AGS) to the RSA.
 - AGS information in this report is provisional and subject to change. This means that the serious injury statistics presented may change at a later date when new information becomes available.
- **The second section** of this report was prepared using data from the Hospital In-Patient Enquiry (HIPE) Database (2020-2024), which is based on hospital discharge information as recorded in Irish acute hospitals.
 - Hospital data include all casualties who were admitted to hospital as in-patients on an emergency basis, with at least one injury from a road traffic collision.
 - For more details on the methodology followed to process hospital data, please see [this report](#). You can also find FAQs on hospital data in this [link](#).



What type of information can we obtain from AGS and hospital data?

- Both data sources are complementary. AGS data describes the collision characteristics, and hospital data describes the casualty's health outcomes, including an accurate injury assessment.
- Some information can be found in both AGS and hospital data.



Definitions

AGS and hospital data

- In **AGS data**, a serious injury is one for which the person is detained in hospital as an in-patient, or any of the following injuries whether or not detained in hospital: fractures, concussions, internal injuries, crushing, severe cuts and lacerations, or severe general shock requiring medical treatment.
- In **hospital data**, we follow a medical definition of a serious injury, based on an international validated injury severity scoring scale, the Abbreviated Injury Scale (AIS)*.
 - The AIS scale allows to assign an injury severity score between 1 (minor) to 6 (critical) to each injury sustained by hospitalised casualties. A casualty may have one or more injuries recorded in their hospital chart. We first assign an AIS score to each injury, and then determine the maximum AIS score assigned to each casualty.
 - **Casualties with clinically moderate injuries** are those with a maximum AIS score of 2 or less (MAIS2-).
 - **Casualties with clinically serious injuries** are those with at least one injury with a maximum AIS score of 3 or more (MAIS3+).
 - We add the number of casualties having MAIS3+ and MAIS2- scores to obtain the total number of **hospitalised casualties**.

*Association for the Advancement of Automotive Medicine (2016). Abbreviated Injury Scale (c) 2005 Update 2008. (T. Gennarelli, & e. Woodzin, Eds.) Chicago, Illinois.



Section one

Serious injuries among
pedal cyclists as recorded
in AGS data, focused on
collision characteristics

(2021-2025)

Serious injuries among pedal cyclists in An Garda Síochána (AGS) data

Over 2021-2025, AGS recorded 1,324 cyclists as seriously injured following a road traffic collision. The absolute number of serious injuries among cyclists was the highest in 2021 (314).

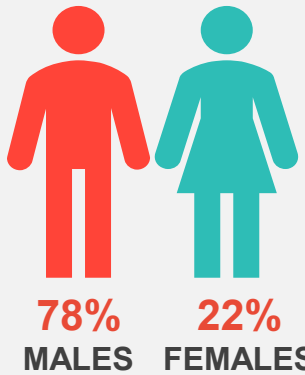


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CHARACTERISTICS OF SERIOUS INJURIES AMONG PEDAL CYCLISTS IN IRELAND (SOURCE: AGS DATA)

55% AGED
26-55 YEARS



52% OF
SERIOUS
INJURIES
OCCURRED IN
COUNTY
DUBLIN



20% WERE INJURED IN
SINGLE-CYCLIST COLLISIONS

- 89% OF THESE CYCLISTS WERE DRIVING FORWARD
- MOST FREQUENT COLLISION SCENARIOS:
 - ROAD SURFACE (OIL, DEBRIS, POTHoles, ICE, WET SURFACE)
 - AVOIDANCE OF ANOTHER VEHICLE OR ROAD USER.



80% WERE INJURED IN
MULTI-VEHICLE COLLISIONS

- 87% OF THESE CYCLIST WERE DRIVING FORWARD
- FAILURE TO OBSERVE WAS THE MOST FREQUENTLY NOTED ACTION FOR THE DRIVER (44%) AND THE CYCLIST (23%)
- THE OTHER VEHICLE INVOLVED WAS MOST LIKELY A CAR OR LIGHT GOODS VEHICLE



50% OCCURRED BETWEEN MAY & SEPTEMBER

49% OCCURRED BETWEEN TUESDAY & THURSDAY



73% OCCURRED ON LOWER SPEED ROADS
(50km/h OR LESS)

81% OCCURRED IN DAYTIME



83% OCCURRED ON A STRAIGHT ROAD

48% OCCURRED AT A JUNCTION



* Note, figures for 2022-2025 are provisional and subject to change.

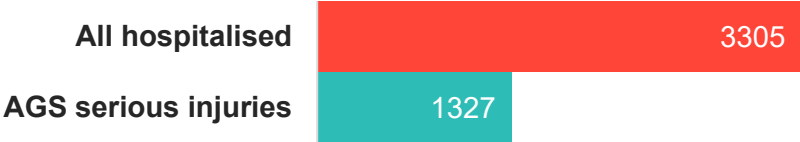
Section two

Hospitalised cyclists as recorded in
hospital data, focused on health
outcomes

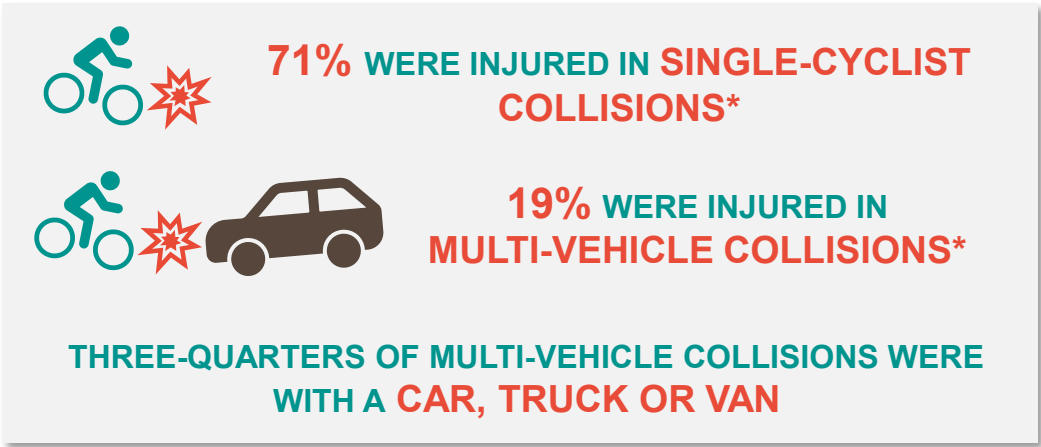
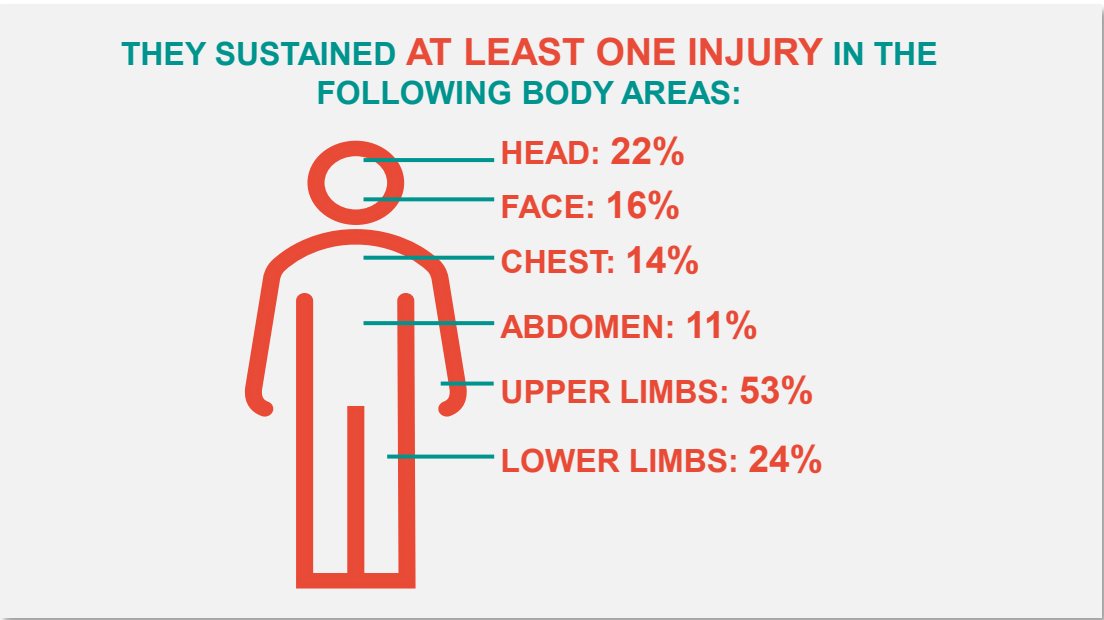
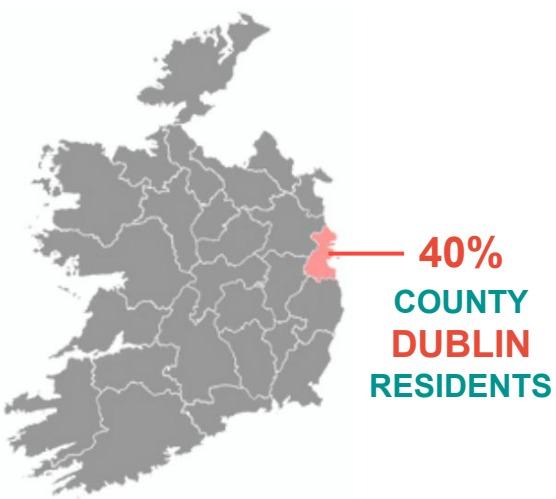
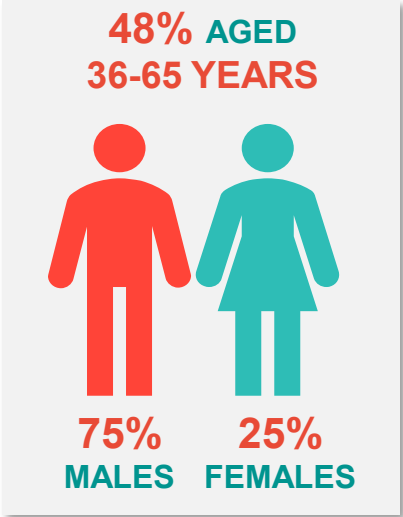
(2020-2024)

Serious injuries among pedal cyclists in hospital and An Garda Síochána (AGS) data

Over 2020-2024, 3,305 pedal cyclists were admitted to hospital following a road traffic collision. Over the same period, 1,327 cyclists were recorded as seriously injured by AGS. There may be multiple factors explaining this discrepancy, such as AGS not being alerted of a crash, the definitions of injury used in each case, among others.



CHARACTERISTICS OF HOSPITALISED PEDAL CYCLISTS IN IRELAND (SOURCE: HOSPITAL DATA)



* Note: 10% of hospitalised cyclists had an unspecified collision type.

Clinically serious injuries among pedal cyclists in hospital data

Of all hospitalised cyclists over 2020-2024, 625 (19%) sustained clinically serious injuries, with a higher probability of having long-term consequences on the casualty's life. To determine injury severity in hospital data, we use an internationally validated injury severity scale, the Abbreviated injury Scale (AIS). *

Clinically moderate injuries

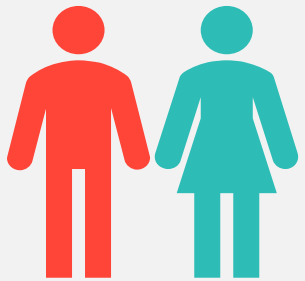
2680

Clinically serious injuries

625

CHARACTERISTICS OF PEDAL CYCLISTS WITH CLINICALLY SERIOUS INJURIES IN IRELAND

22% AGED
66+ YEARS

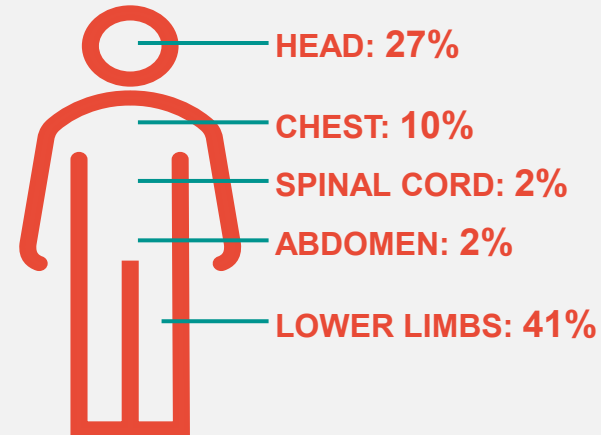


83% MALES
17% FEMALES



41%
COUNTY
DUBLIN
RESIDENTS

THE MAJORITY SUSTAINED A SINGLE SERIOUS INJURY:



17% SUSTAINED MULTIPLE SERIOUS INJURIES IN THE
SAME OR DIFFERENT BODY AREAS



33% ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL OVER SUMMER

35% ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL OVER THE
WEEKEND



65% WERE INJURED IN SINGLE-CYCLIST
COLLISIONS



25% WERE INJURED IN
MULTI-VEHICLE COLLISIONS



THEY SPENT 10 DAYS AT HOSPITAL AS IN-PATIENTS

79% SENT HOME AT DISCHARGE FROM HOSPITAL



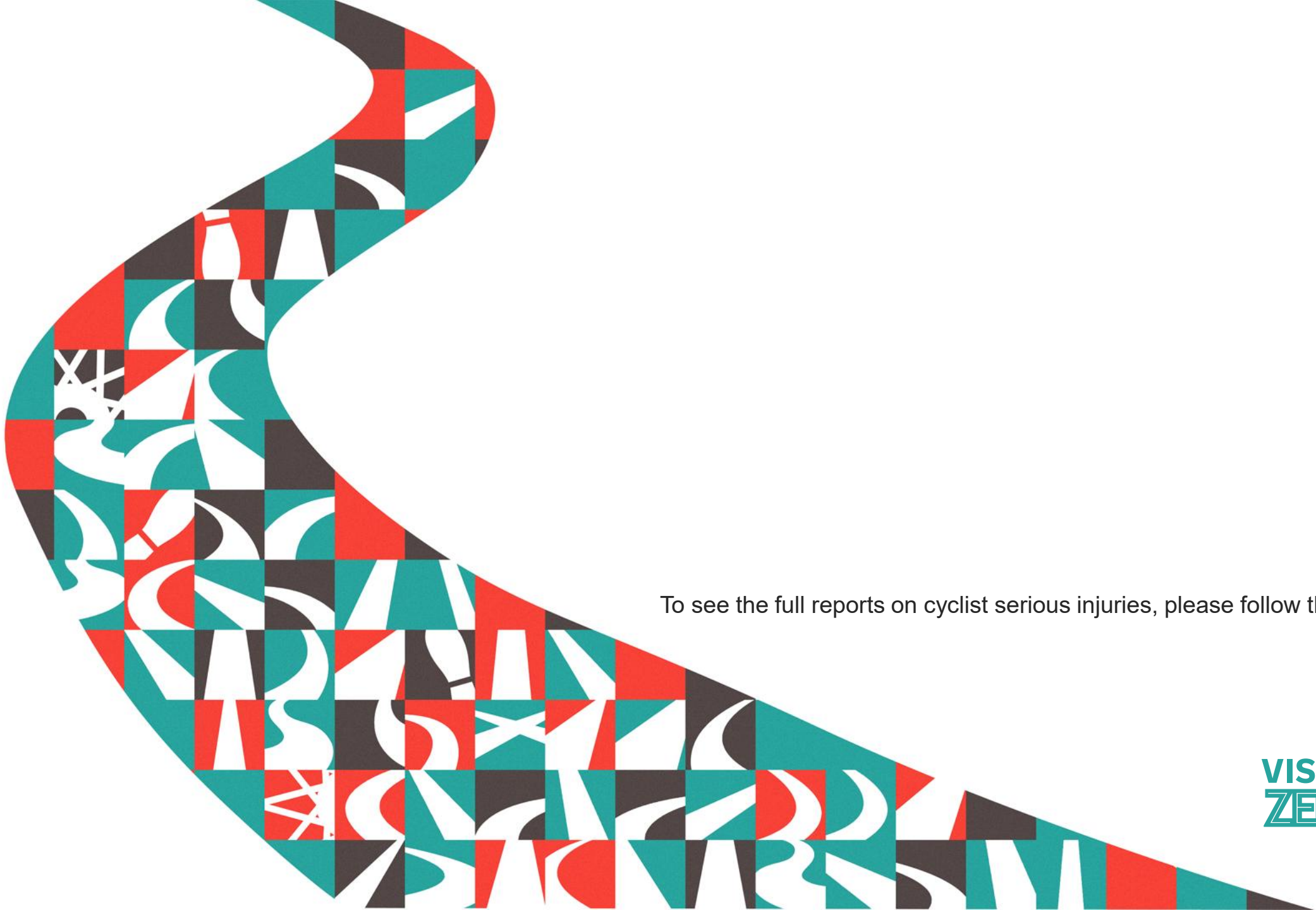
16% WERE SENT TO ANOTHER HOSPITAL FOR
CONTINUED CARE



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* For more
information on
serious injuries
in hospital data,
please visit our
[FAQs](#).



To see the full reports on cyclist serious injuries, please follow this [link](#).

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