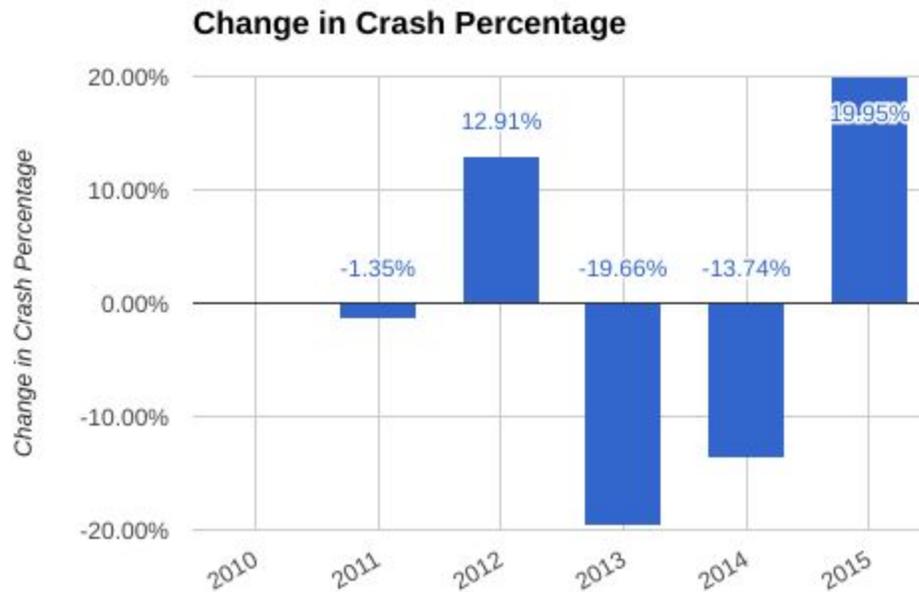


# 2015 Iowa Bicycle Crash Report

## Is there a trend with Iowa bicycle crashes?

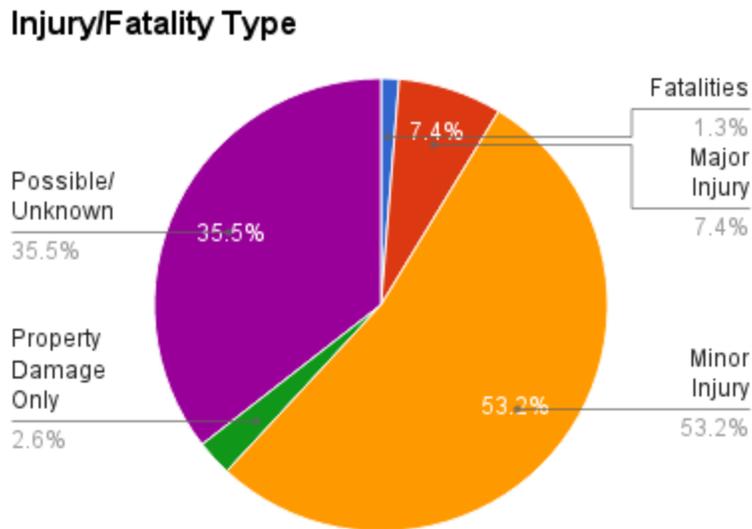
Bicycle crashes are a serious problem in Iowa. In 2015, five people died and 237 people sustained injuries in crashes involving bicycles and motor vehicles. The amount of bicycle/motor vehicle crashes between 2014 to 2015 increased by 20% to total of 391 crashes. Crashes declined by large percentages in 2013 and 2014.



The increase in crashes could be attributed to more people riding bicycles, but there is no accurate data source measuring the number of people riding bicycles. There was an increase in the vehicle miles traveled in 2015 after several years of minimal or no increases. More cars on the road more often could play a factor in the amount of crashes.

## Are people injured in bicycle crashes?

Despite an increase in crashes, almost all of the percentages in the data have remained steady. The only exception is the severity of injuries. Major injuries decreased by almost 70% while minor injuries increased by a similar percentage.

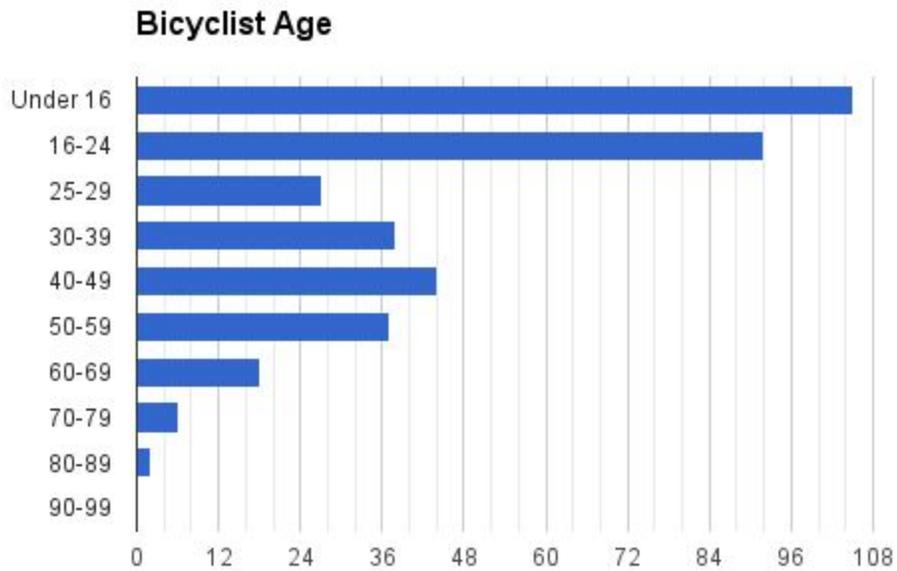


## How much property damage occurs in bicycle/vehicle crashes?

It should be noted that 62% of crashes result in major injuries, minor injuries, or death. Very few crashes (2.6%) result in property damage only. The total cost of property damage resulted in \$326,114.00 (\$834.05 average per crash). To compare, there were 54,508 motor vehicle crashes, resulting in \$341,893,548 property damage (\$6,272.36 average per crash).

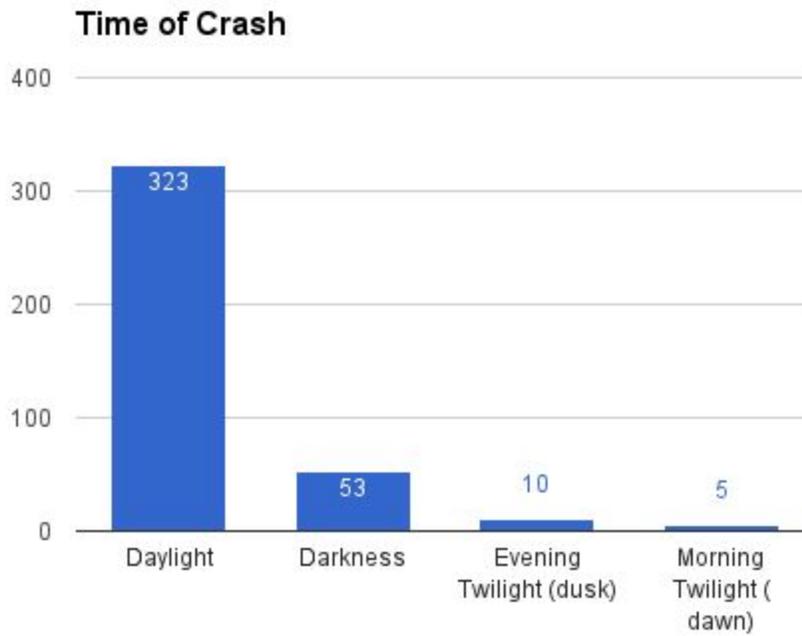
## What age of bicyclists are involved in crashes?

Almost half (49%) of bicycle crashes involve a bicycle rider under 24 years old. The largest age group in crashes are under 16 years old (26%).



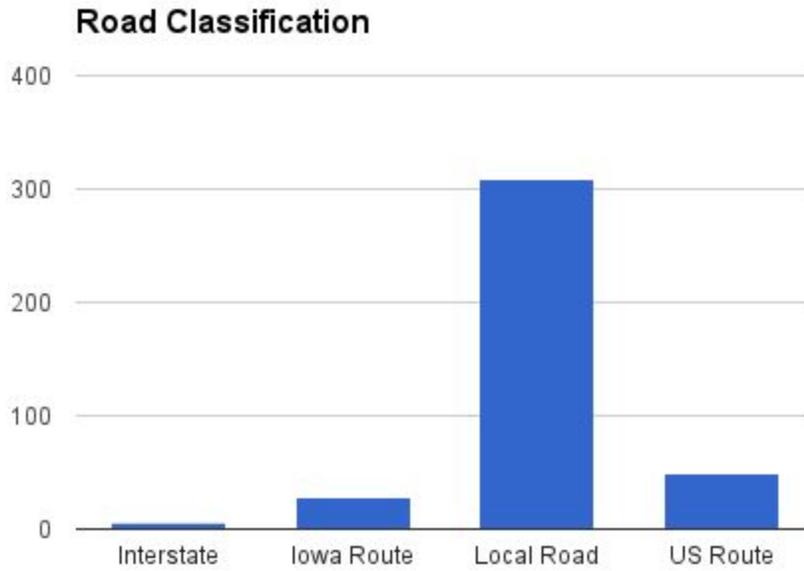
## What time of day do most bicycle crashes occur?

A large percentage of bicycle crashes happen during daylight hours (83%). Nighttime crashes have increased by 6% since 2010.



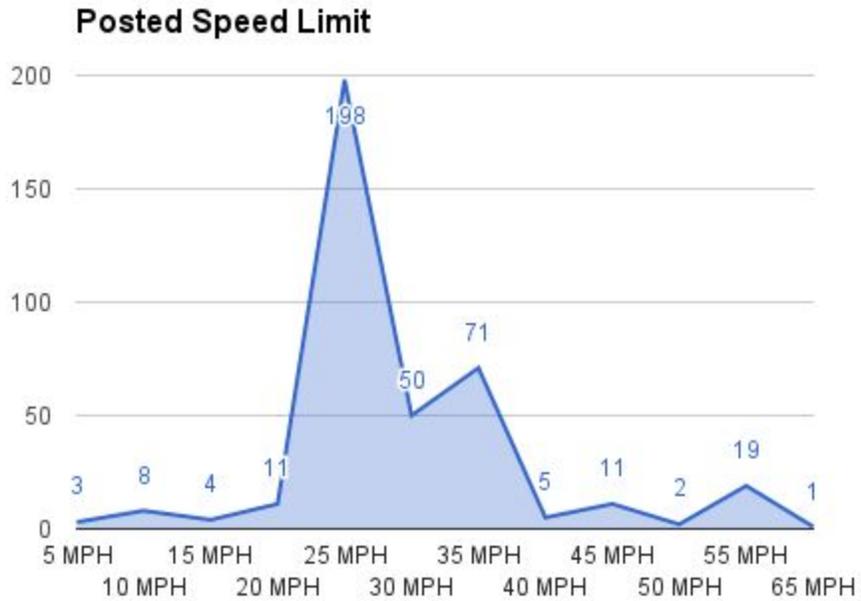
## Where do bicycle crashes occur?

A large majority of bicycle crashes occur on local roadways. Very few crashes occur on the National or State Highway System.

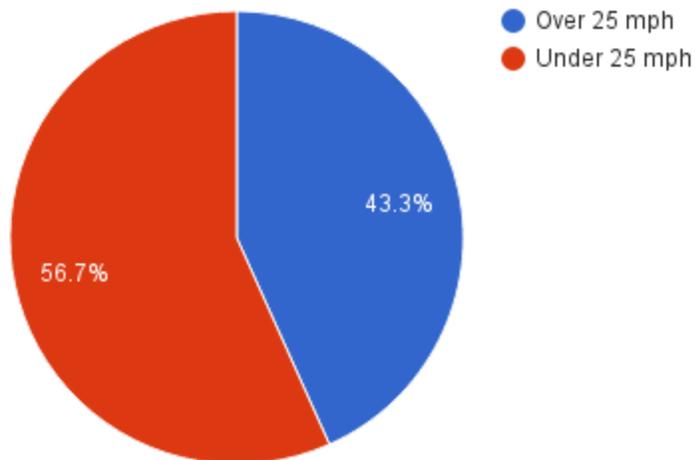


## What are the speed limits where crashes occur?

A majority of crashes occur in 25 mph speed zones (50%). Overall, 43% of crashes occur in speed zones over 25 mph. While crash severity is a concern with higher speed crashes, the frequency of crashes on lower speed roads are also a concern.

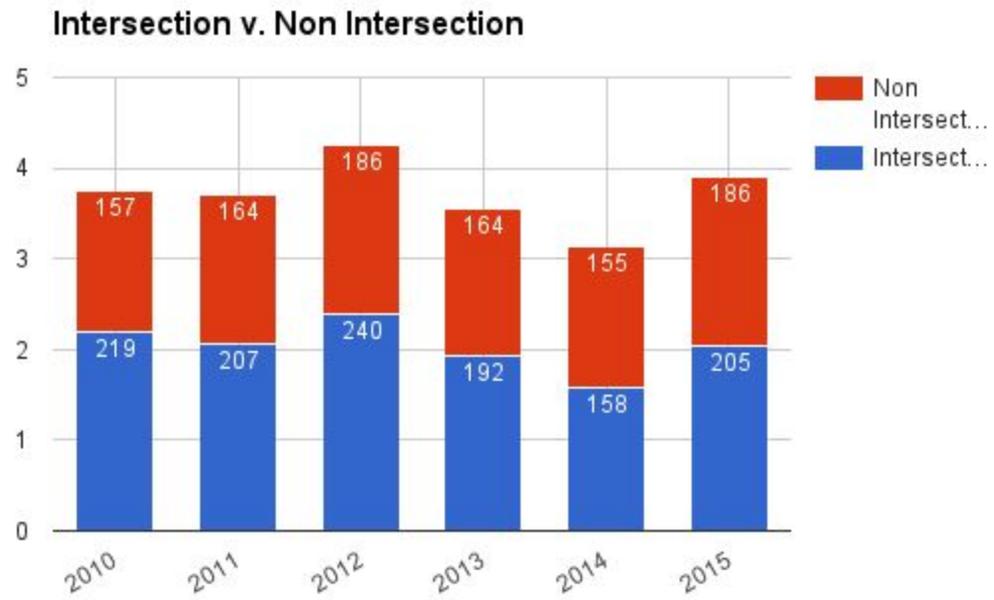


### Posted Speed Limit



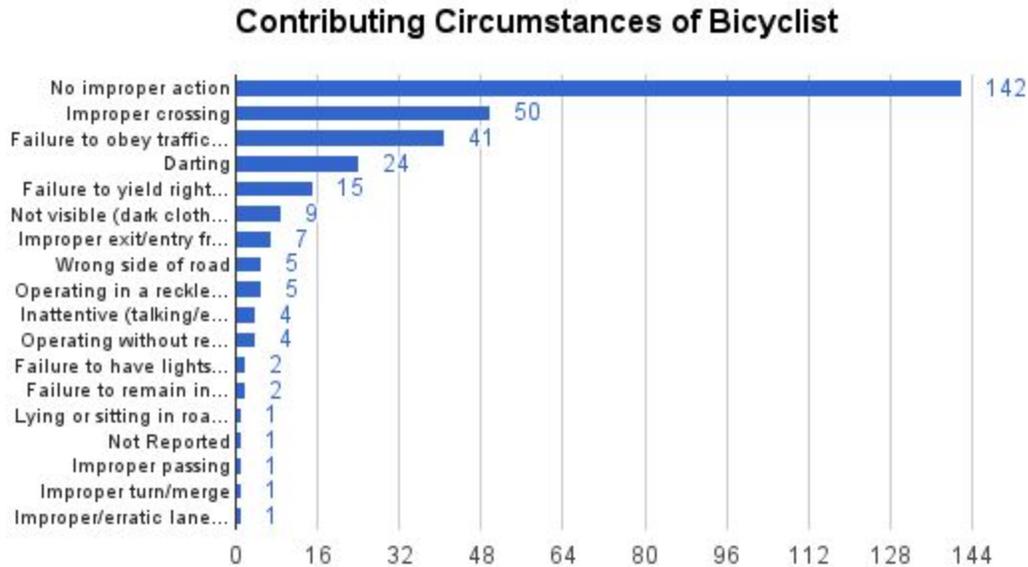
## Are intersections a problem?

Over the past six year, crashes have been divided evenly between intersections and non-intersections.



## What are the contributing circumstances in crashes?

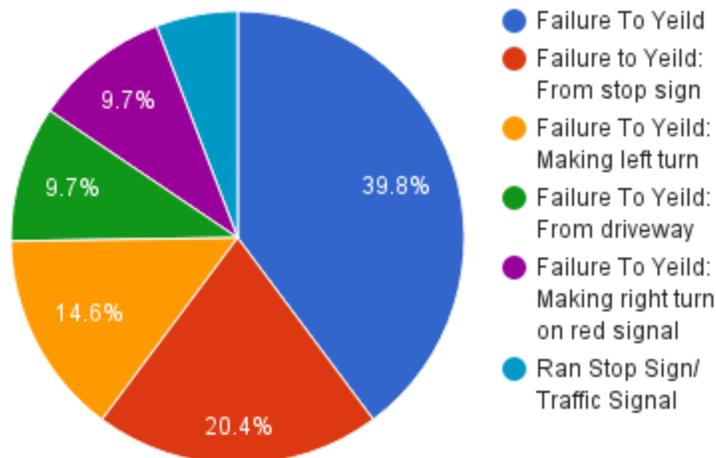
It is important to note that 36% of crashes have no improper actions on the part of the cyclist and most were 16 years or older. Improper crossings (13%) and failure to obey a traffic control device (10%) are the next most common circumstances. Approximately 75% of the contributing circumstances involved persons under 16.



## What are the motorist contributing circumstances?

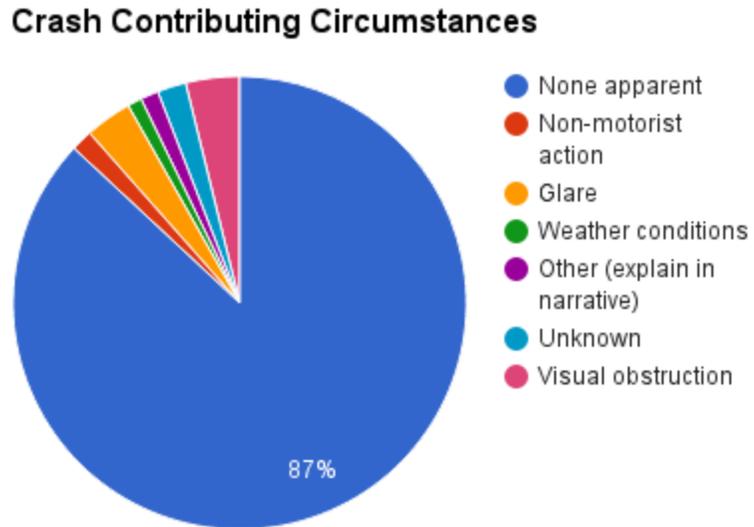
Drivers had a contributing circumstance in 59% of the crashes. The motorist main contributing circumstance reported is failure to yield (40%). Failure to yield at a stop sign (20.4%) and ran a stop sign (5.8%) occur at a greater rate than similar contributing circumstances of bicyclists.

### Top Motorist Contributing Circumstances



## What other circumstances contribute to crashes?

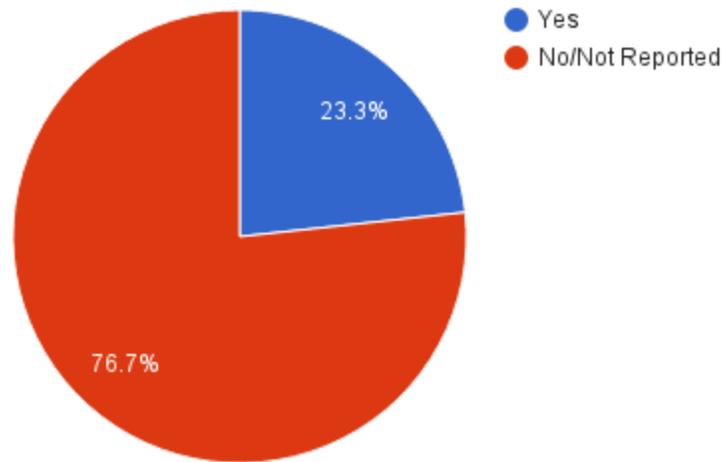
While no environmental conditions contribute to 87% of crashes, visual obstructions (4%) and glare (2%) are contributing circumstances.



## How often are motorists charged in crashes with bicyclists?

Only 23.3% of crashes result in charges filed.

**Crash Results in Charges Filed**



## Conclusions

The amount of crashes on Iowa roadways is concerning due to the big increase in 2015 following trend of decreasing crashes in prior years. Property damage seems to be a minimal result of bicycle crashes. On the other hand, injuries and death occurs in a majority of bicycle/vehicle crashes. Because a majority of crashes involved bicyclists under 16 and those 16-24 who may be considered inexperienced drivers, we need to be concerned with traffic safety education.

Crashes are more likely to occur on local roads, not highways. A majority of crashes occur in 25 mph zones, likely because a lot of bicycling happens on city streets. Yet, many crashes happen at higher speed zones and those crashes could create more severe injuries. Intersections are similarly prone to crashes as non intersections.

In 36% of the bicycle/motor vehicle crashes, no improper action was noted on behalf of the bicyclist. Yet, failure to yield to bicyclists by motorists plays a large role in factors contributing to crashes. Bicyclists are notoriously noted for running stop signs, but the crash data shows that motorists failing to yield at traffic signs and signals are a larger contributing factor. Despite motorist contributing factors in 60% of motor vehicle crashes, charges are filed in less than a quarter of cases.